

Province III Peace/Justice Ministry Coordinator

2018 Report

The Rev. Linda Watkins

The past year has been a busy one and I have certainly learned a lot while making a number of contacts within the Episcopal church and beyond. In February and then again in September I attended meetings of the P3 Opioid Response Task Force. It was a privilege to meet such a wide variety of experts from the disciplines of law enforcement, psychotherapy, government and more. We have many resources to offer dioceses in our Province as this important work continues. I will be part of a delegation from Central PA attending an upcoming Opioid Response Strategy meeting hosted by the Diocese of Pittsburgh. My work with this task force has reinforced that the Opioid Crises intersects all manner of “Social Justice” issues.

I also attended the Province 3 Pre-Convention Synod last May.

Early this year, I accepted an invitation to serve on the board of the Episcopal Network for Economic Justice (ENEJ). ENEJ this year published another round of meditations, this time around Labor. I wrote one for this series. ENEJ is spearheading the development of a Social Justice curriculum for use in seminaries and Diocesan Schools for Ministry. Most of my work, however, centered on helping review a variety of Social Justice resolutions coming before General Convention. ENEJ endorsed many of these on the basis of their impact on issues of economic inequality.

I attended General Convention on behalf of ENEJ; working at their Exhibit and also giving testimony at committee hearings. Due to an unexpected vacancy, I was asked to be one of the two ENEJ representatives to The Consultation – the umbrella Social Justice organization of the Episcopal Church. Through this work, I’ve learned a lot; namely I have much more to learn!

Many of the Resolutions passed at General Convention had to do with Social Justice issues, especially around Racism and Care of Creation (two main areas the Presiding Bishop has asked the church to focus on).

For 2019, I would like to do a survey of what P3 Dioceses are doing in terms of Care of Creation. Some Dioceses have well-developed ministries in this area, others do not. Central PA, for example, will be forming a committee around this work since none presently exists. I think there might be opportunities for us as a Province to work together in this area and my hope is to assemble

a Task Force to look at how we might share resources and perhaps plan an event that brings P3 Care of Creation ministries together.