

Creation Care Ministry Meeting
December 14, 2020 via Zoom

Present: Ruth Mulligan, Marjorie Ringness, Sue Ratner, Kathy Minsch, Norman LeMoine, Carolyn White, Edie Weller, Richard Wesley, Kylee Krida, Emily Meeks, Lisa Graumlich, Betsy Bell.

The meeting opened around 6:35pm with a reading "Greetings and Thanks For Creation." Copy is provided at the end of these notes.

Kylee and Marjorie reported that the Creation Care **survey** has been given to Greg Bloch so that he can put it into Survey Monkey. We plan to ask parishioners to take the survey between January 6-31, and hope to make it available to the Creation Care ministry members first so they can test the survey for us.

We discussed the success of the watch party last evening, in collaboration with the 20s/30s group – "**A Life on our Planet**" with **David Attenborough**. The film was well received, hopeful, and inspired a lot of conversation afterwards. Discussion included mention of the Bullitt Center in Seattle, and Emily suggested that perhaps a group from St. Mark's could do a tour when things are open again. Turns out Lisa is on the Board of the Bullitt Center and suggested that we arrange a visit with Denis Hayes, or other Bullitt Center executives sometime. Several of us have toured the Center in years past and feel that it would be a good activity for St. Mark's members to do in the future.

We discussed planning for **faith formation in 2021**. Connecting social/racial justice issues would be ideal, as well as collaborating with other groups at St. Mark's. There is an effort underway at St. Mark's to formally acknowledge our presence on Duwamish land, and there is likely a chance for good collaboration there. Kathy, Kylee, Sue, and Emily all expressed interest in being part of this discussion and planning between Creation Care and any projects with the Duwamish as that relationship develops. Ruth commented on the film "Princess Angeline" which is about the racial injustice done to the Duwamish people when the City of Seattle was settled. This film is related more to racial injustice than to climate change but may be something to consider for future viewing.

We also considered that, due to time constraints, it could be more fitting to ask that Creation Care be just a part of **Lenten offerings** this winter, rather than proposing a larger Lenten series. And these offerings may be a springboard for other activities around Earth Day (April 22). Emily will ask the Dean about the idea of the Creation Care ministry offering just a couple things during Lent and collaborating with other ministries at St. Mark's. The group that will continue this work includes Emily, Lisa, Kylee, Carolyn, Ruth, Kathy, Sue, and Edie. Edie will send out a Doodle poll to set up a meeting time.

Lisa brought up the possibility of a **carbon offset program** consisting of supporting local people who are "energy insecure," something that some of Lisa's grad students are currently working on. A local option would be a good compliment to the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Philippines program and the COTAP program. Lisa, Richard, Kylee, and Sue will do some research about programs that may provide this service and how we may be able to partner with

them.

Kathy is going to look into some tree-planting groups that she has had contact with in the past so we can consider if we would like to participate in that kind of an activity.

Emily also suggested that we consider asking parishioner Elizabeth Hawkins to speak with us about how climate change is affecting the people she works with in El Salvador.

We watched a section of the **Awakening the Dreamer** series – “What is Possible Now?” Each section of this series is so inspirational. This section especially provides hope. One line from Eric Lombardi especially stood out: “Waste is a product of bad design and bad design can be changed”

The meeting ended shortly after 8pm.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6:30pm via Zoom.

Notes submitted by Marjorie Ringness

Greeting and Thanks for Creation

Greetings and thanks to each other as people

- To the Earth, mother of all. ***Greetings & thanks***
- To all the waters, waterfalls, & rain, rivers, & oceans. ***Greetings & thanks***
- To all the fish life. ***Greetings & thanks***
- The grains and greens, beans, & berries. As one we send thanks to food plants.
Greetings & thanks
- The medicine herbs of the world and their keepers. ***Greetings & thanks***
- To all animals and their teachings. ***Greetings & thanks***
- The trees for shelter & shade, fruit & beauty. ***Greetings & thanks***
- To all birds, large and small. ***Joyful greetings & thanks***
- And from the four directions – the four winds. Thank you for purifying the air we breathe and giving us strength. ***Greetings & thanks***
- The thunderers, our grandfathers in the sky. We hear your voices. ***Greetings & thanks***
- And now the sun, for the light of a new day and all the fires of life. ***Greetings & thanks***
- To our oldest grandmother, the moon, leader of women all over the world. And the stars, for their mystery beauty & guidance. ***Greetings & thanks***
- To our teachers from all times, reminding us of how to live in harmony. ***Greetings & thanks***
- And for all the gifts of creation. For all the love around us. ***Greetings & thanks***
- And for that which is forgotten, we remember.

We end our words. Now our minds are one.