

Creation Care Ministry Meeting
January 11, 2021 via Zoom

Present: Ruth Mulligan, Marjorie Ringness, Sue Ratner, Kathy Minsch, Carolyn White, Edie Weller, Richard Wesley, Emily Meeks, Warren Wilder, Sally Maxwell, Steve Thomason.

The meeting opened with prayer around 6:35pm.

Dean Thomason made some remarks about facility improvements that were made in 2020 that resulted in carbon reduction. He expressed appreciation for the work of the Creation Care Ministry. There was some discussion about how best to foster awareness within the St. Mark's community about climate change, taking into consideration that many members of the congregation are likely not as far along in education of the subject as our Creation Care ministry members. The discussion was a reminder to us that our work must be done lovingly and in community. St. Mark's currently has about 500 pledging households and about 1,000-1,200 total households with some connection to St. Mark's.

Kathy is going to look into a City **tree-planting** program as a possible activity that can be done outside and with the broader community.

Marjorie reported that she and Carolyn, Ruth, and Kylee have made final edits to the Creation Care **survey** and have passed it along to Greg Bloch for distribution. We hope it will be available to parishioners soon, with a deadline of February 7 to complete the survey. We may need to extend this deadline if the availability of the survey is delayed.

Edie reported that a group will meet on January 25 to consider **programming** for this spring/summer. Emily has spoken with the Dean, and there are several ideas being discussed.

We spent some time reviewing the 5 Creation Care Ministry **objectives** that were developed about a year ago and the small work groups that were formed to pursue some of those objectives. Emily had suggested that we try to come up with one-word headings to each objective. Richard suggested *Connect* (to our faith), *Educate* (the congregation), *Commit* (to social justice), *Encourage* (carbon offsets), and *Engage* (in collective action). We will review the brainstorming ideas that were reported last summer around these objectives and continue this discussion at the February meeting.

We watched a section of the **Awakening the Dreamer** series – “Where Do We Go From Here?” This was the end of this series, which has been very inspirational to all of us.

The meeting ended shortly after 8pm.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 8, 2021 at 6:30pm via Zoom.

Notes submitted by Marjorie Ringness