

## NOTES FROM HOMELESS MINISTRIES TASK FORCE – FEBRUARY 28, 2018

Present – Doug Albertson, Shirley Cheal, Jennie Hartman, John Creager, Peg Ferrel, Sam Cox, Mike Ferrel

1. Doug opened the meeting with prayer, and Sam made comments about “discernment as individuals and as a group, drawing on the book, “Discerning God’s Will Together.” A discussion then ensued as to discerning the next best steps for the task force.

Comments made included:

- A. Our struggles or lessons learned during the past couple of years have benefitted us and the church, ex. may have helped the church to more quickly embrace the Homes For Sonoma project; have brought us to this point with Safe Parking; have elevated our credibility with the city and other community groups, etc.
  - B. How can we better educate the church about our work and the present needs of people who are homeless? Suggestions included: having moments in worship or at church events (or in individual conversations with church members) of stories/vignettes about personal experiences; maybe have a “Homeless Sunday” theme for a worship service.
  - C. Mike suggested that the various homeless-related activities of the church (Safe Parking, Spirit Café, Warming Hut, etc.) be placed in one administrative “home” coordinated by a permanent Homeless Ministries Committee. The consensus of those present was that this was a good idea, using the draft of the group’s updated charter as the “bones” of a recommendation to the Church Council. Sam will send a draft of a recommendation to task force members for review.
2. Safe Parking
    - A. John distributed stats on Safe Parking (SP) activities, having presented this information to the Trustees at their March meeting. The Trustees approved an increased capacity of SP for up to 20 people.
    - B. It was agreed that we would move forward with a camera, light, and chain (across the back of the parking lot to deter random speeding drive-throughs the lot). The Trustees appear to be happy for the task force to take the lead in purchasing these items.
    - C. The task force discussed being sensitive to personal situations of SP participants, including health issues, and making sure Catholic Charities is inquiring about communicable health conditions during enrollment of potential participants.

- D. Shirley reported on the work she is doing to complete the CHAP grant for SP expenses, including an accessible port-a-potty. She and Sam will work on obtaining the necessary documentation of matching funds we will need to provide to the city.

(Notes taken by Sam)