

CREATION CARE MINISTRY  
November 7, 2019  
6:00 pm

Agenda: Opening Prayer & Welcome – *5 minutes*

Discussion of proposed Saint Mark's Net Zero Carbon Initiative

Other business

Closing Prayer – *5 minutes*

Those present: Marjorie Ringness, Steve Thomason, Andrew Himes, Carolyn White, Ruth Mulligan, Norman LeMoine, Barbara Zito, Rachael Baker, Dee Cappelletti, Judy Armstrong, Roberta Kanive, Mark MacIntyre

Opening Prayer offered by Dean Thomason.

I. Proposal for Net Zero Carbon Initiative - Discussion led by Andrew Himes:

a. presentation of a proposal for community-based action to respond to the challenges of climate change: a proposal with the goal of developing an organic, easy, natural approach by St. Mark's community to reduce its carbon footprint. This would be an approach brought to life by St. Mark's community and reflective of our communal spiritual life.

b. Nori Project description - carbon removal "credit" of \$15/ per carbon ton supports farmers practicing regenerative agriculture.

c. Dean Thomason's review of St. Mark's efforts to support socially responsible companies and necessity of vetting investors/owners, profit status, is company a NPO? and philosophy of business culture, per Dean Thomason,

d. Review current status of Episcopal Diocese Southern Philippines project to plant trees to restore rainforest.

e. Carbon Footprint defined, and range of estimated price to offset one ton of CO2

f. pooling of resources will allow St. Mark's community to add to significant impacts, while deepening our spiritual commitments at every stage of the process

g. Critical to avoid confusion with broader stewardship at SMC

h. Steve described incorporating St. Mark's climate change "pooling of resources" into ongoing life of St. Mark's rather than undertaking a one-time campaign. He offered there could be several approaches to this: sermons, and table after services, as well as the planned forums.

II. Dean Thomason mentioned that current 2020 budget draft for St. Mark's Cathedral includes \$50,000.00 set aside for carbon reduction initiatives at the Cathedral and the St. Nicholas building. Received by all committee members as a breakthrough. \$18,000 of this budget will be used for an energy analysis by Solarc, approved by Vestry earlier this fall.

III. Open discussion by full committee:

a. Vision statement was suggested by Carolyn White as describing positive statement of what we are working to accomplish: living lightly on the earth, realizing the return of moderate weather and fewer destructive storm formations, realizing less resource depletion, less conflict over resources, less homelessness, and the return of **hope**.

b. Marjorie referenced our Mission Statement, created in September. The Vision Statement was viewed as the positive description of our mission. Goals/Objectives were reviewed as the defined steps planned for accomplishing the Vision, as well as the assumption that this would allow "measurement of outcomes." Judy advised that this thinking provided a conventional structure for functioning of committee work to be done. Judy offered to prepare a document including our mission, vision, objectives, with Carolyn White and Ruth Mulligan.

c. All scientists agree on two mandates: 1. the temperature increase must be under 1.5 degrees and 2. we must pull carbon out of the atmosphere. Our work may want to avoid controversial ideas about controlling climate change.

d. Forums are critical for education. Marjorie will set a date for our first forum. Food topics were noted as appealing to all persons. Frequency of forums - quarterly or every six months. Forums need more creative advertising to pull larger attendance.

e. General agreement and enthusiasm to include youth in St. Mark's climate change efforts. View them as full participants with significant contributions to make to committee mission.

f. Marjorie suggested including Jim Pannell, our new Director of Operations, as a participant and resource in our committee work.

Marjorie closed with Creation Care Prayer at 7:45pm.

Submitted by Roberta Kanive for additions and corrections.