

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 brothers and sisters in the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh: Thank you so much for your ongoing support of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania. We are grateful for your prayers and encouragement, your engagement in our ministries, and your generous financial commitment. Thank you, also, for sharing Bishop Dorsey McConnell with us; his leadership on the Council and his service on the Executive Committee are greatly appreciated.

Christian Associates works for Christian unity among the Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, and Anglican churches of our region. Since 1970, Christian Associates has been seeking the mission of the Gospel and the wholeness of our communities through:

- **Collegiality:** convening Christian leaders to build relationships grounded in trust and common values
- **Collaboration:** mobilizing church bodies to speak and act for the common good
- **Communication:** sharing news, events, and information to help churches connect and thrive
- **Connectedness:** bringing the voice of the church to civic, community, and interfaith partnerships.

In the past year, we have pursued these priorities in diverse and innovative ways:

- We started SPARK Conversations, a series of informal lunch gatherings for Christian leaders who share a common role, identity, or interest. The first SPARK series included meet-ups for clergy under age 40, church planters, campus ministers, and other groups. Watch for another season of SPARK beginning this winter.
- Our Council of Bishops and Executives spoke out on the refugee crisis in the Middle East and Europe, underlining the Christian mandate to welcome the stranger and care for people in harm's way. We continue to work to equip Christian leaders with the information and connections they need to extend welcome in our communities.
- We launched a brand new Web site at www.casp.org, and continued our paper newsletter, "The Call," and our e-newsletter, "Unity n'At." Please like us on Facebook and visit <http://signup.casp.org> to add your name to our e-newsletter list.
- Working with partner organizations, we created worship resources such as "Feed My Lambs" (exploring childhood hunger) and "Ending Gun Violence," to help clergy connect Sunday worship with important community issues.

In the midst of these efforts, Christian Associates also packed up our Lawrenceville office and moved to the campus of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in East Liberty. Please be sure to update your records with our new mailing address (above).

All our work is made possible through the contributions of our member judicatories, as well as the gifts of our individual, congregational, and corporate donors. We are especially grateful to the members of the John 17 Society, who support our work with gifts of \$250 or more each year. Financing the work of Christian unity in these challenging times requires everyone's support; please help us ensure a solid future for Christian Associates.

I am grateful that the Episcopal Diocese joins us in our vitally important mission. May the unifying Spirit lead us onward! Thank you again for your support of Christian Associates.

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