

10/5/2016

COMMISSION ON DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING
(FORMERLY, COMMISSION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING)
REPORT FOR 2016 ANNUAL COUNCIL,
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ATLANTA

The year 2016 was one of change for the Commission. The Revs. Maggie Harney and Liz Schellingerhoudt, who respectively led the initial 2009 task force and the subsequent 2011 Commission on Human Trafficking, both fulfilled their terms and responsibilities and moved on to other work.

Building on the solid foundation of these initial leaders, five ongoing members and seven new members have collaborated to formulate and implement the following goals for 2016:

- Expansion of membership serving on the Commission to twelve, representing seven of our convocations across the diocese. Completed.
- Providing some educational opportunities on the issue of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, DMST, for new members through the non-profits Rotary International/End Human Trafficking Now, Interfaith Children's Movement and GA Cares. Completed.
- Setting-up the Commission on DMST's children's communication network in each convocation. The goal is as follows: The Commission will share a resource related to DMST with parishes at end of each month through creation of an email contact group for each convocation that includes a point person in each parish in our diocese. Complete in 9 of 10 convocations.
- Sponsoring a retreat in April for group to meet each other face to face and brainstorm ideas and strategy for 2016. (Our usually monthly meetings are via WebEx. Our WebEx host for our meetings is Mr. Raz Schrieber who has provided faithful and patient service in this role on our Commission.) Retreat led by Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore and Dr. Catherine Meeks. Complete.

Subsequently,

- Commission members wrote a mission statement which reflects the initial 2009 purpose statement. Completed.
- Requested a change of name from Commission on Human Trafficking to Commission on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, which more precisely names our focus within the very broad issue of human trafficking. Completed.
- Members collaborated to develop a document for both Safeguarding God's Children and for teachers' manuals at our various diocesan schools. Completed and sent to Deborah Silver and Episcopal schools.
- At this time through the end of 2016, we are offering a training in each convocation to help with education for clergy and lay-leaders on DMST, and information on steps parishes can take to prevent DMST in their communities. The trainings are through GA Cares, who is offering them

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- for free with diocese offering two clergy contact hours. One training in Spanish is planned for our Latino congregations. In process.
- Both in the document and trainings mentioned above we are striving to help people in the diocese understand the particular vulnerability of the LGBTQ and foster children in our communities regarding DMST. We are also working to educate people across diocese on referendum on November 2016 ballot to fund Rachel's Law. Ongoing.
 - The Commission on DMST is once again offering the Miriam's Gift Award at Annual Council to a project in the diocese that prevents DMST. This award was begun under the leadership of Rev. Liz Schellingerhoudt. In process.
 - Continuation in assisting with planning and implementation of the Holy Innocents' Requiem for Children Dying Violent Deaths in GA, which we will continue for this year. This was initiated in 2015 by Rev. Michael Sullivan and Rev. Schellingerhoudt. In process.
 - The Commission has ended our 2016 meetings with the "Prayer for Us" written by member Raz Schrieber. The prayer is for ourselves and all humanity since we are each addicted to some thing in some way. It asks God's help in finding our way forward from addiction to healing and reconciliation. Ongoing.

2016 Members of the Commission on DMST are

Kemper Anderson--St. James' Cedartown
Tim Black--All Saints' Atlanta
Terri Brice--St. Teresa's
Alan Cowart-- Grace
Gina Duncan--St. James' Marietta
Bruce Garner--All Saints' Atlanta
Pamela Kohler-Camp--St. Matthew's Snellville
Raz Schrieber--St. Bartholomew's
Amy Shipp--Epiphany and GA Cares
Lisa Venable--St. Thomas Columbus
Barbara Windom--St. Stephen's
Deborah Bruno Betsill, Chair

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