

IAB MEETING MINUTES

Date: 1/16/2020

Location: First Colony Congregational Church
10:00 AM -12:00 noon

Present: Admon Alexander, Kay Bess, Donna Brehm, Ruth Brogan, Aline Carr, Percy Carter, Abby Causey, Anna Crowder, Tommie Cubine, Lynn Graham, Debra Grant, Ryan Jones, Jackie Malbon, Mary McConathy, Jennifer McGowan, Marsh Miles, Herta Okonkwo, George Orr, Carol Pilgrim, Dustin Schwandt, Teresa Stanley, Georgia Steffen, Elmer Steward, Marie Thompson, Carmen Thorpe, Alice Testerman, Jennifer Vaughan, Ken Veasey, Todd Walker, Ben Watterton, Nancy Will, Theron Williams, Joanie Wood, Anita Wyche, Yvette Yates, Anne Zach

Pastor Kim Hodges welcomed the IAB to Lynnhaven Colony Congregational Church and led the group in prayer.

Debra Grant opened the meeting and called on Teresa Stanley for the Advocacy Report. Before moving to the Advocacy report, Teresa asked Georgia Steffen and Dustin Schwandt to pass the Blessing Box. She reminded the group that the Capacity Building Committee instituted the Blessing Box with a request for voluntary donations a few months ago as a means of funding IAB recognitions and activities such as the Charity Tracker Forum held in October. (Today's collection totaled \$79.00).

Teresa then explained that Barbara Ford was unable to make the reminder calls this month due to illness and asked the group to hold her in their prayers. Newcomers, Lynn Graham (Holy Apostles), George Orr (St Michael Lutheran), Anna Crowder (CUMC), Ruth Littlejohn (Turning Point) and Abby Causey (Catholic Diocese of Richmond).

Round table introductions followed.

Advocacy Report, - Teresa Stanley:

- **Legislative Agenda:** The General Assembly is revving up. Political winds have changed. ERA passed. Driver licenses for immigrants not on the top of the list but is important. On January 22nd a busload of 50 like-minded advocates travelled to Richmond to visit with legislators. More than 20 visits were conducted locally, some for as long as two hours.
 - Locally we are working on human rights for the homeless population. Maintaining a presence on the ocean front is important. IAB submitted a letter of support for JCOC's plan to rebuild its campus to include single room occupancy efficiencies for those coming out of homelessness. Teresa and several others spoke at the Planning Commission hearing to educate them on the continuing need. Todd Walker thanked Teresa and the IAB for their ongoing support. The Planning Commission voted 9/0 to move forward. The next step will be to go before City Council to seek approval. – likely for this to occur sometime in the first quarter of the year. Also looking at possibility of moving the dining hall to the old Seatack Elementary School.
 - Ruth Brogan announced that Todd Walker will be speaking at Church of Ascension on January 27 at 7pm and invited interested individuals to attend.
 - Tents on the beach is the other issue related to rights of homeless. Even with the HRC 80-100 people per night are without shelter The police are re-evaluating a

recent ordinance that made sleeping in tents a crime punishable with jail time and may downgrade it to a fine with voluntary compliance.

- Teresa mentioned that the focus in The Buzz, a new feature in the Virginian Pilot is homelessness.
- The second advocacy ask was for each IAB member to invite a nonmember to the October forum or reach out to another congregation to learn more about Charity Tracker.
- The Faith in Action Office received a grant and can continue to provide a stipend to maintain a part time administrator. They need 45 users; currently at 35 active. Teresa acknowledged several congregations that have recently joined.
- **Interspiritual Empowerment Calendar** –. Teresa brought attention to the January 18th Race Relations and the January 30th Season for Nonviolence events.

Presentation: Yvette Yates announced that the VBStrong Center is up and running with changes occurring daily. The offerings were changed to provide more classes and greater access to city employees. Currently the 7 am – 9:30 am are restricted to city employees. The Center is designed as an opportunity for healing for both city employees and residents in the aftermath of May 31st. It is located at 3388 Princess Anne Rd. Suite 2001 in Landstown Commons and is currently funded for three years through a federal grant. Registration for classes is not required but is encouraged.

Michelle Foster inquired as to whether any of the wellness activities centered around nutrition and suggested that Virginia Cooperative Extension might be a resource.

One Minute Abbreviated Initiative Updates: (listed alphabetically, not necessarily in order of report)

Faith in Action Office (Charity Tracker) – Nancy Will and Jennifer Vaughan

Nancy Will is in process of transitioning her role as administrator to Susan Lambert. The Forum was wonderful and resulted in 5 new member to Charity Tracker. One on one training continues to be available. The 2020 invoices went out 1/10/20. They usually allow about a month for payment. If your congregation is a member and did not receive invoice, let Nancy know.

