

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATES OF SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA
*A Unifying Voice in the name of Jesus Christ
for the Mission of the Gospel and the Wholeness of Communities*

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Dear friends in the Episcopal Diocese:

Grace and peace to you! Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania is thrilled to be your partner in seeking to make visible the reality that there is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. Guided by our core values of collegiality, collaboration, communication, and connectedness, we bring together 28 Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant church bodies to be a unifying voice for the mission of the Gospel and the wholeness of our communities.

As in years past, your diocese has continued to support Christian Associates with faithful enthusiasm. We are grateful for your financial contribution to our ministries and for Bishop McConnell's leadership in our Council of Bishops & Judicatory Executives, where he serves as Vice President for Personnel. We also celebrate the many clergy and lay people of the Diocese who have participated in our programs and events, or made personal gifts to sustain our ministries. Thank you for being such terrific partners!

With your help, we have been working with energy and creativity to make the unity of Christ's church more visible in the ten counties of Southwest Pennsylvania. Here are just a few of the projects that your support is making possible:

- The **#300CupsofCoffee** initiative invites Christian leaders to enjoy a hot drink with a new friend – on us! Identify a colleague whom you don't yet know, invite that person out for a conversation, submit a selfie from the coffee shop, and Christian Associates will reimburse you. Visit www.casp.org/300cups for all the details.
- When evil came to Tree of Life Synagogue, Christian Associates was a first responder, speaking peace and healing in the face of terror and helping coordinate an interfaith response to support our Jewish family. These efforts have continued through the **We Have To Talk** series of interfaith clergy gatherings. So far, we have convened spiritual leaders from 24 Christian denominations and 8 world religions for dialogue and action. To join our email list, visit www.casp.org/interfaithemail.
- Our Council of Bishops & Judicatory Executives speaks with one voice on issues of public concern – and then Christian Associates brings those statements to life by working with community partners on innovative projects and programs. For example, our **Allies in**

Faith learning experience helps clergy and lay leaders discover ways to reach out to immigrants in their neighborhoods.

In 2020, Christian Associates will celebrate our 50th anniversary! We plan a grand celebration, including events, publications, and opportunities for prayer and thanksgiving. It's our hope that this anniversary will help propel us into our next half-century with fresh momentum, so that Southwest Pennsylvania can continue to be a national leader in imagining the future of ecumenism.

May God continue to increase our unity and bless our common ministry.

Your sister in Christ,

The Rev. Liddy Barlow
Executive Minister