

# FAITH Rally March 7th 2022

on zoom [www.faithvolusia.org](http://www.faithvolusia.org)

6:30	Sign-in / Registration	
6:33	Welcome and Opening Prayer Call to Order and Adopt Agenda Purpose of the Rally	Father Matt Mello <i>Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, Port Orange</i>
6:40	Introduction of Reflection	Rev. Kathy Tew-Rickey <i>Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Ormond Beach</i>
6:41	Biblical Reflection	Father Phil Egitto <i>Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Daytona Beach</i>
6:49	Education and Criminal Justice Report	Fr. Chris Hoffmann or Pedro Dash <i>Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church, Deltona Tubman-King Community Church, Daytona Beach</i>
	Criminal Justice Testimony	Lori and Frank Bernstein <i>Catholic Church of the Epiphany, Pt Orange</i>
7:06	Housing Report	Karen Delisle <i>Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Daytona Beach</i>
7:15	Congregational Reports	Rev. Dr. Nathan Mugala <i>Allen Chapel AME, Daytona Beach</i>
7:18	Preparation for 2022 Action Assembly	Jackie Mole <i>Allen Chapel AME, Daytona Beach</i>
7:33	Environmental Justice Committee Report	Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey
7:38	Call to Action / Next Steps	Rev Sandara Williams <i>Mt Zion AME, Daytona Beach</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Email your elected officials! Look in the agenda packet</b></li><li>● <b>Sign up to be on the Parking Team or the Floor Team by typing your name and email in the chat with the name of which team you wish to serve on!</b></li><li>● <b>F.A.I.T.H. ACTION ASSEMBLY Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM @ Daytona Beach Drive In Christian Church</b></li><li>● <b>F.A.I.T.H. JUSTICE MINISTRY CELEBRATION Tuesday May 24th 6:30pm location TBD</b></li></ul>	
7:40	Closing Prayer	Rev CL Robinson <i>New St James Missionary Baptist, Daytona Beach</i>
7:45	Adjourn	

***Sample Script for Inviting Participants to the Action Assembly:***

*Hello \_\_\_\_\_ . I wanted to talk with you today because I know you are very involved in the congregation, know people in the community, and/or have an interest in justice (tap into any self interest or experience the person might have.)*

*As you know, our congregation is a member of the FAITH organization which addresses various injustices in the community. This year our focus is on Education and unjust disciplinary practices that our hurting our kids.*

*Overall, FAITH is turning out 1,400 people to the Assembly this year. We are working on turning out 50 people from our congregation. The meeting is on Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Daytona Beach Drive in Church in Daytona Beach Shores and sign-in will begin at 6:00 p.m.*

*I am going to the Action Assembly and I am excited about it. Can you be there?*

*Take you a minute and put it in your calendar?*

***If they hesitate:***

*Assure them that this is an exciting meeting and it's important for the congregations and members of the community to be there. In Volusia County, 16,000 people cannot afford their housing. We need to show up in numbers to make a change. We have an ordinance ready to go and just need one more county council member to get on board. Your presence is important. Will you attend?*

*If they have conflicting engagements, ask them to make an exception for this one night. Can they reschedule? Can they miss their favorite t.v. show, book group, or other event just this one night?*

*If they have company, encourage them to invite their friend or family member.*

*You can also offer to meet them for dinner beforehand, give them a ride, or discuss carpooling from the church.*

# *FAITH HOUSING TRUST FUND TALKING POINTS*

*FEBRUARY 2022*

- *One in three renter households in our area are paying over half their income on rent!*
- *Those working full time in essential jobs like nursing assistants and security guards are not making enough to afford even a one-bedroom apartment in Volusia County*
- *Because there is no incentive for developers to create housing that's affordable for working families or seniors, we keep seeing more and more luxury housing units going up in our community.*
- *FAITH is calling on the Volusia County Council to create a countywide Housing Trust Funds which would provide grants to development projects that create or renovate housing opportunities that are affordable.*
- *Some on our County Council have told us that the local government shouldn't get involved in funding affordable housing. Yet, our County Council has given millions and millions of dollars in tax breaks to commercial and luxury housing developments like Daytona One.*
- *Last year, our county received over \$100 million from the federal government as part of the American Rescue Plan to help alleviate the economic hurt brought on by the pandemic.*
- *With that money, the County Council is already planning to give tens of millions of dollars to the Sheriff's Department for training and a new facility to lock up our youth.*
- *FAITH is asking that the County Council use just \$2.5 million of this money to kickstart a countywide Housing Trust Fund.*
- *At our Action Assembly on March 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm at the Daytona Beach Drive in Christian Church, FAITH will gather 1,400 people together to demand that our County Council finally create a Housing Trust Fund.*

***Will you join us?***

## *Environmental Justice Update:*

Last year FAITH formed a new Environmental Justice Committee after surfacing stories in our house meetings related to high utility bills, flooding, and poor water quality. Our committee has been meeting with national experts, local stakeholders, and city officials to learn more about these problems and determine where we will take our issue campaign.

We have learned quite a bit about the challenges facing our community, like aging infrastructure in Daytona Beach and Deltona, and pollution in our local waterways.

