

Sonoma Valley Interfaith Ministerial Association

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

First Congregational Church of Sonoma

Present: Larry, Matt, Alvin and Deacon Ricardo, Steve, Manette, Jim, Rich, Noelani, Art, Curran.

Guests: Dave Kromberg and Pat de Jong

Welcome and Call to Order - Steve Finley

1. **Opening Reflection/Devotion** - Steve opened with some words on Purim and the Book of Ester, it's a time to reflect and ask ourselves why we do what we do and say what we say, an honest reflection of self.
2. **Checking In With Non Profits** -
 - F.I.S.H. - Continues to distribute donated items. Some things were taken to a homeless shelter in Vallejo.
 - City Council - Peadar emailed a briefing, see the website for more info. www.sonomacity.org
 - SVUSD/Sonoma Valley Community Center - Budget issues and search for superintendent continues. Health center funding is secured for the next two years.
3. **Public Forum Gathering** - Brainstorming for ideas, Matt would like it to be more proactive centered around joy rather than reactionary and "sad". Rich suggested we get a speaker from the Community Foundation to get ideas from the "In Plain Site" study and areas we can support need and be a bridge to the community. Curran will ask Katherine Fulton. We will need to allow a majority of our meeting for this discussion. Manette suggests at a topic that we look into how to be a frontline and support needs for school youth self-esteem. We might also look at sonomavalleyfund.org for ideas.
4. **Recovery of Community(ROC) - Dave Kromberg** spoke about this agency and how they are available to assist with long term recovery needs following the disaster of the fires. They will coordinate the management of long term recovery to the community members who do not have adequate personal resources as a result of the disaster. For more information or to attend a monthly meeting you can contact ROC of Sonoma County, Adam Peacocke at 707-235-6506 or Jennie-Lynn Holmes at 707-800-2372, or visit rocsonomacounty.org
5. **Auburn Seminary - Patricia de Jong** works with the Justice Ministry Education (JME) and is doing action and reflection work with small groups from July 2018 - January 2019 in response to the fires for leaders doing faith-rooted justice work and help to move

through difficult times. Those who serve need support, too. Scholarships are available. For more information go to auburnseminary.org/jme/ or contact Patricia de Jong at patriciaedejong@gmail.com or 510-508-2975.

6. Matt collected Dues.

7. Website Information Sheet passed out. Let us know if you prefer your office email and phone or personal or any combination or both.

8. Sign-up sheet for Thursday's radio show was passed around. Please email us if you have any information on upcoming events in your church or group that you would like us to announce on the show to the community. You can listen online at ksvy.org

9. Calendar Items

- Good Friday Inner-Faith service, March 30th, 12:15-12:45pm, Sonoma Valley Community Church
- Passover Community Seder, March 31st, 5:30pm, bring your families, good food and fun. Burlingame Hall. You must contact Steve to reserve your seats
- *Save the date:* Sunday, April 22nd, "Earth Day", 12-2pm Third Annual Earth Care Festival here in Sonoma on the First Congregational Church campus. Partnering with Crop Walk, Transition Sonoma Valley, Praxis Peace, and others, the Festival will feature conservation information, advice on green home cleaning and garden weed control, activities for children, Farmers Market produce, drumming and other music, and delicious food to buy. Last year there were about 300 attendees. S.V.I.M.A. might consider having a booth/table...let's talk about it.

10. Comments

- We say a fond farewell to Noelani who will be heading to serve at the Yountville Veterans Home. Best wishes!
- Larry will be doing next month's opening reflection.

11. Meeting Adjourned - 1:30pm