

**Minutes for the Faith Subcommittee
Ventura Social Services Task Force
January 22, 2014
Prepared by Sue Brinkmeyer**

Attendance: Susan Brinkmeyer, Harold Cartlidge, Dorothy FastHorse, John Sanders Jones, Jerome Kahler, Doug Long, Jennifer Mokos, Kathy Powell, David Pyle, Debora Schreiber, Dave Schulze, Joseph Topps, Jill Upson

1. Opening Words and Introduction
2. Coordination of services
 - a. Jill Upson from ACTION VC (Area Christians Taking Action on Needs) reported on the work the group does each year, primarily the Christmas Shoppe at 5 churches in the county, and Serve Day in May or June. See their web page at actionvc.org Their mission is uniting churches and meeting needs, but they serve all faith communities interested in joining, despite their name. Jill introduced us to MeetTheNeeds.org, the free software program they use on the web to organize all of the volunteering. It looks like a wonderful tool many faith communities could benefit from using. They are working on developing a listing of churches and what services they provide. Sue will share with Jill the list created by the Faith Subcommittee, clearly labeled as a draft. She knows to stay in touch with Rose Ornelas, City of Ventura Volunteer Coordinator.
 - b. LUYV is sending out a letter to all faith communities inviting them to pick a week or two to display at their location the photo project showing places homeless children sleep and telling their stories, "To Sleep . . . Perchance to Dream." Faith Subcommittee can include a letter inviting anyone in the congregation to represent their community on the subcommittee. Debora and Janine will work on putting that letter together. Perhaps Outreach Committee would like to include an offer of a speaker/workshop/or panel to coincide with the photo display being at each location.
 - c. Sue will again send out to the faith communities mentioned in the Subcommittees brochure of services provided with a clear note that if a response correcting errors is not received by X date, the information will be shared with 211 and area agencies like ACTIONVC
 - d. FOOD Share has begun having one coordinator from each city to oversee all food pantries and to avoid double dipping. The goal is fairness and making sure every agency is getting the right amount to serve its clients. An updated pantry list dated January 22, 2014 was shared. FOOD Share is starting a mobile food pantry in Port Hueneme.

- e. Dave Schulze of Ventura Church of Christ suggested that a workshop on the topic of how cooperation allows us to do more, perhaps drawing on some of the popular books now being published on that topic regarding churches. Janine will talk to Judy about resources/books she is familiar with. Might share how cooperation among food pantries has improved service, how cooperation among H2H agencies and between city, county and social service agencies improves service. how, despite theological difference, the various faith communities can find ways to cooperate so that big things become possible. Sue will share idea with John Sanders Jones for Outreach Committee, which might collaborate with Faith Subcommittee on such an idea.
- f. Dave Schulze suggested that Peter Brown has been a very effective speaker on the topic of homelessness in the past on the topic of who the homeless are and how faith community can help.
- g. Rev. David suggested a meeting among all faith communities who will come discussing how they are using their benevolence funds and sharing their philosophies, experiences. Jerome Kahler cautioned that the understanding of the term “benevolence fund” varies widely, and a definition of the term/a listing of other terms used for the same idea might be necessary in invitations to such an event.

Next meeting: 4th Wednesday of every month -- February **26, 2014 at 3 p.m.** at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, 5654 Ralston, Ventura.

Note: Clarification is needed of request made at December meeting for a speaker/ presentation in February on policies related to homeless with mental health issues.