

Interfaith EarthKeepers Minutes

October 13, 2021 Online Zoom Meeting 6:30 to 8 pm.

Moderator Sue C, Minutes: Ron H

Attendees: Rouanna G, Carl B, Cynthia B, Phyllis H, Bob G, Joshua D, Sue C, Katharine H, Eunice K, Cherice B, Merrily S, Ron H, Mark L, Brian L, Jane S, Jerry S, Ruth D

Education Session/Special Agenda Item:

Cherice Bock from Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Oregon Interfaith Power & Light:

Green Circles networking will meet every 3rd Tuesday beginning Oct 19 at 630pm. This will provide support for people across the state in a regional structure, with connection to state-wide activities. The Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice and EcoFaith Recovery are collaborating. Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley's book *Becoming Rooted* is recommended reading.

In addition, Faiths 4 Climate Action activities are being pursued in conjunction with the world-wide GreenFaith.org events leading up to the UN Conference of Parties in Glasgow. Divest Oregon is part of this effort. A video was recorded for presentation to the State Treasurer and Oregon Investment Council. The following language was used: "We're running out of time to act to avoid catastrophic climate events. Interfaith EarthKeepers of Eugene Springfield call on Oregon State Treasurer Reed to stop investing in fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are unsafe financially, and dangerous for our climate and our health." Additional opportunities for action include sending letters and in person action.

Old Business

1. The Ocean Beach Picnic Area Cleanup lead by Mark L from First Congregational UCC had a good turnout, with 24 adults and 18 youth. More than 90 lbs. of litter was collected and removed as part of a three weekend statewide effort by SOLVE Oregon, an effort of 2700 volunteers. Because of the success, it is likely this may become an annual event, and involve river banks closer to home.
2. Faith Community Fund update given by Katherine H since Betsy H unable to attend. Pamphlet revisions are close to completion, and meetings will be occurring with congregations regarding participation. Dennis R has already requested that the UU Board sign on as an endorser. Benefits include local McKenzie and Long Tom River watersheds.
3. Fossil Free Eugene update. Dennis contributed by email since he had a schedule conflict. They are hopeful the City of Eugene will regulate "natural" gas.
4. Dennis also commented on collaboration of the NAACP and the City of Springfield on a tree planting initiative. He is hoping to get coordination with the City of Eugene Sustainability Commission Urban Canopy Committee, of which he is a member. Jane S noted that another group had been involved in city wide tree planting, and that duplication of effort is best avoided. To be discussed further next month. Congregational volunteers will also be part of that consideration.
5. Divest Oregon continues to progress, see above, follow our website. Congregations are invited to make their own short video. Ron is attending monthly meetings and EKs are a supporting organization.
6. United Nations Association on Climate and Oceans (UNACO) Youth Council discussed by Mark. On Sept 3 youth from all over the globe, including First Congregational joined in an online meeting to discuss the IPCC 6th Assessment Report, the upcoming COP26 sessions, and a youth "RunTo Zero" Marathon. Youth are encouraged to participate in

this exciting opportunity to speak directly with young people from all around the planet via Zoom. Contact Youth Minister Mark Lindberg to join the UNACO Youth Council, markl@fcceugene.org Youth from congregations can also reach out directly to Hannah Glowacki in Toronto, a co-chair for the COP26 conference UNACO effort. Keith O followed up after the meeting noting Katherine Hayhoe will be a keynote speaker for the team in the Americas time zone. Details to follow.

New Business

1. Penny will be gone for awhile. Rouanna will take her place as Treasurer.
2. Katharine reported the That's My Farmer fund raiser dinner is this coming Monday, and that some tickets are still available. Dinner is \$50, with half donated to their low income fund. Packaging will be composted.
3. Sue reported on a presentation by the Oregon Clean Power Cooperative, which supports solar installations. It was noted that a variety of incentives are available, and that Interfaith Power & Light also has support for congregations wishing to invest in solar.
4. Church Women United have requested a speaker for a presentation at their forum on Friday, February 4th. Merrily and Sue will do this, discussing both the Interfaith Community Fund as well as our other group efforts.

Next meeting: November 10, 1:00-3:00pm, in-person

Facilitator: Ron H

Minutes: Merrily S

Education: Cynthia B to discuss Friends Meeting House Solar system

Location: UU Church in Eugene