

**Nashua Area Interfaith Council  
Nashua Presbyterian Church  
September 4, 2019 Noon – 1:15 PM**

**AGENDA with notes**

**ARRIVAL** – Please sign in; put on a name tag; grab some food; and find a seat!!  
Flyers for distribution are to be put on the nametag table

**NOON: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** at 12:00 p.m.  
**OPENING PRAYER** led by Sally Newhall

**12:05 COMMUNITY CONVERSATION** led by Jon, Sally & Ken: “How should religion be incorporated into our public schools?”

**12:15 PRESENTATION** – Interfaith Policy for Board of Education led by Jon, Sally & Ken  
Policy draft, including presentation of key points and rationale, was presented to the Council. Questions and discussion:

- Warren Leuteritz: Has this been vetted by teachers and/or admins? He has concerns about how this document will initiate conversation due to its declarative language (teachers shall, will, etc.).
- Kim Hester: This is a good starting point for conversation.
- Meta Vornehm: The document appears to be anti-Christian.
- Jon Spira-Savett: It is important to recognize Christianity as the dominant religion in our society.
- Mike Apfelberg: The document would be better if it included specific examples of what to do or avoid doing (ie the Christmas tree in Brookline school’s lobby).
- Jason Wells: He didn’t see the document as being too anti-Christian, agrees that specific examples or case studies would be helpful.
- Kristy Besada (Front Door Agency): The document would be best if it were “invitational,” providing resources of NAIC. Also, she thinks it would be more effective if the tone were less forceful (shall, will).
- Rosemarie Dykeman: When she was a teacher, she had different religions and cultures recognized through in-class or in-school celebrations.
- Nonny Egbuonu: The document emphasizes openness, especially from Christian perspective, lives out the calling to love: “Has skin on it.”
- Michael Reinke: Perhaps the document could include a paragraph providing context concerning the transient and diverse populous of Nashua.
- Kim H: Where is space for the non-religious? Are they excluded?
- Jon S: This could be made more explicit and/or strengthened.
- Mike A: Jehovah’s Witnesses do not celebrate birthdays. How do these students feel when birthdays are celebrated in the classroom?
- Meta V: She sees “non-religion” in opening as being helpful. Football on Fridays excludes some traditions from participation.
- Jon S: Where and when to negotiate will be different in each context.

- Meta V: On #6, perhaps remove “not to overemphasize Christianity and to.”
- Mike A: Concerning #14, we should note that some guidelines for athletic programs are provided by regional governing organizations, not just the local school districts.
- John Rowntree: Concerning #19, it would be good to note the diversity of NAIC, noting explicitly the different traditions of its members.

### 12:45 NAIC BUSINESS

- **ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER AT LARGE** – nominee: Pam Wellman
- **TREASURER’S REPORT** by Meta

**FUTURE MEETINGS:** 2019-20 Meeting Host Sign Ups -  
*12noon, First Wednesday of the Month unless otherwise indicated.*

- September 4, 2019 – Nashua Presbyterian Church
- October 2, 2019 – Community Church of Hudson, UCC
- November 6, 2019 – Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua
- December 4, 2019 – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- **January 8, 2020** – Anne Marie House (*not Jan 1*)
- February 5, 2020 – First Church of Nashua, UCC
- March 4, 2020 – First Baptist Church of Nashua
- **April 1, 2020** – **Church of the Good Shepherd agreed to host**
- May 6, 2020 – Main Street United Methodist Church
- June 3, 2020 – Temple Beth Abraham

### NAIC PROGRAMS & WORKING GROUPS

- OPEN HOUSES OF FAITH
  - Egyptian Coptic Church – during their Food Festival Sept. 6-8
  - St. Patrick’s ?? Working on it.
- Thanksgiving Service & Reception- 2019 First Church Congregational & Interfaith  
Worship Team
- Nashua Housing Justice
- CROP Walk
- Interfaith Choir
- NAIC Committee on Ecumenism
- **NEW IDEAS? GATHER A GROUP TO WORK ON IT AND LET US KNOW** –

### FALL NAIC

#### 2018-19 NAIC Representatives to:

- Granite State Organizing Project -- Sarah Jane Knoy
- Integrated Delivery Network -- Rosemarie Dykeman
- Continuum of Care Ending Homelessness -- Bobbie Knickerbocker *is retiring from this role. Mike Apfelberg agreed to serve as our rep.*

- The Mayor's Opioid Task Force -- Still needs NAIC rep. Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. Contact Sally to serve.
- The Mayor's Cultural Connections Committee -- Paul Janampa & Nonny Egbuonu
- Bridges Domestic & Sexual Violence Support -- Kate Harmon Siberine is now serving a congregation in Concord leaving this role open. Interested? Contact Sally.
- Circles Greater Nashua -- Jon Spira-Savett

### **1 PM COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS –**

Please briefly share announcements from your congregation or organization and have flyers available to pick up. Requests for information to be emailed to NAIC membership may be submitted to the NAIC president at: [President@NashuaAreaInterfaith.org](mailto:President@NashuaAreaInterfaith.org).

- John R: There is a car show at Church of the Good Shepherd on Columbus Day Weekend.
- Ken McGarry: House of Faith Tour at the Coptic church Sept. 6-8.
- Nonny E: Cultural Festival on Sept. 15; Water Walk on Sept. 14.
- Rosemarie D: Block party this Friday at Salvation Army; Apple Fest at Sullivan Farm on Oct. 5-6, needs people to put out yard signs.
- Mike A: Census 2020 flyer distributed. Human Trafficking Summit/conversation at Southern New Hampshire Health on Oct. 17. United We Sleep coming up, collecting new socks.
- Kim H: Prayer vigils to support immigrants at Nashua Presbyterian Church at 10 a.m. on Monday.
- Meta V: Self-reliance program being offered at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Any interest in a non-denominational program?
- Bobby K: Crop Hunger Walk organizational meeting at 6 p.m. on Sept. 16.
- Jon S: Youth volunteers needed at the Crop Hunger Walk (talk to Jon). Also looking for a “greeter” at the Oct. 17-18 Community Resources Expo at the Adult Learning Center. Affordable Housing speakers preaching last weekend in September. Peacemaking in Israel event tonight at 8 p.m. at Temple Beth Abraham.
- Allison Palm: NAIC Affordable Housing task force meets on Sept. 9 at 1:30 p.m. at Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter. Those preaching about the issue are invited to attend to obtain resources.
- Sally N: Nancy Pape from Dover detention facility will present at the next NAIC. The October meeting will feature New Hampshire Interfaith Power and Light.

**1:15 PM CLOSING at 1:10 p.m.**