



Sacramento – Fair Oaks
September 20, 2018

Dear Members and Friends,

It used to be considered innocuous and boring to talk about the weather, but not any more. Weather has increasingly inserted itself into human lives in tumultuous and threatening ways. Humanity has always lived with hurricanes, tornadoes, and typhoons, with extreme conditions in the earth's atmosphere, but they seem to have to have grown in frequency and ferocity.

These weather observations seem to curiously coincide with a similar increase in extremes in human behavior. What was once unheard of and utterly inexplicable such as suicide bombings, or school shootings have become tragically commonplace. It seems as if the storms in the "soul-atmosphere" of human beings may be fostered by the dysfunction and malaise of our modern human environment.

We may have a strong inner response to the human suffering in the aftermath of a particularly devastating weather event or a school shooting, but we generally don't feel responsible. But our own "soul-atmosphere" touches upon a sphere in which we are all connected. And what we occupy ourselves with, what we fill our souls with matters...not just for us, but for everybody. We may not materially alter the world or contribute to some disaster, but our active inner life of prayer and meditation is a priceless gift, not just for us, but for all, for the world.

Some months ago we began having Community Meetings every month to try and sustain an ongoing conversation about important matters within the life of the congregation: the conditional use permit process, renovation of our building, our financial situation, conference preparation, etc. They have been very helpful, and we have one this Sunday, September 23. And then October 21 and November 25

Please, print out the program and keep it where you can refer to it, because there is a lot in it and not everything can be mentioned here.

However, what needs mentioning is that at the end of October we will be hosting the North American Regional Board and Delegate's Meeting. Approximately 40 people will be coming, representatives from every congregation plus the Regional Board, which is the Board of Trustees for the continent-wide umbrella corporation for The Christian Community, of which each congregation is a member. We will need as much housing as possible and certainly some food! We will do some organizing for this at our Community Meeting this Sunday, September 23.

With warm greetings for Michaelmas

Sanford Miller