

Rev. Daniel M. Hooper
Candidate Statement

At the prompting of several past and present members of the GGPNC I am herewith submitting my application for the position for the Religious Community representative seat on the Council for another term.

I am a 30-year resident (homeowner) in Silverlake and Los Feliz, and active in its institutions and organizations. I have no known conflicts of interest with the City of Los Angeles.

I believe I am qualified to represent the diverse religious communities in the GGPNC area. As the pastor of Hollywood Lutheran Church for the previous 5 ½ years, I personally know and have worked with the leadership of several other religious communities, and have contacted the clergy of those I don't know. I am a member of, and host the monthly meetings of, an area interfaith clergy association. I have participated in faith community forums convened by the Hollywood Division of the LAPD, and Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center, also serving "on call" with the Chaplain's office for patients and families who desire to speak with a clergy person.

I am keenly interested in matters of community and public policy. At the request of my own local bishop (over 4 counties) I serve on the statewide Lutheran Office of Public Policy Council which guides public policy education and represents faith community policy interests before the California Legislature in Sacramento.

In recent years, I have promoted or launched these community service interests:

- Formed and serve on the board of directors of **Hollywood Remembers, Inc.**, a non-profit educational corporation which promotes public understanding, education, and service with regards to those who live with HIV or AIDS, and hosts an annual event for World AIDS Day.
- Helped conceive and re-launch the **Los Feliz Art Walk** to promote the arts, artists and the exhibiting of art in public spaces in our neighborhood.
- Led my own faith community to broaden its mission with the **Hollywood Community Food Pantry** for those who need help feeding their families; and the **Hollywood Community Garden** to enable neighbors to grow and share vegetables, etc., on their own plot of land.

Faith communities within the borders of the GGPNC represent a great diversity of the world's religious traditions. Many of us also host other organizations and services which benefit the larger community: we operate schools, provide election polling places, offer space to neighborhood associations (including this Council's own committees), provide emergency shelter for homeless persons, and support the vital work of Alcoholics Anonymous and other 12-Step programs to repair the fabric of family and community which is so often torn by addictions.

I believe the Council best serves the larger community—including its faith-based organizations, churches, synagogues and temples—wherever it can collaborate with such groups and organizations to improve the quality of life, help create safer neighborhoods, eradicate prejudice, racism and discrimination, erase violence, and remember the poor and homeless. If re-appointed, I believe I can continue to play a helpful role in calling the Council to these collaborative ventures, rather than becoming mired in momentary neighborhood problems or perennial disagreements. I concur with a statement of purpose that was articulated last year that the Neighborhood Council must never pit one group of stakeholders against another. So I feel that the representative of faith communities serves to promote the high value of cooperation, understanding and common effort to improve the world around us, and to help stakeholders vigorously pursue these values.