

St Mark's Creation Care Ministry Meeting

Notes

18 January 2022

Participants: Carolyn White, CJ Beegle-Krause, Dave Menz, Emily Meeks, Judith Andrews, Kathy Minsch, Kelsey Herschberger, Lisa Graumlich, Marjorie Ringness, Richard Hartung, Ruth Mulligan, Susan Rattner, Wayne Duncan

Opening

- Marjorie read the land acknowledgement statement.
- Emily read a reflection.

Self-Introductions

- Participants provided self-introductions and also welcomed new members to the group.
- There was discussion about the topic of hope and about Jane Goodall's new book on hope.

Events (Marjorie)

- Marjorie discussed events that the Creation Care ministry helped to host that had occurred since the previous meeting in November.
- At the Sunday Morning Forum on 19 December, Doug shared poems.
- The Christmas sustainable gift list was publicized in the Cathedral Newsletter. It was conceptualized somewhat late, so the list only went out in early December. Starting work on it in October this year would be preferable. Kathy thanked CJ for the idea and Emily for the wonderful formatting. Someone asked if there was any feedback. CJ said she received a 'thank you' from some members of the congregation.
- The Creation Care Newsletter was sent out at the end of November.
- Lisa led a Forum on 2 December to discuss COP26 and the Anglican delegation to the conference. Having multiple viewpoints at the forum, from Dave and John, was beneficial. Lisa had hoped for more discussion. Lisa noted that the bishop's office has people working on COP26 and there is a network of advocacy, which she did not know about in the past. Feedback on the event was positive.
- Lisa mentioned that the presiding bishop will likely set up another delegation for COP27. Lisa will likely be at COP26 as the incoming president of the American Geophysical Union, so we should consider how to have someone else on the presiding bishop's delegation.

Advocacy (Kathy)

- A sub-group decided to get more involved with legislation, and they will meet this Friday (the 21st) at 9 am. Please contact Kathy Minsch to get the zoom link.
- Even though the legislative session is short this year, at two months, there are a lot of bills relating to climate and transportation. There are opportunities to provide input.
- Some people attended training by Earth Ministry about a week ago that explained how to provide input and advocacy for the legislative session. Kathy said we walk a thin line, as we cannot say we represent St Mark's. However, we can say we are members of St. Mark's. It is possible to comment on

legislation and to provide input from a faith perspective. You can sign up as a 'pro' or a 'con' to submit a statement and to give testimony.

- Three topics the training focused on were landowners developing riparian greenery to support salmon, a revamp of the recycling system, and affordable energy, including stopping utility shutoffs. Toxics in personal cosmetics was also discussed. There is a long list of Washington environmental issues.
- Click [here](#) to watch the video of the training, [here](#) to see Earth Ministry legislative priorities, and [here](#) to see the Washington State Legislature site with information about daily committee hearings and more.
- Ruth noted that it is surprisingly easy to register your support for a bill and spreading the word about providing input on legislation would be beneficial.
- Dave provided perspectives on legislative sessions and said he has also connected with other groups at some sessions such as Seattle City Council and Port of Seattle meetings.

Creation Care Action Group (Richard)

- The group met in early December and last week to discuss how to encourage action on creation care by the congregation.
- Richard Wesley has developed a resources spreadsheet that has links to resources and organizations related to creation care, such as energy efficiency experts and recycling locations. The spreadsheet link will be publicized to the Creation Care ministry group and to the broader congregation once it is enhanced and refined.
- The group proposed writing an article for the Creation Care Newsletter for Lent. Emily said the article can be placed in the newsletter in February.
- The group suggested hosting a Carbon Tracker workshop to explain to beginners about how to use the Tracker and then to focus on how people who want to go deeper can take action. The group is also looking into whether or how to set quantitative targets for St Mark's related to the Carbon Tracker.
- The group suggested discussing Earth Day and Lenten activities at the Creation Care ministry meeting.

Planning for 2022 (Marjorie)

- Activities that are currently planned or are on the schedule include talks by Jennifer Daugherty on 16 and 23 February, a workshop on 24 April, Belden Lane conducting workshops on the natural world on 22 and 23 April, and a session by Jerusalem Greer on 8 May. There is also a pilgrimage to Iona and the ancient missions of Britain 17-29 July.
- Marjorie noted that Lent starts on 2 March, Easter is on 17 April, Earth Day is on 22 April and Cathedral Day is on Saturday 7 May.
- Marjorie encouraged group members to think about other things to do over the next six months.
- Emily suggested that we can get involved with the gardens at Lowell Elementary. Help is needed with gardening and with birdhouses. We could also help facilitate a plant sale at St Mark's, with proceeds going to help with gardening and with teaching children about healthy foods.
- Lisa suggested organizing a longer workshop on creation care that could be 3-5 hours and that could potentially involve the diocese.
- Marjorie suggested that we go beyond Earth Day and look at how to encourage Earth Lives.
- Judy noted that the national Convention, which she is participating in, will consider a variety of resolutions. Several thousand people attend the Convention. We may want to consider providing input

to the church on some of the resolutions. Hearings are on Zoom, and anyone can attend and testify. There was discussion about providing information on carbon offsets that participants can purchase to offset emissions from their flight to Baltimore. CJ suggested looking beyond flights and including offsets for hotels or other activities. Judy observed that it is important to raise people's consciousness about climate change and have a collective impact. Ruth asked about a baptismal covenant resolution to include respecting the dignity of the earth and providing input related to creation care if there is one.

- Marjorie mentioned that the Dean brought to our attention the book *Wisdom of the Earth* by Gordon Miller, who attends St. Mark's. We could consider asking Gordon to share about this and other books at a forum sometime.

Closing

- We reviewed how our meeting touched on St. Mark's 3 Mutual Ministry Goals relating to 1) Creation Care and Carbon Reduction, 2) Restorative Justice and Systemic Change, and 3) Innovative and Intergenerational Community.
- Marjorie noted that the next Creation Care Ministry meeting will be on 15 February.
- Emily closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Richard Hartung