

St. Mark's Cathedral Creation Care Ministry monthly meeting
Tuesday, April 18, 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, CJ Beegle-Krause, Elizabeth Clark-Stern, Edie Weller, Arthur Lee, Amelia Brandt, Wendy Claire-Berry.

Kathy opened with the Land Acknowledgement and Edie followed with an opening prayer. Kathy led us in a check-in question– What is one thing that has brought you joy this Easter/Spring season? Carolyn offered a spiritual reflection, based on an essay about Kenneth White in J.P. Newell's book *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul*. Carolyn encouraged us all to consider 3 steps suggested by White: 1.) Rediscover the Earth, see the world as a sacred text 2.) Re-wording the world, retaining communication between human/non-human alive, meditative listening is one way, 3.) Be open to new ways to be in relationship with the Earth. We shared a few minutes of quiet meditation.

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](#) which will be moving to the second Thursday of each month, beginning in May. April's Conversation about Recycling with a representative from Recology was an excellent presentation – video and resources will be available on the [Climate Conversations page](#) soon. Richard has reached out to other ministries to inquire about how to celebrate actions people are taking to care for creation. Stories can be told, on the Creation Care webpage and other places, as a way to build community and encourage more actions. Field trips have been suggested, and several people offered ideas.

Kathy gave an update on key environmental bills that have passed or are moving through the **Legislature**. The session is in its last week, which is when final passage (or not) of policy bills and negotiations occur, then successful bills are sent to the Governor for signature. Members are also negotiating and voting on the capital and operating budgets. Priority bills passed so far include HB 1181 adding climate change policies and planning requirements to the Growth Management Act, HB 1047 the Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act, SB 5433 on removal of derelict aquatic structures, and HB 1085 on reducing plastics pollution. Another bill of interest still under consideration would create a Climate Corps, comprised of young adults and veterans. Once again, the WRAP Act which would shift the state's recycling system to producer responsibility did not pass, but will be revisited next session. Contact [Kathy](#) if you would like to be added to the Legislative Advocacy group and receive email updates.

The **COP27 forum** hosted by the Diocese with John Kydd and Lisa Graumlich on April 5 was very informative. A recording of the zoom conversation can be viewed at the Diocesan page [here](#) and will

be added to the St. Mark's Creation Care page soon. The follow-up conversation scheduled for April 19 was postponed, and a new date will be announced soon.

Arthur Lee provided some information about **Taizé** at St. Mark's. The offerings have a seasonal theme and the next Taizé will be on Tuesday, May 9 with an Easter/Creation theme. The main contacts for the service are [Michael Seewer](#) and Hannah Hochkeppel. Taizé has a very long history and can be an ecumenical offering. Arthur encouraged us to participate in the May 9 service and several volunteered to help. Arthur also provided several links about Taizé for our review: [Taizé and Ecology](#), [general information about Taizé](#), and [Taizé at St. Mark's](#).

Kathy provided an encouraging update about the **Greenbelt**. She was able to tour the greenbelt with Robert Hayden, one of 2 long-time forest stewards for the area and a member of St. Mark's community. 400 plants have been planted just this past winter. Although planting season is coming to an end soon, clean-up and trimming are a continual process. Let [Kathy](#) know if you are interested in being involved with greenbelt work. Although unsheltered individuals occasionally camp in the west side of the greenbelt, the trails and area on the south side are currently clean and in good shape for use on Cathedral Day.

Wendy provided an update and information about [Cathedral Day](#) this Saturday, April 22. The baptismal promise to be used for the confirmation service will include a promise to care for creation! The theme is *Living Water* and activities will include many things relating to Creation Care. Our Creation Care Ministry will have an info table. We will need volunteers to help staff this table, as well as be available to show the Leffler Garden to visitors. Please contact [Marjorie](#) if you can help with this.

Wendy also encouraged us all to attend **this Sunday's forum**, where there will be a discussion about how all ages can be involved in caring for creation.

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.

Eddie shared a closing prayer.

Next Meeting Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Minutes submitted by
Marjorie Ringness & others present

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 30 year Birthday Celebration in Bloedel Hall. Register to attend [here](#).

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

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