

Creation Care Ministry Meeting
February 8, 2021 via Zoom

Present: Ruth Mulligan, Marjorie Ringness, Sue Ratner, Kathy Minsch, Carolyn White, Edie Weller, Emily Meeks, Warren Wilder, Norman LeMoine.

The meeting opened with prayer at 6:30pm. We spent a few moments sharing what some of us have read, heard, or experienced over the last month relating to Creation Care. It was suggested that we invite others on the Creation Care email list (about 50 people) to also share their interests and concerns related to creation care. This may engage more people and also bring fresh ideas to the Creation Care ministry.

Edie and Emily reported that a small group has met about **faith formation planning** related to Creation Care. Many ideas are being considered, including program materials offered by Interfaith Power & Light during April. And we plan to bring back the Lenten prayer cards from 2020. There are many other ideas also being discussed. This small group will meet again soon.

Marjorie reported that 84 parishioner households have taken the Creation Care **survey** so far. The deadline for participation is February 14. It has received strong support from Communication Director Greg Bloch and also from Dean Steve Thomason.

Ruth and Norman and Marjorie have developed a draft of a **long-range strategy** for the St. Mark's community members to achieve a net-zero carbon footprint by 2030. Related to this, Kathy and Marjorie shared the highlights of the discussion about Creation Care from the **Vestry** retreat on February 6. There is strong Vestry support for Creation Care, and the intersection between it and other justice issues and ministries is very apparent. This includes an idea that perhaps Creation Care should be included in on-going stewardship efforts. It was mentioned that the goal of the St. Mark's campus achieving a net-zero carbon footprint by 2030 is also very important and that the goals for the community and the campus can serve as an inspiration to each other. It would be good to publicize facility improvements more. And we could consider having a graph showing reductions in the overall carbon footprint of the community members, as more people sign up on the carbon tracker (www.sustainislandhome.org) We will continue the discussion of a long-term strategy as plans evolve.

Lisa asked that we keep the idea of possibly local offset programs on the agenda for the March meeting.

Kathy told us about a few **tree-planting** programs that the City offers. These can be offered to St. Mark's community members in the future as way to reduce household carbon footprints. More involvement with Green Seattle Partnership and Duwamish Alive are also possibilities as things open up post-pandemic.

Emily said via email that she will be in touch with Elizabeth Hawkins about possibly sharing with our group about how climate change is affecting people in El Salvador.

We briefly talked about the 5 Creation Care Ministry **objectives** and the small work groups that were formed to pursue some of those objectives. We have assigned one-word headers to each objective: *Connect, Educate, Commit, Encourage, and Engage*. We will continue this discussion at our March meeting.

The Creation Care webpage needs updating and ongoing maintenance. We hope to find a volunteer to lead this effort.

We watched a short video: <https://www.birdnote.org/explore/sights-sounds/video/2015/03/rules-black-birdwatcher-j-drew-lanham>

The meeting ended at 8pm.

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

Notes submitted by Marjorie Ringness