

Creation Care Ministry Meeting
September 14, 2020 via Zoom

Present: Rachel Baker, Todd Sink, Kylee Krida, Lisa Graumlich, Ruth Mulligan, Marjorie Ringness, Sue Ratner, Kathy Minsch, Bryan Kapski, Norman LeMoine, Edie Weller, Carolyn White, Steve Thomason.

The meeting opened with a prayer from the Dean at 6:30pm.

Dean Thomason gave a brief report of **carbon reduction projects** that are being done around St. Mark's facilities. The current focus is on projects identified by SOLARC Energy Groups report that are "low-hanging fruit" with quick paybacks within 2 years or less. But we need to be aware of bigger, more expensive projects on our horizon.

We approved a **revision to Creation Care Objective #4** to be more clear about how parishioners will be able to donate to a fund which will then be transferred to carbon offset programs. With slightly more editing post-meeting, the objective #4 now reads: *"#4: Find positive ways to encourage households to reduce and offset their household emissions, including an opportunity to contribute collectively to a special fund at Saint Mark's that supports specially selected offset programs that address environmental and social justice issues, independent of Saint Mark's programs. (This item is separate from any Saint Mark's budget items to reduce carbon emissions in Cathedral facilities.)"*

We discussed ways in which the Creation Care ministry may be able to help St. Mark's develop **a closer relationship with the Duwamish Tribe**. We will remain open to supporting work that Vestry is doing to acknowledge our presence on Duwamish land and await more guidance from the tribe itself. The book "The River That Made Seattle" was suggested.

There was enthusiastic discussion about the possibility of a future forum series utilizing the **"Awakening the Dreamer" videos**. The link will be sent to everyone for review and further discussion. <https://landing.pachamama.org/awakening-the-dreamer-2-hour-online-course>

Marjorie asked that we consider Creation Care Ministry **budget requests** that we may want to make to the Justice Ministries Coordinating Team. The JMCT will be asking for budget requests in October or November.

Small group reports:

Edie reported that the *spiritual practices* group is ready to host two Cathedral Commons on September 16th (Gardening/Harvest) and September 23rd (Mindful Steps.) Four people in our meeting volunteered to say opening and closing prayers at the sessions. All are encouraged to attend.

Rachel reported that the *carbon offset* group continues to research carbon offset funds. The hope is to have a short list of programs for our group to review at the October meeting. And then we will be able to publicize the special carbon offset fund to the congregation in anticipation of year-end charitable giving.

The *measurement* group is meeting regularly and continues to work on getting more people signed up on the carbon tracker at www.sustainislandhome.org. They asked us to consider the idea of getting feedback from the congregation through a survey.

Although the *personal food and energy use* group has not met since our last meeting, the list they created relates to habits that are changed as a result of getting signed up on the carbon tracker and being aware of one's carbon footprint.

We watched the video from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry – Good News for All Creation:
https://vimeo.com/279072656?fbclid=IwAR3fYLM_lbgYOOm7-IOJLWZNXpgAvjcCsAa6waxOQCE0Spqpxg2sRcrXU2M

The meeting ended at 8:10pm.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 12, at 6:30pm via Zoom.

Notes submitted by Marjorie Ringness