

SFVS Sangha Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2019

The meeting was led by Sarah Grant. The purpose of this Sangha Meeting was to determine the priorities for a visioning process and to recruit volunteers to organize a Visioning Retreat. The organizers will oversee selection of an outside facilitator and determine the date and duration of the Visioning Retreat and follow-up meetings for the visioning process.

Barbara Schroder announced that, in response to a suggestion at the November 2018 Sangha Meeting, she plans to create a new email list as a place to share with each other. This email list will be separate from the sangha's weekly e-newsletter, which will continue to be the sangha's official source of communication. Possible topics for the new email list include about teacher talks in the Santa Fe area, readings, and community activities. More details and sign-up instructions will be announced in about two weeks.

The following list, which had been distributed via the weekly e-newsletter, was the starting point for discussion:

1. How do we feel about the sangha's mission statement? Would we suggest any changes?
2. How can we best support one another in deepening our meditation practices?
3. How do we provide a refuge of peace and practice in a challenging world?
4. How do we see the role of compassionate service in our practice and sangha?
5. How do we see the relationship between our practice and sangha and social justice work?
6. How do we continue to strengthen community in our sangha?
7. Are there changes we want to make to our programming?
8. By what process should the sangha make important decisions?
9. Do we want to invest significantly in attracting younger members (beyond our family sangha)?
10. Do we want a guiding teacher?
11. How do we see the lack of diversity in terms of ethnicity, class and gender in our sangha? Is this something we want to work to change?
12. How do we feel about our name? Do we wish to change it, if so, why?

The following topics suggested by attendees at the meeting were added to the list above:

13. Where is our home place? Do we want to stay in this physical location or do we want to move?
14. How should we relate to environmental justice?
15. How do we encourage people to volunteer?

Each person in attendance voted on the list of priorities. Based on those votes, the following topics were selected for discussion at a Visioning Retreat:

1. How do we continue to strengthen community in our sangha?
2. Do we want a guiding teacher?
3. How can we best support one another in deepening our meditation practices?
4. How do we see the role of compassionate service in our practice and sangha?
5. How do we provide a refuge of peace and practice in a challenging world?

There was discussion about how we can support each other and the Caring Committee was mentioned. The new email list can also help to address that concern, as well as being a way to organize fun activities.

Minutes recorded by Joan Plummer, Administrative Assistant