

April 9, 2017 meeting of Environmental Care Team (Natural Step)

Pastor Barbara opens meeting with prayer.

Karen calls the meeting to order. Present at 11:45am are Karen Bloom, Marge Stevens, Leslie Chartier, Helen VanNice, Ann Bateman, Pastor Barbara Nixon, Rebecca Marti, and your transcriber Robin Comforto.

Helen VanNice has a new email address: vannice5935@comcast.net

Discussion ensued about the new agenda format, and referencing the group to page two about "Upcoming Events."

Barbara Nixon says we need bulletins in the church about the upcoming science events.

What's most important:

Team leadership and team concept: Discussion ensued about the team concept, which is that everyone takes up a project or a position of responsibility, which means ultimately that we need really good communication. A few people said they would not be able to attend meetings. Many people are "doers" rather than "meeters." But we all need to do as much as we can.

Anyone with ongoing projects should work closely with Beverly Park and other Faith Action Teams. There is a lot of interweaving of teams. How we deal with the environment integrates with economic justice, human rights, and nonviolent communication.

It is pointed out that all of the above is a part of our origin mission statement as a Natural Step congregation.

Pastor Barbara talks about the reason for the separation of the teams, and that is Active for Peace & Justice became overwhelming and it had to be split up. Everything about the South Dakota Pipeline was everyone's game.

Robin keeps track of money items, anything to do with monetary business from our group. Water bottles, Unusual Recyclables brochure, edible garden project, parking lot sales, Sustainability Coalition donations, things like that.

Robin is also doing the minutes, producing for publication on the church's website.

Karen will work with Marge on Corvallis Sustainability Coalition liaison. Pedalpalooza was mentioned as a project for us. It is now called something else.

Adopt a Highway project: Marge will continue working with Scotty on this (with youth). It was discussed that some of the youth are looking for opportunities to do service projects. Karen will contact Scotty to liaise as to when this service project can take place and will pursue planning a highway cleanup event.

We need someone take over being the football parking coordinator. Karen will send that request out as an email to the group. It takes coordinating the volunteers, knowledge of church people. Rebecca suggest Valerie White for this, possibly with her husband Larry.

Valerie also works on the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition's flyer.

Earth Week activities:

1. Linn-Benton Community College Earth Day event, we always liaise with Albany FUMC to showcase our Unusual Recyclables brochure. Karen will work there this year which is Thursday, April 20. The new directory has been produced. Rebecca will bring some over to LBCC, and Ann is working on the display board. Ann mentioned that we do this with the Albany Green Team. Valerie White won't be involved this year.
2. Getting scientists for Saturday's March for Science (April 22). Procession of Species happens that day at noon at the riverfront, and at 1pm the science march starts at the courthouse.
3. Climate Friendly Foods posters were passed around. This is a program whereby nine different local restaurants have agreed to offer "Earth Friendly Specials" during the week April 17 through 23.
4. What about asking Bev to do something vis-a-vis Constant Contact that lists all Earth Day events? It might be possible to put a link into the Constant Contact but might not. Barbara can announce the science march; this is something that really matters to our congregation. This would be a heads up about what we can try to get in next year. This year all Earth Day events are coming around at the time of our Easter celebrations; way too busy for us to do everything.

5. In May FUMC newsletter we could say "This is the kind of stuff we're doing as a team." People on our team list are already interested in this stuff. It doesn't have to be every month, but we need someone to take the lead on this. Karen will work with someone on this, as editor. Helen likes to write, but wants to be sure she gets all the information necessary before endeavoring this.

Discussion about a brochure: Barbara says Bev is happy to work with every team to come up with a classy brochure. These can be similarly branded but distinct for different action committees.

Carolyn Raab Grant Application: Does our group want to keep applying for what we've applied for in the past? First time we applied for funds was for the edible garden, and the second time was for a Habitat for Humanity-type program for people to weatherize their homes. We may have also applied for funding for donations to Seeds for the Sol, which is something the UUFC has done this. There was discussion about how the rebates and tax deductions work (Seeds for the Sol). The Energy Trust of Oregon rebate might be going away soon. Barbara's take on this is that likelihood of us getting this from the Raab fund are low. The Raab Fund has the logic/expectation that the funds should go to something specifically relating to the ministry of the church. The edible garden is more along the lines of things they're looking for. Indeed that is the only grant application by this group that has ever been approved.

Last year we used \$200 for the garden. The Raab money paid separately for the watering and reimbursed Karen for her supplies. Our group originally applied for a grant of \$1500. We should try to align our grant application closer to reality. Also we should look long-range, at the garden infrastructure items.

Karen and Robin should do the budget/grant application together. Marge will forward her numbers to us. Deadline is April 17, a week from tomorrow.

Earth Sunday: Leslie brings the concept of Flower Communion, where everyone brings flowers from their yards, from a UUFC tradition on Earth Sunday. The children bring all the flowers forward during the service. Everyone gets a flower from the children. Barbara says this is treated like a moment in worship, not children's time. We might want someone from the team to do something with the children. Norbert Capek, was a "dude man" who developed this tradition for UU.

