

## Interfaith Earthkeepers Hybrid Meeting

October 9, 2024

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

Moderator: Mark     Minutes: Britni

**Opening:** The Offering: A Tashlikh Prayer by Rabbi Jill Hammer

### **Brief Check-ins**

Mark shared that First Congregational has been exploring its history and connection to the missions and displacement of Indigenous people as well as ideas for reparations. On November 10th, Mark will be preaching on this topic. Mark's ordination ceremony is on November 17th 3:00pm in the main sanctuary at First Congregational Church. Earthkeepers are invited.

### **Updates and Continuing Issues**

**1. Eugene City Council and Commission Sustainability Commission:** The commission tabled at six neighborhood association events this summer and has a powerpoint they are hoping to share with neighborhoods and other groups about the city's efforts. The Commission work plan for 2024-25 will go to the Council for review and includes building decarbonization, urban canopy and other landscape issues, continuing public education and outreach efforts.

Sue attended a meeting put on by Beyond Toxics and Bethel Neighborhood Association about an issue of concern that will affect the Trainsong neighborhood. A Texas company is planning to build a distribution center on the railroad where various types of fuel products will be unloaded during the night and transported through the community. Lucy Vinis was at the meeting, and the City is worried that they have no control over this. They are concerned about fuel spilling. The neighborhood is still dealing with the effects from J.H. Baxter.

**2. Fossil Free Coalition:** No new updates.

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

**4. Divest Oregon:** Upcoming legislation for 2025 includes a five year moratorium on private funds investments in fossil fuels as well as no new fossil fuel investments. Updated demands include investing in a just, climate-safe future, ending investments in fossil fuels, and addressing climate risk transparently. There will be opportunities for citizens to meet with representatives. More information to come. There is more detailed information on their [website](#).

**5. Stop Gerrymandering Lane County:** This is a local PAC that aims to stop Measure 20-362. More information can be found on their [website](#). Redistricting wasn't supposed to occur until 2031. This is another example of minorities of people trying to manipulate the government. Sue printed information to hand out at UU. Earthkeepers are encouraged to spread the word.

## **Upcoming Events and Actions**

**1. Webmaster for EK Website:** Ron will not be able to continue managing the Earthkeepers website. It was suggested that we send an email to the entire Earthkeepers list to try to recruit someone to take over the website. Ron is willing to train someone and will continue to pay the yearly fees. We will revisit this next month.

## **2. Events**

- That's My Farmer Fundraiser Dinner - Monday, October 14th at Party Downtown. The deadline to reserve dinner was Monday, October 7th, but people can always donate to the fund. 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.
- Plastics and Metal Lid Recycling - Saturday, October 19th, 10am-12pm at First Congregational Church. Pharmaceutical bottles (labels removed and cleaned) and block styrofoam will also be accepted.
- Long Tom Watershed Council 2024 Annual Meeting and Celebration - Thursday, October 24th, 6-8pm at the Long Tom Grange, 25823 Ferguson Rd., Junction City, OR.
- Turtle Flats Volunteer Work Party - Saturday, November 9th, 9am-12pm. People need to arrive by 9:00 as they will close the gate soon afterward. Mark will send out a sign up link with more information about where to meet.

## **3. Election Resources**

- [Vote Forward](#): There is still time to write and send letters by October 29th for [several campaigns](#).
- [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](#).
- First Congregational: Our Faith, Our Vote campaign <https://www.ucc.org/our-faith-our-vote/>
- UUCE: UU the Vote campaign <https://uuthevote.org/>

- Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) "Voters' Guide to the 2024 Oregon Ballot Measures  
<https://emoregon.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2024-Voters-Guide-release.pdf>
- Interfaith Power & Light 2024 Faithful Voter Reflection Guide  
<https://interfaithpowerandlight.org/faithvotes/guide/>
- Resources for Faith Communities <https://interfaithpowerandlight.org/faithvotes/resources>
- [Oregon Third Act](#): There is a Eugene chapter.
- Natural Resource Defense Council has [letter writing and texting opportunities](#).

### **Additional Discussion**

The outcome of the presidential election will determine what directions we need to take as a group. Hurricanes Helene and Milton should make it obvious that climate change is becoming more serious, disastrous, and costly.

First Congregational recently started a group that is working through a curriculum called Loving God and Loving God's World.

Sue mentioned the book [Saving Democracy](#).

Candi emailed about finding someone or a group to do a reverse tashlich (cleaning pollution and trash from or along a body of water) during Rosh Hashanah. No one present during the meeting was familiar with the concept. It was suggested that she check out SOLVE and Willamette Riverkeeper.

### **Education**

Becoming Earth by Ferris Jabar - Chapters 2-3

Mark: The interdependence and interconnections between species is mind boggling. An elephant's footprint can create a pond that becomes an ecosystem. Bison affect seasonal plant growth more than the weather. Beavers have been reshaping the planet's surface. They can make dams that are a half mile long.

Jerry: The presence and absence of wild birds has changed the climate. He also mentioned a show on PBS: [The Soul of the Ocean](#).

Sue: She and Mark mentioned a book about beavers called "Eager." Sue recently read an article about beavers being reintroduced to London, England. UU made a video about living with beavers. She also talked about her yard and mentioned that you can go to any Dutch Brothers to get coffee grounds.

Ron: He brought up another book called Sapiens, which also discusses the inanimate objects that dramatically affect life.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 13th at 12:00-1:30pm (online and in person at Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene)**

Moderator: TBD

Minutes: Britni

Education Session: Read Chapters 4 and 5 of Becoming Earth: How Our Planet Came to Life by Ferris Jaber