

Faith Communities Subcommittee of VSSTF

Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2009

I. Call to order

Captain Bill Finley called to order the regular meeting of the **Faith Communities Committee of the VSSTF** at 4PM on Tuesday May 5, 2009 at **Ventura Unitarian Universalist Church**.

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes were approved.

III. Old Issues

- a) The results from the City Council meeting were discussed in detail. We discussed how to proceed and decided to take the lead from city staff in moving forward. We celebrated the fact that a large number of clergy from a variety of faith traditions were present at both the rally and City Council Meeting. Merits and concerns about Safe Sleep Ventura were discussed and a commitment was made to work with the city on moving forward. The rally on May 4 was great. Approximately 130 people were there and a wide variety of faith traditions were represented. It was very helpful for getting our issues passed at the Council meeting.
- b) Thanksgiving 2009
 - Plans are underway
 - Knights of Columbus Hall has been secured.
- c) Yes in My Backyard-will be doing monthly actions. The rally was the first one and others will follow.
- d) Church Reports
 - UU Church-Picture project is just about complete they are looking for places to display the project. They are applying for funding to organize faith communities and homeless in order to end homelessness.
- e) Summer Camp for low income children. The Salvation Army will send 25 kids to camp this year. The goal is to send those who are below the poverty line.
- f) Prayer Breakfast-National Day of Prayer is May 7th. The Salvation Army hosts a breakfast at Poinsettia Pavilion. The speaker is Brother Nicholas Radelmiller, OHC from Mount Calvary Retreat Center. Program this year includes a very ecumenical assortment of clergy and lay leaders.
- g) We are still looking for a committee secretary
- h) Rick Pearson is heading up a group to look at site selection for a permanent shelter.
- i) Lift Up Your Voice from UU Church has a photo project highlighting homeless individuals and telling their story. The photos are currently at Foster Library and at City Hall. If you have suggestions for locations for display contact Marilyn Scott: mescotte8@gmail.com 630-7812
- j) Kingdom Center at old City Center Motel site. Sam Gallucci of Harbor Church reported that a lease had been signed. The concept involves a faith-based sober transitional living center. Twelve pastors/priests are committed to the adopt a family

model. Ultimately there will be 30 rooms; women and children given first priorities and then others. A professional organization will be running the center. Operation Embrace is a separate program operating 8:30-1:30 as a day time ministry. Before a CUP (conditional use permit) will be granted by the City, public meetings will be held.

IV. Adjournment

Captain Bill Finley adjourned the meeting at **5:30PM**.

Minutes submitted by: Bill Finley, Captain The Salvation Army