As a committee we have decided to focus specifically on flooding. The committee is still in the research process. Look for an update at the Nehemiah Action Assembly on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Educational & Criminal Justice Talking Points:

### Criminal Justice:

- Since 2013 FAITH has made significant progress at getting local law enforcement to reduce youth arrests for minor misdemeanor incidents. They've gone down from 650 to just over 100 last year. Yet minor misdemeanor arrests continue to saddle our county's juveniles with arrest records that prevent them from access to jobs, scholarships and even enlisting in our military forces.
- FAITH's Justice & Education research committee has focused on encouraging our Volusia law enforcement agencies to increase the usage of Civil Citations through meetings with the Sheriff's Office, municipal police chiefs, the State Attorney's Office and the Department of Juvenile Justice. FAITH was vilified last year by one law enforcement official for exposing some unflattering data but the end results has been positive for the youth of Volusia County.
- From Aug 2019 to July 2020 the Volusia Sheriff's Dept Civil Citation usage for eligible youth was only 40%. For the 12 months from Jan 2021 through Dec 2021 The Volusia Sheriff's Dept Civil Citation usage for eligible youth is at 59%. **This is a 50% improvement!** FAITH continues to work with cooperative law enforcement agencies in Volusia to further improve this metric. We've decided to focus on Port Orange which currently has the lowest usage of civil citations in the county. We have reached out multiple times but have not been able to get ahold of the Port Orange Police Chief or the city manager.
- FAITH is also researching mental health and substance abuse options for law enforcement situations where a mental health professional is the appropriate solution rather than a badge and a gun. Our research has surfaced very effective mental health programs being implemented in other Florida counties in conjunction with their law enforcement agencies. FAITH's Criminal Justice committee will

continue to remain active this year, because we know that many adults who commit non-serious offenses also deserve a second chance. In our community many who are arrested are really in need of mental health and substance abuse treatment, not jail cells!

- FAITH has met with Stewart Marchman/Act personnel who have initiated a limited program with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office. FAITH would like to see this program enhanced and will continue to pursue the necessary steps to make this happen. So far, two Daytona Beach city commissioners and the Daytona Beach City Manager will be present at the action. The committee is also looking into the stories we have been hearing about people in the jail not receiving their mental health medication.

So far, Daytona Beach city commissioner Strickland, Daytona Beach Mayor Henry and City Manager Featherer are all coming to the Nehemiah Action. Please email the other city commissioners and ask them to attend.

### **Education:**

- FAITH has been a strong proponent of restorative practices in Volusia County's school system. We have met with school board members, the Volusia Schools Superintendent and key staff members to educate and promote this cultural change in Volusia schools. Four of the five School Board Members will be attending the Action as will a representative from the superintendent's office.

- Restorative practices when fully implemented improves school attendance and graduation rates. It also reduces student suspensions, teacher dissatisfaction and teacher turnover among other benefits.

- When FAITH started this research program 5 years ago, a restorative practices implementation did not exist in Volusia schools. Today there is a partial implementation in all middle schools and a commitment to continue the expansion to all Volusia schools.

- We are seeing improvements of 40% fewer "out of school suspensions" and an alternative school suspension program that keeps children in school in a productive educational environment rather than outside of school in a potentially unsupervised situation.

- FAITH's Justice & Education research committee continues to pursue this project with the Volusia School Board and Administration until restorative practices have fully been incorporated into the culture of all Volusia Schools.

**Email County Council Member Danny Robins - drobins@volusia.org**

(Please CC VolusiaFAITH@gmail.com)

Dear Council Member Robins,

My name is (Your Name) and I attend (Your Congregation). I am writing to invite you to FAITH's Action Assembly on Monday, March 28th at 6:30pm at the Daytona Beach Drive In Christian Church (3140 S Atlantic Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32118). My congregation, along with 29 other diverse congregations from around the county, will be coming together to address the lack of affordable and workforce housing in our community. 1,400 Volusia County citizens will be present and we will be looking to hear from our elected leaders on this critical issue. FAITH's Housing Committee would love to schedule a time to meet with you prior to the Action Assembly. Please email FAITH at VolusiaFAITH@gmail.com to let us know if you plan to attend the Action and when a good time would be for the committee to schedule a 40 minute Zoom meeting.

Thank you,  
(Your Name)

**Email Daytona Beach City Commissioners**

(Please CC VolusiaFAITH@gmail.com)

Commissioner Ruth Trager - tragerruth@codb.us  
Commissioner Quanita May - mayquanita@codb.us  
Commissioner Stacy Cantu - cantustacy@codb.us  
Commissioner Dannette Henry - henrydannette@codb.us  
Commissioner Paula Reed - reedpaula@codb.us

Dear Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_,

My name is (Your Name) and I attend (Your Congregation). I am writing to invite you to FAITH's Action Assembly on Monday, March 28th at 6:30pm at the Daytona Beach Drive In Christian Church (3140 S Atlantic Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32118). My congregation, along with 29 other diverse congregations from around the county, will be coming together to address the issues of adult and youth criminal justice. 1,400 Volusia County citizens will be present and we will be looking to hear from our elected leaders on this critical issue. FAITH's Youth Committee would love to schedule a time to meet with you prior to the Action Assembly. Please email FAITH at VolusiaFAITH@gmail.com to let us know if you plan to attend the Action and when a good time would be for the committee to schedule a 40 minute Zoom meeting.

Thank you,  
(Your Name)

## F.A.I.T.H. Closing Prayer

We are called to listen to the commands to love and do justice.

Our gathering this day reminds us of our responsibility to work with one another to remake our world into a more hopeful place of peace.

We are inspired and guided to hear the cry of the poor and oppressed, and to respond.

We know that alone we are limited in what we can do, but together we are powerful.

Our strength comes from our unity.

Grant us continued strength and sustenance.

We ask all of these things from you, whose spirit makes us one.

Amen.