



## 2014 Highlights

The Oklahoma Conference of Churches connects, motivates, and empowers the witness of Christian communities and individuals throughout Oklahoma on issues of faith and justice. It also facilitates worship services, conferences, and projects aimed at greater Christian unity and cooperation and builds respect, understanding, friendships and tolerance in the greater faith community.

Highlights for 2014 included:

- The Rev. Mary Hughes Gaudreau joined OCC staff as director of emotional and spiritual care (January 1)
- Executive director participated in annual retreat for State Ecumenical Executives (January 9-12)
- Promoted and participated in *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* services in OKC and Tulsa (January 19)
- Established OCC Emotional and Spiritual Care (ESC) Advisory Committee (January)
- Facilitated, promoted, and participated in CART (Caring and Rebuilding Together) weekly dinners for disaster victims, volunteers, and case managers (January onward)
- Participated in OK-VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) meeting and activities (January onward)
- Produced and distributed OCC's monthly electronic newsletter "*CONNECT*" (January onward)
- Promoted *Homes for the Homeless In OKC* in partnership with the Homeless Alliance (January onward)
- Participated in and provided leadership for Long-term Area Recovery Committees, especially in connection with Emotional and Spiritual Care (January onward)
- Promoted and participated in OLC Labor and Religion Breakfast (February 6)
- Hosted 31<sup>st</sup> Annual *Day at The Legislature* at the Oklahoma State Capitol (February 10)
- Presented the OCC Ecumenical Advocacy Award to Janet Peery, YWCA (February 10)
- Produced and distributed ESC resources (*The Pathway Forward* series) (February onward)
- Established and conducted ESC workshops to train and credential Local Spiritual Care Providers (February onward)
- Monitored 200 bills on poverty, education, immigration, criminal justice, and the environment and wrote letters to legislators about some of these bills (February – May)
- Executive director participated in news conference at State Capitol on Immigration Reform (March 12)
- Updated the OCC website and gave it a "new look" (March)
- Conducted and participated in Good Friday "Stations at the Cross" Service at "Jesus Wept" statue, OKC (April 18)

- Participated in press conference regarding Death Penalty (April 29)
- Promoted and conducted second annual Benefit Breakfast (May 8)
- Developed Endowment Campaign Plan to be implemented in 2015 (May-November)
- Heads of Churches issued statement on Migrant Children at Fort Sill (June)
- Co-sponsored Cool Zones for OKC metro area (June – August)
- Supported Catholic Charities in identifying qualified volunteers and legal staff to help meet needs of Migrant Children at Fort Sill (June-September)
- Conducted second annual Benefit Art Auction and Reception (September 9)
- Executive director participated in press conference at State Capitol in support of Islamic Community (September 10)
- Hosted and conducted annual Interfaith Youth Tour (September 21)
- Promoted and Supported International Day of Peace (September 21)
- Endorsed, promoted, and supported OKC People’s Climate March (September 21)
- Issued statement regarding September 25<sup>th</sup> attack at Vaughan Foods in Moore, OK (September 27)
- Received new grants from the week of compassion, the United Church of Christ, the Disciples of Christ in Oklahoma, and the Indian Nations Presbytery, to expand OCC’s Emotional and Spiritual Care program (September-October)
- Kaleb Oakleaf joined OCC staff as (part-time) Assistance Disaster Response Coordinator (October)
- Executive director participated in panel discussion on Islam at First Christian Church, Norman (October 30)
- Participated in annual Peace Festival at the OKC Civic Center (November 8)
- Hosted OCC Annual Dinner, with special speaker Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon at OKC Petroleum Club (November 13)
- Presented the OCC “Bishop Floyd Schoenhals Distinguished Ecumenist Award” to the Rev. George Young (November 13)
- Presented the OCC “Interfaith Award” to Dr. Imad Enchassi (November 13)
- Presented the OCC “Community Service Award” to Patrick Raglow of Catholic Charities (November 13)
- Conducted special session with Dr. Kinnamon for faith leaders at St. Paul’s Cathedral (November 14)
- Executive director spoke at Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Temple B’Nai Israel, Oklahoma City (November 25)
- Held Board Development Retreat in OKC (November 20)
- Provided spiritual care support at Red Cross Community Preparedness events (November-December)
- Cosponsored, promoted, and participated in “Together For Health” Faith and Community-based Health Summits in OKC (December 1) and in Tulsa (December 4)