

**REPORT OF THE ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH OFFICER
for the Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission
to the
122nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of West Missouri**

I attended a Churches Uniting in Christ Plenary in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida in January. The Plenary was attended by Heads of Communion of eight of the churches including Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori of the Episcopal Church and Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I was encouraged by the serious commitment by all present to the crucial aspect of overcoming racism and the intention to move beyond superficial conversation to deeper sharing and the building of personal relationships. The Heads of Communion were adamant in their comments about moving intentionally forward in addressing both personal and systemic racism. The National Coordinating Council was given specific actions to recommend to the CUIC member communions to address these issues.

In May I attended the National Workshop on Christian Unity and the Annual Meeting of Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (EDEIO) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. There were seminars and presentations each day on critical ecumenical issues, ecumenical worship services and business meetings of EDEIO.

Paula Stuckey of St. James' was appointed by Bishop Howe in 2010 as a member of the Board of Directors of Missouri IMPACT, People of Faith. The Diocese of West Missouri is one of 12 supporting churches. Missouri Impact's purpose is to be a grassroots network of persons across Missouri, who, out of concern for justice on the basis of religious and moral convictions, seek to influence public policy in Missouri.

During the coming year I am available to assist Bishop Field as the diocese works with the Central States Synod of the ELCA to further opportunities in joint work of our two churches.

Following the intentions of the CUIC Plenary I intend to explore with leaders in other CUIC churches in Missouri ways in which we can address racism issues in our state and in our churches.

God calls the whole of humanity to be God's people and specifically Jesus prayed (John 17:21) "that we all may be one." The work of ecumenism seeks to bring God's people together to further this purpose. Our work in CUIC specifically addresses ways in which we can combat racism together and the work of Missouri IMPACT specifically addresses justice issues in our state through ecumenism.

Respectfully submitted
Ross W. Stuckey, Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer