

NASHUA AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL
JUNE 5, 2019
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

FAMILY PROMISE OF SOUTHERN NH
(Anne Marie House)

AGENDA

Welcome and introductions: Provided by President, Sally Newhall, and Pam Wellman, Ex. Director of the Anne Marie House. Opening prayer by Sally Newhall

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: The members present were invited to work in groups and to answer the questions “Why do you participate in the NAIC and what do you value most?”

Responses included the following: connection to other organizations/non-profits; connection to other faith groups; expanding friendships beyond one’s own community of faith; relationship with other NAIC members; the ability to do together what we could not do alone (e.g. Crop Walk; Anne Marie House; Circles); representing one’s congregation; learning about what others are doing; exploring what we can do together; net-working and building relationships; diversity; affiliate with others trying to do good; friendship; united in our differences; sharing faith; building community; connecting; align and then act.

The sign up sheet for hosting the 2019-2020 monthly meetings was passed around.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Sally Newhall reviewed the events of the past year with emphasis on our monthly meetings, house of faith tours, the Crop Walk, and the Thanksgiving Service.

NAIC PROGRAM REPORTS

1. House of Faith Tours: The Main Street United Methodist Church hosted the most recent tour on May 19th. The next tour will take place on Sunday, June 23rd from 2-4pm at the Nashua Presbyterian Church. Temple Beth Abraham is planning something this summer; In the fall the Egyptian Coptic Church will be hosting and it is hoped that St. Patrick’s Roman Catholic Church will do the same. No dates have been determined as yet.
2. Crop Walk: Becky Green reported that the Nashua Crop Walk is the third largest in NE. Becky also announced that the Souhegan Crop Walk which usually is held in the spring in Milford did not happen this year and that they will be merging with the Nashua Crop Walk and participating in the October 27th walk. Becky also noted that during the summer months the Crop Walk Board will be reviewing the recipient organizations with an emphasis on supporting organizations that participate in the walk as well.
3. Interfaith Choir: Becky Green has up to 80 choir participants who sing together three or four times a year. They are hoping to be able to purchase risers for use in the future.
4. Circles Greater Nashua: Laurie Skibba thanked the NAIC for its support.

5. **Interfaith Worship Committee:** Rev. Allison Palm indicated that this year the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be planned by this committee with the hope that it will reflect the ideas that have come out of the discussions around interfaith worship that we had earlier this year.
6. **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** Bill Manseau noted that this service is held annually in early February. He also spoke about a symposium that he hopes will take place this fall.
7. **Nashua Housing Justice:** This is a new ministry that the Executive Board approved. Allison Palm shared about the hope that on the weekend of September 27-29 at least ten congregations would commit to sharing about the housing situation in Nashua. The committee will provide information for use during this weekend. Allison shared a flyer that provides an overview of housing in Nashua.

NAIC BOARD REPORTS

Treasurer: Justin Monroe provided a report for the last year and a budget for 2019/2020. Both were approved unanimously.

Elections: Allison Palm (at large); Justin Monroe (treasurer) and Ken McGarry (secretary) completed their terms as of June 30th

Continuing Officers: Sally Newhall (President); Rosemarie Dykeman (Vice President); the past president position is vacant due to the move of Rev. Allana Van Antwerpen.

Officers nominated: Ken McGarry (secretary); Meta Vornehm (treasurer)

New officers were approved unanimously.

2018-2019 NAIC REPRESENTATIVES

- **Granite State Organizing Project:** Sally Newhall noted that GSOP is a member of the NAIC and vice versa. Aron Dibacco reported on behalf of Sarah Jane Knoy noting that the Nashua chapter of GSOP has been involved in housing and immigration. She also noted that GSOP's annual fundraiser, the Micah Awards banquet will be held on Saturday, June 8th.
- **Integrated Delivery Network- Rosemarie Dykeman:** No report
- **Continuum of Care Ending Homelessness- Bobbie Knickerbocker:** No report
- **The Mayor's Opioid Task Force:** No representative at the moment
- **The Mayor's Cultural Connections Committee- Paul Janampa and Nonny Egbunu:** Nonny reminded everyone of the Welcoming Event that is planned for Sept. 15
- **Bridges Domestic and Sexual Violence Support- Kate Harmon Siberine:** Zippy reported that Bridges is going to be moving to Concord Street in the near future.
- **Circles Greater Nashua: Laurie Skibba**

BY LAW CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS: Motion presented by the Executive Board and approved unanimously. Article II- Purpose has been changed to the following:

Because we believe there is a unity and strength in our diversity and common commitment to love and compassion, we gather as an interfaith fellowship of congregations, organizations, and individuals in the Greater Nashua Area for the purpose of:

1. Creating a climate of understanding, respect, and education for the traditions and work of each other's faith communities, and
2. Working together utilizing our strengths as an interfaith fellowship in service to our community and world, and
3. Promoting and supporting the collaborative interests of our member faith communities and
4. Facilitating connections between our member communities and the Greater Nashua Community.

Article III- Membership

1. ELIGIBILITY: Membership is available to:

A. Religious Organizations- Any religious congregation, religious fellowship, or educational or service organization organized under religious auspices and subscribing to the purposes of the NAIC; and

B. Community Organizations- Any community organization seeking to build bridges with the religious community and subscribing to the purposes of the NAIC.

C. Individuals- Any individual subscribing to the purposes of the NAIC.

Friends of NAIC are welcome to attend NAIC assemblies and participate in discussions without becoming members.

2. MEMBERSHIP: An eligible organization or individual may become a member upon written request for membership and upon the approval of the Executive Board. In assuming membership in the NAIC, members accept responsibility for assisting in the Council's work and purposes, and financially supporting the Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS- Bill Manseau announced that the Emmaus Institute and NAMI are hosting two workshops focusing on mental health and substance use disorder.

1. June 18 at the Milford Congregational Church from 7-8:30pm
2. June 24 at Immaculate Conception Parish in Nashua from 7-8:30pm

Kate Harmon Siberine reminded everyone about the Gay Pride Parade that will take place in downtown Nashua on June 29th. On a personal note Kate indicated that she has resigned her position at the Church of the Good Shepherd (as is standard practice when a new rector is called), but could possibly reapply for the position. She will let us know what the outcome is.

Suzanne- Informed us that a Regional Action Council has been formed concerning human trafficking

NEXT MEETING: Noon on September 4th at the Nashua Presbyterian Church

The meeting adjoined at approximately 1:15pm.

Minutes submitted by Rich Cullen on behalf of Ken McGarry (with far greater appreciation for his willingness to be our secretary!)