

# Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Minutes for April 28, 2011

The Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (<http://acfbci.org>) is dedicated to engaging and mobilizing faith communities to improve the quality of life for our most vulnerable and impoverished people through a statewide collaboration of faith-based, community and governmental organizations.

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- Welcome, Invocation & Introductions
  - Chair Dr. Gary Kinnaman welcomed attendees at 10:10 a.m.; Reverend Jan Flaaten led attendees in an opening prayer.
  - Attending members introduced themselves: Gary Kinnaman, Rick Knopf (phone), Chuck Fitzgerald, Teri Traaen, Ginny Hildebrand, Jan Flaaten, Billy Thrall, Ben Sanders, Linda Morris, Jack Hanstein, Tricia Hoyt, Scott Neuman
  - Visitors: Marek Wosinski & Osee Tcheupgoum (ASU UCP-SARnet), Stephanie Goss (CityServe Arizona), Honnalora Hubbard (phone, Terra Haute, IN)
- Review of previous Meeting Minutes.
  - Minutes from the March 24, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.
- Old Business
  - ArizonaSERVES. Chair Gary and Chuck gave attendees a brief update on the Task Force and the website [www.arizonaserves.gov](http://www.arizonaserves.gov). Next Task Force meeting is on June 17, 2011.

There was much discussion regarding the upcoming ArizonaSERVES Summit in September. Billy Thrall, who is an ArizonaSERVES Task Force member and serves on the Summit Planning Team, asked attendees for their comments which he would then take to the Planning Team meeting on May 2, 2011. Billy was particularly interested in the possibility of an extended Agenda for the Summit, above and beyond what the Governor's Office would see as appropriate for ArizonaSERVES. A variety of comments regarding marketing, content, adding a 2<sup>nd</sup> day or preconference day, audience, Council role, etc. were offered.

A question was asked about ArizonaSERVES – is anyone paying attention to the return on investment of ArizonaSERVES due to faith-based organizations' actual involvement? The suggestion was made that this will be critical for reaching many of the faith-based organizations who are currently deciding whether or not to get involved.
  - Council's role in public policy. Again there was much discussion regarding the Council's role in the public policy arena. The consensus is that the Council will not be active in public policy, as an organization. However, the faith community's perspective must find its way into the current policy discussions. For this reason, individual Council members are encouraged to get involved in any fashion they choose, but not as a representative of the Council. It was agreed that "policy work kills networking" and the Council's effectiveness relies on the ability to build strong networks.

It was also agreed that the Council does play an important role in communicating – and communicating accurate information. The Council should be viewed as a trusted source for information. As a first step, it was suggested that we link our website to ASU's Arizona Indicators ([www.arizonaindicators.org](http://www.arizonaindicators.org)) and U of A's National Institute for Civil Discourse (<http://nicd.arizona.edu>). Staff has already taken care of this. ☺
  - Member Updates.

- CityServe Arizona. Billy gave attendees a final report on Arizona CityFest and an initial report on the new roles he and Stephanie have with CityServe Arizona. They are beginning planning work on the next Season of Service, and they are very actively working to get a web presence up and running.
- University Community Partnership Social Action Research Network (UCP-SARnet). Marek and Osee spoke of their web-based collaboration tools and offered to speak with any Council members who are interested in using this engine to connect networks, projects, ideas, etc. The tools can be found at <http://ucpsarnet.org>; please review them for applicability. If you are interested in exploring how the Council might use these tools by meeting with other Council members for discussion, please contact Chuck.

Marek also spoke of two upcoming events. First, a June 30<sup>th</sup> event titled “Coach Approach to Purposeful Conversations” for community leaders and change agents for sustainable solutions. Second, the international Ashoka Conference in February 2012 is coming to ASU in Tempe. The conference is for social entrepreneurs who have system changing solutions for the world’s most urgent social problems.

- ACFBCI. Chair Gary suggested we consider expanding the Council Membership to include more faith groups. He will look at the current Council roster to determine who else should be included, and the recent attendance trends to determine who needs to be re-engaged.
  - Faith Resource Guide. Chair Gary shared the book “Salt & Light: A Guide to Loving Knoxville” with attendees. The book is a resource guide for faith-based organizations who are currently serving their community, or want to serve their community in a new way. He suggested the Council might undertake a similar project for Arizona.
  - Hispanic Pastors’ Meeting. Chair Gary spoke of a recent meeting of Hispanic Pastors in Northwest Phoenix, and their desire to collaborate with other faith leaders in healing our communities.
- New Business (included above).
  - Closing Remarks and Adjourn
    - Next meeting is Thursday, May 26, 2011; 10 a.m. to 12 Noon at Catholic Charities, 4747 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Phoenix.
    - Chair Gary thanked the attendees for their participation in an excellent meeting; Billy closed with a word of prayer. We adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:  
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*Convene - Connect - Communicate - Celebrate*