

Faith-Based & Community Initiatives Task Force Members

David Carrillo

David, a Filipino-American, has served as a leader in the youth ministry at Juneau Christian Center for the last seven years. In the last two years he has expanded this ministry to additional communities in Southeast Alaska, including Wrangell, Ketchikan, Hoonah and Gustavus. David was raised in Juneau, and graduated from Juneau-Douglas High School, where he was also active in soccer. Following graduation David traveled to South America where he took additional training in soccer before returning full-time to Juneau last year.

Sharon Clausen

Sharon is the Program Director for Faith Christian Community Church in Anchorage. She also serves as an Anchorage church event planner, is active with Churches of Anchorage and coordinated the September 11, 2002, memorial services. Sharon taught English, drama, art and choir for 12 years at Grace Christian School and is a member of the Anchorage Concert Chorus. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Education and did graduate work at Oklahoma University.

Chris Deck

Chris Deck is the Chief Executive Officer of Cross Road Medical Center in Glennallen, a 50-year old non-profit faith-based medical clinic serving the Copper River Basin. Chris also serves as the Treasurer of the Copper Valley Economic Development Council. He is married with two young children. He also teaches at the First Baptist Church of Copper Valley and is finishing his Masters in Biblical Studies from Tyndale Seminary.

Renee Duncan

Renee serves as the chairman of the Kenai Peninsula Emergency Food and Shelter Program in Soldotna and works closely with Kenai Peninsula homeless planning. She is also president of her chapter of Soroptimist International, the world's largest classified volunteer service organization for women in business, management and the professions. She is a board member for Women of Impact and Adelphie, both non-profit organizations serving women. Renee is the co-founder of Aurora Borealis Charter School, assistant chairman of the Alaska Women of Excellence Task Force and is the former director for Alaska District Women of Assembly of God. Renee, a vocalist, holds an Associate of Arts degree from Northwest College.

Carl Ekstrom

Carl is the vice president of Whitestone Community Association in Delta Junction. Since moving to Alaska in 1989, he has contributed to several non-profit endeavors. Carl graduated from Westminster College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Behavioral Science and served in the United States Army for four years. He has worked with the Salt Lake Tribune and was employed by the State of Utah for seven years.

Talakai Finau

Talakai works for Federal Express in Anchorage as a senior International Documentation Agent and owns TKO Services, a landscape/construction company. He is a lay speaker and chairman of the Tongan Fellowship of Anchor Park United Methodist Church and is the 1st Vice President of Bridge Builders of Alaska, an organization dedicated to bridging racial gaps. Talakai serves on the board of the Tongan-American Society of Alaska and the Minority Community Police Relation Task Force. He is also a member of Child Care Connection's "Success by 6" governance board. He was awarded the "Racial Justice" award by the United Methodist Women of Alaska in 2002.

Robert Flint

Bob, an attorney in Anchorage, serves as the chief fiscal officer of the Archdiocese of Anchorage and as the executive director of the Catholic Foundation of Alaska and the Alaska Catholic Conference. He has a long history of volunteer work with faith-based charities and social service organizations. Bob assisted in creating the Brother Francis Shelter, the Clare House and the Covenant House in Anchorage. He was a board member and officer of Catholic Social Services from 1974 to 1991 and has been a board member of Covenant House Alaska since 1988. Bob graduated from Yale University with a BA in economics and received a Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University.

Judy Fulp

Judy Fulp is a mother of six grown children and grandmother of seven. She moved to Seward, Alaska when she was three years old and then to Kodiak in 1963. She has volunteered extensively in community-wide events from organizing the Crab Festival for the Chamber to initiating the plans for the Brother Francis Shelter-Kodiak. A freelance writer for the Kodiak Daily Mirror for over 20 years, she has also served in many different capacities for the school district as a school board member, teacher, grant coordinator and currently as a substitute teacher for the high school and middle school. Judy received her Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from the University of Oregon and is currently working toward her Masters in Education through the University of Alaska Southeast.

Dr. Brian Green

Raised on an Alaska homestead, Brian pioneered and is president of Christian Health Associates, a non-profit health, social service and mission organization in Anchorage. This ministry now oversees a number of affiliated ministries including Cornerstone Clinic, Medical & Counseling Center, Alaska Medical Missions, and Point of View Radio Outreach. Ordained a pastor in 1982, Brian led the pastoral-counseling ministry of Abbott Loop Community Church. He also serves on the Alaska School of Ministry and Missions Board, Child Care Connection's "Success by 6" governance board and is the Alaska Representative for Certified Christian Counselors International. Dr. Green graduated from Dimond High School and has a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Christian Counseling Psychology.

