

Tri-City Interfaith Council

Agenda for September 5, 2019, noon to 2:00 pm

Meeting at Niles Discovery Church, 36600 Niles Blvd., Fremont

Vision Statement: We are people from various spiritual backgrounds and experiences who envision an inclusive society in which people of all faiths and traditions respect and appreciate one another.

Mission Statement: To promote respect, understanding, cooperation, and appreciation for the many spiritual paths and faith traditions within our community which inspire and teach us to love and support one another more fully.

12:00 **Gathering**

Call to order: Jeff Spencer

Opening words: Jeff Spencer

12:05 **Check in:** please share your name, your faith community, and one thing that's going on in your life or faith community that you want to rest of the group to know about

12:35 **Program:** Buddhism 101 – Shari Gent

Presentation

Questions and Responses

1:15 **Business**

Approval of minutes from August 1, 2019 (1 minute)

Thanksgiving Service, Monday November 25, 7:30 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church (12 minutes)

- > Theme proposal. (Canice)
- > Proposal for Free will offering use. (Dick)
- > Flyer draft (Shamsa)
- > Interfaith Choir (Joy)
- > Volunteers needed: (send reply email to Dick)
 - Two people to act as Masters of Ceremony.
 - Persons to usher and collect offering.
 - Volunteers to bring snacks (use real dishes or compostable plates?)
 - Volunteer for publicity relations.
- > Next organizing/planning meeting: _____

[Housing Navigation Center](#) update – Jeff S. (6 minutes)

Do we want to take a stand as the Tri-City Interfaith Council supporting the HNC and that it be placed somewhere in Fremont? (See possible statement draft below)

The [September 20 Global Climate Strike](#) – Jeff S. (4 minutes)

Update on [Bay Area United Against Hate Week](#) – This year's official dates: November 17-23, 2019 (3 minutes)

Our Activities:

- > Tea and Conversation (Jeff D.)
- > Homeless Memorial Service (_____)
- > Interfaith Thanksgiving Service (Dick & Shamsa)
- > Other? (Elaine)

Interfaith Harmony Day – Cindy needs to step back from championing this event. Is there someone else who will take leadership? (2 minutes)

Feedback/evaluation about participating in the 4th of July parade (5 minutes)

Report from the URI Gala, June 26-27, at Stanford University – Joy B. (5 minutes)

1:50 **Announcements**

If you have program ideas, please text them to Glenn (510-378-3385) or email them to Jeff (jeff@nilesdiscoverychurch.org). We'll put them in a list we're sharing.

Upcoming meetings:

- October 3 – at St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 2791 Driscoll Rd, Fremont
Program:
- November 7 – at
Program:
- December 5 – at
Program: Annual Meeting

International Day of Prayer for Peace – September 21

4:50 p.m. – gather for directions

5:00 p.m. – Walk around Lake Elizabeth

6:00 p.m. – Interfaith Prayers for Peace, at the Peace Pole (near the boat house)

Theme for “We Are One” Rally on September 26: Climate Justice

Second Saturday Documentaries:

Niles Discovery Church as requested permission for the following films:

- > September 14 – “[The Great Invisible](#)” about the Deep Water Horizon
- > October 12 – “[True Justice](#)” about attorney Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, has advocated on behalf of the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned, seeking to eradicate racial discrimination in the criminal justice system.
- > November 9 – “[Won't You Be My Neighbor](#)” about Mister Rogers
- > December – taking the month off

Please share the emailed announcements and flyers

Get your announcements on the agenda by sending it to Jeff by the last Thursday of the month. This will speed up announcements *and* give everyone the basic details in writing. You can always follow up with an email.

1:58 **Closing words:** Jeff Spencer

Business Items on Hold:

Creating a brochure listing the religious/spiritual/faith communities in the Tri-Cities, with a high lighting of the TCIC affiliates. (10 minutes)

- > How would we pay for printing?
- > How would we get this into the hands of new Tri-Cities residents?
- > Is this something we want to do?
- > Is there someone who would like to take the lead in making this happen?

Issues related to gun violence

“LIKE” us on Facebook @ www.facebook.com/tricityinterfaithcouncil

Visit our website: tcicouncil.weebly.com (If you have suggestions for updates, please contact Jeff Spencer with those suggestions.)

-- DRAFT statement on the Housing Navigation Center --

September 5, 2019

To the Mayor and City Council Members
City of Fremont, California

The Tri-City Interfaith Council continues to be deeply concerned about the housing crisis in the Tri-Cities and the increasing number of people who are homeless in our community. This crisis is not one that can be solved by non-profit organizations (including faith communities). It needs a coordinated, government response.

We applaud the efforts that have been made by Fremont, Newark, and Union City to address homelessness. More action is needed. More inventive and compassionate action is needed. This includes the establishment of a Housing Navigation Center – a facility and program designed to help people move from homelessness to stable housing, providing supportive services during and after moving into stable housing. That is why we unequivocally support the commitment the City of Fremont has made to establish a Housing Navigation Center somewhere in the City, and (based on our limited knowledge of them) support the selection of Bay Area Community Services (BACS) to run the program.

While we are not taking a position on the location of the Housing Navigation Center, we believe the decision of location must be made solely on where the experts believe the program will be most successful. That means that we are saying, yes, in our back yard, if that will improve the success of the program.

The Housing Navigation Center will not solve the homelessness crisis. The Housing Navigation Center model will not work for every person who is homeless, so other programs and services will need to be developed. And there remains a need for housing stock that is affordable to people living across the economic spectrum.

That said, we support the establishment of a Housing Navigation Center in Fremont.