

**St. Mark's Cathedral Creation Care Ministry monthly meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 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 all the Coast Salish tribes.*

Present: Kathy Minsch (facilitator), Marjorie Ringness, Ruth Mulligan, Richard Hartung, Sue Ratner, Carolyn White, Guy Oram, Richard Wesley, Emily Meeks, CJ Beegle-Krause, Jennifer King Daugherty.

Jennifer opened with the Land Acknowledgement and an opening prayer, and led us in an check-in question and spiritual reflection – What are you noticing in spring and how God is revealed in Creation and in ourselves?

Kathy and Marjorie reported on the **Creation Care retreat** held on March 4. 12 were in attendance, with the Rev. Stephen Crippen facilitating discussions and brainstorming sessions. Two main action items came out of the retreat: 1.) To offer a spiritual reflection/sharing at the beginning of each of our monthly meetings, and 2.) Make a strong push to improve the health of the St. Mark's Greenbelt. Many other ideas were also brought up. Refer to the prioritized list of ideas generated as potential for happening this year at the bottom of these notes. *Kathy and Marjorie are seeking volunteers* as these are in addition to what we are already working on. Also, the intent is to rotate the offering of a spiritual reflection after the opening prayer and check-in question at each meeting, Jennifer has offered to help with ideas for this. Carolyn White has volunteered to lead this at the April meeting. Richard Hartung and Ruth both asked if discussions at the retreat included mention of how we want to relate to the 2030 goal. But this was not the focus of this retreat. It was suggested that we talk more about carbon neutrality for the congregation in future discussions.

Richard reported on the work of the **Actions Group**, which meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 3pm, via [zoom](#). *All are welcome to attend anytime* and can contact [Richard](#) with questions. We continue to host monthly [Climate Conversations](#) but have found that the second Tuesday time is conflicting more and more with other St. Mark's offerings that are very popular with parishioners. After much discussion, we determined that *Climate Conversations would move to the second Thursday of each month, beginning in May.* Richard is also reaching out to other ministries to inquire about how to introduce *Climate Conversations* and the [carbon tracker tool](#) to more people. We are also talking about providing opportunities for people to share and celebrate the actions they are taking. This may be part of the Sunday forum on April 23 and could be an occasional event.

Kathy asked if people would be willing to also change the date of our monthly meeting from third Tuesdays to third Thursdays, given that Centering and occasional Taizé prayer services are now every Tuesday evening at 7 pm. After much discussion, it was decided to keep our monthly ministry meeting on third Tuesdays.

Kathy gave an update of bills relating to the environment moving through the **Legislature**. Although it is disappointing that the WRAP Act has not progressed, parts of it remain under consideration. And many other bills are still moving through the process. Contact [Kathy](#) if you would like to be added to the Legislative Advocacy group and receive email updates.

Marjorie said there is nothing new to report about the development of a **Creation Care Commitment/Pledge**, as encouraged by Diocesan Resolution #4 adopted at this past fall's convention. The April 23 forum may include an introduction to the community of this concept. Contact [Marjorie](#) if you'd like to participate in this continuing conversation.

**Cathedral/Earth Day** is Saturday, April 22. Adrienne Elliott of the Diocesan Creation Care Advisory Committee met with Canon Wendy Claire Berry recently, and several activities are being considered, including walks through the Greenbelt. At Dean Steve's request, Kathy will be asking someone at the city to clean up the trails and woods, so that it is safe for people to walk in for tours on Cathedral/Earth Day. The next step will be to work with the city's Green Seattle Partnership on organizing work parties to remove invasives and plant natives. Stay tuned and contact [Kathy](#) if you would like to help in this effort.

Those who attended the *Earth & Spirit* forum this past Sunday with Gordon Miller commented about how inspirational Gordon's presentation was. It would be great to hear more from Gordon at another time.

The Creation Care Ministry will have an **informational table in the back of the nave** this coming Sunday. Please let [Marjorie](#) know if you can help by simply being present at the table to answer questions.

Marjorie reported that the Diocesan Advisory Committee for Creation Care is hosting a presentation with John Kydd and Lisa Graumlich about their experiences at **COP27** on Wednesday, April 5, with a follow-up presentation connecting this work to the Diocesan Creation Care resolutions on Wednesday, April 19. We are encouraged to attend. Register for the April 5 event [here](#) and for the April 19 event [here](#).

The group spent a few minutes reflecting on how our meeting tonight touched on St. Mark's Mutual Ministry goals of 1.) Creation Care and Carbon Reduction, 2.) Restorative Justice and Systemic Change, and 3.) Innovative and Intergenerational Community.

Kathy closed with prayer.

**Next Meeting Tuesday, April 18, 2023**

Minutes submitted by  
Marjorie Ringness & others present

**See next page for several upcoming dates to remember:**

Wednesday, April 05, 7:00pm –Diocesan forum on COP27 with John Kydd and Lisa Graumlich. Information and registration for the zoom link [here](#).

Wednesday, April 19, 7:00pm –Diocesan forum with John Kydd discussing Creation Justice resolutions. Information and registration for the zoom link [here](#).

Saturday, April 22 – [Cathedral/Earth Day](#) Register to receive a free food voucher.

Sunday, April 23, 10:10am, Bloedel Hall – Intergenerational Forum with Creation Care

Sunday, April 30 – Earth Ministry Gala in Bloedel Hall. Register to attend [here](#).

Friday, May 5, 6:30pm – Washington Conservation Action event. Info and tickets [here](#).

Wednesday, May 17, 6:45pm – Rogation Day liturgy.

**Excerpt from Notes for Creation Care Ministry Retreat 2 March 4, 2023  
Envisioning Our Journey for 2023 and Beyond**

<u># of votes</u>	<u>SMART Goal Ideas Generated at the March 4 Creation Care Retreat</u>
XXXXXX	Ridwell – discount for family signups, SMC as site for Ridwell pickup
XXXX	Improve health of Greenbelt
XXXX	Community dinner w/ sustainable food & conversation
XXX	Educ. event: forest stewardship program – connect with Rogation Sunday
XXX	Larger compost bin in Leffler garden
XX	Water: local program engagement & Gaza
XX	Youth-led creation hike – creation & habitat enhancement
XX	Increase number of people actively engaged in Creation Care Min. (<=40)
X	Increase number of people/families doing carbon offsets
X	Another community event in fall
X	Analyze carbon reduction in specific St. Mark’s Cath. ministries
X	Host forum on composting
	Quantify carbon reduction on campus