

Creation Care Ministry Meeting
May 18, 2020

Present: Kylee, Todd, Carolyn, Lisa, Warren, Norman, Ruth, Kathy M., Rachel, Edie, Judy, Marjorie, and Roberta

Marjorie convened the meeting with an opening prayer offered by Lisa at 6:05pm.

Initial learnings from Draw Down presentations on May 11 and May 18 were discussed. Personal as well as community-based applications were described. There was general agreement that the committee's action plan for the summer is to focus on researching and preparing resources to meet our objectives as described in the Vision and Objectives Statement. Our focus will borrow heavily from Project Drawdown but not exclusively. We will continue to offer suggested individual behavior changes in Sundays and Beyond.

A suggestion to ask Scott Henson to give a more complete Project Drawdown presentation at a future date was greeted with enthusiasm. Perhaps as a Saturday workshop or something similar. We look forward to live forums returning at some point but will consider more Zoom forums if necessary. Marjorie is coordinating with Canon Cristi Chapman regarding Adult Formation scheduling.

We broke up into four small groups and were tasked with listing action plans and ideas for four of our objectives:

Group 1 – Edie, Norman, Rachel. Objective 1: “Make the deep connection of this work to our spirituality and develop spiritual practices that inspire and support our daily living.”

1. Compose and offer to congregation Creation-focused prayers by church season (Ordinary or “Green” time, Advent/Nativity, Lent, etc.) (similar to what Karrie created this past Lent)
2. Drawing on Celtic spirituality, offer one or more Creation-centered liturgies (perhaps from the Iona liturgical resources)
3. Develop for distribution a Creation-centered resource list, drawing on –
 - a. Celtic spirituality
 - b. Native American spirituality
 - c. Wendell Berry and other eco-spirituality writers
 - d. Selected poetry (e.g., Mary Oliver)
 - e. “Rooted and Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis” by Leah D. Schade
 - f. Link to daily meditations such as Abbey of the Arts (* Rachel has this)
4. Offer forum to expand on the Dean's theological reflection on Creation Care
Augment this with section on Scriptural connections
Weave in personal reflection component
5. Create opportunity for people to develop own Creation-centered practices, including prayer, theological reflection, etc., perhaps as part of an Advent quiet morning program...
6. Develop and offer a walking meditation as “field trip” somewhere reasonably close as opportunity to observe and appreciate Creation together. Incorporate silence (forest bathing?) and perhaps some guided fellowship/reflection at end of walk

7. Develop set of guiding questions related to care and protection of Creation for anyone to use while walking the Saint Mark's labyrinth. Could relate to seasons of year and church (questions, opening and closing prayer change periodically). Post copies in narthex for anyone to pick up.
8. Host a discussion of a selected book related to eco-theology/spirituality and have people draft spiritual practices out of this conversation.

Note from Group 1: Our conversation this time focused more on awareness and appreciation of Creation and need for care of Creation than on carbon drawdown per se.

Group 2 – Carolyn, Judy, Ruth. OBJECTIVE 2: "Educate members about the harm resulting from excessive carbon in the air and ways to reduce and offset household emissions."

1. Consider an approach for members to MEASURE and reduce their carbon footprint.
2. Repeat Drawdown presentation later. Also promote Dr. Foley's online talk.
3. Present "Awakening the Dreamer"
4. Consider offering a longer Saturday workshop (e.g., 9:00 – 2:00)
5. Ask for help in creating eye-catching marketing of our information within parish and the Diocese
6. Ask the Dean to do a longer session on Biblical tenets addressing Creation Care
7. Encourage participation in Zoom offering of Active Hope—Earth Ministry, May 31
8. Reach out to younger age groups
9. All read the same book with follow-up discussion
10. Provide and publicize a relevant podcast list for download
11. Create a Marketplace event (like Ministry Sunday) with representatives from nonprofits, social justice organizations, offset programs
12. Explore partnering with other churches or parallel organizations
13. Sponsor a forum or other gathering focused around one specific area of carbon expenditure and ways to reduce
14. Include lots of opportunities for people to talk to each other in our events
15. Co-sponsor efforts related to social justice with Justice Ministries
16. Offer a new idea each week—catchy

Group 3 – Kathy, Lisa, Warren. Objective 3: "Recognize our commitment as a unique opportunity and responsibility in our time to address the many social justice issues tied to the climate crisis."

1. Build on groups and institutions that we have existing relationships with and add climate-friendly additions.
2. Food security – shorten the supply chain of getting food to those in need (St Mary's, teen feeding program etc.)
3. Look at the health and well-being of girls and women with respect to social justice and climate change – relates to building on existing programs
4. Support/encourage climate-friendly. building materials in housing projects; for example Habitat for Humanity
5. Hold listening sessions with Justice Ministries considering possible changes that could be incorporated in each ministry to draw down carbon emissions
6. Communicate clearly on our connections to reducing our carbon footprint and how relates to social justice benefits
7. Participate in tree planting projects in underserved communities, like along the Duwamish

Group 4 – Todd, Kylee, Roberta, Marjorie. Objective 4: "Find positive ways to encourage households to reduce and offset their emissions, including an opportunity to contribute collectively to a line item in Saint Mark's budget that funds specially selected offsets and other programs that address related social

justice issues. (This item is separate from any Saint Mark's budget items to reduce carbon emissions in Cathedral facilities.)"

1. Explore how the pandemic has brought about changes in our personal behavior that are good for the climate such as minimal driving, avoiding plastic containers, gardening using regenerative processes. How can we continue these behaviors?
2. Research more carbon offset programs in different sectors, particularly ones involved in the education of women and girls.
3. Begin considering the measuring aspect of carbon reduction practices. Incorporate measuring in planning and doing activities.
4. Promote and increase awareness of Project Drawdown's 100 most effective climate change activities.
5. Create personal/informational videos to place on the Creation Care page of St. Mark's website.

We reconvened and discussed the ideas suggested by each small group. It was mentioned that, in whatever actions are taken, we should use different learning methods (written, video, etc.) and focus on things that might work specifically here at St. Mark's.

Homework: 1.) Consider what action steps are exciting to each of us and why. 2.) Suggest two steps that would begin that work and report back at the June 8 meeting. 3.) Read Dr. Foley's review and analysis of Drawdown data and action steps: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJaCMbGgmEU>

The meeting was dismissed with a prayer by Judy at 7:40pm.

Notes submitted by Roberta, Marjorie, Carolyn, Kathy M., Edie