

Meeting Notes, 6/2/13

First United Methodist Church

Natural Step Ministry Team

Attending: Marge Stevens, Marian Veley, Rev. Bonnie Parr Philipson, Ann Bateman, LoErna Simpson, Valerie White, Corinne Butzin, Sara Power

Absent members, send minutes to: Rebecca Marti, Kris Graves, Jeanie Goul, Pat Smythe, Mary Ann Sward (renewable energy topics), Maureen Beezhold (Natural Step), Matt Gregory (FUMC web master);

Next meeting: Sunday, August 11, 2013, jointly with the Albany FUMC Green Team, Hyak Park, time TBD (Ann Bateman, liaison), finger food snacks; agenda: spreading the word on creation care, bring lawn chairs

Earth Sunday (Festival of God's Creation) Recap: Bonnie thanked Ann for preaching, displays received good results, pre-publicity and refreshments were helpful, game on recycling was informative, all ages were involved. Suggestion for future project: recycling fair or display case

Plastics recycling clarification: Due to confusion about changing recycling practices at the South Coop, further instructions would be most helpful. Marge or Ann will write an article for the July newsletter

Renewable Energy: The church council turned down the proposal for solar panels. The opportunity will go to the next group selected in the lottery, and the \$500 deposit will go into the program to promote renewable energy. Requests for further support of the **Blue Sky** energy program have resulted in several contributions. Marge will recap and write an article for the newsletter.

Landscape/Garden: Letters seeking financial assistance with the water line project have been sent out to Memorials, Columbarium, Landscape, and Trustees committees. Memorials has responded that they will put it on their next meeting agenda. The youth are available for service projects every second Sunday. Next Sunday, June 9 from 3 – 5, Corinne proposed they help with laying paper and spreading hog fuel. Sara will supervise the youth, Marge and LoErna will bring paper, Marge will order hog fuel and arrange placement with Kim at the office, Corinne will help supervise after 3:30.

Room use agreements: A subcommittee of Ann, Valerie and Marge will contact Robin in the church office to get copies of agreements to review. Bonnie said the new agreements are distributed in July, so we will try to incorporate wording on sustainable practices for kitchen, community center and reception use before the forms are sent out. Special wording will be needed for compostable serving items.

SNAP 6 Program: Sara reported that the program is underfunded, Ten Rivers Food Web is not promoting it. It has been turned over to Rebecca Landis at the Farmers Market. A breakfast fundraiser raised very little. Sara proposed calling together the original congregations for brainstorming on next steps.

Family table: Farmers have offered to donate beef, eggs and vegetables to the program to provide a meal in South Corvallis once a month. People from outside our church are participating. Numbers have been above 70 since the first month. Higher participation in the summer is anticipated.

Women's shelter: Sara is working on locating the Women's Shelter at our church building for the winter of 2013-2014. Many helpers will be needed. This fits the fourth system condition of the Natural Step, that all people's needs will be met equitably, and fuel will be saved from the transportation to the old shelter near Lewisburg. Stay tuned for ways we can help.

Signage in the Community Center: We discussed the idea of having a bulletin board or photo display or posters or some other representation of what our church is about, in the Community Center for visitors to see. This fits with the church council's vision of sharing faith. Len Weber may have a good collection of photos. Who will pursue this idea?

Iraqi children need transportation: LoErna announced a need for assistance to transport the Iraqi children to activities during her absence, and to act as back up helpers. One location is the Children's Farm Home for horse therapy on Thursday and Saturday. No one needs a car seat.

EMO sent a request for a donation to assist with food programs in East Multnomah County. We will assess our budget for availability of funds.

Football parking: participants have not yet been selected for 2013 – 2014

Mission trip: Marge announced she will be traveling with Pastors for Peace in July to Cuba to bring humanitarian aid and to highlight the injustice of the blockade and promote human relations

Litter Pick-Up: Will try to find a date in June

For consideration, not discussed:

Drug Take-Back Program - Ann will write up an announcement for bulletins and newsletter

Arbor Day Nature Exploration for Faith based organizations - Ann will investigate and bring more information next meeting

Leadership of Natural Step Ministry Team: Marge is ready to turn over leadership of the Natural Step team, after six + years. It is good for the organization's creativity and energy to have a change of leadership from time to time. *****If you are interested in becoming the Ministry Team leader, please contact Marge or Rev. Bonnie for more information.*****

Mark your calendar:

Anytime – write articles on Natural Step for church newsletter

June TBA litter pick up

August 11 Natural Step Ministry Team meeting with Albany group