

Minutes Natural Step Ministry Team/Environmental Care Team

Sunday, August 21, 2016 11:30 – 1:20 p.m. Room 106b (Round Table Room)

Attending: Robin Comforto, Rebecca Marti, Karen Bloom, Marge Stevens, Valerie White, Marian Veley, Ann Bateman, Barbara Nixon, Helen VanNice, Leslie Chartier, Corinne Butzin

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

Opening – Pastor Barbara

Newsletter articles need to be written about: Edible Garden Project, Fruit Picking Project, Jammin for the Hungry, Water Bottles

Edible Garden Project – Karen – harvest of 66.5 lbs of produce so far this year including outside garden donations. The Work Unlimited crew and Sunday School children do regular watering. Karen will request reimbursement for supplies from the Carolyn Raab grant. The raspberries will move to the Sage garden, and other improvements will be made for future plantings. This is an active outreach opportunity to the community who walk past. There is an opportunity to collaborate with other church gardens, including the Westside with Sue Dominguez. Karen will look into putting up a Master Gardener-style bulletin board at the garden. Corinne reported on a church group who does **fruit picking** from area orchards for donations to the South Corvallis Food Bank, Stone Soup, Jammin' and Tuesday Supper meals.

2017 Budget – Pastor Barbara. At the direction of the finance committee, business manager John Reed will be requesting all groups within the church to prepare specific budget requests for 2017. **Robin** (and subcommittee Rebecca and Marge) offered to help do that for the Natural Step group. This will involve both the annual general fund and savings funds, but not the Carolyn Raab grant. Items to be included should be – water bottle project, garden project after the Raab grant expires, printing costs for Unusual Recyclables flyers, contribution to Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, promoting of events, tuition to attend seminars. Please let Robin know of other budget items you may think of.

Facilities utility budget planning – Pastor Barbara reported that a facilities team is forming. This is an opportunity for the Environmental Care Team to become involved in the discussion of energy conservation, Blue Sky purchasing, solar panels, etc. **Marge** offered to be the liaison and will contact Jim Swinyard about joining the group.

Water bottle project – Rebecca – she is working on getting the art files from Jim D to the vendor, and with John R in the business office to get the order placed. Cost will be around \$8 per bottle. We plan to buy 72 on the first order. We will charge enough to recoup expenses and give some away to new members. We would like to have them by September 25 to go to new members (or if they are not yet available, they could get a certificate.) When we publicize that the water bottles are available for purchase, it would be a good time to repeat the messages about **reducing the use of plastic bottles**.

Community Activities Updates:

- **LED lightbulbs distribution** took place August 14. We still have more bulbs to distribute and will do that on future Sunday mornings
- **Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Quarterly Gathering** report back – Marge attended on July 29 and heard presentations on Seeds for the Sol, Linn Benton Food Share, OSU Internship programs,

and Food Action Team projects. She will forward information on the next quarterly gathering (in October) to people on the Environmental Care Team mailing list.

- **Pedalpalooza** will take place September 18 from 1-4 at the Riverfront. Pastor Barbara will bless bikes and we will collect old athletic shoes and flip flops and distribute flyers on recycling and reusing items. A subcommittee formed and will meet to work out details – Ann, Marge, Valerie, Hazel S, Rebecca, Marian, Barbara, Bev P (Marge will convene the meeting)
- **Community Clothing Swap** will occur quarterly at our Community Center. The next one will be Saturday, September 10 from 12 – 3.

Football Parking – a fundraiser for the church and ministry groups. Please respond to requests for help as you are able. Dates and point people are listed below. Times are often not known until shortly before the games. We like to set up around four hours prior to the game.

Sept. 17, 2pm Idaho State- Marge

Sept. 24, Boise State- Sara

Oct. 8, California- Tim

Oct. 15, Utah- Sara

Oct. 29, Washington State- Marge

Nov. 19, Arizona- Bill and Lena

Nov. 26, Oregon- LoErna

MissionU Follow Up classes – Marge, Rebecca and Helen attended the United Methodist Women’s study weekend from July 7 – 10. Study topics included “Climate Justice, A Call to Hope and Action”, “The Bible and Human Sexuality, Claiming God’s Good Gift” and “Latin America, People and Faith”. Helen has curriculum materials for children and youth on Climate Justice and would like to work with Bev Park on setting up some study times. Also, Helen, Rebecca and Marge would like to offer classes on the other topics, maybe as a Saturday session. They will work on this further, with **Helen** as the convener of a subcommittee.

Ministry Team Event Calendar – Bev Park and Pastor Barbara would like to establish a twelve to eighteen month calendar of events coming up with the various ministry teams of the church, so people can plan ahead. We added some known upcoming events for the Environmental Care team, and please let Bev know of other events that you know of that are coming up (See Earth Day 2017 later in these minutes)

Tenets meetings follow up – Pastor Barbara mentioned the opportunity for each ministry team to develop their own **tri-fold brochure** for outreach. Subcommittee offering to work on this for the Environmental Care Team includes **Karen, Robin and Ann**

Interfaith climate justice group – follow-up to earlier meetings including one with guest rabbis Waskow and Berman on May 25 – Marge attended a meeting on August 17 at the UU facilitated by Jill McAllister. Many faith groups were present. We talked about the May 25 event and what our particular churches are doing for climate justice. There will be more meetings. Suggestions for future actions included a designated climate justice Sunday throughout the city, and advocacy at the state level.

Alternate Christmas – for 2016, there are a couple ideas we could put forward for Alternative Christmas choices: Habitat for Humanity’s “Home Repair Initiative” and/or Seeds for the Sol. **Barbara** will pursue the Alternative Christmas process for 2016 by consulting all the Ministry Teams.

Earth Day 2017 – **Robin** proposes doing another program on the importance of eating habits for the health of the planet. She got ideas from the group and will begin planning. If you’re interested in working with Robin, contact her.

Next meeting: October 16 at noon, Round Table Room 106b.

Upcoming events:

Ongoing - Local food harvesting – Karen and Corinne

August 23 – Tuesday from 5 – 7:30 – Library Meeting Room - City of Corvallis Climate Action Plan Task Force, public input meeting (1 of 2)

August 27 - Saturday from 1-5, Library atrium and meeting room - Secrets of the Sun - unveiling of artwork - rainbows: connecting beauty, energy, pride

September 10 - Saturday, from 12-3, Community Center Corvallis Methodist Church Community Family Clothing Swap

September 13 - Tuesday from 5 – 7:30 – Library Meeting Room - City of Corvallis Climate Action Plan Task Force, public input meeting (2 of 2)

September 18 - Sunday, from 1-4 Riverfront between Madison and Jackson – Pedalpalooza

September 24-25 – Fall Festival – volunteer opportunity for valet bike parking – see sign up genius at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c49abae23aa8-20161>

October 16 - Sunday from 12 - 1:30 p.m., Room 106b (Round Table Room) - Natural Step/Environmental Care Ministry Team meeting

TBA September or October - Litter Pick Up on our section of Highway - with Scottie and the youth

December 3 - Saturday, from 12-3 Community Family Clothing Swap - Community Center