

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATES OF SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA

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*A Unifying Voice in the name of Jesus Christ for the Mission of the Gospel
and the Wholeness of Communities • Serving 10 Counties and 15 Faith Traditions
in 26 Judicatories, with 2,000 Congregations and 1,000,000 members*

Grace and peace to you, brothers and sisters of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, and blessings as you gather for Convention! I look forward to joining you for this special occasion to bring our greetings and gratitude in person.

Christian Associates remains committed to its three core values: Collegiality, Connectedness, and Collaboration. We bring together the bishops and judicatory executives of 26 church bodies – Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant – to build relationships of trust, common purpose, and true friendship. Conversations that begin around our Council table lead to initiatives that change lives for the better. In my term as Executive Minister, I hope to widen our circle to reflect better the full diversity of the Christian community, reaching out to African American churches, to independent evangelical churches, and to other fellowships not well represented among us.

We also continue our shared ministries and community collaborations. Our partner in ministry, the Foundation of HOPE, provides faith-based pre- and post-release training and mentoring for incarcerated men and women, dramatically reducing recidivism rates. Soon, HOPE will also take responsibility for our chaplaincy programs at Allegheny County Jail and Shuman Center. Working with our community partners, we help to organize the Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference and the Returning Military Conference, and we play a part in organizations that assist in local and statewide disaster response, emergency food and shelter, and interfaith cooperation. This fall, we are helping to launch the Greater Pittsburgh Interfaith Coalition, a new, grassroots initiative seeking to nourish healthy neighborhoods through interfaith dialogue and education.

Christian Associates also publishes a newsletter, *The Call*, which reaches more than 5,500 readers. In the months to come, we plan to reinvigorate our communications ministries: look out for us on social media!

It is my hope to serve as a resource for our congregations and their leaders as they work toward Christian unity in their own neighborhoods. If Christian Associates can help you to revitalize a local ministerium, offer a confirmation class program, or plan an ecumenical worship event, please give us a call. Personally, I enjoy visiting our congregations and sharing the message of Christian unity; let me know when I can come to your church to preach, assist in leading worship, teach a Bible study, or simply join you in prayer.

Encountering our Christian brothers and sisters deepens our own understanding and practice of faith, and helps us to recognize that despite all of our differences, we truly are one body. May the spirit of unity, friendship, and reconciliation be with you all, and thank you again for your support of Christian Associates.

Your sister in Christ,
The Rev. Liddy Barlow
Executive Minister