



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 11, 2023

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Napa First United Methodist Church Advances Preliminary Design Concept to Bring Much Needed Workforce Housing to Downtown Napa

October 11, 2023 – On October 8th, the development team charged with bringing workforce housing to the Napa First United Methodist Church (NFUMC) property in downtown Napa, hosted an open house for congregation members to solicit ideas and feedback on a preliminary concept for the new community. “We were heartened to see the open house so well attended by those in our congregation; their input will help ensure we design a community that is responsive to local needs” said Marylee Sheffer, NFUMC’s Pastor.

Located at the corner of Randolph Street and Fourth Street in downtown Napa, the new community is envisioned to include approximately 46 workforce rental apartments as well as indoor community spaces, outdoor play areas and associated parking and landscaping. The historic church sanctuary, known for its wonderful acoustics and Sunday services, will remain untouched. Nearly 6,000 square feet of space in the new community is anticipated to be shared with NFUMC, to support congregation activities and help address community needs. “In addition to the need for workforce housing, our congregation understands the critical need for childcare services in our community. We see this as an opportunity to help ensure local families have access to affordable, high-quality childcare and hope to be able to offer some of the space for these types of services” said Sheffer.

NFUMC has long supported early childhood development and educational opportunities, offering space for the Napa Valley Nursery School (NVNS) to operate on site since the 1960’s. “We have loved working with NFUMC for many years. They have supported us in our mission to provide a nurturing, inclusive, and accessible space for young children and their families to learn side-by-side together. I appreciate their vision and future plans for the Napa community” said Adrienne Koford, Director of NVNS.

The design, approval and funding of the new workforce housing community will take some time to complete, ensuring NVNS will have ample time to transition to a new location. Following the input received from the congregation, the preliminary design will be refined and presented to the NFUMC Board of Trustees for approval to move forward. Once received, we will begin to outreach to our immediate neighbors, as well as the broader community and City Staff, to ensure ample opportunity is provided to obtain input and feedback on the project concept.



About Napa First United Methodist Church (NFUMC)

Established in 1852, NFUMC is one of the oldest churches in Napa County. Their hearts, doors and minds are open to ALL and their vision is to Follow Jesus; Thrive in community; and Heal the world through service with their neighbors.

They invite others to join them by ministering to the homeless, uplifting the community's poor, providing support to those in need and volunteering in the community. NFUMC has come to find more grace in the search for understanding and more value in questioning, than in absolutes. Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at NFUMC! (<https://napamethodist.org/>)

About Burbank Housing (Burbank)

Burbank Housing has spent more than 43 years building and maintaining high-quality, sustainable rental and homeownership communities that help their residents to thrive in the face of challenges. As the North Bay's non-profit leader in affordable housing, Burbank prides themselves in building welcoming, comfortable neighborhoods for people to call home. As a proven leader, Burbank has a successful track record of building strong private and public partnerships and enjoys a healthy balance sheet – all of which enables Burbank to be flexible and forward-thinking when meeting the needs of their residents and homebuyers. (www.burbankhousing.org)

About Napa Valley Community Housing (NVCH)

For nearly half a century, NVCH has developed, acquired, and rehabilitated over 900 apartments and homes, located within 24 properties, throughout Napa County. By providing safe, attractive, clean, and affordable homes for more than 1,700 children, families, individuals, agricultural workers, veterans and seniors NVCH is able to provide a foundation of health and well-being for Napa County's citizens. (www.nvch.org)

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