



FLORIDA

# Faith & Community

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Annual Report  
2-1-2024

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## INTRODUCTION

The Florida Faith and Community Advisory Council was created in 2006 under s. 14.31, F.S. The Council is comprised of 25 members serving 4-year terms appointed by the Governor (17), Senate President (4), and Speaker of the House (4). Moreover, the Council serves as a formal advisory council to the Executive Office of the Governor and the Legislature which conducts business at least once per quarter.

## STAFF

The Florida Faith and Community Advisory Council is supported by the Governor's Faith and Community Initiative Office. Lead staff from that office include:

### **Erik Dellenback**

*Governor's Liaison for Faith and Community*

### **Dylan Fisher**

*Director*

### **Erin Kraeft**

*Special Projects Coordinator*

### **Brad Hartnett**

*Operations Analyst*

### **Sarah Tinter**

*External Content Coordinator*

### **Caleb Confusione**

*Operations Assistant*

### **AJ Hamilton**

*Network Coordinator*

**COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**



Erik Dellenback  
Chairman  
Jacksonville, FL



Calvin Martin  
Vice Chairman  
Palatka, FL



Lori Bontell  
Orlando, FL



Mario Bramnick  
Cooper City, FL



Senator  
Erin Grall  
Vero Beach, FL



Pastor  
Jason Cullum  
Jacksonville, FL



Reverend  
James Drake  
Miami, FL



Pastor  
Gerard Duncan  
Gainesville, FL



Jeff Ford  
Trinity, FL



Chad Garmon  
Longwood, FL



Pastor  
Scott George  
Maitland, FL



Dr. Jerry Haag  
Lakeland, FL



Denise Harle  
Tallahassee, FL



Mami Kisner  
West Palm Beach, FL



Pastor  
Pam Olsen  
Tallahassee, FL



Commissioner  
Mel Ponder  
Destin, FL



Chad Poppell  
Tallahassee, FL



Michael Sheedy  
Tallahassee, FL



Senator  
Kelli Stargel  
Lakeland, FL



Stephan Tchividjian  
Fort Lauderdale, FL



Anthony Verdugo  
Miami, FL



Adam Voran  
Palm Harbor, FL



Rabbi  
Yosef Weinstock  
Hollywood, FL

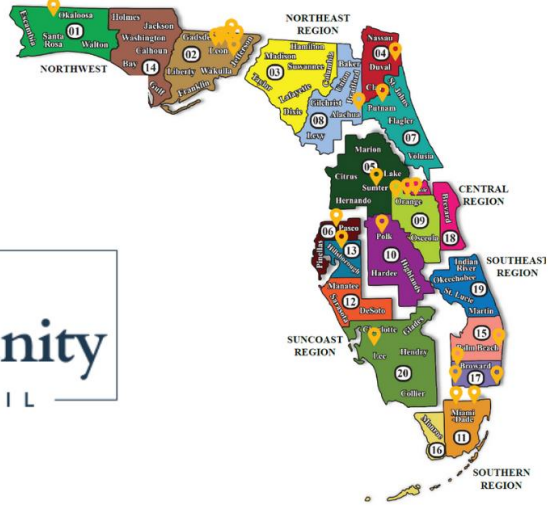


Pastor Reno Zunz  
Lutz, FL

## REGIONAL COUNCIL MAP



**FLORIDA**  
**Faith & Community**  
 ADVISORY COUNCIL



REGION	COUNCIL MEMBER	LOCATION
<b>NORTHWEST</b> <u>Circuits</u> 01, 02, 14	Commissioner Mel Ponder	Destin
	Mrs. Denise Harle	Tallahassee
	Mr. Michael Sheedy	Tallahassee
	Pastor Pam Olsen	Tallahassee
<b>NORTHEAST</b> <u>Circuits</u> 03, 04, 07, 08	Mr. Chad Poppell	Tallahassee
	Pastor Gerard Duncan	Ocala
	Mr. Calvin Martin	Palatka
	Pastor Jason Cullum	Jacksonville
<b>CENTRAL</b> <u>Circuits</u> 05, 09, 10, 18	Mr. Erik Dellenback	Jacksonville
	Pastor Scott George	Maitland
	Dr. Jerry Haag	Lakeland
	Senator Kelli Stargel	Lakeland
	Mrs. Lori Bontell	Orlando
<b>SUNCOAST</b> <u>Circuits</u> 06, 12, 13, 20	Mr. Chad Garmon	Longwood
	Mr. Adam Voran	Palm Harbor
	Mr. Jeff Ford	Trinity
<b>SOUTHEAST</b> <u>Circuits</u> 15, 17, 19	Pastor Reno Zunz	Lutz
	Senator Erin Grall	Vero Beach
	Mrs. Mami Kisner	West Palm Beach
	Rabbi Yosef Weinstock	Hollywood
	Mr. Stephan Tchividjian	Ft. Lauderdale
<b>SOUTHERN</b> <u>Circuits</u> 11, 16	Pastor Mario Bramnick	Cooper City
	Reverend James Drake	Miami
	Mr. Anthony Verdugo	Miami

## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS

### Q1 Faith and Community Advisory Council Meeting

<b>2023 Q1 Meeting</b>	
Date and Location	March 20 <sup>th</sup> – The Florida Capitol
Themes	Religious Freedom, Liberty, and the Battles it Faces Today; Pro-Life Policy in the Florida Legislature
Special Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka</li><li>• Mr. Gregory S. Baylor – Senior Counsel with Alliance Defending Freedom and Director of the Center for Religious Schools</li><li>• Mr. Harrison Smith – Regional Alliance Director, Alliance Defending Freedom</li><li>• Edvarado Archer – Florida Field Director, CarePortal</li></ul>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• List of Implementing Partners</li><li>• Information on the Responsible Fatherhood Initiative</li></ul>
Additional Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tour of the Florida Senate Chambers</li><li>• Tour of the Florida House Chambers</li></ul>



## Q2 Faith and Community Advisory Council Meeting

<b>2023 Q2 Meeting</b>	
Date and Location	June 9 <sup>th</sup> – Calvary Chapel, Clearwater Florida
Themes	Concepts and Best Practices for Addressing the Fatherhood Crisis Through Your Network
Special Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Panel:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Mark Merrill – Founder and President of Family First and All Pro Dad</li><li>○ Pastor Darryl Williamson – Lead Pastor for Living the Faith Bible Fellowship in Tampa</li><li>○ Jeff Ford – Chief Executive Officer for Man Up and Go</li></ul></li><li>• Council Breakout Groups<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Breakout #1: How to expand Hope Florida in our communities</li><li>○ Breakout #2: Purpose and Function of the Council</li></ul></li></ul>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information on the Responsible Fatherhood Initiative</li><li>• List of Florida’s regional Fatherhood Engagement Specialists</li><li>• CarePortal website and Implementing Partner list</li><li>• Hope Florida One-Pager</li></ul>
Additional Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tour of Calvary Chapel, Clearwater</li></ul>

### Q3 Faith and Community Advisory Council Meeting

<b>2023 Q3 Meeting</b>	
Date and Location	Sept 6 <sup>th</sup> – JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes
Themes	Florida Guardian ad Litem; CarePortal – Case Study of Circuit 12 Success
Special Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dennis Moore – Executive Director of the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office</li> <li>• Panel Discussion: <i>CarePortal, A Case Study of Success featuring Florida's 12th Judicial Circuit</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Courtney Ross – Bridge a Life and Regional Manager of CarePortal</li> <li>○ Sierra Ebersole – Emergency Response and Assessment Team Intervention Supervisor for Safe Children Coalition</li> <li>○ Stacey Schaeffer – Vice President of Prevention and Diversion Services for Safe Children Coalition</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Council Discussion: Insights and perspectives from meetings with local faith and community leaders in your area</li> </ul>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation to the Council on the current state and advancement of the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office</li> <li>• Hope Solutions event brochure and further information on Hope Florida</li> <li>• Information on CarePortal and access to the case study of the success in District 12</li> </ul>
Additional Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hope Solutions Event</li> <li>• Department of Children and Families Child Welfare Summit</li> </ul>

## **Q4 Faith and Community Advisory Council Meeting**

<b>2023 Q4 Meeting</b>	
Date and Location	Dec 12 <sup>th</sup> – Sanibel Community Church
Themes	Faith and Community Perspectives on Hurricane Ian Recovery and Resilience
Special Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mayor Richard Johnson – Mayor, City of Sanibel</li><li>• Pastor Kevin Schafer – Pastor at Sanibel Community Church</li><li>• Jerry Miller – Founder, Trailways Camp</li><li>• Jamie Senkeleski – Director, Trailways Camp</li></ul>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Faith and Community “Red Phone”</li></ul>
Additional Activities	N/A

