

Minutes. Interfaith EarthKeepers Hybrid Meeting

September 11, 2024

Attendees: Mark L, Jerry S, Carl B, Sue C, Cynthia B, Ron H, Britni C, Tom B

Moderator: Mark Minutes: Britni

Updates and Continuing Issues

1. Eugene City Council and Commission: Council and Commission are on summer break. They will be tabling at neighborhood association events.

2. Fossil Free Coalition and other Local Organizations: No new updates.

3. Oregon Coalition for Environmental Rights: No new updates.

4. Divest Oregon: The next meeting is on September 17th.

5. Outreach to other Faith Communities: We would like to see more people attend EK meetings.

Upcoming Events and Actions

1. Events:

- Interfaith Power and Light Webinar: Faith Climate Science and Action - Wednesday, September 18th
- 350 Postcard Writing - Thursday, September 19th from 6-9pm at Wildcraft Cider Works
- UU Church Used Book and Puzzle Sale - Saturday, September 28th from 10am to 4pm
- That's My Farmer Fundraiser Dinner - Monday, October 14th at Party Downtown. The *deadline to reserve dinner is Monday, October 7th*. This is a fundraiser for CSA farm food boxes for low income people. Tickets are \$55 per dinner reservation, with \$25 of this going to the That's My Farmer Low Income Fund. Mark sent an email with the flier and registration form.

The comment deadline for rulemaking for old growth forests is September 20th. The current protections aren't working; there is too much money involved. Green certified Canadian products are still cutting old growth forests. Old growth forests are critical in mitigating climate change.

2. Upcoming Elections: There are several organizations that people can get involved with to help turn out voters.

- First Congregational: Our Faith, Our Vote campaign
- [Swing Left](#): There is a local coordinator for Swing Left. They will put the packets together for pick up. You can sign up to join the group [here](#).
- [Vote Forward](#): There is still time to write and send letters by October 29th for [several campaigns](#).
- UU Vote campaign
- [Oregon Third Act](#) - Eugene Third Act Chapter: Carl and Jerry were at the last meeting. They have “get out the vote” campaigns. They will do another one later in the month.
- Natural Resource Defense Council has [letter writing and texting opportunities](#).

[Stop Gerrymandering Lane County](#): This is a local PAC that aims to stop Measure 20-362. There is an [article by Carl](#) about this issue on the EK website. It was recommended that we pay attention and make sure our commissioners are working on sustainability and climate issues.

Additional Discussion

The forest service is updating forest plans for the whole country. Oregon and California (Northwest Forest Plan) are on their own track and have not yet completed their environmental impact statements. You can sign up with the US Forest Service to receive updates. They don't want to say they can't cut any old growth because of fire management, but it leaves a loophole for those who want to harvest old growth. None of the mills in the PNW are set up to cut old growth trees, so when they're cut, they are left on the ground, but it is best to leave them standing.

The Emerson Family is worth 3.4 billion and owns huge tracts of forests in Oregon, California, and Washington. 350 does a good job of fighting the timber industry.

Cynthia wrote some blog posts on forests on the Eugene Friends website: [Seasonal Reflections for the Earth](#)

Education

Becoming Earth by Ferris Jabar - Introduction and Chapter 1

The author lives in Portland. It is available on Audible and Spotify.

Mark: There are microbes that breathe metals. The earth is a living, breathing entity. It's all connected. This relates to Mark's sermons on connectivity. It supports a lot of the Indigenous wisdom, for instance, that rocks are beings, having the most wisdom, because they have been around the longest. He connected this to quantum entanglement and the Lakota idea of breathing earth.

Sue: It's another whole way of thinking. She connected to Braiding Sweetgrass and Indigenous ways of thinking about nouns/things as verbs, or living beings. We should think about people we want to give this book to.

Ron: It's a new way of thinking and opens our eyes to things that are happening that we don't see or think about. He mentioned the concept that microbes are part of tectonic plate shifts.

Carl: The idea that everything is interdependent makes sense. When you touch something it is touching you back, and each changes each other. Interrelationship is deep and ongoing. It is mindblowing, humbling, and inspiring.

Tom recommended the book [A Most Remarkable Creature](#) by Jonathan Miberg.

Next Meeting: October 9, 2024 at 12:00-1:30pm (online and in person at First Congregational Church) **We welcome the opportunity to meet elsewhere. This may help to broaden the group.*

Moderator: Mark

Minutes: Britni

Education Session: Read Chapters 2 and 3 of [Becoming Earth: How Our Planet Came to Life](#) by Ferris Jaber