Jack Gwaltney

Jack is the development director of the Salvation Army in Anchorage. He is heavily involved in the Salvation Army's Disaster Relief program and coordinates a variety of fund raising events. His community service includes serving on the Youth for Christ board of directors and the Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission. He was a business owner and held a variety of positions in the insurance field for 41 years, serving clients all over Alaska. Jack taught the preparatory course for the Alaska insurance exam for many years. A graduate of Anchorage High School, Jack attended Anchorage Community College and graduated from the Technical Management School at Purdue University.

Kristin Lee Hamerski

Kristin, an Anchorage resident, is the reigning Miss Alaska American Teen and Miss Alaska National Teen-Ager 2004. She recently graduated with honors from the Galena I.D.E.A. home school program and began her first year at the University of Alaska Anchorage. She has contributed more than 5,000 hours of volunteer service and has a special passion for people with disabilities. This year she coached her brother Erik to a Special Olympics Alaska figure skating gold medal. Kristin is a columnist for Practical Homeschooling magazine and serves as a council member for the Spirit of Youth Campaign. After college Kristin plans to go into law and politics, continuing to be active in her community.

M. Chris Hayes

A life-long Alaskan, Chris serves in Fairbanks as the executive director for Love Social Services Center, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the assistance of disadvantaged youth and adult education. She is a district missionary with the Church of God in Christ and an active participant in the Boys and Girls Club. Chris directs the women's department at Lily of the Valley Church of God in Christ and is also its residing church mother. She also serves on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the Alaska Workforce Investment Board. Chris holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management and has completed courses toward an MBA in Communications.

E. Lamarr Jensen

Lamarr is an advertising consultant for KTUU-TV (Channel 2 in Anchorage) and is an adjunct professor of journalism at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He is also spearheading a program, along with NBA great Thurl Bailey, entitled "No to Drugs...Yes to Life", a campaign that reaches young Alaskans. His service with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints includes serving as the district young men's president and as district councilman for many communities in western and northwest Alaska. Lamarr holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Brigham Young University.

Pete Kelly

A lifelong Alaskan, Pete currently is associated with the University of Alaska Fairbanks. As a former Senator and Representative from Fairbanks, Senator Kelly was widely recognized as a champion for the family. Pete has a background in broadcast management, public relations and media production and is also the owner/manager of Kelly Communications. Pete and his family are members of the Door of Hope Church. Pete volunteers with youth sports and served on the Volunteers in Policing board of directors.

Senator Kelly graduated from Monroe High School and attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from Liberty University.

Dr. Judith Kleinfeld

As founder of the Northern Studies program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Judith's scholarly contribution to Alaska is recognized by the academic community. She was awarded the Emil Usibelli Award for Distinguished Research for her work, particularly her contribution to the education of those affected by Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Judith has done extensive research in teacher education, particularly on cross-cultural education and the success of different types of teachers and school environments on Alaska Native children. She also serves on the Governor's Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the American Education Reform Association Task Force and as president of the Alaska Association of Scholars. Dr. Kleinfeld writes a regular column for major Alaska newspapers on current research in psychology and education. Her latest book, "Go For It! Finding Your Own Frontier," will be published in fall 2003. Judith is an active member of the Jewish Congregation in Fairbanks. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and Harvard University.

Scott Merriner

Scott is the chairman of the Task Force. He currently serves ChangePoint (formerly Grace Community Church) in Anchorage as an administrative pastor. He is on the board of the Downtown Soup Kitchen, an organization that serves 350 meals daily to Anchorage's homeless and working poor, and serves on the board of GraceAlaska, a non-profit organization focused on creating partnerships among the faith community to meet practical needs in the community. Scott has worked as an analyst at the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, and as a management consultant for McKinsey & Company in its Chicago and South African offices. Reared in Juneau, Anchorage and Dillingham, Scott graduated from Dillingham High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Harvard University. He is the fourth Alaskan to be awarded a Rhodes Scholarship for study at Oxford University where he received a Masters Degree in International Relations.

Reverend William "Doc" Nicholson

Originally from Dillingham, Rev. Nicholson is currently the pastor of the Anchorage Moravian Church. He has been an ordained minister for 26 years and as Alaska Army National Guard Chaplain, has responded to domestic abuse, led suicide awareness workshops and promoted family wellness. Rev. Nicholson supports the SALT program and Family Wellness Warriors Initiatives program administered through Southcentral Foundation. For the past 11 years, he has worked as a representative of the Alaska Moravian Church to the Chukotka Native Christian Ministry, a multi-denominational effort of mission outreach and humanitarian aid. A Yup'ik Eskimo, he has been a Bristol Bay salmon fisherman for more than 37 seasons and is a licensed pilot. He served on the Traditional Councils for Togiak and New Stuyahok and he has been the pastor in the Bethel and Dillingham Moravian churches. A published author, he has also worked with several fisheries organizations. Rev. Nicholson holds a Master of Divinity degree from Moravian Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts degree from George Fox College.