# APPENDIX

### **14.31, Florida Faith-based and Community-based Advisory Council. –**

(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. –The Legislature finds that:

- (a) Compassionate groups of individuals have selflessly aided this state in serving our most vulnerable residents and our most debilitated neighborhoods.
- (b) Inspired by faith and civic commitment, these organizations have accomplished much in changing the lives of thousands and resurrecting neighborhoods torn by the strife of crime and poverty.
- (c) It is essential that this state cooperate with these organizations in order to provide an opportunity to participate on an equal basis, regardless of each organization’s orientation, whether faith-based or secular.

(2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT. –It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to recognize the contributions of these organizations and to encourage opportunities for faith-based and community-based organizations to work cooperatively with government entities in order to deliver services more effectively. The Legislature further intends that the purpose of the council is to advise the Governor and the Legislature on policies, priorities, and objectives for the state’s comprehensive effort to enlist, equip, enable, empower, and expand the work of faith-based, volunteer, and other community organizations to the full extent permitted by law.

(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL. –

(a) The Florida Faith-based and Community-based Advisory Council, an advisory council as defined in s. 20.03, is established and assigned to the Executive Office of the Governor. The council shall be administratively housed within the Executive Office of the Governor.

(b) The council shall consist of 25 members. Council members may include, but need not be limited to, representatives from various faiths, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, foundations, corporations, and municipalities.

(c) The council shall be composed of the following members:

- 1. Seventeen members appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor.
- 2. Four members appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the President of the Senate.
- 3. Four members appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(d) Council members shall serve 4-year terms, except that the initial terms shall be staggered as follows:

- 1. The Governor shall appoint six members for a term of 3 years, six members for a term of 2 years, and five members for a term of 1 year.

2. The President of the Senate shall appoint two members for a term of 3 years and two members for a term of 2 years.

3. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members for a term of 3 years and two members for a term of 2 years.

(e) A vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the original appointing authority for the unexpired portion of the term.

(4) MEETINGS; ORGANIZATION. –

(a) The council shall meet at least once per quarter per calendar year. Meetings may be held via teleconference or other electronic means.

(b) The council shall annually elect from its membership one member to serve as chair of the council and one member to serve as vice chair.

(c) Thirteen members of the council shall constitute a quorum.

(d) Members of the council shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061.

(5) SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES. –The council shall review and recommend in a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

(a) How faith-based and community-based organizations can best compete with other organizations for the delivery of state services, regardless of an organization's orientation, whether faith-based or secular.

(b) How best to develop and coordinate activities of faith-based and community-based programs and initiatives, enhance such efforts in communities, and seek such resources, legislation, and regulatory relief as may be necessary to accomplish these objectives.

(c) How best to ensure that state policy decisions take into account the capacity of faith-based and other community-based initiatives to assist in the achievement of state priorities.

(d) How best to identify and promote best practices across state government relating to the delivery of services by faith-based and other community-based organizations.

(e) How best to coordinate public awareness of faith-based and community nonprofit initiatives, such as demonstration pilot programs or projects, public-private partnerships, volunteerism, and special projects.

(f) How best to encourage private charitable giving to support faith-based and community-based initiatives.

(g) How best to bring concerns, ideas, and policy options to the Governor and Legislature for assisting, strengthening, and replicating successful faith-based and other community-based programs.

(h) How best to develop and implement strategic initiatives to strengthen the institutions of families and communities in this state.

(i) How best to showcase and herald innovative grassroots nonprofit organizations and civic initiatives.

(j) How best to eliminate unnecessary legislative, regulatory, and other bureaucratic barriers that impede effective faith-based and other community-based efforts to address social problems.

(k) How best to monitor implementation of state policy affecting faith-based and other community-based organizations.

(l) How best to ensure that the efforts of faith-based and other community-based organizations meet objective criteria for performance and accountability.

(6) RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES. –The council may not make any recommendation that conflicts with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or the public funding provision of s. 3, Art. I of the State Constitution.

(7) REPORT.—By February 1 of each year, the council shall prepare a written report for the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives containing an accounting of its activities and recommended policies, priorities, and objectives for the state’s comprehensive effort to enlist, equip, enable, empower, and expand the work of faith-based, volunteer, and other community-based organizations to the full extent permitted by law.