

Creation Care monthly meeting

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

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: Judy Andrews; Libby Carr; CJ Beegle-Krause; Elizabeth Clark Sterns; Wayne Duncan; Richard Hartung; Kelsey Herschberger; Emily Meeks; Kathy Minsch, co-chair and facilitator; Ruth Mulligan; Sue Ratner; Edie Weller; Carolyn White.

Kathy opened with the Land Acknowledgement and Edie followed with an Opening Prayer.

The group was then invited to offer a response to this question: What was your favorite nature experience this summer?

Retreat:

Kathy reviewed the planning for an in person Creation Care Retreat on October 15th at Diocesan House, the beautiful, historic building 2 doors east of the Cathedral on 10th. The focus for this, the first of two planned Retreats, will be for team building and acknowledgement of the environmental reality we are living into. If weather permits, we will be able to go outside for breaks and/or prayer in garden/lawn above the Green Space below. Stephen Crippen, priest in the Diocese and formerly on SMC staff has agreed to facilitate.

Actions Team:

Richard Hartung, chair of the Carbon Tracker Actions Team which focuses on household action items (see: www.sustainislandhome.org) by which we can, in community, address shared environmental concerns. At our recent meeting, it was proposed and Richard will facilitate some "story telling" by which various individuals will mention recent actions made to reduce personal carbon emissions. The first of these will appear in Oct. Upcoming topics of the monthly Climate Conversations are: October: Transportation; November: Personal Investing; December: Sustainable gifts; January: Legislative Advocacy. The suggestion was made to provide a reminder link for each discussion, perhaps "day of."

Budget:

Dean Steve is reaching out to church ministries requesting that each submit Budget requests for 2023 by October 4. Our previous allocation was \$1,900 including a \$1,000 contribution to Earth Ministry, \$400 for films, \$500 for miscellaneous. We are reallocating up to \$460 towards the fall Retreat (\$360 for facilitation services plus \$50-\$100 for food depending on number of participants). We also spent \$276 for irrigation in the Leffler Garden, leaving somewhere between \$150-\$200 for the rest of 2022. Without further suggestions, i.e., renting a film, inviting a guest speaker, etc., we will request the same amount. A couple films were mentioned as possibilities to be seen in community: *Journey into the Universe* (Ruth) and the newest Michael Moore film (Elizabeth).

Carbon Offset Policy

Kathy and Emily updated the group about the status of the Carbon Offset Policy recommendation which the Vestry approved at its August meeting. Carbon Offset is a means by which monetary contributions can be made to two agreed upon funds to "offset" the carbon which would be emitted when SMC staff must travel to carry out church responsibilities. The Vestry requested that the Creation Care Ministry include a progress report on measures such as dollars contributed for what travel. Emily was very affirmative about this Resolution because its intent aligns with upcoming regional Convention resolutions as well as Episcopal Church USA Convention recommendations that address carbon reductions/climate change. She also noted that this will take time to fully include in the annual Cathedral budget.

General convention resolutions and Diocesan resolutions related to Creation Care.

The Diocese of Olympia Convention theme is "Encountering Jesus in the Garden." The Diocesan Climate Justice group has proposed 2 resolutions:

- Create a Season of Creation to be the theme between Sept 1 and Oct. 4th, St. Francis Day.
- Submit a Creation Justice pledge for churches to study, reflect and act upon.

The Episcopal Church USA has adopted 9 Creation Care related resolutions at general convention including:

- Achieve Net Carbon Neutrality by 2030

- Implement a positive investment strategy to fund methods of capturing and storing greenhouse gases through sustainable nature-based, land management solutions such as afforestation and regenerative agricultural practices
- Establish and coordinate shareholder investment strategies around carbon-intensive lending, identifying banks and financial lending institutions that are carbon-intensive lenders and initiate the appropriate shareholder strategy with these institutions to slow global warming
- Encourage greater utilization of virtual meetings in church gatherings

Judy Andrews will provide links to these and the remaining 5 to be included in the next email update with the minutes.

Kathy provided the group an opportunity to speak to Creation Care related topics of interest to them. Libby mentioned the *Tools to Spread Climate Activism* available on the Creation Care section of Justice menu on SMC website. Carolyn was excited about having attended virtually a *Strategies and Solutions to Save the Coolest Planet in Universe* session as part of Climate week in NYC, partially sponsored by Drawdown.org and suggested we look at the current Drawdown.org site. It has a 6 unit video series called Climate Solutions 101, from which she assumes some of the content she heard was taken.

Kathy asked for volunteers to staff our Creation Care Ministry table at the back of the Nave this coming Sunday September 25th. Carolyn and Libby volunteered for between the 2 services and after the 11. Kathy will fill in as needed.

In our closing review of how our discussion touched on our Mutual Ministry Goals, three or four mentioned that all the goals had been referenced. The introduction of resolutions at both regional and national levels spoke quite specifically to Creation Care and Carbon Reduction.

Carolyn offered a closing prayer.

Respectfully offered,

Carolyn White

Next Meeting Tuesday, October 18