Kim Patterson

Kim serves the University of Alaska - Anchorage as an Educational Talent Search Advisor in the Pre-College Program department. His ten years of pastoral and human services experience has afforded him the opportunity to serve in several faith-based and community venues to include pastoral ministry within Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church and, most recently, ministry within Anchorage City Church. Kim received his Master of Divinity degree from Colgate Rochester Divinity School, in New York; and will receive his Doctor of Ministry degree from Regent University School of Divinity, in Virginia, in May of 2004.

Dr. Rory Schneeberger

A "retired" legislative aide, Dr. Schneeberger has served communities since 1980 as a volunteer family, marital and teen counselor, living in both Sitka and Hoonah. She is currently a volunteer tutor and English as a Second Language instructor, as well as a motivational speaker with Christian women's clubs through Stonecroft Ministries. She is also a jingle singer and song writer, arranger, vocalist, musician and producer. Rory also works alongside her husband, Peter, as a financial budgeting counselor. In addition to homeschooling her four children for twenty years, Rory's passion for education shows through numerous positions she has held as a volunteer instructor, an overseas teaching missionary through the Evangelical Free Church, and adjunct professor at the University of Alaska Southeast. She has been an administrator/principal of three non-profit, private schools in Colorado and Alaska, and vice-president of the Sitka Citizens' Police Academy. Rory has a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Educational Psychology.

Dr. Stan Tucker

Stan has served in pastoral ministries for more than 25 years and is now the pastor of Pilgrims Baptist Church in Wasilla. He also is the treasurer of the Valley Pastors Prayer Network. His community involvement includes service on the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly, Valley Hospital Board and Wasilla Planning Commission. Dr. Tucker and his wife Karen have lived in the Valley for more than 50 years and have ten children. He received his Doctor of Theology degree from Bob Jones University.

Edith Vorderstrasse

Edith is serving a three-year term as City Mayor of Barrow. She is Inupiaq/Norweign and was born and reared in Barrow. A member of the Inupiat Assembly of God Church, she has volunteered as a Sunday School teacher and in leadership with Women's Ministries. Edith worked at the North Slope Borough School District as Special Assistant to the Superintendent and has been involved with Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative, Inc. working as a billing and payroll clerk, office manager and now serving as a board member. She is on the North Slope Borough Personnel Board and was appointed as one of the public members of the Alaska Legislature's Select Committee on Legislative Ethics. She worked for the late Representative Eileen P. MacLean as committee secretary. Edith was elected to the North Slope Borough Board of Education and as President of Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation. She graduated from West Anchorage High in 1973. She is the wife of Jim Vorderstrasse, mother of Alicia and Eric. She and Jim have owned Border Ventures, a general contracting business, since 1978.

Ex-Officio Members

Deputy Commissioner Karleen Jackson

Karleen serves as Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Health and Social Services.

Deputy Commissioner Ray Matiashowski

Ray serves as Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Administration.

Deputy Commissioner Bill Noll

Bill serves as the Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Community and Economic Development.

Chaplain Mike Ensck

Mike is the chaplaincy coordinator for the Alaska Department of Corrections.

Chaplain David Frain

David serves as chaplain at Alaska Pioneer Home.

Gracie Jackson

Gracie serves as a Job Developer for the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Major Richard Koch

Richard serves as the Alaska Air National Guard Chaplain for the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs.

Denise Shanklin

Denise serves as the Outreach Liaison for the Division of Child Support Enforcement in the Department of Revenue.

Paul Sugar

Paul serves as an Education Specialist for the Division of Teaching and Learning Support in the Department of Education and Early Development.

Ken Truitt

Ken serves as an Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division in the Department of Law.

Lieutenant Charlie Yoder

Charlie serves as the Regional Commander for the Mat-Su region of the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement in the Department of Public Safety.

Senator Fred Dyson

Senator Dyson represents Senate District I (Eagle River-Elmendorf AFB-Fort Richardson) and is the Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, and Social Services Committee.

Senator Ralph Seekins

Senator Seekins represents Senate District D (Fairbanks) and is the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee.

Senator Scott Ogan

Senator Ogan represents Senate District H (Palmer to Birchwood) and is the Chairman of the Senate Resources Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Senator Donny Olson

Senator Olson represents Senate District T (Northwest Alaska and Arctic Slope) and is a member of the Senate Finance Committee.

Representative John Coghill

Representative Coghill represents House District 11 (North Pole) and is the House Majority Leader.

Representative Nancy Dahlstrom

Representative Dahlstrom represents House District 18 (Elmendorf AFB-Fort Richardson-Eagle River) and is the Vice-Chairman of the Legislature's Joint Armed Services Committee.

STAFF

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This list can be found at www.ltgov.state.ak.us/taskforce.php