There is an opportunity in the service to teach the children something fun or teaching them something environmental. What about teaching them about straws and how awful they are for the environment? It was suggested that we give water bottles to the kids.

Karen will do something with soil and worms in the garden.

Our group should have some sort of display in the library, such as having water bottles for sale. What about Unusual Recyclables? Ann won't be here that day. Our group has a chance to shine for that Sunday. The youth group could still be selling their flower baskets.

Rebecca suggests that LED lightbulb distribution could also be a table display on Earth Sunday.

Rebecca and Karen will have the recyclables brochure available for that Sunday as well.

As to Leslie's ordination in July, there will be a need for helping hands. Sara Power is coordinating the reception and asking people to help. Karen will get in touch with Sara and ask if there are some things our team can do in order to help out. She may do lots of communicating on this via email.

Edible Garden work to be done: We've got a fine crop of weeds right now, mainly California poppies. Earth Sunday was proposed as a date to weed after church, which is the fourth Sunday in April. Bring digging tools.

Team Projects Checkin

Water Bottles: Rebecca will get a report from John on income and expenses on water bottles to date.

Displays: If anyone has ideas about the church's display case, we should bring it up. Karen will talk to Kim or Bev about this. Karen will also talk to Ann regarding getting a thank-you note on this topic.

LED Lightbulbs: We still have bulbs, but not sure how many. We should put them out for Earth Sunday. We should be giving them away. We're seeing lots of new people, especially young couples, and also single young men. We might ask Barbara to invite new attendees/visitors to pick up LED bulbs, any Sunday. We'll

have those out on Earth Sunday and it would be the best time to have the tables out, inviting new attendees/visitors, to come and pick one up. Rebecca will do water bottles on Earth Sunday (and staff it too). Recycle table, Karen and Rebecca, Valerie too. Invite Hazel Summers to do it too because she is also familiar with this project. Rebecca will contact Hazel and Valerie. Karen will ask Bev about getting a couple of tables for this purpose.

Staffing tables: Marge, Karen, Rebecca, asking Valerie and Hazel as well. One announcement could be made during the service that day, at the beginning.

Edible Garden: It's underway. They had to rework some of the structure but did so cheaply. Peas have been planted. They've gone through a struggle but are now coming up. We didn't plant this week, probably won't next (Easter). We'll be out there on Earth Day during the Sunday school time with the kids. We'll weed after the service and adult classes.

Karen had a Master Gardner expert helping turn the soil. The expert said that probably in about 3 years we will need to start changing out the wood for the beds. What we've got is nice and it worked as a less expensive route. Maybe we need to think in terms of replacing one bed this year with Trex (half wood/half plastic) or something that is pre-built. We want to retain but turn over some soil every year. We'll have to figure that out. We should put this into long-term budgeting, justification for our Grant Application. Six beds would eventually need to be replaced. Karen will get prices on the Trex material.

Rebecca suggested coordinating with other teams, thinking about their goals and what they want to do. Karen suggested the nonviolent communication with the various action teams. She spoke with Elizabeth Nielsen about this who is going to visit her ailing mother this week. This hasn't yet been thought through, but it's a possibility for the future. This is something that eventually the Nonviolent Communication team could offer other teams.

Ongoing Discussions

They haven't had a recent Property Management team meeting. We should always know about the upcoming meetings.

Green Award: We talked about having Bill Proebsting receiving an award. Having a conversation with Lena, asking her how it would be most meaningful, or

how it would be received, is probably the best approach. There's little feedback we can do, such as mentioning to Bill, "I heard hummingbirds!"

Ann suggested that a Green Award could develop in the newsletter. Bill could be the first one to receive it. It could start very slow/small, and grow (since it's green!). We could start with a small article that says, "You notice how colorful it's starting to look around here." And talk about the native plants. Maybe the Green Award could be encouraging people to thank Bill. Marge says there are also people who are complaining about the new landscaping. But he did manage to come to one of our meetings and explain the use of Roundup and his other methods. But there are still people who like green grass.

Rebecca has to leave the meeting at 1:13pm.

Coordination: Leslie talks about her time here. She's hoping her time here has fostered greater collaboration with the UU community. Last week she got a call about UUs wanting to partner with our Social Justice committee. She would like to be a conduit between us and UU in an environmental care collaboration. They're interested in doing a class on micro-aggression which liaises with our nonviolent group.

Field Trips: Ron Leonard would like to lead field trips to the wetlands, but has not yet gotten his training. We're losing the Tuck Tours vehicle in a few months.

Upcoming Events:

August community activity and blessing of the bikes and shoes.

Fall Environmental movie night still on the books.

Marge announces Ecumenical Communities of Oregon, *2017 Collins Lecture* to explore how climate change disproportionately affects the world's most vulnerable people; event coming up. This event is on November 2, 2017, location TBA.

New Northwest Earth Institute discussion class. It takes voluntary simplicity idea and takes it to the next step. This starts in May, sponsored by CSC and their economic vitality action team. Marge will send this out via email. Mike Bielstein is coordinating this and going to do a doodle poll to find out when this will take place.

Next meeting it is decided will be Sunday, June 25, at 11:45am, to avoid Father's Day the previous Sunday.

Karen reads a prayer for our closing and the meeting is adjourned.