

Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Committee 2013

We serve to represent the Bishop and diocese in local and national liturgical and educational meetings. Our task is to inform the bishop of the plans and needs of our sister churches and religious communities. The bishop is the ecumenical officer of the diocese.

Three members of the Ecumenical Officers Committee attended the 49th Annual National Workshop on Christian Unity in Columbus, Ohio, April 8 to 11, this year. At a plenary gathering of Episcopal, Evangelical Lutheran and United Methodist diocesan representatives, the question of “an orderly exchange of pastors and priests” and a status report on “joint parishes” was raised and our General Convention’s request for information was noted. A survey by the Full Communion Coordinating Committee is expected later this year.

The new head of the National Council of Churches, Kathryn Lohre, addressed our closing luncheon. Her special interest is intergenerational and youth dialogue and she reminded us that the Early Church experienced rapid and radical change, on a world scale, just as we do today. The Church survived and thrived!

In January, we observed a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with a Service and a Dialogue Dinner at St. Columba’s Catholic Church in Oakland. On February 25, Bishop William Swing was the keynote speaker on topics related to his United Religions Initiative at the annual Paul Wattson Lectures at the University of San Francisco.

Our annual Ecumenical Officers Committee Retreat will be held on November 4 to 5 at The Bishop’s Ranch. Our purpose in 2014 is to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.

The Rev. Sumner Walters, Ph.D.
Ecumenical Officer