



DHS' Faith-Based Initiative's Working Group Meeting, July 18, 2017

Memorable Quotations:

*"Collateral transformation."
-Jonathan Hardy*

*"Reaching out to our neighbors...to collaborate [and] truly serve as neighbors."
-Rev. Robert Woody*



"We are better together." -Tom Heger

"Speak the truth in love... [and] hold each other's stories as sacred." -Rev. Anna Montgomery

Top Identified Community Concerns:

Generational Poverty

Homeless & Hunger

Immigration & Refugees

Literacy

Overview

The foci of the first meeting of the San Antonio Faith-Based Initiative's Working Group were:

- Strengthening relationship between members,
- Developing Action Teams,
- Sorting future Working Group logistics.

Preparation

Based on size and longevity of presence in San Antonio and/or interfaith networking, the Working Group member selections are a *sampling* of faith communities and religions that make up San Antonio's faith diversity and leadership. *See next page for listing.* Each Working Group member has agreed to the following commitments:

- Meeting once a month and serving for one year with the potential for more,
- Actively supporting the mission of the SA Faith-Based Initiative,
- Coordinating an Action Team of 5-6 people to focus on the Community Concerns and Initiative needs. *Also see next page listing.*

Meeting

At the July 18th meeting, Working Group members:

- Received an information packet that included a Working Group contact list, Department of Human Services' resources, an update on the Initiative's technological development, and a diagram for the side-by-side relationship between COSA and the Working Group;
- Shared their prepared Mission Minute: *the link between how their mission intersects with the Faith-Based Initiative's mission;*
- Expressed how they wished to be treated in the future as a Working Group through a compassionate orientative lens. Those responses included "to stretch as we wish to be stretched," "to hear as we wish to be heard," "challenge with nuisance," "as a fellow servant," "speak the truth in love," "holding everything as possibility," "hold each other's stories as sacred," "understand," and "gratitude."

A common theme in Mission Minutes was the desire to become more "outward-focused." Likewise, members discussed organizational mission changes as community needs altered (ex. Immigration and refugees). Multiple leaders also touched on the faith community's historical significance to community initiatives, especially in Literacy, the Group's #4 Top Community Concern.

Moving Forward

Members of the Working Group are now in the process of forming the Action Teams. Attendees from the Spring and the Summer Convenings were notified of these Teams and are stepping forward and into the mutual work. Members of the Action Teams will be selected based on skill set, commitment, and availability.



Organization Member represents	Type of Organization	WORKING GROUP* MEMBER	Action Team Working Group Member Leads
Bridging the Gap	Westside Interfaith Collaborative	Pastor Jimmy Robles	Strategy & Scalability
Chaplain Services, South TX VA	Military	Chaplain Juliana Lesher	Mental Health
Community of Churches for Social Action	Interfaith Coalition/Eastside	Howard Anderson	Generational Poverty
Dialogue Institute of the Southwest	Muslim/Interfaith Coalition	Mehmet Oguz	Communications & PR
Episcopal Diocese of West Texas	Judicatory of Episcopal Church	Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson	<i>To be determined</i>
San Antonio Mennonite Church	Historic Peace Church in San Antonio	Pastor John Garland	Immigration & Refugees
Interfaith Welcome Coalition	Interfaith Coalition	Lenna Baxter	Immigration & Refugees
Inter-Religious Council of San Antonio	Interfaith Coalition	Rajam Ramamurthy	Public Health
Jewish Federation of San Antonio	Community Relations Council	Ellen Ollervidez	Literacy
Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church	Methodist Judicatory Office	Rev. Diana Phillips	Children & Foster Care
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	Main Offices of LDS Church	Bruce Baillio	Technology
Mission Presbytery of The Presbyterian Church USA	Presbyterian Judicatory Office	Rev. Tom Heger	Convenings & Conversations
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio	Catholic Judicatory Office	Sr. Jane Ann Slater	Compassionate San Antonio
San Antonio Peace Center	Interfaith Network – Compassionate SA roots	Jonathan Hardy	Homelessness & Hunger
San Antonio Sponsoring Committee	Interfaith Social Justice Collaborative	Rev. Robert Woody	<i>To be determined</i>
Southwestern Texas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America	Lutheran Judicatory Office	Rev. Anna Montgomery	Religious Discrimination

*The above is a *sampling* of faith communities and religions that make up San Antonio's faith diversity and leadership. Parameters of Working Group selections: Size and longevity of presence in San Antonio and/or interfaith networking.

August 14, 2017