Nancy will be meeting with a group of churches in Chesapeake on 1/27/2020 – opening Charity Tracker for regional participation. Total assistance provided \$664,642, serving 2900 cases for a total of 7,974 individuals. Ninety per cent of the assistance went to three categories: Food, Utilities, and Housing.

Jennifer set up a directory of resources and updates it monthly; it changes constantly. Charity Tracker Members receive a newsletter monthly with resource list attached.

Fathers in Training: Ben Watterton extended a huge thank you to Jackie Malbon and the First Lynnhaven Baptist Church for hosting the December FIT graduation. Sixty people attended the graduation. Ben also acknowledged Eddie Howard and MENT for providing toys for the children and two 21inch TVs to raffle. Thirty people are now attending class on Monday nights.

Financial Empowerment/Matched Savings - Anita Wyche announced that registration is open for new classes beginning in January. We continue to offer classes January, April and September in Chesapeake, Norfolk and Virginia Beach. The Financial Roundtable met on January 14th to review the National Bank On account standards and guest speaker Victor

Galloway from FDIC discussed the unbanked and underbanked. Teresa reminded the group that IAB launched the Matched Savings Program in partnership with Bank On. The Financial Empowerment Team continues to meet at Catholic Charities at 4 pm the third Thursday of each month. The team needs additional members who are willing to commit to attending the monthly meeting and to represent the FET at least one Bank On class.

Food Security – Michelle Foster acknowledged community partners for their holiday provision of food. Youth Earn and Learn is active; Karen Bailey hopes to be back in February.

Foster Care - Ryan Jones announced that the next Information Session is next Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the 3432 Virginia Beach Blvd. DHS location. The schedule is posted on DHS website. Ryan again offered to host a meeting for any congregation interested in learning more about the need for foster parents in Virginia Beach. The department is grateful to Lynnhaven Colony for hosting the ongoing foster parent meetings.

Furniture Ministry: No representatives from Outreach for Christ were present. Teresa reported that we continue to encounter glitches with not getting calls returned. For now, Nancy Will is serving as our contact and connection for pickups and delivery. She can be reached at 757-567-4043.

Leadership and Capacity Building – Georgia Steffen/Dustin Schwandt

The Leadership and Capacity Building Committee meets the 4th Thursday of every month at Beacon House and continues to explore creative ways to expand capacity. The committee has focused on increasing attendance and participation, along with providing educational presentations; members are available to speak. Interested congregations. The committee includes initiative leads but others who are interested are welcome to participate.

Move – in Kits – Kay Bess reminded the group that the BEACH closet is housed at United Memorial Methodist Church and accepts donations of basic household items on an ongoing basis. Items accepted include cleaning products, brooms, mops, pot/pans, dishes (no wine glasses) and gently used linens. Used pillows are not accepted. Monetary donations are welcomed, and Kay will do the shopping. The Closet served 80 adults and 63 children.

Open Table – Since neither Scott Bottenfield nor Teresa Alfes were present, Teresa Stanley provided update. Open Table is an empowerment mentorship model that two years ago was just a dream in Virginia Beach. Now we have two licenses. Several congregations clustered together to form a table, others, like Lynnhaven Colony went solo. Currently the tables receive referrals from Human Services staff (CSA, Child and Youth, Child Welfare) but we are hoping to also get referrals from Housing. Teresa introduced Lynn Graham who is the inside director of the table at Holy Apostles. Their table is going well. They meet once a week with their “sister” and are providing natural supports to her. The initial referral to the Church of the Ascension did not work out. They are in process of getting a new referral. The table at The Gathering is also beginning.

Mental Health Awareness – Joanie Wood announced that NAMI will be offering one day workshops for parents with children age 16 and under – children’s challenging Behavior on 2/1 at the VBStrong Center. The STEP-VA Flyer which had been previously distributed was also mentioned. Flyers can be downloaded from NAMICoastalVA.org

Teresa commended St Andrews for the work they are doing around promoting mental health awareness.

Open Agenda/Announcements:

Jackie Malbon announced the Ecumenical Week of Prayer Jan 18-25. She is now working with historical preservation to research and document African American history in Virginia Beach and indicated she may not be as available to IAB.

Jennifer Vaughn announced that anyone interested in charity tracker could email - Faithinaction107@gmail.com or call 757-385-2733.

Teresa extended Kudos to IAB for its 30-year effort to address homelessness and wanted to publicly acknowledge Barbara Ford, Nancy Will, Jennifer Vaughan, and Deb Houck.

She also extended a welcome back to Carol Pilgrim.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alice Testerman, Volunteer Services and Community Programs Coordinator, Human Services Department (757-385-3538) or atesterm@vbgov.com

Next Meeting:

March 19, 2020

Church of the Ascension

-4853 Princess Anne Rd

Virginia Beach, VA 23462