

Creation Care Ministry Meeting
June 8, 2020

Present: Karrie Sutkus, Edie Waller, Rachel Baker, Betsy Bell, Norman Le Moine, Kylee Krida, Todd Sink, Lisa Graumlich, Ruth Mulligan, Carolyn White, Marjorie Ringness, Roberta Kanive, Judy Andrews.

Marjorie opened with a short reading by Wendell Berry, "The Peace of Wild Things."

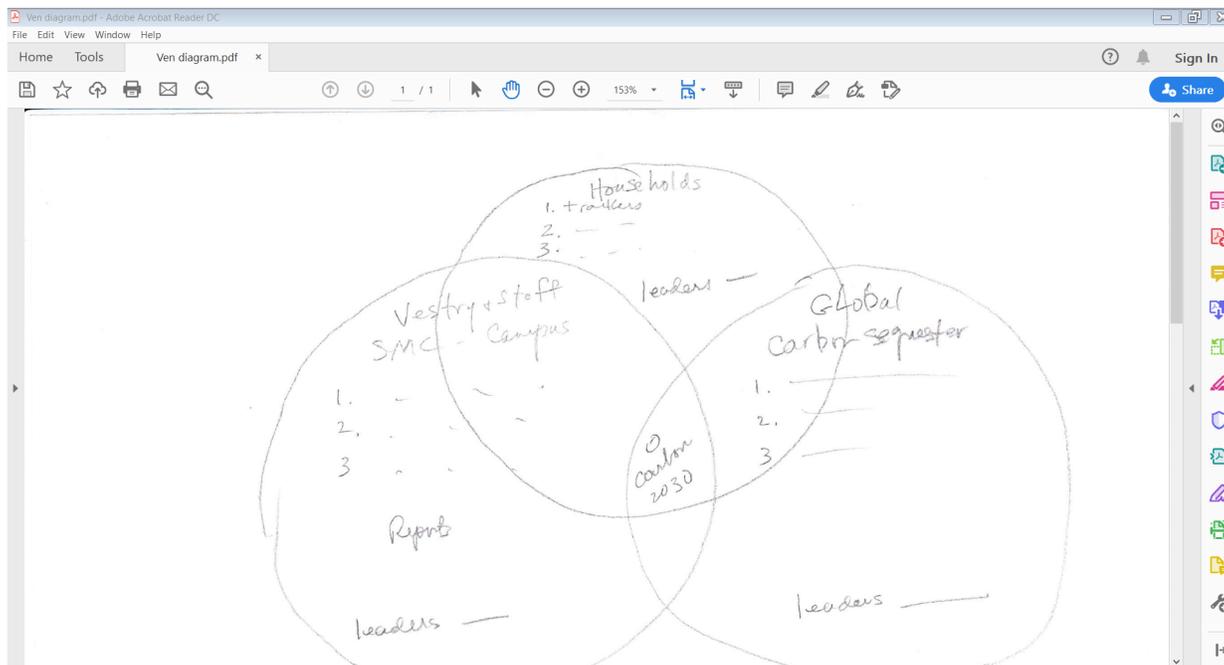
Marjorie asked that the CC Ministry consider creating small work groups, an idea previously brought up by others in our ministry. These groups would work together between our monthly meetings to accomplish more than we have been able to do so far. Suggestions for areas to focus on were:

1. considering *spiritual exercises* that help make the connection between our faith and the work to reduce our carbon footprints. Emily Meeks and Canon Cristi Chapman are currently forming a planning group for a fall formation series around spiritual practices and creation, with a meeting planned for June 25.
2. researching and becoming trained on a *measurement* tool for tracking carbon usage so we can help parishioners measure their carbon footprint. It was determined that the tool used would likely be the one available through the Episcopal Church at www.sustainislandhome.org
3. researching *carbon offset programs* and suggesting 3-5 programs to the congregation to support. We think there should be some local and some global, as well as projects on the St. Mark's campus.
4. examining personal habits around *food and energy usage* and ways to help our community reduce its carbon footprint specifically in these areas.

Lisa helped us clarify a three-layered approach:

- Individuals and families - will be supported in measuring carbon reduction practices and will create the foundation for the community's carbon reduction effort.
- At the community level - St. Mark's Cathedral and Vestry will affect reduction of carbon emissions by undertaking improvements to individual buildings on campus, as well as initiate practices during all services and gatherings that reduce carbon emissions. These changes and practices can be transparent and communicated effectively to the Diocese of Olympia.
- Global commitments - will be made to major projects that in effect decarbonize the world. These projects will change systems and continue for generations. Of interest by many is the education of girls and women.

Betsy sketched a Venn diagram as a way of viewing our work and shared it with the group on screen:



Resources for the committee's work were discussed:

- The Diocesan Tracker—a measuring device for reduction of carbon use in households throughout the Diocese.
- Other congregations engaged in Creation Care with whom to share information with. St. Andrew's was mentioned specifically.
- The Bishop's Committee on Environment.

Four work groups formed to work in the areas listed above:

1. Spiritual Practices/Education - Marjorie Ringness, Kylee Krida, Lisa Graumlich, Edie Weller.
2. Measurement tools - Ruth Mulligan, Carolyn White, Norman Le Moine, Roberta Kanive.
3. Carbon off-set programs - Judy Andrews, Betsy Bell, Roberta Kanive, Rachel Baker.
4. Personal habits around food and energy use and the impact on carbon emission reduction - Todd Sink, Karrie Sutkus, Carolyn White, Rachel Baker.

The members of these groups were asked to be in contact with others in their group before our July meeting and try to make progress in the assigned areas. They will determine who the lead person is in each group. *All others in the CC Ministry will be invited and encouraged to participate, as well.* The groups will use ideas brought up at our May meeting when we brainstormed around action items for each of the CC Ministry objectives, as well as other ideas that come up.

Edie closed the meeting with prayer.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 13, at 6:30pm.

Notes submitted by Roberta Kanive and Marjorie Ringness