

Meeting Notes, 4/19/15

First United Methodist Church Natural Step Ministry Team

Attending: Marge Stevens, Corinne Butzin, Rebecca Marti, Valerie White

Absent members, send minutes to: Ann Bateman, LoErna Simpson, Rev. Barbara Nixon, Marian Veley, Sara Power, Kris Graves, Jeanie Goul, Helen VanNice, Pat Smythe (recycling topics), Mary Ann Sward (renewable energy topics), Maureen Beezhold (Natural Step), Matt Gregory (FUMC web master) Jim Boyle – liaison with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, Bev Park – Congregational Life

Next regular meeting: Sunday, April 19, 2015, 3:30 p.m. Library Lounge (Note Room Change – located without the barrier of steps to climb)

Welcome Robin Comforto, new member

Water event 4/26

- Speakers needs

- Sound system

- Honoraria, travel expenses, gifts

Tenth Anniversary events

- May Green Moment

- Sign up genius

- Display case

Garden Project update

Water Bottle project

Financial report

- Raab grant \$1000 for Garden labor

- Savings \$889.74 – partly earmarked for garden compost and plants

- 2015 budget - \$900, spent \$50 for Sustainability coalition contribution

 - Bills: \$56 for copies of Unusual Recycling Directory

 - \$60 for 9 LED bulbs for welcome gifts, speaker gifts

 - \$57 for color brochures for water event

 - \$??? Honoraria and travel expenses for keynote speaker

Recycling stewards; Report on Kawanis breakfast; upcoming music event May 2 7-9 p.m.

Upcoming events:

LBCC Earth Day event - Ann

April 27 noon library sustainability Coalition Quarterly Gathering – need a representative

Next meetings of Natural Step: June 21, August 26 (combine one of these with APJ?), invite Jim Boyle, Bev Park

Ten Year Anniversary Subcommittee Update (A) The February survey had many non-responses. The March Survey will be on the topic of creation care measures taken by FUMC beyond Blue Sky, either in a fill-in-the-blank format of multiple choice – Rebecca will check with Kim for available space (B) Water presentation in April – Dave Eckert of the Sustainability Coalition has confirmed attendance; Mark Taratoot of the City is still negotiating on attendance; Heath or Theresa of the Benton Soil and Water Conservation group will be re-contacted after their big plant sale next weekend (C) March 8th Green Moment on Blue Sky – Marge offered to do this presentation (D) Next meeting – late March, Sunday after church, April and May duties will be discussed – Rebecca will contact committee members via email

Recycling Stewards: Rebecca reported hearing about concerns with regard to a memorial service which generated a large amount of waste. There have been problems with communications between event scheduling and recycling stewards, and possibly kitchen stewards.

Action: Marge will contact Rev. Barbara for advice on getting the communications on track.

Carolyn Raab Social Outreach Fund: the Natural Step Team submitted two proposals, one to collaborate with Habitat for Humanity on energy efficiency home upgrades, and one for staffing to help with the edible garden. The proposal for the garden was approved, and we were encouraged to try applying again next year for the energy efficiency program and connecting it more closely with our congregation. We were awarded a grant of \$1000 to hire garden workers. We have contacted Work Unlimited and they can provide workers with supervision and tools for \$12.50 per hour.

Edible Garden Project: With the warmer dryer weather, Corinne is ready to call for more work parties to finish preparing the wood and staining it for raised bed assembly. Next steps: finish preparing boards, transport to the church, assemble, fill with planting mix, plant. Marge got prices on compost. We can use about 8 cubic yards for a cost of around \$250. We can watch for coupons for free delivery. Helpers: Youth, other volunteers. Organizers: we want to convene a planning group to coordinate the next steps: decide on what to plant, oversee the installation of planting beds and orient the workforce workers. We could solicit members through an opportunity sheet solicitation, as well as contacting potential members like Bob Smythe (master gardener), Bill Proebsting, Mary Ann Sward, and Dave Straub's landscaping volunteers

Action: Corinne will prepare an opportunity sheet solicitation for people interested in serving on the edible garden group.

Sustainability Coalition Annual Meeting report: Valerie attended the meeting and reported back that it was well attended with people from throughout the region and was a good opportunity to network and meet new people. News included information on the upcoming Fair and Town Hall to be held April 12 from 5 – 9 p.m. at CH2M Hill Alumni Center with a speaker on Community Livability Indicators; also coming up will be the Natural Areas events in May

Note: We will have a slide in the Town Hall meeting scrapbook for accomplishments of member organizations for 2014. At today's meeting, Rebecca took a photo of Corinne and Valerie holding a composting bucket and recycling bin, in front of our Natural Step bulletin board. The text will highlight our church's adoption of a comprehensive **Waste Management Plan** and policies in 2014.

Finances and budget:

- The 2015 general fund budget has \$100 for general expenses and \$750 for expenses associated with the tenth year anniversary events. Spending upcoming for 2015 general funds: 1) Ann requested up to \$50 to reprint the Unusual Recyclables directory in April; the remainder is available for registration fees for workshops, or other needs that may arise.
- The reserve fund has \$890. Of that, \$250 is earmarked for compost for the edible garden, and more may be needed for plants and other costs associated with the garden

Request for sponsorship, site of event – we received a request to host a speaker on soil health and advocacy for the ballot measure on GMOs. We discussed the tax exempt status of our church which requires non-partisanship or advocacy. Marge will pass this along to the requesting person.

Display Case and Bulletin Board: Corinne can put in a display on E Waste for the rest of February. She is working on reserving the display case during the year for displays that correlate with the Green Moment topics and special events

New church staff: Bev Park has been hired for **Congregational Life**. We will invite her to a future meeting to orient her to the Natural Step Ministry Team and see how we can best work together.

Next Meeting topics: Education programs – Ann Bateman

Mark your calendar:

2015 – Ten year celebration of becoming a Natural Step Congregation; sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4fa8a82aa20-natural>

February 17 – League of Women Voters forum on Climate Action Plan and Energy Prize competition; Benton County Library at 7:30p.m.

February 18 – Georgetown University Energy Prize information night at Benton County Library, 7 p.m.

January 11 – ‘Green Moment’, first opportunity sheet survey, Energy event after church

April 12 – Sustainability Coalition Fair and Town Hall, 5 – 9 p.m. CH2MHill Alumni Center

April 19 – Natural Step Ministry Team Meeting, Church Library, 3:30 – 5 p.m.

April 26 - Water and Care for Creation Event FUMC 2 – 5 p.m.

Anytime: write articles on Natural Step for church newsletter: Composting, Other topics

Check the monthly Sustainability Coalition calendar posted on the Natural Step Bulletin Board

Parked topics – to be continued:

SPRC- conversation on job descriptions to include Care for Creation ethic, as they already do for reconciling ethic

Pew flyers – for future consideration, we would like to have something like a bookmark available in the pew areas for visitors, with information about our church Reconciling Congregation and Natural Step statements

Bike parking – we need more bike parking for the community center, and at least some covered bike parking – a temporary canopy shelter has been put in place over the bike racks for use by Room at the Inn

Inquiries from Deanna Doll about Natural Step

Solar panels – Marge would like to work on a process to be move forward with solar panels for our buildings

Education opportunities – Ann Bateman

Ecumenical work with other Corvallis churches and Methodist Churches in the mid-valley