**Sonoma Valley Interfaith Ministerial Association**

Website: [sonomavalleyinterfaithma.org](http://sonomavalleyinterfaithma.org) Email: sonomavalleyinterfaithma@gmail.com

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

First Congregational Church of Sonoma

**Present:** Steve Finley, Manette Fairmont, Curran Reichert, Peadar Dalton, Nick Dalton, Jim Thomas, Lisa Biersch Cole, Jacey Pickens-Jones, Emily Pickens-Jones, Margaret Hale(Sonoma Valley Community Church).

**Guests:** Nancy Ramsey and Katherine Fulton from the “Hidden In Plain Sight” report, and Kim Jones from Sustainable Sonoma.

**Welcome and Call to Order -** Steve Finley opened, welcome to our new members Emily and Jacey Pickens-Jones from Sonoma United Methodist Church and Margaret Hale (temp.) for Sonoma Valley Community Church. \*New members not in attendance: Stephen Brenlinger, Latter-Day Saints, Matt Mattel, Seventh Day Adventist.

**Checking In With Non Profits** -

* F.I.S.H. - no new information to share.
* City Council - Peadar reported Mayor Agrimonti will be attending our next meeting on August 22nd, (please email Steve any questions you have for the mayor in advance), issue of cannibus dispensing will be on the November ballot, the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) will increase, new police chief Orlando Rodriguez began July 17th. See the website for more info. [www.sonomacity.org](http://www.sonomacity.org)
* SVUSD - The Sonoma Valley High School has appointed a new Principal, Justin Mori. Altimira Middle School has appointed a new principal, Chrissy Towner Waters (former Vice Principal).
* S.O.S - Curran reported that the winter shelter has been fully funded.
* Hanna Institute - Nick reported they have received a $650,000 grant from San Francisco based Tipping Point Community, see article [here](http://www.sonomanews.com/news/8470692-181/sonomas-hanna-institute-awarded-650k?sba=AAS)**.** The Institute offers trauma-informed care training to help you support those in your communities who may be in need. Please contact Nick for more information on available training. The Office of Recovery and Resiliency will be holding a Listening Forum on August 8th at the Veteran’s Hall from 6-8pm, click [here](https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Office-of-Recovery-and-Resiliency/Calendar/Fire-Recovery-Community-Planning-Meeting-August-8-2018/) for more information, all are invited to attend.

**Review Radio Show -**

* See our website for the Tuesday morning schedule assignments, you may call in if you are unable to be in the studio. Bob Taylor will be hosting until they can find a new host.
* The Thursday afternoon show will be repeating four themes, see our website, and is in need of members to sign up to be on for 20 minutes.

**Guest Speakers -**

* Katherine Fulton and Nancy Ramsey from the Sonoma Valley fund, an arm of the Community Foundation of Sonoma County, report on the role of increasing giving in the community and making that giving more effective. They briefly reviewed the Hidden In Plain Sight report (see [here](http://sonomavalleyfund.org/svf-initiatives/hidden-in-plain-sight/)), it is recommended we all take a look at it. Nancy is the demographic contact and reports that Sonoma Valley has changed in the past 5 years. The Sonoma Valley has shown a rapid increase in population, poverty and diversity, growing at a rate even faster than the county or state. Our non-native born citizens and non-citizens population has increased as well. Some interesting findings: 25% of our population is now age 65 or older, an increase, while 30-64 year olds have decreased, 58% of our school district is Latino, and 50% of our Latino population do not have a high school diploma. *A community’s needs are based upon what the community is made up of* which is why this report and demographic information is so important. It is also changing and evolving over time. Sonoma currently lacks the ability to bring together, in one place, the needs of the community and address them as a whole.
* Kim Jones of Sustainable Sonoma reports that they are working off of the Hidden In Plain Sight report as well as other avenues to unite Sonoma Valley’s efforts to improve our community under one set of shared goals. They provide a platform for the diverse interests in Sonoma Valley to come to the table for the benefit of the community. Please visit their website [here](https://www.sustainablesonoma.net).
* These groups would like to here from us about needs we are aware of within our faith communities and beyond, outside of spirituality. We are invited and encouraged to visit the Sustainable Sonoma website and click on the “This Is My Vision” tab ([here](https://www.sustainablesonoma.net/this-is-my-vision)) and answer a few questions in order to help their efforts in the community.
* Steve suggested we continue this discussion at our next meeting and the possibility of raising awareness through our radio shows. He also suggested a public forum gathering to raise awareness with the community about urgent issues, impressing our need to follow up with solution based ideas that we, SVIMA, and the community can join in on. Shall we discuss what each of our communities is contributing to non-profit groups or causes so we don’t overlap and leave any one group unsupported?

**Thank you to Nick for bringing us some goodies to nibble on during the meeting today!**

**Our next meeting is Wednesday, August 22nd, 12:15pm sharp -** Please send a representative if you are unable to attend.

**Meeting Adjourned - 1:35pm**