

Meeting Notes, 2/21/16

First United Methodist Church Natural Step Ministry Team

Attending:, Robin Comforto, Valerie White, Rebecca Marti, Ann Bateman, , Marge Stevens, Karen Bloom, Leslie Chartier, Corinne Butzin

Absent members, send minutes to: LoErna Simpson, Rev. Barbara Nixon, Sherri Puckett, Marian Veley, Sara Power, Kris Graves, Matt Gregory (FUMC web master)

Welcome to new attendees Karen Bloom and Leslie Chartier. We have also had interest from Juan Fernandez and Debbie Wray at the Action Brunch and church attenders Kevin and Therese Jones (also sending minutes to these interested people)

Ongoing Projects

Blue Sky fund – next steps. An interested group will request a meeting with the church Finance Committee to discuss placing the Blue Sky charges into the general utility line of the church budget. We will meet ahead of time to develop questions and information. Subcommittee: Robin, Rebecca, Marge. Topics: renewable energy is part of the vision plan and care for creation ethic of our congregation; participation in Blue Sky gives our congregation exposure in the larger community of living into our convictions; the costs of supporting this should be spread throughout the whole body of the congregation, not just a few donors. **Action:** Marge will request a meeting with the church finance committee and call a preparatory meeting. **Anyone else interested please join the project – contact Marge.**

Water Bottle project – We want to keep working on this project to produce reusable metal water bottles with a church logo to be given as gifts to new people, and to be sold in the church store. Coordinate with Bev Park on the front and the finance committee for Sundays when sales would be appropriate. **Action:** Rebecca and Susan Westcott will work on this. Rebecca took home the background notes and information gathered so far. **Anyone else interested please join the project – contact Rebecca**

Garden Project – It's time to start planning, line up Work Unlimited crew, plan what to plant and prepare beds for spring planting. **Action:** Corinne, Karen, Sherri and others who may be interested will talk with Bill Proebsting about planting ideas and an overall plan for this year. **Anyone else interested please join the project – contact Corinne or Karen**

Carolyn Raab grant: need to report progress from 2015 and apply for funds for 2016. This paid for Work Unlimited crew to water the church garden last summer and we could use that service again this year. **Action:** Marge will do this.

Budget report: General fund \$`150; Reserve \$996.31; Funds from the reserve are earmarked for several projects: water bottles, garden, UMW Summer classes tuition and educational materials on Climate Change unit, etc. **It was moved seconded and passed to allot funds to the reprinting of the Unusual Recyclables Directory for 2016. Action:** Ann will get the flyers reprinted.

New projects:

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Interfaith Power and Light is looking for a current contact person to act as a liaison for our Congregation . There are some actions coming up in April. There is also a fund raising matching appeal. **Action:** Anyone interested in being the email recipient for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon for our Congregation, please let Marge know.

Earth Day week tabling at LBCC. This will take place on Wednesday, April 22 around the lunch hour. **Action:** Ann has signed up to table again this year at the Albany campus Earth Day event and distribute copies of the Unusual Recyclables Directory. Valerie signed up to help. **Anyone else interested please join the project – contact Ann**

Earth Sunday worship service. We are interested in coordinating with Pastor Barbara for a Sunday around Earth Day. **Action:** Marge will contact Barbara to let her know of our interest and find out how we might participate.

Solar panel installation project – a team needs to be formed, which would include Jim Swinyard. **Action:** Take this up at a future meeting.

P.S Highway Litter Patrol (Marge forgot to bring this up) We need to do a highway litter pick up. **Action:** Marge will contact Scottie Hurley to see if the youth would do this.

Upcoming events:

March 5: 12 a.m. to 3 p.m. Community Center – Clothing Swap

March 9: 5-7 and 7-9 p.m., OSU Alumni Center – Fair and Town Hall of the Sustainability Coalition

March 25: evening vegan meal and sack lunch prep for walkers from Ashland en route to Salem; contact Robin to get recipes; coordinated by Leslie

April 17, 3:30 – 5 p.m. Environmental Care Team (Natural Step Ministry Team) Meeting

April TBD: Robin and a small group are planning an event on “Healthy People Healthy Planet” Stay tuned.