

CREATION CARE MINISTRY MEETING

March 9, 2020

18 members in attendance, via Zoom

Meeting called to order by Marjorie and opening prayer offered by Roberta.

UPDATE FROM THE DEAN: Steve Thomason opened with time offered to consider questions regarding the recent vandalism/security issues and concerns regarding coronavirus.

1. He expressed his enthusiasm for the work of this committee, assuring support as he reported that 2% of St. Mark's 2020 budget feeds into carbon reduction items.
2. He referenced the planned initiative that he hopes Marjorie can present to Vestry, emanating from this group.
3. He reported an electrician is available to St. Mark's and is in process of creating 2 EV car charging stations and modifying the dryers in the vestment hallway to decrease the need for external dry-cleaning.
4. A new bike rack has been ordered and will be installed near the peace pole, on a concrete pad, which will be poured the same time a pad is poured for new memorial benches at the labyrinth.
5. The nave lighting which includes both the chandeliers and canned lights offer a sizable reduction in energy usage as they are changed out to LED theatre quality lighting—it is estimated to be a \$10,000 investment.
6. SOLARC's comprehensive evaluation of our campus recommended converting the gas water heaters to electrical heaters. There is ongoing discussion about how quickly to replace the 10-12 heaters on campus. Other recommendations undertaken in this first stage included repairing the steam traps in the St. Nicholas bldg.
7. Marjorie expressed appreciation for the consistent daily work by staff to conserve energy usage.

DRAFT OF RATHIONALE FOR ACHIEVING NET ZERO CARBON BY 2030: Discussion on a draft describing: the vision, and objectives. (see latest revision in attachments.) It was agreed that the document focuses our work, provides an opportunity in discussions to clarify many of the basic concepts, facts, developments in the public discussion of climate change.

RUTH asked that we focus on objective 4, brain storming on processes for informing the community and creating specific avenues for families to support programs that work toward social justice issues created by excess carbon emissions.

Highlights: 1.) Cathedral Day in May presents an opportunity to expose the Diocesan community to these programs/approaches to reducing carbon emission. 2.) In general, every gathering at church presents an opportunity to present information in some way about how we live our lives in ways that

preserve the ecosystems in our world. 3.) additional forums as needed. 4.) Lenten prayers to be distributed each Sunday have been prepared by Karrie during, which focus on stewardship of our world. 5.) CAROLYN listed food waste as a topic for education.

EDIE suggested that the 2-4 planned forums, the weekly church bulletin column on stewardship of the environment, the information pamphlets in the Narthex which prompt conversation, and the plans for individual contributions to line items may result in observable changes for much of the community.

KYLEE asked about creating our own website on Creation Care. This can be explored further, but we do currently have a page on the Saint Mark's website that is linked directly from the home page.

RUTH: provide concrete list of actions for persons to leave our presentation/forums with

Review of introductory forum on creation care, originally scheduled for March 22: EDIE explained what has been planned so far. It will include a conversation with Lisa and Steve. Focus on our spiritual connection to stewardship of the environment and current urgency of our environmental changes. There was much discussion with successful formatting and focus and meeting of vision and objectives!!

MARJORIE asked us to consider whether or not the order of our planned forums should remain the same, since the March 22 forum will likely be postponed. The general feeling was that we do not necessarily have to do an introduction to Creation Care before the Draw Down presentations by Scott Henson in April. We are all aware that scheduling is in flux until the coronavirus is contained.

DRAWDOWN PRESENTATIONS, originally scheduled for April 19, April 29, and possibly May 6. Scott Henson said the first forum will be a "teaser:"

5-7 min - The Challenge

20 min - The Response

15 min - Your Role

15 min - Q&A

TODD suggested asking for commitment at every session?

LISA emphasized the need to provide opportunity for people to share and discuss, which generates enthusiasm and action taking. Planning for level 3 action (with community, in addition to family and individual, generates high degree of enthusiasm.

Todd and Kylie are working with Virginia on Cathedral Day as representatives of Creation Care. They currently plan for public transportation, and the right way to do sweets and desserts.

Dismissal with prayer at 7:50pm.