

Report of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race

Number on agency: 12, Number present when voting:

Voting for: 6 Voting Against: 0 Abstaining: 0

Adopted: March 18, 2016

Number of Meetings: 6

The Commission on Religion and Race (CORR) lost one of its vital persons in the passing of Latu Evelyn Koloto. She was our Chairperson and Vice Chairperson who was very active in all areas of the work of CORR. Her leadership and her dedication to the work, laid the foundation to our present work. She is sorely missed; and our sympathy goes out to her husband, Rev. Maile Koloto and family.

The work of CORR in 2015 was very frustrating as we tried to continue the work based on the results from our *Gathering of Ethnic Leaders* in 2014. Bishop Brown and the Cabinet received the results; but, their response lacked specific comments on how and when they would address these concerns. While we sent recommendations on Shared Facilities to the Cabinet in the fall, we have not received a written response. We were told early in the year that the Cabinet was going to have a workshop on Shared Facilities in the fall. When that didn't happen, they said early in 2016; but they haven't started to plan yet! We believe we have hit a brick wall; and our perception is that the Cabinet is not serious in dealing with the challenges associated with Shared Facilities. Another year has gone by and the Resolution for Cultural Competency Training (for those in shared facility arrangements), that was passed at the 2010 Annual Conference Session, still goes unfulfilled.

We continue our work in trying to advocate for those who have no voice, whose concerns go unanswered. However, it is difficult when the Conference leadership (the Cabinet) is not receptive in working together to implement one of the responses to the recommendations from the 2010 General Commission on Religion and Race's Review of this Annual Conference. This year's work has shown us it is not a priority for them! In a Conference that is so diverse, such inaction is reprehensible!

Embracing the General Commission on Religion and Race's Ministry Model, consisting of Institutional Equity, Vital Conversations, and Intercultural Competency, CORR will continue to work on advocating and building bridges. We look forward to God's leading as we continue our work in 2016.

In 2015, CORR met six times: January 16th, March 20th, May 15th, July 24th, September 18th, and November 20th. The Commission awarded a total of \$4,700 in grants to: I-Relate Leadership Training (\$740), Falehufanga UMC, Summer Youth Convocation (\$740); El Caucus Hispano for Youth Leadership Training (\$740); First UMC of Hayward Youth MOVE Program (\$740); Fijian Language Ministry Youth going to Youth 2015 (\$740), Burlingame UMC Youth (\$500), and Samoan Youth Ministry (\$500).

We've been invited (and agreed) to partner with Leadership Development, Mission Focus Area for the August 13th *MultiCity Conference*, helping the Church reach out to the diversity in our communities.

Rev. Barbara Horikoshi-Firebaugh, Chairperson