

## **Topic: Determining the Future of UUCB's Freestone Retreat Property**

### **Goals:**

- to achieve a result that is financially sustainable for the congregation and is mission-oriented
- to provide opportunities for members of the congregation to be fully informed on the issues and to express their views and feelings on the issues
- to move towards healing the hurt that has been done in the past
- to develop a proposal that is acceptable to as many members of the congregation as possible
- to discuss the issues openly, transparently, flexibly, and in the spirit of UUCB's congregational covenant and UU values

### **Process and Timeline:**

- ***Approval of Timeline*** – process/timeline presented to the Freestone Committee and to the Board of Trustees for approval, then distributed to the congregation (1/18/22, 2/2/22, 2/13/22)
- ***Information Gathering Phase*** completion by 3/15/22 then distribution of info to congregation
  - Formal opinion write-up from Sonoma County real estate attorney
  - Another formal opinion write-up from person to be identified by the Freestone Committee
  - Compilation of relevant Sonoma County codes and guidelines
  - Finalizing of the list and estimates of work needed on the Freestone property & building
  - Formal assessment of feasibility of obtaining a conservation easement
  - Discussion & agreement on what other information (if any) is needed for this process (1/18)
- ***Education Phase***
  - Healthy Congregations workshop (3/10/22 and 3/12/22)
  - Conflict Transformation Skills for Congregations workshop (3/31/22 and 4/2/22)
  - Sermon/service on covenant and caring communication skills (date TBD)
  - Sermon/service/workshop/info on Nonviolent Communication method (NVC) (date TBD)
- ***Information and Sharing Phase*** – April – May
  - Town Hall Information and Q&A sessions on the current state of the issues, attorney opinions, numbers involved, etc – 4/10/22, 4/12/22, 4/24/22
  - One-on-one interviews with key leaders
  - Small group dialogues on the issues with a questionnaire filled out afterwards
- ***Healing Phase*** – late May & early June
  - History Wall timeline exercise – 5/21/22
  - Freestone Dialogue Day (large and small group discussions and exercises) – 6/11/22
- ***Visits to Freestone*** – June – August, some scheduled events or on own
- ***Progress Report and Summary*** shared with the congregation and leaders – August
- ***Problem-Solving Phase*** – Sept – Oct 2022
  - Session 1: brainstorming alternatives and possibilities on the issues – 9/17/22
  - Session 2: discussion of the possibilities – 10/1/22
  - Board plus key stakeholders discusses possibilities/proposals and forms agenda for congregational vote – 10/5/22

- ***Decision-Making Phase*** – Oct 2022
  - Special congregational meeting scheduled and notice sent to congregation
  - Town Hall Q&A sessions – 10/16/22 and 10/17/22
  - Small group dialogue sessions available (if warranted)
  - Special congregational meeting in 10/23/22
- ***Closure of Process*** – November prior to Thanksgiving 2022
  - Written report prepared by the interim minister for the board and congregation
  - Closing reconciliation worship service with recovenanting and community building