

Roles for This Meeting: **Facilitator(s):** Larry **Note Taker:** Teresina

Attendees: Jim Nelson, Jim Grant, Pam, Gerry, Francesca, Sonya, Larry, Dan, Ada, Katie, Teresina, Richard, Mickey, Cora

Approve Minutes, Updates from Last Meeting

- Need to approve February minutes (no quorum at meeting in March) Any changes needed on February meeting minutes? – none noted. February 2026 minutes- motion and second to approve February minutes
- February 2026 approved with no changes.
- Any changes needed on March meeting minutes? – none noted. March 2026 minutes – motion and second to approve minutes.
- March 2026 minutes approved with no changes

Ministry Presentations

- CEAC
 - Members - Pam, Jim Nelson, Dan and Ada – all present at the meeting
 - Ada presented for this ministry
 - Community Engagement and Action Committee - started after inauguration –
 - Allows us to educate and engage community and advocate – “My faith is my politics”
 - Be the light campaign – did twice;
 - Val Rios –involved in FIRM – President cancelled reimbursements; needed assistance; Be the light campaign – collected donations for them
 - Immigrants and Farmworkers - campaign to send donations to Meme sisters
 - Try to educate - Catholic social teaching to educate people on what we are called to do.
 - Would like to continue to do FF&F social teachings
 - IAF – United San Joaquin is an entirely separate organization
 - Preach gospel through action – at our church
 - Did you know? They provide the content for the bulletin each week.
- Sandwich Squad (Thursday 9-11am or so)
 - Ada and Cora present at meeting; Ada presented for the ministry
 - 120 sack lunches a week
 - Parishioners from OLPH and Holy Spirit come to help;
 - People’s dedication is the beautiful part of this ministry
 - Make sandwiches; have lunch together
 - No one is in charge, everyone knows what to do.
 - Families cook and deliver food each week (Blackstone, Cedar, First street areas)
 - Beautiful collaboration; Unhoused are always thankful
 - Complaint - Individual complained to church and diocese regarding them being on his property
 - Concern – risk management; liability;

- Bishop thinks this is a beautiful ministry; asked Katie to do research – contacted Catholic charities and Poverello house – they do not deliver food to unhoused.
 - Per Katie - concern has been addressed; this ministry is filling a gap and need in the community;
 - Bishop hasn't shut them down yet.
 - Addressed issue with individual that complained
- Receive funds from Holy Spirit for food recovery and sandwich squad
- Could they do more? Yes but it takes time; there is always someone who doesn't get something – they are good with where they are now and have a consistent set of volunteers and don't want to overburden them.
- United San Joaquin (IAF)
 - Dan presented for this ministry
 - Formerly - Central Valley IAF (Industrial areas foundation) community organizing – has grown and changed.
 - Sole mission was to grow power by getting institutions to join; provide development and leadership training
 - Opportunity to make a change at the community level; Direct charity and making change at a higher level
 - Institutions coming together;
 - House meetings after church this weekend
 - What is a pressure you and your family experience in local community; share your story and hear from others
 - Affect change here locally
 - Non-partisan; Don't take sides; work with those in power; work together to figure out what we can do to address local issues
 - Big 4 when launch on May 3rd:
 - Education; Access to good healthcare; Immigration support; Transportation
 - Education? – things like safety in schools, access to education, Fresno Teachers Association are members, unhoused student, truancy, ESL, college students – affordability, unhoused college students,
 - As Christians we show up for each other; look external – what do we do outside of our 4 walls?
 - May 3rd – 4pm – launch at Resnick student center – Fresno State
 - Not a social justice group – there to make change for the common good in the community
 - Send out link to 2 minute video that shows what they do to everyone, play on TVs after mass
- Food Recovery
 - Jim Nelson presented, provided yearly report to those in attendance at meeting
 - Includes both Thursday sandwich group and Friday dinner
 - Started initially to address the food insecurity of college students – participation by students was not great; evolved into what we have today
 - Serving those with food insecurity, but also just building community – karaoke; have a lot fun
 - Plenty of volunteers; 5 teams that run independently.
 - Most food comes from Fresno Metro Ministry - Food Recovery and produce from Vineyard Farmers market

- Cora's deliveries – takes 40-50 meals out to unhoused
- Get participation from students at OLPH and San Joaquin memorial
- Grants written to address refrigeration and freezer needs – in cafeteria and Cardinal Newman Hall
- 3 coordinators for the program – Jim Nelson, Dan Griffin and Jim Grant. Jim Nelson is stepping down; Dan Griffin is going to be taking on Jim's responsibilities
- Italian Catholic Federation – just donated \$1200 to food recovery;
- Question – any work with the homebound ministries? Not yet; it is doable – just haven't talked to them yet – someone would need to take it on.
- Jim has created a spirit of community; senior citizens take the bus from Clovis;
- Invitation to just attend and sit with people; dignity, listening and building community.
- Parish is welcome to come and sit with others
- Confirmation will require volunteer hours each year - can they help in any way with food recovery? Yes
- Katie – idea for Friday night dinners and Fish fry – give people that come to the Friday night meal a voucher to take to the Fish Fry so they can enjoy a meal with the community and not have separate meals on Fridays during lent.

Summer Schedule

- June, July, August Meetings
 - Results of survey - we do have a quorum for each meeting – but different people each month
 - Less people in July than any other months.
 - Proposal to meet in June and August only
 - Another proposal to meet only in August
 - Motion to have a meeting in August – not in June/July – seconded and approved – We will meet in May and then not again until August.
 - When do we have ministries present again at our meetings?
 - We should pick up ministry presentations again in September after ministry fairs
 - August is our normal meeting – to regroup; don't bring ministries back until the September meeting.

Next Meeting

- May 21st 6:00 – 7:30pm