



Faith Relations Committee

Purpose: The purpose of the Faith Relations Team is to build long-lasting relationships with various faith communities in York County that will faithfully partner with York Habitat for Humanity in fulfilling its mission of providing safe, decent, affordable housing for lower-income families.

Committee Member Responsibilities:

- Exemplify Jesus' radical love for *all* people in word and deed.
- Maintain sensitivity and respect for all faith traditions, while remaining true to oneself and Habitat's mission principles, by focusing on the shared mission of providing safe, decent, affordable housing to people living in substandard housing. Likewise, be prepared to share this explanation when/if asked the question, "What does it mean that Habitat is a "Christian Ministry?"
 - Provide support to the Family Services Committee in planning spiritually meaningful home dedications, ground-breakings, and other special events, in a way that respects the homeowners' individuality.
- **Church Ambassadors Team:**
 - Recruit, train, and support as many "Church Ambassadors" as possible across York County's churches.
 - Contact the ambassadors each month sharing updates and information and infuse the ambassadors with enthusiasm by sharing what God is doing at York Habitat for Humanity.
 - Meet with ambassadors and their pastors and missions committee chairpersons, to present the "Covenant Church" opportunity; cultivate relationships; express gratitude for donations; and to review and renew the Church Covenant on an annual basis.
 - Create a pyramid system for making contacts as the number of ambassadors grows.
 - Via the ambassadors, proactively seek speaking engagements - congregations, small groups, missions committees, etc. for the Faith Relations Communications Team.
- **Church Supper Coordinator:** Coordinate church suppers for all week-long work camps. Communicate with staff.
- **Building on Faith Team (BOF):** Per the established schedule, engage churches in the build process through scheduling volunteers for a build, hospitality functions, and marketing. Coordinate and conduct year-round fundraisers for the BOF home.
- **Congregational Support Team:** Pray for the ministry of York Habitat for Humanity and solicit special needs from the staff, so prayers may be specific. In addition, this team engages partner congregations to assist when Habitat Homeowners are in need of special support and prayer.
- **Faith Relations Communications Team:** Update the faith relations information on the website, prepare bulletin inserts, and write articles for the Habitat newsletter. Speak to groups about York Habitat and provide specific opportunities for churches to partner with the ministry.
- **Home Dedications Team:** Meets with home buyers approximately 6 weeks prior to settlement to plan the home dedication ceremony (using a checklist and template) and ensures that the event

is successfully coordinated. Communicates dedication information to staff.

Board and Staff Responsibilities :

- Exemplify Jesus' radical love for *all* people in word and deed.
- Maintain sensitivity and respect for all faith traditions, while remaining true to oneself and Habitat's mission principles, by focusing on the shared mission of providing safe, decent, affordable housing to people living in substandard housing. Likewise, be prepared to share this explanation when/if asked the question, "What does it mean that Habitat is a "Christian Ministry?"
- Support the committee's endeavors through action as needed.
- Communicate work camp registrations and speaking requests to the appropriate Faith Relations contacts.
- Communicate donor information to the Faith Relations committee as church donations are received.
- Provide guidance to the Building on Faith Team, especially when builds are imminent.
- Share prayer concerns.
- Document meeting minutes and submit to staff on a timely basis.

Committee Chair Responsibilities:

- Competently speak to the inclusivity of all faiths within our Christian ministry per HFHI's teaching referred to as "the theology of the hammer," (also explained on Habitat.org and in CEO, Jonathan Reckford's book, "No Hands But Yours") while maintaining our Christian identity in accordance with the U.S. Affiliate Agreement.
- Schedule and send reminders for committee meetings.
- With the Executive Director, develop meeting agendas with strategic goals, objectives, and strategies in mind.
- Lead committee meetings keeping members on-task to make effective & efficient use of time.
- *Delegate* tasks to be performed *outside* of committee meetings to individuals and teams.
- Nurture relationships within the committee creating a team environment and group cohesiveness.
- Assign well-defined and meaningful roles to members.
- Establish teams as needed with clearly defined purposes.
- Reach out to members with waning attendance.
- Inspire, energize, and encourage committee members. Keep Habitat's mission and the committee's purpose in front of committee members consistently.
- Participate in organizational level strategic planning. Participate in annual organizational leader retreat.
- Facilitate communications between committee members, staff, Board of Directors, and community members.