

Homeless Ministries Task Force

Report to the 2019 Annual Charge Conference

Members of the Task Force: John Creager, Jennie Hartman, Bill Dornbush, Jennifer Dornbush, Peg Ferrel, Mike Ferrel, Norm Bryan, Sam Cox, Shirley Cheal, *Bob Cheal (*Chair)

Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 1:30pm Carriage House.

Purpose of the Task Force: To address the complex issues of homelessness in the Santa Rosa area by actively engaging members of our congregation while pursuing strong relationships with the City of Santa Rosa, the YMCA, Catholic Charities, The Redwood Gospel Mission and other community churches and groups.

How does the purpose help fulfill the mission of FUMC? By expressing ourselves through both personal spirituality and social responsibility, reaching up to God and reaching out to all people in God's love. By living up to our Oneness in Christ Statement: "...We seek to be an inclusive church. We warmly invite into our life and mission all people without regard to race, nationality, sexual orientation, ability, age, gender identity, financial circumstances..."

What are your activities/ programs, ministries/ accomplishments for the last year? Safe parking was restored at the Stony Point Campus following the termination of the program by Catholic Charities. We are now accommodating 10 vehicles in our Safe Parking program. Through grants from the First United Methodist Foundation and the City of Santa Rosa CHAP program, and through fund raisers and private donations, the program is fully funded at this time. The Entertaining Angels (Nomadic Shelter) program continued at our church in the 2018-2019 season.

What are your goals and plans for the next year? To widen the FUMC mission awareness of the issues facing the homeless community and those facing insecure housing. To continue and to expand the Safe Parking program. To increase volunteer participation. To increase our current connections in the community and foster new alliances. To continue our support of the Entertaining Angels program. We will continue to share our successes with other community organizations and encourage them to start their own Safe Parking programs.

What goals or benchmarks have you set to measure success/effectiveness? We measure success in a number of ways. First, by the number of participants who move through our Safe Parking program into more stable housing. Second, by the number of volunteers serving the homeless mission. Third, by witnessing the active participation of program participants coming to Christ in our church.