

Faith Subcommittee May22,2013

Present: Judy Alexandre, Neal Andrews, Janine Dykstra, Jerome Kahler, Debora Schreiber

Acting chair: Jim Duran

I. New Business

- A. The Committee was asked by 211 and Action to share our data on activities of faith organizations in Ventura. It was agreed that we should contact the orgs. for permission first and then share.
- B. AB 5 Homeless Rights is making its way through the Assembly. This bill is opposed by League of Cities and Mayor Tracy sent a letter opposing it. While the bill has some problems and/or controversial aspects, general feeling was that we should support the concept that being homeless is not a crime and that more should be done to provide housing. The bill would require the State to pay for “sufficient” health and hygiene centers (bathrooms and showers) to be available and staffed 24 hours a day. Debora and Judy agreed to draft a letter for the approval of the Committee to then be presented to VSSTF in June.

II. Old Business

- A. The first email bulletins of events were sent to 28 contacts.
- B. Judy and Debora volunteered to work with Sue on a pamphlet to summarize work being done by Ventura places of worship to help those in need. This work will now also include contacting them to find out if they want their activities also listed with 211 and Action.
- C. Discussion about speakers or activities to attract interest: Jim reported that on June 8, Project Understanding is receiving half the gate from the Fusion soccer game at Ventura College. There will be booths there by non-profits (including VSSTF) and Project plans to split their share of the money with the nonprofits. In September, a Bridges Out of Poverty event will be held. Judy reminded us that George Barna was the motivational speaker that came to Project a few years ago and was very well received.
- D. Brief updates on food pantries, Harbor Church, Winter Warming Shelter and Homeless 2 Home were given. Next meeting Wednesday June 26 at 3 PM at UU Church.

Respectfully submitted: Debora Schreiber