

St. Mark's Cathedral Creation Care Ministry monthly meeting
Tuesday, October 17, 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, Marjorie Ringness, Sue Ratner, Ruth Mulligan, Elizabeth Clark-Stern, Libby Carr, Carolyn White, Richard Hartung, Devin Pulliam, Alexandra Thompson. Joshua Liljenstolpe.

Kathy opened with the land acknowledgement. Elizabeth offered an opening prayer. We spent a few minutes introducing ourselves to Alexandra and sharing one thing in nature we've enjoyed recently.

Libby offered a spiritual reflection, centered on her development of the tool *Becoming A Climate Activist*. (Attached at bottom of these notes.) She spoke of "her angel" and that we all have an angel, if we "just be quiet and listen."

Vestry member and **Strategic Planning Committee** Co-Chair Alexandra Thompson shared the work of the Committee to develop a plan for 18-24 months. The plan will begin early in 2024 after approval by the Vestry at their retreat. Our Creation Care Ministry was asked to consider 3 questions: 1.) What are the gifts that the Creation Care Ministry has/offers/brings? 2.) What changes or ideas could create new opportunities of transformation for this ministry? 3.) What resources or support are needed to deepen and expand our ministry as a source of transformation in the next 18-24 months? *Notes from this discussion are at the end of these minutes.*

We talked about the **October 8 Sunday forum** [Finding Hope in a World of Climate Change](#). It was attended by about 25 people, and many appreciated recognizing the connection of the climate crisis to our faith. Thank you to Elizabeth for leading this forum. The recording is available on the [Creation Care Ministry webpage](#).

Kathy reported on Saint Mark's involvement with the **Seattle Clean Building Accelerator Program**. Kathy, Ruth Mulligan, Judy Andrews, Erik Donner, and Steve Thomason are attending workshops sponsored by the City of Seattle to help our campus become carbon neutral by 2030. The Dean has asked the Creation Care Ministry to take a strong leadership role in this work.

Richard reported on the work of the Actions Group. Monthly [Climate Conversations](#) are continuing, and Richard asked us to share ideas for future topics. We continue to ask people to contribute to the [story sharing project](#) and have specifically invited the clergy and vestry to submit a story. We will send an invitation to other ministry leaders in January/February, asking them to encourage members to share their stories. **Field trips** are being considered to a

recycling facility in January/February, a farm visit in April/May, Cedar River watershed in the summer. Anyone interested in helping with the plans for these projects is welcome to attend the Actions Group meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 3pm, via [zoom](#). The group will meet next on November 8.

Kathy reported on the October 14th **Greenbelt** work party. It was a good time working outdoors. The group – 3 Saint Mark's members, 4 community members and 3 forest stewards – mostly focused on a section by the parking lot since it was so wet at the bottom of the ravine. Future work party dates are set for 10/28, and 11/18, and additional dates may be added if plants become available for planting. The hope is that more from our congregation will volunteer. Sign up [here](#). Guy Oram and Kathy Minsch are helping to coordinate and lead St. Mark's volunteers.

The **Creation Care Ministry will meet in person on a quarterly basis**, beginning with the meeting on November 21. We will meet in CH210, and Marjorie is checking about offering this meeting in a hybrid format.

Upcoming events:

- [Duwamish Alive!](#) On October 21.
- [Greenbelt Work Parties](#) on October 28 and November 18.
- [Climate Conversation](#) on November 9 – *Celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with a Creation Care Mindset.*

Click on the links for details.

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.

Elizabeth shared a closing prayer.

Next meeting Tuesday, November 21, 2023 – in person/hybrid in CH210

Minutes submitted by
Marjorie Ringness & others present

Strategic Planning Questions and Responses:

1.) What are the gifts that the Creation Care Ministry has/offers/brings?

- Breadth of sharing on our webpage
- True reverence for nature and planet
- Strengthening faith through creation
- Provide a platform for action
- Active group with people willing to step up
- Our connection to Earth Ministry/WAIPPL

2.) What changes or ideas could create new opportunities of transformation for this ministry?

- More spiritual opportunities, field trips, awareness of divine
- More involvement from younger people
- See the Cathedral as more of a resource for the Diocese
- Focus on what we have to offer other ministries and partner with them. Meet people where they are rather than expect them to attend our meetings. Develop and deepen relationships.
- More interaction with the Jewish and other faith communities
- Explore use of more social media tools to connect

3.) What resources or support are needed to deepen and expand our ministry as a source of transformation in the next 18-24 months?

- Energy from more people getting involved, particularly younger generations than who is showing up at our monthly meetings
- Assistance with using the social media options