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Grand County Faith Based Coalition

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Grand County Faith Based Coalition

The Grand County Faith Based Coalition began in April, 2017 as an interfaith group of churches. It grew under the leadership of Pastor Dick Pacheco until his death in December, 2021 to include a wide range of groups of believers in God. These included non-profits, government and school officials, health workers and other interested citizens as well as church leaders and members. Past and current participants and partners are listed in Attachment 1. The new coordinator, Pastor Nathan James, plans to continue with the broad outreach.

The goal of the Coalition has always been to do things, together, that the individual churches could not do alone. A list of accomplishments for the most recent year is provided in Attachment 2. They focus on helping the hungry, less fortunate, and poor in spirit to remember that there is a God and people on earth who care and seek to do good; in short to give hope. The mission statement of the Coalition is: ***“Believers bringing people together in the local community to change lives for the better by strengthening Hope and Faith in God through service.”***

One of the principal emphases of the Coalition has been addiction prevention and recovery. A major effort has been to encourage youth engagement with this issue through sponsoring participation of the Grand County High School in the “BOLD” statewide student film competition in creating very brief videos on anti-addiction. This also expanded locally to include anti-bullying and suicide prevention videos.

It is hoped that the Coalition’s efforts will still be serving our community 50 years from now when this time capsule is opened. We have great faith in the people of Moab to find solutions and assist each other to overcome challenges, with the help of God.

Attachment 1: Partial List of Partners and Participants

- The Community Church of Moab - Pastor Keith and Diane VanArsdol, Paula and Bernie Radcliffe, Pastor Kyle and Mandy VanArsdol
- First Baptist Church of Moab - Pastor Shane and Jenni O'Guin, Sheldon and Martha Hefner, Petenia and Todd Pfnister
- St Pius Catholic Church - Father Rowland Nwokocha, Bob Meierdierks
- Grace Lutheran Church - Vicar John Widmer, Chris Wonderly, Cheryl Jenkinson
- St Francis Episcopal Church - Father Dave and Melony Sakrison, Yvonne Bliss
- Canyonlands Fellowship – Pastor Geoffrey Thomas
- Moab Baptist Church - Pastor Cole Howe
- Moab Assembly of God – Pastor Tom Ross, Pastor Larry Kettle
- River of Life Christian Fellowship - Pastor Dick and Konnie Pacheco, Gustave and Dianna Torres, Dave and Sarah Goodman
- Moab Friends Worship Group (Quaker Meeting) – Cynthia Smith, clerk, Janet Mallory
- Seventh Day Adventist Church - Pastor Nathan, Charolet, Benjamin and Talitha James; Dave Seibert
- Green River Community Church - Pastor Kirk Dunham
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Todd and Leigh Stubbs, President Douglas and Stacy Garrett, Vonda and Bruce Louthan, Craig Shumway, Ryon Jones, Ken and Gwen Callahan, Ryan Jackman, Gregg Stucki, Celeste Farnsworth
- Moab Valley Multicultural Center - Bradia Holmes, Rhianna Medina
- Wabi Sabi Thrift Store
- Arches New Hope Pregnancy Center – Debbi Nelson
- Grand County Sheriff's Office -Sheriff Steve White
- Moab Regional Hospital – Jennifer Sadoff, Christy Calvin, Angela Moore
- Moab City Mayor's Office- Emily Niehaus
- Moab Police Department - Jim Winder
- Grand County Fire Department – Brandon McGuffy
- Grand County Emergency Medical Services -
- Grand County Food Bank – Steve and Terri Getz, Drake Taylor, Miriam Graham
- St Francis Food Pantry & Soup Kitchen – Yvonne Bliss
- Grand County School District –JT Sroder, Melinda Snow, Jill Tatton
- Seekhaven – Abbie Taylor, Olivia Holmes
- Southeastern Utah Health District- Debbie Marvidikis, Elizabeth Wright
- Utah Dept of Health, System of Care – Becky Hinchcliff

- Utah State Extension Service/4H – Catherine Hansen
- Moab Solutions - Sara Melnicoff
- Canyonlands Care Center – Charolet James
- San Juan County Jail - Inmate knitters
- Delicate Stitchers Quilt Guild
- USARA (Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness) – Heidi Fuger
- Young Life Moab - Aaron Abeites, James Ritchie
- Grand Area Mentoring – Dan McNeil
- Grand County Library - Charlotte Hurley, Adrea Lund
- Our Village Community Center farm – Annie Thomas
- Marcy Till
- Audrey Graham

Attachment 2: Grand County Faith Based Coalition 2021 Accomplishments

1. 4nd year of Library afternoon snacks program for latchkey kids; contributions rotated monthly among churches as volunteered.
2. 5th year of collections to assist the local food bank and St Francis food pantry. May move to March to coordinate with statewide Feed Utah drive. This has replaced former Boy Scout drive. March also coincides with case lot sales at Associated Foods outlets.
3. St Francis Episcopal Church opened a Thursday noon soup kitchen in 2019. Last fall they were joined in this effort by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
4. 4th year providing back-to-school materials for 40 backpacks with backpacks donated by a local business and supplies & distribution coordinated by the Moab Valley Multicultural Center.
5. Continued "Fifth Sunday Sing" program (4 times per year) with locations rotating among the churches with participants from many congregations; attendance varied with Covid but continues high.
6. 2nd year partnering on Moab Manna Potato-Growing project with the Seventh Day Adventist church and members of the community. Potatoes donated to food banks, the Navajo Tribe, and needy families locally.
7. Held a December Christmas musical program for the first time.
8. 4 faith-themed floats participated in December 2021 Light Parade; continuing the Christian emphasis change from 6 years ago! Noticed and appreciated by many.
9. Finally got relief from sharply higher sewer charges based on summer lawn watering after more meetings with city council & manager. Two and a half year joint effort.
10. Sponsored 9/11 Commemoration and First Responder Recognition with 2 service projects, park program & first responder expo and chili cook-off. State of Utah funding assisted significantly & was channeled through the Multicultural Center.
11. Continued meet monthly for 5th year as an open faith-based group to collaborate to help our community.
12. Perhaps the most important accomplishment is that the atmosphere of the group has become very sweet. More churches have representatives coming & they help each other in small ways. This is evident in the sharing of food to needy and combined performers in the 5th Sunday Sings.