



SAINT MARK'S  
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

**Saint Mark's Cathedral Creation Care Minutes**

6:30 pm November 16, 2021 via Zoom

**Members Present:** CJ Beegle-Krause, Libby Carr, Ken Diest, Lisa Graumlich, Richard Hartung, Andrew Himes, Norman LeMoine, Emily Meeks, Kathy Minsch, Ruth Mulligan, Marjorie Ringness, Heather Sutkus, Doug Thorp, Edie Weller, Richard Wesley, Carolyn White.

The meeting opened with the land acknowledgement and a welcome to Ken Diest. Ruth began with prayer. Introductions and check-in by all followed.

**Debrief on COP26:** Lisa Graumlich, as part of the Episcopal delegation to COP26, provided us with a personal account of how she with the entire group were an integral part of the events over the two weeks. Her days were lengthy, beginning about 4 am because of the time difference. She heard repeated stories from people impacted by climate change, who possessing very little political power still tried to make their voices heard by creating alliances. Lisa had a front row view, even though virtual, of how so many presenters could be scheduled. She was assigned to the Loss and Damage work group. She also received an overview of how the funding for reparations for communities already impacted by climate change was allocated and that this money was unequally distributed to the larger and wealthier countries because these had a stronger voice. Lisa experienced how effective the voice of faith communities can be, partly because the Episcopal Church has a long history of involvement with the United Nations and other governmental agencies and is a trusted entity, but also through the Morning and Evening Prayer daily sessions held for the delegates. Our church is part of the Act Alliance coalition of 137 churches which at a 2 a.m. daily briefing suggested presentations where faith groups could contribute meaningful voices. Fawn Sharp, current Vice President of the Quinault tribe and also President of the National Congress of American Indians, a voice at similar meetings for 26 years, received credentials from the U. S. Department of State as a delegate to COP26, becoming the first tribal leader elected exclusively by tribal citizens to receive diplomatic recognition from the United States. Lisa also mentioned the important work by Reverend Rachel Taber Hamilton, another delegate from this Diocese and an effective voice of indigenous people.

Lisa lamented the barely incremental progress over coal. The final wording stated the work around fossil fuels should be phased down but not eliminated. When asked about how climate change work will continue, Lisa assured us we have a very vibrant group of Episcopalians who have been - and will continue - to work on climate change. They will be wonderful advocates for care of creation at our upcoming General Convention and that Presiding Bishop Curry and his staff are integrally supportive and involved.

**December Creation Care Forums:** Wednesday December 1 is scheduled for Lisa to

report out on COP 26, as well as opportunities for discussion. This will be over Zoom. *Kathy, Libby, and Richard H. will work with Lisa on the planning; Emily is available to help as needed.*

Sunday, December 19 is scheduled for the theme of the Winter Solstice. Poetry, music, and art will be used to provide opportunities for reflection and contemplation. It will be in Bloedel Hall, with a possible Zoom option. Emily has sought photos around this theme, and Doug is identifying poems and music (he's open to suggestions). *Emily, Doug, and CJ will continue to finalize the event.*

**Sustainable Christmas list:** CJ suggested this idea at our last meeting and developed the initial draft which she and Kathy reviewed, considering suggestions that had been offered by many. They arrived at 10 items for Christmas which the group reviewed. This is part of a much longer list of products and experiences, which includes links to useful information sources and where to buy. *CJ and Kathy will finalize the list, and Emily will format and place in the Cathedral Newsletter and on our webpage.* The idea is to recommend a top 10 from the list for each season.

**Carbon Reduction Actions workgroup:** Suggested Action Items around theme of reducing carbon emissions. Small groups could be formed to have discussions quarterly. This will help provide some accountability; *Kathy, Richard W., Richard H, and Ruth plan to meet again in December to further develop this effort. Libby also volunteered. All are welcome to help.*

#### **Updates:**

The debut issue of our Creation Care Newsletter has been published. A second edition is planned for December. Ruth suggested that Doug's other essays should be made available as a blog; Marjorie added that his previous writings have been placed on our website.

We had an opportunity to hear from Andrew Himes about his involvement in understanding and promoting how our built environment contributes 40% of carbon emissions; he now has a staff position at UW as Director of Collective Impact. His work centers around measures to decarbonize buildings, tools to measure emissions from materials used and policies. He is part of a Seattle TedX Talk this Saturday, November 20.

The group decided not to meet in December since the regular meeting time falls so close to Christmas. We will stay in touch with developments via email.

The meeting concluded with a meaningful reflection on Mutual Ministry Goals.

Ruth closed the group in prayer and the meeting ended shortly after 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn White