

Minutes, Interfaith EarthKeepers Online Meeting

January 11, 2023

Attendees: Ron H, Britni C, Rouanna G, Mark L, Sue C, Keith O, Dennis R, Betsy, Cynthia B, Ruth D, Carl B, Dody H

Moderator: Dennis R, Minutes: Britni C

Old Business

1. [Oregon Interfaith Earth Summit](#) - Feb 5, 1:00pm-5:30pm: local gathering at UUCE in the main sanctuary. Registration by Jan. 29th is \$20 for adults, \$10 for students. There will be an outdoor vigil at 5:00-5:30. We need someone to host the 1:30-2:00pm introductory session. Rabbi Ruhi from Temple Beth Israel is planning to speak and share a song. We need to recruit more speakers for 3:45-5:00pm local session. Ron, Dennis, and Keith will work on the program. Britni will reach out to A.J. Swoboda of Bushnell University and Jerrel Brown of NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Committee. Mark L will contact the person with Buford Park about a Turtle Flats presentation. Carl might present. Sue C will help with registration. We need someone to make a poster to advertise the local event.

2. Outreach to Inactive Congregations: Ron has reached out to Temple Beth Israel. It was expressed that we should outreach to all faith communities, but focus on those who have expressed interest in the past. Sue will make a list of congregations. Invite progressive churches group.

3. Electrify Eugene update from Dennis R: The vote to ban new residential gas hookups has been postponed because the Council has been busy choosing an interim Councilor for Ward 7. They recently chose Lyndsie Leech who is a young mom. The Fossil Free coalition has had good conversations with her. *It is very important to reach out to your City Councilor now about support for the ban as they are likely to vote early next month.* Zelenka and Semple are not firm on their position. Northwest Natural has been going door to door and sending disinformation to their customers. This type of pushback is happening all over the country. [The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is considering a ban on gas stoves](#) (share with your Councilor).

4. Earth Stewardship update from Mark L: Mark will meet with Jared this week and give an update at the next IFEK meeting. The group is "adopting" Turtle Flats as a service project, and they received a certificate from [SOLVE](#). The executive director of Friends of Buford Park resigned. The organization is working toward a merger with Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. Jared is hosting a Peace Corps group. *They are looking for outdoor cookware; email Mark if you have any to donate: markl@fcceugene.org.*

5. [Pacific Northwest Forest Climate Alliance](#) / [Climate Forests Coalition](#): We will continue to follow and support their work on protecting mature and old growth forests in the PNW.

6. [Divest Oregon](#) (no new updates at this time): Action opportunities:
 - Provide written testimony, attend a meeting, or testify in person at an Oregon Investment Council meeting. Next meeting: January 25. Sign up to attend [here](#).
 - Fill out the [Right to Know Campaign](#) form and share with others, especially PERS members and beneficiaries. (You do not have to be a PERS member to fill out the form.)
 - Contact your state senator and representative about co-sponsoring the [Treasury Investment and Climate Protection Act](#). You can check who your legislators are [here](#).
7. UU Earth Action Monthly Film series:
 - Tuesday, Jan 17: [The Territory](#). Doors open at 6:30pm; film starts at 7:00pm
8. Eugene Friends Retreat with Randy Woodley (on Zoom): Cynthia will obtain more information this week. She will ask if she may invite us to the Zoom meeting.
9. [Interfaith Power & Light Faith Climate Action Week/Earth Week](#): (April 14-23) "Living the Golden Rule - Just Transition to a Clean Energy Economy." Kits are available. We will focus on this at the next meeting. Keith suggested that we jumpstart a plan and outreach for Earth Week, as it takes about three months prior to an event to successfully advertise. We should advertise for this event at the Interfaith Earth Summit and collect contact information for people who are interested in participating.

New Business

1. [Public Interest Environmental Law Conference](#) (March 2-5 at UO, in person): Earthkeepers used to have a table every year. It is best to request a table earlier than later. We need new brochures as well as brochures from the Corvallis group. We will discuss this more at the next meeting.
2. [Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice](#): They are supporting a proposal to enact a statewide tax which would be applied to corporations with a CEO to average worker pay gap of 100-1. This is similar to the [measure that was passed in Portland](#) in 2016. The main purpose is to get corporations to balance out their CEO/worker pay ratio and address income inequality.
3. Many Rivers Group of Sierra Club No Idling Campaign: "Idling is exhausting" bumper stickers
4. Carl: It would be helpful if there was one comprehensive calendar for all local environmental groups. CALC was mentioned as a possible host for this.
5. Mark L is working with John Pitney to get solar panels up at First Congregational Church.

Discussion: Becoming Rooted, Exercises 46-60

Mark L: This section is more depressing than the others, but the history of Indigenous people in the Americas and the negative impact of the Western worldview is a reality that we can learn from. The author suggested that people read [An Indigenous People's History of the United States](#).

Next Meeting: [February 8, 2023](#)

Moderator: Sue C

Minutes: Britni C

Education Session: [Becoming Rooted, Exercises 61- 75](#)