

Meeting Notes, 12/13/15

First United Methodist Church Natural Step Ministry Team

Attending: Rev. Barbara Nixon, Robin Comforto, Valerie White, Rebecca Marti, Marian Veley, Ann Bateman, Sherri Puckett, Marge Stevens

Absent members, send minutes to: LoErna Simpson, Sara Power, Kris Graves, Karen Bloom, Matt Gregory (FUMC web master)

Next regular meeting: Sunday, February 21, 2016, 3:30 p.m. Round Table Room 106b

Blue Sky Fund – we have received notice from the church finance manager that the Blue Sky fund is overspent. We discussed ideas: (1) The church General Fund Budget should include this expense, not separate it out. This is an expression of what our congregation professes to believe in – care for creation. (2) For next year, propose that the Blue Sky Fund be included in one of the participating groups for Football Parking income (3) Use the savings in the electric bill from the new LED fixtures to offset the Blue Sky costs in the general fund budget.

Robin offered to write an article for the newsletter to solicit more donations toward the Blue Sky fund. (This happened and only a small amount was donated.)

Next steps: Meet with the “Finance Committee” (John Reed, Pastor Barbara, Mary Ann Sward, Tish Tipping, Phyllis Pearson and Linda Myer) to discuss absorption of the Blue Sky budget line into the general church utility budget. Suggest the budget left over from the 2015 Anniversary events be applied toward the 2015 deficit in the Blue Sky Fund. Inform the Finance Committee of the projects that are earmarked for expenditures from the Natural Step Ministry Fund’s reserve: garden project in 2016, climate class instructional materials in fall 2016, water bottles project, scholarships for UMW classes on climate change (July 2016) to explain why that fund is not available to cover Blue Sky costs

Tenth Anniversary report: In December, we provided time during worship to discuss what we as individuals and congregation are doing and can do further to care for creation. Written notes were collected and will be compiled by Ann and published in the newsletter by Rebecca. We have some visions for where we will be in 20125.

2016 Football Parking – consider adding church garden and Blue Sky to designated recipients of Football Parking fund?

Budget Report: \$996.31 in reserve – to be spent in 2016 for garden project, water bottles, UMW summer classes tuition, climate change course textbooks, and more; Budget of \$300 in general fund approved for 2016 – moved and seconded to approve donation of \$150 to Corvallis Sustainability Coalition for 2016

Garden Update: Twenty pounds of food was harvested this year from the garden. The Work Unlimited should be contacted early to put the garden watering and maintenance project into their regular work schedule. (We need to check with the committee overseeing the Carolyn Raab grant program to continue the edible garden project into 2016.) It is time to start planning next steps in the garden project. Karen Bloom has expressed an interest in working with Corinne to coordinate the garden project.

Reports from Community: Laudato Si- Marge; Clothing Swap – Marge, Valerie, Marian; Interfaith Tabling at “This Changes Everything”-Marge; Healthy Forest Principles Endorsement – Marge, Ann, Barbara

The **Water Bottle** project – Susan Westcott and Rebecca Marti are interested in working on this

Upcoming events - Mark Your Calendar:

January 8, 2016, Noon, Library – Quarterly gathering/Annual meeting of the Sustainability Coalition

January 17, 2016 – Faith in Action group lunch – Environmental Care Team, three other foci

February 21, 2016 – Regular Natural Step Ministry Team meeting, 3:30 – 5 p.m., Round Table Room

Watch for Natural Step articles in The Methodist, the church Newsletter, and the weekly email update

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

Next Meeting topics: Education programs – Ann Bateman

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