**Sonoma Interfaith Ministerial Association**

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

First Congregational Church of Sonoma

In attendance: Manette Fairmont, Donna Thomas, Curran Reichert, Steve Finley, Noelani Sheckler-Smith, Peader Dalton, Larry Adams, Kathryn Stark, Kathy Speas, Jim Thomas, Nina Gorbach, Sandy Piotter(F.I.S.H.).

**Welcome and Call to Order -** Steve Finley, the meeting was called to order at 12:21pm and Steve reviewed the KSVY Monday morning and Sonoma Index Tribune schedule, a list was passed around to update current contact/cell phone numbers. (Please email Steve if you were not able to update your cell phone number)

**Opening Reflection/Devotion** - Kathryn Stark would like us to consider how we can find our spiritual practice in the midst of these recent events and the uncertainty and fear that many are feeling. She read a passage titled “Life Is A Fragile Thing”. Copies were given.

**Checking In -** Each member shared their story of the fire and updated the condition of their community.

**Introduction of Nina Gorbach,** licensed marriage and family therapist and founder of WillMar Center for Bereaved Children. She is available for support and advice if needed. She spoke to the importance of socializing and sharing experiences of the recent crisis and letting people be heard. Nina can be reached at Nina Gorbach <nsgorbach@comcast.net>

**Curran Reichert** - S.O.S. will be open for day service 5 days a week instead of 3 at this time. If anyone would like to offer financial support,they are accepting $20 gift cards for Safeway and Lucky and donations for a deep freezer. Curran has secured a grant for the hiring of a temporary community coordinator, Mario, for the Springs community. He will help in navigating situations and services for those in need of support for fire-related recovery. Mario will be working 20 hours a week in this three-month position. There is a need to make this a long-term position if it is possible.

**F.I.S.H.** - Sandy Piotter shared the mission of F.I.S.H. and how they are currently addressing fire recovery. At this time, the two most significant needs are utility assistance and rent support. They have paid out approximately $4,000 in utility bills and $15,000 (80-100 requests) in rent support last week alone. They have been overwhelmed with donations of items and are trying to sort and organize and will most likely be needing volunteers in the next week. There are many renters who have lost everything, and their needs are emerging slowly. As they begin to find places to live they will be ready to make better decisions as to what their family will need.

Please share with your community that there is a wide range of support that F.I.S.H. can offer. Contact Sandy at 707-307-3644, sonomafish@gmail.com

**KSVY Thursday Show**- The topic continues to be “Healing” on the Thursday afternoon radio show from 4-5pm. We are talking about Psalms, playing healing music and enjoy any other readings someone might like to bring. Please let Steve know if you can join.

**Calendar Items** -

* David McCracken - An Evening of Music and Song, will be rescheduled for the Spring, closer to the anniversary of his passing.
* Friday, November 10th, 6:30pm, Burlingame Hall, a service on grief with resources for support available.
* Thanksgiving, SDA is hosting, and Steve will stop by the church to make contact. The team: Matt, Art, Noelani, Donna, Steve to discuss details, find a speaker, put the services together and visit the sanctuary to determine the needs for the service.

**Comments** -

Ongoing discussions:

* Public Forum Gatherings, first one possibly January 2018, Larry A., Rich, and Gregory volunteered for the committee.
* Peader recommends checking out [**sonomacountyrecovers.org**](http://sonomacountyrecovers.org) and [**sonomacity.org**](http://sonomacity.org) for additional community information.
* Website and Association name (Sonoma Valley), group photo.
* Two monthly volunteers needed for November and December: one to remind members of their assignments for S.I.T. deadline and KSVY radio show appearance, and another to follow up with those who miss the monthly meeting and fill them in on important information.

Next meeting is December 13th at 12:15 sharp (we will merge the November and December meetings to accommodate the holidays).

Opening Reflection - TBD

**Closing** - 1:35pm