

Here is an update from Andrew McHenry, January 28 2019

It's been very moving to get such generous support from our sister churches.

We had our annual meeting on Sunday and I wanted to wait so I could give you more updated information.

The church continues to meet at the Sycamore Glen Retirement Community at 11am each Sunday. Before the meeting I had distributed a letter outlining seven different ways forward that have been discussed:

- 1) Rebuilding on our old site.
- 2) Closing the church (my least favorite).
- 3) Rebuilding at a more strategic location.
- 4) Continuing at Sycamore Glen long-term.
- 5) Re-starting as a Chico Congregational Church.
- 6) Merging or federating with another congregation.
- 7) Being a tenant church without owning a building.

Of course there are advantages and disadvantages of each; but either way, we all want to follow the Lord's leading. I preached a message on Philippians 1:27-28 in the morning before the meeting, to emphasize unity under the gospel.

The overwhelming feeling in the congregation right now is with the first option -- though everyone is supportive with continuing an active ministry at Sycamore Glen into the future as well. We also were very pleased with Church Mutual Insurance Company and their response after the fire. They really came through for us. This gives us a good base from which to start fresh.

A few of our members whose homes survived have been able to return to Paradise and Magalia. The biggest challenge right now is a lack of potable water. The towns will emerge but they will be decidedly different from how they were before the fire.

My wife and I have purchased a home in Oroville and are busy arranging for furniture and improvements to make it more livable. It's a nice place and we are grateful for it.

There are still a few hundred homeless people camped out in a Red Cross village at the fairgrounds in Chico, which is going to be vacated in a few weeks. A couple members from our caring ministry attended to gain insight on how the church could help. We're also looking at other ways to use the monies that have been given to help people in the community.

Thanks again for all your support. God bless you in your ministry,

Andrew McHenry
Craig Congregational Church