

**Saint Mark's Cathedral Creation Care
Ministry - Meeting Notes**

6:30 pm March 15, 2022 via Zoom



Members Present: Judy Andrews, CJ Beegle-Krause, Ken Diest, Wayne Duncan, Richard Hartung, Kelsey Herschberger, Emily Meeks, Heather Millar, Kathy Minsch, Ruth Mulligan, Sue Ratner, Marjorie Ringness, Doug Thorpe, Edie Weller, Richard Wesley, Carolyn White, Deborah Brown, Jennifer King Daugherty, Wendy Claire Barrie.

The meeting opened with the land acknowledgement and then a prayer offered by Jennifer. Marjorie announced that Kathy Minsch as CC co-chair will be leading future meetings.

April 24 Forum – Jennifer, Deborah and Wendy updated us. The Visual Arts Ministry has arranged for Coast Salish artist Peter Boome to open an exhibit of his art on Sunday, April 24. This will include art specifically created for this exhibit at St. Mark's. Deborah shared her experience of discovering and then meeting with Mr. Boome and of how he makes a strong connection between spirituality, creation, and his art. Deborah is impressed with Mr. Boome's talent of clearly expressing and communicating these connections. Our Creation Care Ministry will collaborate with the Visual Arts Ministry to plan the forum for that morning. This will likely be a presentation by Mr. Boome with a Q&A to follow. There will also be a reception after the 11am service, which is being organized by the VAM. A planning group will meet separately to work out the details for the 10am forum.

Carbon Reduction Actions Group: Report from Richard Hartung. This group meets monthly on second Wednesdays 3-4 pm on Zoom and any are welcome to join the discussion. Dean Thomason has agreed to produce a short video about Creation Care and to encourage use of the carbon tracker, which should be ready just before Earth Day in April. The group has had some success in getting more people signed up on the carbon tracker at www.SustainIslandHome.org by personally asking people to join, and we were all reminded to each ask at least one person to sign on. Richard Wesley shared a spreadsheet he has been working on with resources for taking action. Wendy suggested that the Creation Care Ministry have an area at **Cathedral Day** with information about signing on to the carbon tracker. Wendy also said that Cathedral Day is beginning to take on a Creation Care theme. (Yay!)

Legislative Advocacy Group: Report from Kathy. The short 2-month legislative session ended March 10. Earth Ministry's top 3 priority bills on Salmon Recovery, Energy for All and the Renew Act did not pass but will be taken up again in the 2023 session. However, the good news is bills on kelp conservation and production, methane reduction from landfills, greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, and improving the regulation of toxic chemicals, as well as the large transportation package including climate change actions did pass. A short list of

key bills and their outcomes is at the bottom of these notes. Kathy thanked everyone in the group for supporting various bills. She will reconvene the group in the fall to plan how to best engage in the 2023 6-month legislative session. Anyone is welcome to join.

Lowell Elementary School Projects – Report from Emily. There has been activity around birding and gardening at the school, with the St. Mark's Habitat for Humanity group building birdhouses for the children. The 20s30s group has also been involved. Children's books about birding have been donated, and the local Wild Birds Unlimited is interested in collaborating and providing education resources as needed from Lowell. There will be a group gardening project at the school this Saturday, March 19 from 11-2 to spread mulch in the garden beds. Contact Emily or Cherie Bradshaw to get more involved with this work. Doug considered that perhaps the **Gaza Water Project** work could be shared with the children at Lowell Elementary.

Nurturing Roots Farm – Emily is working with Valerie Reinke and Diocesan Young Adults to host a farm-to-table dinner at the farm in Beacon Hill later this summer. It's great to be continuing and strengthening this relationship with the farm.

Leffler Garden – Marjorie reported that Keiko Marayuma, who has created a lovely garden in the yard, would like help in managing and growing this project. Keiko's hope is to produce food for a local food bank, possibly Edible Hope at St. Luke's in Ballard, as well as to have a pollinator garden for the local bees. The installation of a drip irrigation system is likely very important to the success of the garden.

Marjorie is gathering volunteers for this project, and everyone is welcome to be involved. Keiko will do a tour for those interested within the next couple of weeks. Keiko has also said that our local beekeepers would like more help with the **bees**.

Newsletter – Emily reported that the next issue will be sent out the week of April 18, prior to Earth Day.

Plastics Treaty – CJ reported that 175 countries have signed a treaty to reduce plastics. The countries are meeting and plan to have a policy in place by 2024. See more details [here](#). Also, in April, the Diocese is hosting a showing of the film *The Story of Plastic* through Meaningful Movies with a panel discussion following. More about that [here](#).

Travel carbon offset policy – Marjorie shared a draft of a policy for eventual presentation to Vestry. There was discussion about the need to raise additional funds for trips like pilgrimages. And also discussion about the ability for individuals to offset their personal carbon footprint relating to other activities, as well as travel. The draft will be sent out to all in attendance of this meeting to review more carefully. There is support to move forward with this effort.

Upcoming Events related to Creation Care:

- Saturday, March 19 – Lowell garden work party
- Wednesday, April 20 – Middle East Children's Alliance - Maia project about the need for clean drinking water in Gaza
- April 16-22 – Diocesan hosted viewing of film *The Story of Plastic* with panel discussion on April 22. Register [here](#).
- Friday/Saturday, April 22-23 – Workshop with theologian and author Belden Lane. Register [here](#).
- Sunday, April 24 – Creation Care Forum with artist Peter Boome
- Sunday, May 8 – Culmination of Good News Gardens visit to Diocese, with forum at St. Mark's
- Wednesday evening, May 11 – Clothing and Sustainability Forum with Clara Berg

Group discussion - Kathy invited meeting attendees to offer comments, ideas. She also asked if everyone was supportive of extending future meetings to 8:15 to allow more discussion time. No one objected.

Mutual Ministry Goals - The reflection of how this meeting touched on St. Mark's Mutual Ministry Goals was full of examples and very inspiring to this note taker. Kathy encouraged us all to attend the **Sunday morning forum on April 27th** when the Vestry will lead a discussion about these Mutual Ministry Goals.

Closing prayer offered by Carolyn.

Next meeting is Tuesday evening, April 19, 6:30- 8:00(ish) via zoom.

Notes compiled by Marjorie Ringness

2022 Legislative Session Bill Outcome

For a few key bills related to climate change and habitat

Successful Bills

HB 1694 – PFAS
 SB 5042 – GMA loopholes
 SB 5974/HB 2119 Transportation Package
 SB 5619 Kelp Forest Conservation/Restoration
 HB 1663 – methane emissions from landfills
 SB 5722 – reducing greenhouse gas emissions in buildings

Unsuccessful Bills

SB 5727/HB 1838 – Lorraine Loomis Act – salmon recovery through riparian restoration
 SB 5697 – Renew Act
 HB 1490 – Energy for All
 HB 1099 – climate response and GMA
 SB 5703 – Toxic Free Cosmetics
 SB 5885 – Marine Shorelines mapping

For more information on a bill of interest, go to this link and enter just the bill number (don't use HB or SB) <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>