

Arizona Council on  
Faith-Based and Community Initiatives  
Minutes for May 27, 2010

The Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is dedicated to engaging and mobilizing all faith communities to improve the quality of life for our most vulnerable and impoverished people through a statewide, action-oriented collaboration of faith-based, community and governmental organizations.

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- Welcome & Invocation
  - Vice-Chair Richard Knopf welcomed attendees at 10:12 a.m.; invocation by Ben Sanders. A listing of attendees is attached.
- Review of previous Meeting Minutes.
  - Minutes from the 4/22/10 meeting were except by acclamation.
- Updates
  - ArizonaSERVES. Chuck provided this update from Christina Estes-Werther, Governor Brewer's Human Services Policy Advisor. The Governor's ArizonaSERVES taskforce has not yet been seated. The effort is now with the Governor's Boards and Commissions staff.
  - The Arizona Hunger Campaign. Ben and Chuck spoke about this effort. Sports, media, business, faith and government organizations are involved to bring significant hunger relief to Arizonans. The slogan "1 in 5" will be used to draw attention to the fact that 1 in 5 of Arizona's children is food insecure. The Campaign will work in conjunction with existing food drive efforts in the faith community that support local pantries. Organizations are being asked to conduct hunger awareness efforts and food drives the weekend of Father's Day, June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The Campaign's new website is [www.endazhunger.org](http://www.endazhunger.org). As we discussed the Issue of hunger in Arizona, it was suggested that we invite Ginny Hildebrand to join the Council. Ginny is the president of the Association of Arizona Food Banks. Chuck will extend the invitation on the Council's behalf.
  - Arizona CityFest & Season of Service. Ben and Chuck spoke about a statewide Season of Service will begin this fall and will culminate in a Luis Palau CityFest on March 19-20, 2011. The website is [www.arizonacityfest.org](http://www.arizonacityfest.org) The purpose of the Season of Service is to resource, encourage and celebrate serving in the community. An example of an event that may be replicated around the State is Tucson's annual "Hope Fest" on Make a Difference Day in October.
  - Captain Chris Melvin spoke about the upcoming "2010 Statewide Symposium in Support of Military Families" on July 14-16, 2010 in Phoenix. The track on July 16<sup>th</sup> is of particular interest to faith communities, and the Council, as it will unpack issues of faith and spirituality for military families. John Oliver will speak on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Scholarships for this symposium may be made available to Council member organizations. More information is available at [www.arizonacoalition.org](http://www.arizonacoalition.org).
  - Rev. Jan Flaaten announced the upcoming theological conference titled, "Theology of Walls" scheduled for October 29-30, 2010 at Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix. More information will follow as the date approaches.
- Convene, Connect, Communicate
  - Ben, Chuck and Rick spoke of a new draft Council website that may serve as a communication platform for the Council. Ben, Tricia, Chuck, Rick and technical expert Thomas Jodon have met again since the previous Council meeting to discuss the purpose and direction of the project and brought recommendations back to the Council. Thomas walked attendees through the technical benefits and issues of the website platform while

Rick and Ben spoke to the community benefits of the new website. There was consensus for the sub-committee to continue down this path and to keep the Council updated on the progress. It was also agreed (immediately following this meeting) to use this URL for the website - [www.acfbci.org](http://www.acfbci.org).

- New Business
  - At the next Council meeting, we will discuss adding “Celebrate” to the end of “Convene, Connect and Communicate.”
  - Chuck provided three statistics to the attendees, and spoke about each briefly. He asked attendees to consider the people behind these statistics and how their organizations may be of assistance.
    - 10,300 children are currently on the statewide Child Care waiting list – and the list is closed
    - 380 people with a Developmental Disability will be losing State funding for home services on 5/31/10
    - 14,000 letters were mailed to Arizonans who will be losing TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) on 6/20/10
  - The ELCA Grand Canyon Synod has offered to host a future Council meeting at their new facility. We will discuss this at the next Council meeting.
  - Ben suggested the Council plan a statewide “Faith-Based and Community Initiatives” conference next year. We will discuss this at the next Council meeting.
- Closing Remarks and Adjourn
  - Vice-Chair Rick thanked everyone for a great meeting; and Captain Chris Melvin closed with a word of prayer.
  - Next meeting is Thursday, June 24, 2010; 10 a.m. to 12 Noon at Food for the Hungry
  - Adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted by**

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names in bold participated on 5/27/2010

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