

Faith Communities Subcommittee of VSSTF

Meeting Minutes

June 2, 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 June 2, 2009 at **Ventura Unitarian Universalist Church**.

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes were approved.

III. Old Issues

- a) A brief report on Harbor Community and City Center Motel was given. At least 13 churches have indicated support. Lease has been signed and a clean up is taking place on Saturday June 6th.
- 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. June action is voter registration of homeless and those at risk of being homeless. Yes will have a booth at the 4th of July street fair. A billboard or other add will be taken out with a photo of any clergy/faith leaders who will stand up and say Yes we can end homelessness in Ventura. Hidden Ventura tours are also being planned.
- d) 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.
- e) Prayer Breakfast-National Day of Prayer was May 7th. It was a success on many levels.
- f) We talked in-depth about ways to engage more clergy in the discussions. Rick Pearson will be doing a pastors covenant that will allow pastors to commit to levels of action and interest that they feel called to and willing to participate in. It will include a draft of the mission statement for the subcommittee.
- g) Room at the Inn will not be happening for a variety of reasons.
- h) We discussed a proposed candidate forum and pledge for city council candidates to take. With unanimous vote it was approved to bring forward both ideas to VSSTF. The following language was approved at VSSTF.

As a candidate for the Ventura City Council, I pledge to the residents of this community:

- 1) I will seek out opportunities and take actions that will work towards ending homelessness in the City of Ventura.
- 2) I will strive to see the city of Ventura implement the 10 year strategy to end homelessness.

3) I will work to encourage other City Council members to do the same.

It was also approved to move forward with planning a candidate's forum. The education committee will be following through with the pledge while the faith committee will plan and organize the forum. We are looking at the last week in September for the forum.

i) We are still looking for a committee secretary

IV. Adjournment

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

Minutes submitted by: Bill Finley, Captain The Salvation Army