

Minutes of the St. Thomas Aquinas Human Concerns Committee Meeting - February 20 , 2013

Attendance:

Paul Chestnut, Ruth Chippendale, George Chippendale, Terry Atkinson, Jean Ramaciotti, Mary Fong, Terry McCaffrey

1. Faith-Sharing/Question of the Week

Mary led us in a prayer to the beauty that surrounds us.

2. Approval of January minutes

The minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

3. New Pastoral Stewardship Council representative

After a lengthy discussion about the need for a new representative to the Parish Stewardship Council, Mary agreed to be the new representative.

4. HCC Budget

Terry defined the budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. It is shown below:

	Original	Revised
	Fiscal year	Fiscal year
HCC #572160 budget	2012-2013	2012-2013
Peninsula Peace and Justice	150	150
InnVision	500	500
South Bay Sanctuary Covenant	250	250
Bread for the World	200	200
Catholics against Capital Punishment	150	150
Jericho	50	50
Santa Clara County Council of Churches	0	0
PIA	2000	2000
PIA (Heroes Luncheon)	300	300
Day Worker Center	1000	1000
Network	50	50
Center of Concern	100	100
California People of Faith Working Against the Death Penalty	500	500
Misc. (conference fees, graphics, literature, etc.)	400	400
Heart and Home Collaborative		1000
Total	5650	6650

5. NRCAT's Fact Not Fiction Campaign

No progress was made on this initiative.

NEW BUSINESS

6. New Women's Shelter: We welcome Aparna Ananthasubramaniam

There is a need for a Women's Shelter in Palo Alto. "The only two women's shelters in Santa Clara County have fewer than 30 beds combined, even though there are over 2,000 unhoused women." A team of Stanford students, called Night Outreach, has worked to start a homeless shelter since 2010. The leaders of this group contacted us to determine if we were willing to be a host partner. They sent one of their number, Aparna Ananthasubramaniam, to talk to us.

Aparna started by talking about the institutional history, mission, and values of the program. They are in the process of becoming an independent 501c3. She talked about the nonprofit model, planned projects, and current status. She

gave an overview of the whole program and then asked for a discussion. A summary of the message:

"Last year, Hotel de Zink: Women's Shelter operated for three months, a partnership among Night Outreach, several local churches, and service provider InnVision, under the umbrella of InnVision. This year, many of the students involved in creating and operating the women's shelter have built on their experience to form a new community nonprofit, Heart and Home Collaborative. We try our best to live out and grow our core values of friendship and love, learning and growth, accountability to our guests, participatory planning, connection with other service providers, and allowing unhoused people to set their own goals and articulate their own needs. We hope to open a women's shelter by spring, but we can't reach our goal without your support!"

Our group was enthusiastic in its support of the group. We suggested that our budget should be increased by \$1000 to help them.

7. "Eyes Wide Open" Event

Nearing the 10th anniversary of its formation, Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice is planning a free-speech event on Saturday and (potentially) Sunday, March 16 and 17, at City Hall Plaza, for an exhibition of the American Friends Service Committee's "Eyes Wide Open" display about the costs of war. The group is seeking co-sponsors from peace and social justice groups, faith communities, and others. The HCC agreed to be a co-sponsor of the event.

8. Friends of Buena Vista

Father Matt gave approval to use our name (St. Thomas Aquinas Parish) as one of the backers/sponsors of the "Save Buena Vista" project. The issue is low cost housing in Palo Alto. Buena Vista is a mobile home park near El Camino and Los Robles. There has been a proposal to convert the park into a large scale development. The Friends of Buena Vista is a group that will fight the proposal.

9. Social Justice Day of Reflection

This program was cancelled.

10. What's On Your Mind?

Volunteers are needed for a free dental clinic to be held at the San Jose Convention Center, over the weekend of May 17 - 20. It is run by "CDACares," an initiative of the California Dental Association. Catholic Charities is a sponsor. Types of people needed include: dental care professionals, pharmacists, translators, assistants, dental students, and helpers to escort patients, translate, dispense medication, set up and tear down the clinic, enter data, register patients, etc. To register, go to cdafoundation.org/cdacares .

11. Volunteer for Faith-sharing/Question of the Week

Next meeting - March 20, 2013