

Neighbors United Meeting Summary - March 26, 2009

Attending

1. Jodi Cooper, *Mosaic Community Development*
2. Vicar Aaron Decker, *First Lutheran Church*
3. Dana Givens, *Mosaic Community Development*
4. Kay Lynn Goldner, *First Unitarian Church*
5. Christian Gray, *Mosaic Community Development*
6. Brittany Hanson, *Mosaic Community Development*
7. Lois Knutzen, *First Lutheran Church*
8. Kevin Marik, *Metropolitan Community Church*
9. Pastor Judith Rainforth, *First Lutheran Church*
10. Wanda Selzer, *First Lutheran Church*
11. Bruce Wallace, *First Presbyterian Church*

Overview

- Members of the Park Avenue faith community met on March 26, 2009 at First Presbyterian Church; drinks were generously served and provided by FPC church members.
- The primary focus of the meeting was to get begin and continue working forward on several areas brainstormed and discussed during the previous two 2009 meetings in small working groups, as well as to discuss the development, planning, and details of two upcoming community events: (a) May 9 - Community Concert and (b) May 23 - Collective Community Meal.
- Meeting agendas (attached) were distributed, brief introductions were made, and the meeting was facilitated by Brittany Hanson.

Small Working Groups

- Meeting participants broke into three small working groups according to their personal priority and interest:
 - a) Organizational Development
 - b) Neighbors United Promotion
 - c) Building on the Community Meals
- Each group brainstormed the theme that they were given and jotted down their visions, goals and actions steps for their specific group.

Large Group Reporting

- After 45 minutes of brainstorming, each group gave a brief 3 minute overview of their brainstorming ideas.

Organizational Development

- *Vision:* To clarify the identity of the organization.
- *Goals:*
 - Clarify Organization Identity

- Define other types of membership and decision making process ie: individual neighbors, neighborhood associations
- Mission Statement, By Laws, Other Documents
- Logo and Branding, Promotional Materials
- *Action Steps:*
 - Pursue 501(c) 3 status, requiring mission and legal statement.
 - Start logo/branding process (i.e. Competition, agency)

Neighbors United Promotion

- *Vision:* Spread Common Mission
- *Goals:*
 - Spread Common Vision (Awareness Campaign)
 - Community Events (i.e. May 9 Community Concert and reception)
 - Festival with Music, food tasting, a cultural event to expand involvement to other faith communities.
 - Band Day
 - More diversity in Neighbors United would even bring more culture to meals
 - Expansion of vision, to rid of tunnel vision with one race.
- *Action Steps:*
 - Secure dates of band days
 - Everyone invite another faith community
 - Shepherd another Faith Community in serving
 - Promote May concert
 - Invite diverse servants and media involvement
 - Get food bank access

Community Meals

- *Vision:* A more holistic and comprehensive caring community at the Community Meals
- *Goals:*
 - Professionals to help with services such as hygiene, financial, law, health and housing
 - Recruit and Mobilize Professionals
 - Create greater awareness of resources to neighbors
 - Collect data of the needs of our neighbors
 - AA/NA meetings after the meals on Saturdays for neighbors
- *Action Steps:*
 - Follow through on contacts
 - Mobilize contacts ie: email addresses, phone numbers
 - Create timeline for follow up deadline (April 6)
 - Promote events with resources
 - Have a survey at the meals

Shared Community Meal

- A collective community meal will be prepared and served by faith communities participating in Neighbors United and/or Community Meals on Saturday May 23, 2009 from 11:30-1:00 at First Baptist Church.

Who will participate?

- All groups participating in Neighbors United or the Community Meals are invited to participate.
- If your faith community is interested in participating in the NU Shared Community Meal, please contact Brittany Hanson or Dana Givens **by April 13, 2009.** (brittany@mosaiccd.org, dana@mosaiccd.org or 402-933-6672)

What will each group bring?

- MCC is bringing hamburgers, FBC has the grills. We are still looking for ideas on the menu, sides, drinks, desserts etc. Each faith community committed to participating will be responsible to provide one component of the meal.
- An additional idea regarding a possible band playing during the cookout was suggested.

NU Community Concert

- The concert will be at First Lutheran Church, 542 S. 31st St May 9, 2009 at 5:00pm.

Who will participate?

- A collective community concert promoted and put on by faith communities participating in Neighbors United. Each participating faith community will be allotted an equal time segment in the concert and is responsible for planning, practicing and preparing their own time segment.
- The participation deadline for the Community Concert is **April 3, 2009.**
- Contact Brittany Hanson or Dana Givens by April 3 if your faith community is interested in participating by April 3, 2009 (brittany@mosaiccd.org, dana@mosaiccd.org or 402-933-6672).

Wrap Up

- The next meeting will be April 23, 2009, 11:00-1:00, TBD
- Community Meal - Every Saturday, 11:30-1:00, First Baptist Church
- Community Concert - May 9, 5:00 p.m., First Lutheran Church
- Shared Community Meal - May 23, 11:30 - 1:00, First Baptist Church