**Notes/Minutes of the Faith Subcommittee of the Ventura Social Services Task Force; Wednesday, May 25, 2016; 3pm; Ventura Church of Christ**

Present: Judy Alexandre, Sue Brinkmeyer, Lynn Geller, Bruce Gilbert, Miguel Marquez, Pam Marshall, Al Myers, Dave Schulze

Welcome and opened in prayer

1. Brief Updates:
   1. River Haven still short about $600, working to purchase refrigerator.
   2. Ventura Police Dept. had a meeting on homelessness: Police explained methods of helping homeless, CIT training for working with mentally ill, was not set up for questions and answers; many were frustrated by that; some very negative and nasty responses posted on NextDoor (neighborhood forum), especially by Paul White (Stronghold Institute), spreading of misinformation, etc. We should have someone who is able to post on NextDoor give some positive responses and correct information. Possibly Pam may write a letter to VC Star Editor.
   3. Family Promise – Ruth will send e-mail with updates.
   4. Rescue Mission- Judy Alexandre reports that they may possibly add a new location in Ventura; Tour on 6/11 at 11 am in Oxnard. If the Rescue Mission comes to Ventura, it may or may not impact Family Promise.
2. Ongoing:
   1. Building arguments to give to VSSTF to submit to City. Biblical/Scriptural arguments – Dave has given his report, other faith groups may wish to add/subtract or comment; Housing First/Rapid Rehousing arguments – Pam is working on; still need reports on Animal Companions and Service/Day Activities.
   2. Plan to attend City Council meeting 6/13, encourage clergy to attend with congregations, encourage clergy to speak (in-line with reports: Revised Summary of VSSTF & Subcommittee Recommendations regarding 10-year Strategy to End Homelessness – Pam will send a copy of this to Faith Committee).
   3. Pam will report to VSSTF 6/1 meeting: The Faith Subcommittee continues to work toward ending homelessness in Ventura by encouraging faith leaders to speak during the public comments time at City Council meetings with congregational support, encouraging letter-writing regarding homeless issues including respectful and factual responses to negative views, and sharing scriptural and moral calls to help those most in need in the most effective way possible.
3. Dave suggests that future Agendas have a space for VSSTF reports – all are agreed.

Adjourned and closed in prayer.

Next Meeting: June 22, 2016 at 3 pm

Submitted by Pam Marshall