

Creation Care Ministry Minutes

February 10, 2020

Attendees: Barbara Zito, Edie Weller, Karrie Sutkus, Penelope Jackson, Norman LeMoine, Lisa Graumlich, Carolyn White, Kathy Minsch, Judy Andrews, Ruth Mulligan, Kathy Sodergren, Andrew Himes, Roberta Kanive, Marjorie Ringness

Marjorie Ringness, Chair

Opening prayer offered by Ruth Mulligan at 6:05pm.

Sign-up sheets were sent around for meeting tasks, including opening prayer, closing prayer, snacks, and note taker. Another sheet was sent around for bringing items to the March 1 coffee hour, which the Creation Care Ministry is hosting. Thank you to all who signed up. And thank you to Carolyn and Norman who brought snacks for tonight's meeting.

1. MARCH 22, 2020 FORUM - Edie Weller is coordinator/facilitator. Forum to introduce Creation Care Ministry and the calling to care for environment, the earth, and the chosen focus on Climate Change.

Edie emphasized the need to lay groundwork for all that is planned for this year as Earth Day celebrates its 50th year anniversary. She will include clergy in the forum. Plans for an interview were warmly received. The goals for the forum: to bring all in attendance to a level of understanding of basic concepts around climate change; climate change is not a political issue but rather a desire to act on our belief that we are called to be stewards of God's creation - Earth. A final goal is to listen to audience and determine what they need from the committee.

Several suggestions for content: The evolution of environmental concerns to urgency of today. The effect of collective action. Lisa Graumlich offered to provide a convincing perspective on needed approaches.

2. MISSION STATEMENT REVIEW AND EDIT - Judy Andrews led the discussion. Suggestions for changes: "strive to decarbonize and reduce carbon emissions" substitute for net zero carbon emissions.

Vision statement: use active stance, "we will limit... We will strive to decarbonize."

The objectives will be reordered and one objective will be rewritten. Actions to meet objectives were discussed, and CCM is actively pursuing our objectives.

Make the deep connection of this work to our spirituality, educating members on climate change issues.

Judy will bring a revised statement to the March meeting.

3. YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITY: Karrie Sutkus reported that Nicole Silverdale will work on a Creation Lenten Calendar with current youth group. Carolyn White, Ruth Mulligan, Kathy Minsch, and Karrie Sutkus offered to prepare family creation prayers to be

available for families during Lent.

4. DRAFT OF SAINT MARK'S EDNW2020 PROJECT - presented by Lisa Graumlich, who wrote the draft. Plans for completed proposal by March 1st. Lisa was also reassuring regarding generative nature of EDNW2020, that projects have not been developed in detail. She pointed out need for intentional social equity plan to be developed by St. Mark's.

There was discussion about a possible interfaith event to be held around Earth Day 2021. Members of the former Sustainability Ministry told us about a festival with interfaith participation on environmental issues held more than ten years ago at Saint Mark's. This could possibly be a model for a follow-up gathering in 2021. The proposal was enthusiastically received and will be included in the EDNW2020 project proposal. Ruth Mulligan will be a primary resource for this project. St. Mark's has the opportunity to be a catalyst and convener for other faith communities.

Ruth Mulligan closed the meeting with prayer at 7:45pm.