

St. Mark's Cathedral Creation Care Ministry monthly meeting
Tuesday, May 16, 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, CJ Beegle-Krause, Elizabeth Clark-Stern, Edie Weller.

Kathy opened with the Land Acknowledgement and an opening prayer. Kathy led us in a check-in question— What is one thing that has made you appreciate nature in the past month?

Elizabeth offered a spiritual reflection, with material from The Gospel of the Beloved Companion - <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9732766-the-gospel-of-the-beloved-companion>. We shared about the meaning of the 8 boughs of life described in the reading.

Many people commented about how meaningful the Taizé service was earlier this month. This service had a Creation Care theme, and the link to view the livestream can be seen [here](#). Organizer Arthur Lee expressed his gratitude in an email and commented: *"The service planning team agreed it was a beautiful service, flowing and peaceful. All tied together. Readings and prayers were very strong, clear and meaningful. Great singing."* Thank you to Kathy for leading the selection of readings and to those who participated.

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](#), with the next one to be held on Thursday, June 8 – *Practical Ways to Use Renewable Energy*. Video and resources from the May Conversation will be posted on the [Creation Care webpage](#) soon. In addition to those attending the Conversations, we have learned that the number of viewings of the recordings has been between 5-12 for each. The next issue of the Creation Care **newsletter** will be out within about a week. Thank you to everyone who contributed something for this issue. Greg Bloch, Communications Director has commented *"I think the Creation Care newsletter is such a model for other cathedral ministries."* And that the "open rate" for this quarterly newsletter is 67%, which is very high. **Field trips** are being considered – to the Cedar River watershed, Skagit Valley farms, and the Seattle recycling plant. The idea of **people sharing stories** about actions they are taking to care for creation is being developed. Thank you to Richard for all the effort he has put into all these projects.

Tent City 3 will be visiting St. Mark's again this summer, and various ministries are being asked to help with a Sunday evening meal. Marjorie will let Deborah Persons know that the Creation Care Ministry will provide a small group to help, but on a date later in the summer.

Kathy is reaching out to other St. Mark's ministries to form a planning group for the **Greenbelt**. She is also asking Robert Hayden if he can do a Wednesday evening forum to reintroduce the community to the Greenbelt.

Marjorie gave a brief update on the **Leffler Garden**, provided by Norman LeMoine. There have been some work parties and things planted, and the garden is thriving under the care of Norman, Keiko Maruyama, and others.

We are all reminded to attend the **Rogation Day Liturgy** Wednesday evening, May 17.

We discussed the **summer meeting calendar**. We will meet on June 20 but will plan to skip the July meeting, and have a social gathering in August, on our usual meeting date August 15. Mark your calendars!

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.

Marjorie shared a closing prayer.

Next Meeting Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Minutes submitted by
Marjorie Ringness & others present