

St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
Creation Care Ministry Meeting
September 21, 2021 via Zoom

Saint Mark's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People, who are still here, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of the Duwamish Tribe.

Present: Ruth Mulligan, Marjorie Ringness, Sue Ratner, Judy Andrews, Lisa Graumlich, Carolyn White, Jim Pannell, Libby Carr, Heather Sutkus, Doug Thorpe, Norman LeMoine, Richard Wesley, Richard Hartung, Kathy Minsch, Emily Meeks, Peter McClung.

The meeting opened at 6:30pm with the land acknowledgement and a prayer offered by Ruth. Richard Hartung introduced himself since it was their first meeting with us. Lisa gave a brief review of what is expected at the upcoming 26th Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (**COP26**). Lisa has been selected to be part of the Presiding Bishop's delegation to attend virtually. Congratulations, Lisa!

Jim Pannell gave a report on **facility improvements** that have been done on the St. Mark's campus in the last several months. About \$100,000 has been spent, with approximately 80 % of that being on the St. Nicholas Building. This has mostly been on "recommissioning" work, which Jim defined as basically making the existing systems work more efficiently. St. Mark's will also be getting about \$35,000 back in rebates soon. Many improvements made on the St. Mark's grounds relating to security have been subsidized by FEMA grants.

The Creation Care Ministry will be hosting the **Sunday forum on October 3**. We had originally planned to ask Seattle Times writer Lynda Mapes to speak, but her work has taken her elsewhere this fall. Instead, Doug Thorpe will present and discuss **poetry with an autumn theme**, and there will be some time throughout for those in attendance to discuss and ask questions.

We have developed a zoom forum to take place on **Wednesday evening, September 29** for Lisa Graumlich to do a presentation about the recent report released by the Intragovernmental Panel on Climate Change (**IPCC**.) Kathy Minsch will moderate a "What can we do" segment, and there will be break-out rooms for people to discuss personal actions to be taken. Lisa will also tie the IPCC report into her upcoming participation in COP26.

A small group has met to develop a **Creation Care newsletter**. This will be a bi-monthly offering, distributed in electronic form only, on the 4th Tuesday of that month. Suggestions for content will be accepted from anyone and entered into a shared spreadsheet. An "editorial board" will determine what goes into each issue and present that draft at the Creation Care Ministry meeting. That draft will then be submitted to Greg Bloch for publication the following week. The goal is to distribute the first newsletter on October 26.

Kathy Minsch met recently with a collaborative group of churches in association with **Earth Ministry**. She will report more on this as the group becomes more active.

Libby Carr met with John Hale of **Earth Summit**, which is taking place on October 31. Libby will report more about this event at our October meeting and keep us posted on details in the meantime.

Ruth announced that the St. Mark's Community Group on www.sustainislandhome.org has now reached 100 members! A milestone to move us along our goal to 100% participation on the carbon tracker by all households by 2030.

We await more details from the clergy and staff as to possible participation in the **Blessing of the Animals service** on Saturday, October 2.

We spent a few moments discussing how our meeting tonight touched on St. Mark's Mutual Ministry Goals of 1.) Creation Care, 2.) Restorative Justice and Systemic Change, and 3.) Innovative and Intergenerational Community.

The meeting closed at 7:55 with a prayer offered by Ruth.

Notes respectfully submitted by Marjorie Ringness

Upcoming fall dates related to Creation Care:

- Wednesday, **September 29**, IPCC Forum with Lisa Graumlich. 7-8:15pm on zoom
- Saturday, **October 2** Blessing of the Animals Service. 4:30pm on the labyrinth
- Sunday, **October 3** – Autumnal poetry reading with Doug Thorpe. 10:10-10:50am in Bloedel Hall
- Tuesday, **October 19** – Monthly Creation Care Ministry meeting. 6:30 – 8:00pm on zoom
- Sunday, **October 31** – Earth Summit