



Introduction to F.A.S.T.

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History and Definition

In 2004, Espiritu Santo parish, under the leadership of Fr. Bob Schneider our pastor and first President, joined a congregation based community organization called FAST. FAST stands for Faith and Action for Strength Together. Based on the principles of justice found in the bible, FAST is a growing, non-profit community organization currently made up of thirty five congregations from around Pinellas county.

Starting from it's humble beginnings In November 2004, 28 churches and synagogues gathered 800 people from diverse backgrounds throughout Pinellas County to form FAST. It's an organization to provide congregations with a tool to do effective justice ministry in dealing with the problems in our community. In 2005, FAST gathered 1200 people to take action on community problems at the "Big Meeting" a Nehemiah Action Assembly. By 2008, the number of people present at the Nehemiah Action grew to over 2400 people coming from 35 faith communities.

The mission of FAST is an ecumenical effort to engage people of faith in a process of listening, education, action, and reflection in order to powerfully address community issues in Pinellas County. The goal is to serve as agents of change, calling for a renewed community by holding public systems accountable to improve the quality of life for all in Pinellas County. To foster and promote community wide interest and concern for the problems of individuals and families, particularly low to moderate income, so that such issues as poverty, crime, sickness, housing, education, and environmental degradation may be