**America’s Peacemakers: The Community**

**Relations Service and Civil Rights**

**Book Club**

**Session III –** Chapters 13 – 16 (pp. 303 - 411)

**Discussion Questions**

1. Chapter 15 provides an in-depth analytical narrative of the role of CRS in Sanford, Florida after the murder of Trayvon Martin.

How did CRS work to defuse short-term tensions and address long-term grievances in Sanford? In regard to the roles of local officials and community actors, CRS staff, and outside groups, what were the factors that helped advance conflict resolution and reform in Sanford? Are there lessons applicable to communities facing similar challenges?

2. Chapter 16 – The Quest for Value -- addresses the challenges CRS faced in becoming an effective agency and the factors that contributed to staff efforts to address those challenges. In regard to agency culture, internal practices, and relationships with actors inside and outside of the federal government, what insights can we draw regard CRS’s efforts to become an effective federal agency? What does this chapter suggest regarding our understandings and expectations of government?

3. Consider organizations you have worked with in your own professional, community, and civic endeavors [Hint: think broadly – workplaces, professional organizations, religious groups, neighborhood associations, political campaigns, local government]. Are there insights you can draw from Chapter 16 that are relevant to goals and practices within these endeavors?