

## Sonoma Valley Interfaith Ministerial Association

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Wednesday, May 22, 2019

First Congregational Church of Sonoma

**Present:** Donna Thomas, Peadar Dalton, Curran Reichert, Jacey Pickens-Jones, Emily Pickens-Jones, Margaret Hage, John Bonnoit, Fr. Sudakar, Rabbi Steve.

**Welcome and Call to Order** - Last month's minutes were approved. Steve opened with a reminder of the brevity of life and how unexpected Rich's passing was. May we remember his virtues and keep his memory alive by continuing our interfaith work. Peadar reads from 2 Corinthians, "blessed be God who comforts us in all our trials".

### Checking In With Non Profits -

- F.I.S.H. - ongoing need for drivers, newsletter will be emailed.
- City Council - Main topic is the minimum wage raise in Sonoma Valley. Beginning on January 2020 businesses with more than 50 employees, including large corporations such as Safeway, Whole Foods, Peet's, Staples, etc., will raise the minimum wage to \$13.50/hr and those with less than 50 employees will raise the minimum wage to \$12.50/hr. It will go up by \$1/hr each year respectively. The second main topic is addressing the housing issue with the 1% TOT increase and the trust established for that money. Information from the last meeting can be found [here](#).
- S.O.S. - Mother's Day brunch fundraiser was a huge success. S.O.S. has also received about 40% of the Sonoma County Homeless Service Award money. The city of Sonoma will also be receiving a large portion of the funds. With the funds S.O.S. will be getting upgrades to the Haven for day services. They will be getting a coordinator to work with Vintage House and SHARE. Starting in July they will have a coordinator on site 5 days a week (used to be 2) to help manage needs of people coming in for day services to help get them into services offered countywide. Day service hours will also be extended to 9am-5pm. There is an average of 60 clients a week who come to receive day services such as showers, laundry, naps, counseling, computer use and meals.
- SVU School District - Emily will be meeting with Socorro this month and will report next month.
- Sustainable Sonoma - Jacey and Curran report that the main issue is identifying housing needs in the valley. Issues such as reducing zoning restrictions and building of tiny homes are in discussion. They are also looking at transportation needs in the valley.

### Upcoming Events -

- Memorial Day Celebration, Monday, May 27th, 11:00am at Veteran's Memorial Park Cemetery, 126 1st St. West, Sonoma. Reverend Peadar Dalton and the SVIMA members will share the invocation/benediction during this community memorial celebration. **Please reach out to Peadar (415) 328-5057 by Saturday, May 25th**, if you can participate. Home Town band and BBQ to follow.

- St. Leo's will have Fr. James Fredericks giving a talk on the Notre Dame Cathedral and its history and the recent fire. Saturday, June 1st, 9:30am at St. Leo's Adult Education Building.

#### **Information to Share -**

- Sonoma Valley Community Church will be welcoming a new pastor June 1st. More to come.
- Jim Thomas is taking the reigns of the Thursday radio hour as the new host. Please reach out to him at 707-529-9562 if you would like to help out or be a guest on the show.
- Fr. Sudakar joins us today from St. Francis. He is originally from South East India. After serving 8 years as a pastor there to about 2,000 families, traveling around on a motor bike, he asked for a change and was brought here. He is helping Fr. Alvin Villaruel with support from Deacon Dave Gould. Welcome Fr. Sudakar - we hope to see you at many future meetings!

**Remembering Rich Gantenbein** - members shared their memories and stories of Rich. We all agree to keep his memory alive by participating in "Don't Go To Church, Be The Church" every year in May. Coordinated by St. Andrew, this was one of Rich's passion projects. Get out of the church and get into the community to provide various acts of service. If you and/or your members would like to participate in Rich's memory please reach out to St. Andrew and ask to be included in future mailings regarding this amazing day of service. Contact [here](#).

#### **Things to consider -**

- No meeting in July for a Summer break, instead we may have a potluck BBQ. Let's discuss in June.
- We should invite someone from La Luz and Vintage House to be a guest as well as Jan Reynolds who will filling in at St. Andrew for awhile. The mayor would like to return in the Fall for another update. Let's discuss forum ideas as well.
- Bring your annual SVIMA membership dues of \$20 in June.

**Our next meeting is Wednesday, June 26th, 12:15pm sharp - Please send a representative if you are unable to attend. Guests - TBD**

**Meeting Adjourned - 1:32pm**