

FIJIAN LANGUAGE MINISTRY – REPORT 2019

After the experiences of the Coffey Park and Tubbs fires in Santa Rosa in 2017 the community rallied behind all those that suffered which brought a feeling of togetherness in rebuilding the community. Likewise, the church took a frontline effort to help those in need and the Language Ministry was there to support.

However, all the good work in rebuilding within the Ministry took a turn, and members had differing opinions in the role of the Santa Rosa First as a reconciling Church. Despite weeks of meetings and consultations and offering prayers to keep us united and consolidated, a small division having differing opinions of the Reconciling Church decided to move on and have joined other churches. We continue to pray that the rebuilding will continue to unite the ministry and the church.

We farewelled Rev Sekove Veisa in June as he had been posted to the Cal/Nev Conference Headquarters in Sacramento to work under the Executive Director of the Connectional Ministry. Senior Pastor Lori Sawdon has taken over the pastoral care for the Language Ministry preaching on the first Sunday of each month. She also has plans to meet the leaders on a regular basis and discuss relevant issues to the development of the Ministry.

The leaders continued to focus on sharing the roles of pastoral care and guidance and the welfare of the members, seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

These are some of the things we have attended as a Language Ministry:

- In January the Ministry focused on the members renewing their faith and the dedication of the leaders.
- The Ministry observed the **Christian Festivals and Dedicated Sundays** for the 1st half of the year. ie. Pentecost, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, Mothers Sunday, Fathers Sunday.
- Women from the Fijian Circle attended a Women's Retreat held in Applegate, Sacramento, from the 29th – 30th March 2019.
- Rev Sekove Veisa took up new office in the Cal/Nev Conference HQ.
- Our members were part of the combined Fijian Language choir that sang in the 2019 California/Nevada FUMC Annual Conference in Modesto.
- Three members of the Youth group will be attending a Youth (MANA) Camp in Chicago in August this year.
- There were two quarterly meetings for Cal/Nev attended by the members held the San Rafael UMC, and the second here at Montgomery Campus last Saturday 3rd July 2019.
- The Ministry were part of the combined worship service of the Cal/Nev Conference held in Centennial in March, the second to be held in Trinity UMC in Mountainview on the 21st July 2019.
- In August the combined choir will travel to Fiji, as a mission team to the Fijian Conference and the choir will also sing in the Fijian Methodist Praise Festival

I wish to thank the Senior Pastor, the FUMC Board, the office staff and members of the church and community who have contributed to make us meet our goals and keep pursuing towards the goal and be better servants of our Lord.


Epi Ratu

Vakatawa (Lay Leader)