

**St. Mark's Cathedral Creation Care Ministry monthly meeting Notes**  
**Tuesday, April 16, 2024, Cathedral House 210 and on 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.*

Attending: In person - Kathy Minsch, Marjorie Ringness, Ruth Mulligan, Edie Weller, Elizabeth Clark-Stern. On Zoom - Richard Hartung, Carolyn White, Doug Thorpe, Judy Andrews, Sallie Crotty

Kathy opened with the Land Acknowledgement. Elizabeth shared an opening prayer and a spiritual reflection from the book, *Eco Spirituality* by Dirud Murchu. Elizabeth's reflection provided an inspiring message, especially with regard to Indigenous Peoples and their gift of intimate connection with the earth.

We continued our review of [Saint Mark's new 2024 Strategic Plan](#), first taking turns reading Themes 4, 5 and 6. Then we brainstormed ideas with an eye towards planning for the 2024-25 program year. Many of these were inspired by the Rooted in Spiritual Practices theme, with connections to the other 5 themes.

- Revisit how to dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery as inspired by Rachel Taber-Hamilton. Read Sarah Augustine's *The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery*. Partner with the Duwamish subcommittee of the Restorative Justice Council in connecting with the Duwamish Tribe. Connect with WA Conservation Action.
- Pilgrimage nature walks – to old growth trees in West Seattle's Schmitz Park, to famous trees in Seattle, visit the Troll at Lincoln Park beach. Include some time in silence for these walks. Include some scripture and/or poetry, possibly Eucharist outside. Book resources include *Street Trees of Seattle* and *Trees of Greenlake*.
- Talk with Worship Committee about having a Season of Creation in the fall. Consider resources from The Episcopal Church.
- Plan an intergenerational forum or gathering on how to create prayers to/from Creation. Could distribute these prayers in pocketbook form to carry. Or possibly display them in the nave (with art?) or somewhere accessible.
- At Ministry fair, add a ritual of praying with a stone, then drop in a container of water.
- Prayer service in the Greenbelt – during Earth month or Season of Creation.
- Work with the city to encourage people to remove ivy from trees on their property and/or local green spaces/parks.
- Outreach to Lowell Elementary
- Stewardship – Investment DiscussionGroup

Richard provided an update on the work of the **Actions Group**. Monthly *Climate Conversations* continue on Zoom on second Thursdays. Creation Care newsletters will move to semi-annually, with the next editions coming out in early September and late February. Richard mentioned 2 possible activities to consider: 1) a 3-hour [Climate Fresk workshop](#), (Richard is a trained facilitator) and 2) a 4.6 km (2.8 mile) guided [Deep Time Walk](#) that looks at development of the earth, and climate change over 4.6 billion years. Both activities would have a creation care framework. We will continue to explore these options.

We determined the May meeting should be changed so that it does not conflict with the [Interfaith Taizé Service on May 21](#). We decided that in place of our monthly meeting we will encourage attendance at the [Meaningful Movies event](#) *Covenant of the Salmon People*, sponsored by the Diocese on May 14. More details to follow.

Kathy closed the meeting with a prayer.

#### **Upcoming Dates to remember:**

- Saturday **April 20** – St. Mark’s Greenbelt Work Party  
<https://seattle.greencitypartnerships.org/event/map/> and search for St Mark’s
- Saturday, **April 27** – [Cathedral Day](#) at St. Mark’s
- Sunday, **April 28**, noon - Discussion of *The Letter* with Jim Antal and Anna Johnson at 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church. <https://firstchurchseattle.org/events/activating-faith-communities-for-climate-justice-meaningful-movies-at-first-church-seattle-sunday-april-28-at-noon/>
- Wednesday, **May 8** – [Rogation Day Procession & Liturgy](#) at St. Mark’s
- Thursday, **May 9** – [Climate Conversation](#) on Zoom only
- Tuesday, **May 14** - [Meaningful Movies event](#) *Covenant of the Salmon People*, sponsored by the Diocese
- Thursday, **May 16** – Earth Ministry event [The Animals’ Lawsuit Against Humanity](#) in Bloedel Hall

- Notes submitted by those in attendance

**Next meeting Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – [Diocesan online event only](#)**