

FUMC's Potential Partnership with Homes for Sonoma FAQ'S (Frequently Asked Questions)

How long would the buildings be on the Stony Point property?

Homes for Sonoma is a three-year project. The Church Council supports the development of an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). FUMC will dictate the date and terms of the removal of the housing. The terms could include removal of all housing, the relocation of some housing, and/or the full/partial removal of infrastructure, depending on what would be most beneficial to FUMC (see more below).

What will this cost FUMC?

FUMC will contact our insurance company and the Annual Conference to get specific information on additional costs associated with the project. Additionally, FUMC will contact our Conference Treasurer to determine how this partnership will affect FUMC's Conference tithe. After FUMC has this information, the MOU can be drawn up with the expectation that Homes for Sonoma would cover additional costs. Also, in discussions with Homes for Sonoma, the Fire Response Task Force has stated that in addition to not being a cost to the church, this project also needs to help offset the cost of the mortgage for the duration of the project. In this way, there will no additional costs to the church.

What will this do to the master plan for building at Stony Point?

Homes for Sonoma is a three-year project. FUMC does not have plans to build additional buildings on the Stony Point campus in the next three years. Additionally, infrastructure (like a pavilion, outdoor restrooms, a commercial kitchen) that could be developed on the property as part of the Homes for Sonoma could be retained by FUMC after the three years. Special attention is being paid to the northeast parcel, as well as the placement of possible infrastructure that could be of long-term benefit to FUMC. The plan as it exists today is not a final rendering, and slight changes of positioning (to accommodate the FUMC sign on the corner, for instance) is possible.

How does this help us fulfill the mission of our church?

The Church Council commissioned the Fire Recovery Task Force in order to discern how FUMC could best assist in the rebuilding efforts after the October fire. Additionally, FUMC has had a long commitment to help find solutions to the ongoing housing shortage in Sonoma County.

Who will live in these houses?

The property will be managed by Burbank Housing. FUMC has the opportunity to work with Burbank in setting parameters for the housing. FUMC will not have a say on specific families moving into housing, nor will FUMC be responsible for managing the units. If there is shared use of public spaces (potential commercial kitchen, etc.), FUMC would work directly with Burbank in scheduling.

How did this potential partnership develop?

Architects (QKA - Santa Rosa) who are volunteering their time with Homes for Sonoma reached out to FUMC regarding the Stony Point property. After initial conversations with pastors and staff, architect Aaron Jobson presented a proposed plan to the FUMC Fire Recovery Task Force (as approved in the November Church Council Meeting). After this initial presentation, the Fire Recovery Task Force reported on the proposal to the Church Council in the November Church Council meeting. The Church Council then approved the chair of the Fire Recovery Task Force, Bob Young, and Pastor Lindsey going further in exploring the partnership. Bob Young shared information about the project at the Stony Point Core Team Meeting. Pastors Lindsey and Blake shared information about the project with staff and with the Homeless Ministries Task Force, Aaron received feedback and questions, and has taken additional steps to further develop the plan - including working with the city government.

What will the housing look like? How big will the units be?

Renderings of the housing can be found in the 1-bedroom preliminary plans. The units vary in size. There are larger 3-bedroom units. Homes for Sonoma is responsible for the development and building of all units, as well as insuring that all units are up-to-code.

How much would the rent be?

This has not yet been determined, but the architect said that the rent would be in the hundreds of dollars per month, not thousands.

Will this housing accept Section 8?

FUMC will work with Burbank Housing to get this answered.

Will you be able to put in an ADA-compliant ramp?

Some units will be ADA compliant as would be required for a housing development.

How is Homes for Sonoma Funded?

Homes for Sonoma is largely funded through private donations. The organization has partnered with Jackson Family Winery in cultivating major private gifts. Homes for Sonoma anticipates donations funding all of the capital development and much of the operational costs.

What's the plan for communicating with our neighbors in Southwest Santa Rosa?

Homes for Sonoma will contact key people, including the principal from RL Stevens, about the project in order to get feedback/ suggestions before a community meeting. The potential community meeting would most likely be held at RL Stevens, and be facilitated by Homes for Sonoma and their partners, with FUMC attending the meeting.