

Minutes, Interfaith Earthkeepers January 13, 2021

Members present: Ron, Sue, Penny, Keith, Dennis, Bob G., Merrily

Check In: Most of us had emotions and reactions re: the state of the nation and the state of the fight against Covid-19. But we felt generally okay.

Discussion of our new book **American Nations** by Colin Woodard:

- * Penny--intrigued by the way each nation thinks based on who and how they were settled,

- * Sue--feels the book will help us understand how to communicate with others whose forefathers settled different parts of the nation,

- * Ron--interested in the explanation for why working people in the west were described as unmotivated and lackadaisical. The timber industry and railroads controlled all the money even tho' the people did all the work. There was no incentive to work hard.

- * Rouanna--we are not united in the ways we think; "I just don't know what to do with all the information,"

- * Merrily--the history was separate stories until he drew it all together.

Please plan to read and be ready to discuss your reactions next month!

It would be a good idea for each of us to remind our faith communities of the **Faith Community Fund**. This is a project created by Betsy Halpern, Len Hockley, and Rouanna about 4 years ago to give our parishioners a way to offset carbon emissions created by travel by donating to Mackenzie River Trust and/or the Long Tom Watershed. Ron will post the information on the homepage of our website with a pretty picture. It is up to us to put something in our churches' newsletters. Dennis suggested using words such as, "this is an opportunity to think globally and act locally." Rouanna has sent the information electronically to everyone to make notifying our churches easier. Thank you, Ron and Rouanna for helping to make this easier for us!

Penny reported on trying to purchase I Am Greta. It is only available from Australia; postage would bring it to ~\$50 so we decided to shelve this idea. Meanwhile, Penny purchased and received **Kiss the Ground** about regenerative agriculture. Merrily, Ron, and Sue will get together on Jan. 19 at 10:00 a.m. to try to show the movie on Merrily's computer; this will decide whether we can use it for our Earth Day offering this year. Thank you, Penny, for purchasing! Keith mentioned a good Connectivity Project movie from Cape Perpetua if we need additional material.

Keith reported on progress planning **World Oceans Day**. He is finding that connecting with local youth from 6,000 miles away is difficult; they are "lukewarm". He is meeting with the Aquarium Education Director and he thought Chuck might be willing to do something about soil conservation. Keith has meetings lined up for March, May, and June over there. He is hoping that some of what he is working on over there may transfer to here. World Oceans Day is in June. Continue to think about what we could do so we can plan at our next meeting.

In partnership with ProPublica Local Reporting Network, the Register-Guard published a terrific article on Jan. 11, 2021, written by Tony Schick (OPB) and Rob Davis (The Oregonian) about the timber industry and the **fight for clean water** in the State of Oregon. It talks about the futures of little towns like Corbett and Wheeler who are finding their drinking water befouled by sediment run-off caused by clear cutting. Oregon's laws are much more lenient than Washington and California; Oregon's legislators have failed to change logging laws to keep up with current science. It is very important for Earth Keepers to write to the BLM, the Governor, and our state legislators about how important forest management changes are to Climate Action. Thank you, Rouanna, for mailing a list of points to make in your letters. Please use this time while we are stuck at home to write your legislators and (why not?) the Reg.-Guard.

The Energy Action Team of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, Director Annette Mills, invited us to join a new statewide network of grassroots climate action advocates. The primary goals of this network are to share ideas from our communities and to leverage support of specific climate related legislation. We voted to join. <http://www.sustainablecorvallis.org> #541-230-1237

Penny reported that Sundance Mrkt. is currently allowing customers to bring their **own containers for bulk** olive oil. Dennis said we can also purchase shampoo and soap in bulk.

Ron has connected our website to our Facebook page so that **anything we publish to our website will also go to Facebook**. Thank you, Ron!

Phyllis is editor of the **Church Women United** Facebook page. We can send anything we want published to her and she will get it out for us. Thank you, Phyllis!

CALC e-news needs a new poster; the one we are using is dated. Rouanna will create a new poster and run it by Ron before replacing the old one. Thank you, Rouanna!

Merrily will pursue connecting with the UO journalist who wanted more information about EarthKeepers. Thank you, Merrily!

Dennis, as a new member of the **Fossil Free Eugene Coalition**, reported that the city is renegotiating with NW Nat. Gas. There is positive energy around providing financial help to low income people to get off of gas appliances. In the meantime, dig no more gas pipelines! Dennis asked if he could say he represents EKs; we said yes!

Sue reported that Many Rivers Sierra Club is presenting Kami Ellingson, hydrologist for the Siuslaw National Forest. She will talk about **how beaver help conserve water** for the future. Program is Jan. 26, 7:00 pm. Link: [Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting](#)

Merrily talked about the latest webinar from Catholic Climate Covenant on Jan. 21 called "**A Laudato Si' Focus on Environmental Justice**". This is the first in a series; the 2nd will be in February. Ron has posted the information on our website. Time (PST) is 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

If you can, watch **The Social Dilemma**, a film on Netflix about Facebook. Listen to "The Keep Going On Song" by the Bengsons. Google it.

Next meeting: Feb. 10, 1-3 pm

Moderator: Merrily

Secretary: Ron