

Next meeting Wednesday, May 26th - 12pm

Sonoma Valley Interfaith Ministerial Association

Website: sonomavalleyinterfaithma.org Email: sonomavalleyinterfaithma@gmail.com

Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 12pm - 1pm Zoom Meeting

Present: Steve Finley, Peadar Dalton, Donna Thomas, Marie Wilson-Johnson, Scott Pryor, Manette Fairmont, Nick Dalton and Nicole Trotter.

Welcome and Call to Order - Steve opens with reflection of the two year anniversary this week of Pastor Rich Gantenbein's passing, one of our founding members of this group. You may never know how/if your words are received by others but must keep doing what you're doing.

Non-profits check-in - (Please reach out to Steve if you can be a liaison for a local non-profit)

- City Council - Peadar reports that the next City Council meeting is May 3rd virtually. You can visit the site [here](#) to see meeting recaps or to participate. Anyone can attend the public forum and will have 3 minutes to comment or share concerns. Topics include housing, drought, cannabis business, a May-October sculpture placement on the front lawn of City Hall by Jun Kaneko, continuing parklets to November 1, 2021, and use/sale of polystyrene foam products.
- SVUSC - Donna will be our liaison for the school district. Information is scarce right now as schools are navigating reopening and hybrid learning. We anticipate Fall 2021 to be more accessible for information.
- S.O.S. - Steve reports they did not get the grant they hoped for due to opposition. Our community continues to show much opposition to supporting homeless programs and the Haven. **Please support the Spring Supper fundraiser, a drive-thru take out happening on Saturday, May 8th 4-6pm. Meals must be ordered by this Friday, April 30th. Visit this [link](#) for more.**

Guests -

1) Whitney Evans of [Care Partners Initiative](#). They are piloting the We Care Program in the next month or two. With 26% of our seniors living alone and 10% of our seniors living with some form of dementia it is important to offer a flexible way to support the families and the individuals. Adult day care at Vintage House, which is ran by the Council on Aging, will also try to resume in June but may not be able to offer flexible days/hours. Care Partners is looking for a larger space to provide service. They are in talks with Trinity Episcopal Church but are limited there as Sonoma Meals is using the facility as well. They hope to continue virtual and in person support programs. How can you help? Success depends on the use of a space. Please consider offering space at your facility while it is not in use. Care Partners can also provide a way for your members to volunteer, "be the church", with training provided. If you can help or have suggestions please reach out to Whitney at wevans1114@sbcglobal.net

2) Jen Klose of [Generation Housing](#). The group started after the 2017 fires exacerbated an already existing housing crisis in Sonoma County. They are raising awareness of the housing crisis and championing opportunities to increase the supply, affordability and diversity of homes by promoting effec-

tive policy, sustainable funding resources and collaborative efforts to create a healthy community for all.

The availability of safe, stable, and affordable housing for our community members is a critical driver for individual economic opportunity, better educational performance, and improved health outcomes.- Some statistics:

- The median value of a home in Sonoma County is \$565,200 compared to the national median value of \$205,000.
- The median gross rent in Sonoma County is \$1,562 per month, compared to \$981 nationally.
- 31.4% of our local workforce commutes here to work. This hurts our local economy, increases traffic and our local carbon footprint, and negatively impacts the health and educational outcomes of those workers and their families.
- **SHORTAGE OF UNITS** - More than 30,000 units are currently needed in Sonoma County, which would be 6,000+ per year, but the County is currently only permitting an average of 880 units per year (Sonoma County Recovery and Resiliency Framework).
- **HOUSING COSTS BURDEN** - 57% of our community's renters and 41% of our community's homeowners pay more than 30% of their income for housing. This is highest percentage of cost-burdened residents of all 9 Bay Area counties – including San Francisco!

How can you help? Please visit their page [here](#) for a listing of ways to support. Get your poster or yard sign [now](#). We can bring 100 signs to your facility to place on the lawn and your members are welcome to take them home after your weekly service or event. Share on your social media and during your KSVY radio spot.

Other Information:

1. **New (sort of) name** - we are referring to our group as Sonoma Valley Interfaith. We have dropped the “ministerial association” part because it makes for quite a mouthful but our email and website will retain the longer name.
2. **Radio Show** - Please check out our most recent minutes on our website [here](#) before your spot on the radio show. Share our monthly topic discussion on air as well as your groups happenings.
3. **Interfaith Night of Learning** - please reach out to Steve about an idea to have an interfaith night of discussion topics in line with the Hebrew holiday in May, Shavuot, celebrating receiving the wisdom of the Torah. More to come from Steve.
4. **How is everyone addressing their re-openings? If you are transitioning to new protocol and find information or ideas that might be useful to the group please email [Steve](#) or [Tricia](#) so we can share.**
 - Shir Shalom is still virtual but will be doing a non-worship outdoor event in May or June as a trial. Light snack, music and a teaching.
 - Sonoma Methodist Church is following guidelines from their governing body and has a committee group that discusses what indoor service will look like with no singing and added cleaning requirements. They are still online and plan to keep an online presence even after indoor worship resumes.
 - Church of Scientology is following protocol from the county and the state. They are offering counseling online and smaller outdoor events. There is a Covid prevention program by Scientology management that discusses all that has been done over the past several months to help protect churches, staff and the community. **It is offered to everyone.** Please reach out to Donna for more

information that can be useful for your church or community. Donna Thomas domnasonoma@yahoo.com

- Church of the Nazarene has been meeting outdoors with social distancing and masks as well as virtual services. They will be watching the county and state guidelines. This past weekend they had a less than 25% attendance indoor service and focused on cleaning. They will be having a night of worship and game night. They will continue outdoor services as well and indoor service (which reaches about 2/3 of their congregation) and increase indoor services. Virtual services may be continued indefinitely for those who find it more convenient and/or are more comfortable.
- First Church of Christ, Scientist is encouraging outdoor activities with social distancing and masks. They offer counseling, discussions and support for those going through the vaccination process or who are considering it.
- To be answered later: Peadar raised the question “how can we address a sense of community for those who wish to continue virtual worship?”

Meeting adjourned 1:02pm

Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 26th, 12pm. Please mark your calendars now.

KSVY has a two hour Morning Show each day from 8-10 am. The Interfaith guest spot is on Tuesdays at 9:00 am and lasts for about 20 minutes, give or take.

Members’ topics should be as inclusive as possible and please make sure to talk about our interfaith group as well as your institution. And please review the minutes of our last meeting before you go on the air.

Please email your topics and talking points to the host, Pat Carlin, in advance at pcarlin53@gmail.com. During the Covid-19 no one is coming into the studio. The call in number is 933-9133. Or, you can zoom in as well. The information is on their website www.ksvy.org

<u>Date</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
May 4	Steve Finley	818-207-1757
May 11	Marie Wilson-Johnson	707-996-2151
May 18	Donna Thomas	707-939-6774
May 25	Manette Fairmont	707-529-9562