

**Notes/Minutes of the Faith Subcommittee - Ventura Social Services Task Force
Wednesday, March 24th, 2016, Ventura Church of Christ**

Present: Judy Alexandre, Sue Brinkmeyer, Lynn Geller, Bruce Gilbert, Robin Lerner, Pam Marshall, Al Myers, Dave Schulze, Ben Unseth

Opening in Prayer: Judy Alexandre

1. Brief Updates:

- **River Haven Refrigerator** donations: Lynn advised this includes propane supplied for 1 year. Donations to-date = \$1,465.00
- **Family Promise:** Sue and Robin (acting president) advised next meeting on April 7th at 7 pm, North Oxnard United Methodist Church 1801 Joliet Place. There will also be training for outreach (groups) at 5:30 pm. At the last meeting the group selected the name for their 501(3)c: "West Ventura Family Promise". Approximately 11 congregations have come to each meeting so far. The group is working on answering some questions such as determining the honest needs for each family on the streets and working on zoning issues. It was decided the schools would provide bus tokens for students to get to their "home". Hoping to serve 14 people or 5 families.

2. **Senate Bill 1053:** regarding closing loop-holes for discrimination of people who use housing subsidies; explained, and some issues discussed. Copy of proposal to go out to members.

3. **Partners For Change - A Roof For All** follow-ups/action:

- Letter-writing campaign: e-mails were sent out requesting people on our Action List to write 3 letters in their own words regarding homeless issues in Ventura (talking points were sent out) to 3 different newspapers (3 different letters). Judy will be monitoring the Ventura County Star - printed edition; Sue will monitor the online edition; Pam will monitor the Ventura Breeze, we are still looking for someone to help with the VC Reporter. Goal is to see what is printed, look for responses, and for us to respond if necessary.
- Responses from Faith Leaders regarding rotating speakers monthly during Public Comment section of City Council 1st monthly meeting: from Dave's small group of evangelists: a positive response; from VIMA - Pastor Ayars will need to be reminded.
- Updates on the Homeless Workshop/City Council Meeting on April 18th.: Judy advises that the latest information indicates it will be held at the Ventura Fairgrounds at the Derby Club in the Island View Room upstairs, starting at 5:30 pm. Stakeholders are in the process of being interviewed. We are told the council will take action after the workshop, and that people will be able to speak; presentations by providers, etc. Individuals encouraged to cede time to representatives of stakeholders. We agreed to wear white to show solidarity, and to make placards that say "Everyone Deserves Housing".

4. Miscellaneous/Other: Glossary of Services and Housing Definitions and Talking Points will be emailed.

Next Meeting April 27th at 3 pm at Ventura Church of Christ

Submitted by Pam Marshall