

Minutes, Interfaith EarthKeepers Online Meeting

November 9, 2022

Attendees: Ron H, Britni C, Rouanna G, Bob G, Mark L, Sue C, Keith O, Dennis R, Katharine H, Penny P

Moderator: Sue C, Minutes: Britni C

Old Business

1. That's My Farmer report - Katharine H: The dinner was successful. Dinner tickets plus donations raised a total of \$6,400. Katharine shared another idea to raise money for the low income fund: purchase a holiday card to give as a gift in honor of a friend or family member.

2. Earth Stewardship: Turtle Flats/Willamette River - Mark L: The next service project is Saturday, Nov. 12 at 10:30-1:30. [Sign up through SOLVE](#) or email Mark at markl@fcceugene.org. (Click on SOLVE link above for parking location info.) The event will involve removal of English ivy as well as a tour of Glassbar Island Turtle Flats restoration site.

There is a possibility of planning for regular (monthly or bimonthly) community service hours at this site. Future service will involve planting of willow and other native species. The site is home to massive gravel pits. The river had previously been channelized; the goal is to return it to a more natural "braided" river. Ryan from UUCE is interested in collaborating. Dennis will reach out to her.

3. UU Earth Action Monthly Film series:

- Tuesday, Nov. 15: [2040](#) doors open at 6:30pm; film starts at 7:00pm (flier posted on [IFEK website](#))
- Tuesday, Dec. 20: The Biggest Little Farm

4. Lane County Climate Action Plan update: It is especially important to reach out to the conservative commissioners now that the balance of commissioners has tipped that way (conservative Ryan Ceniga won the West Lane County Commissioner race over Dawn Lesley). We need to approach them from a Creation care perspective. Ron mentioned that there has been more action on the conservative side of the climate issue recently. [Katharine Hayhoe](#), a conservative Christian climate scientist, is a good resource to draw from. Also, the Citizens Climate Lobby is a national bipartisan group with local chapters: [Eugene CCL Chapter](#) [Lane County CCL Chapter](#)

5. Earth Care Interfaith Fund update: There are fliers for the fund at the UUCE office.

6. Alternative Christmas Gifts - Katharine shared [Homemade coupon book ideas](#) for services to give to loved ones for the holidays in replacement of purchasing items in order to avoid the culture of consumption.

7. Electrify Eugene update - Dennis R: It is very important to reach out to our city councilors urging them to support the electrification ordinance. Dennis submitted a letter to the council encouraging them not to back off on original goals. November 21st is a BIG opportunity to testify at the public hearing on ordinance language for electrification to influence the FINAL vote on an electrification ordinance. *New voices/faces are needed!* In person is more effective, but virtual is an option. If you're interested in testifying, reach out to Aya Cockram at fossilfreeeugenecoordinator@gmail.com .

The ordinance is only for residential at this point, but a commercial ban is likely to come later (an exception for the small food industry will likely be supported). In the future there will also be opportunities for people to transition off of natural gas. There is a good chance there will be a future ballot measure involving a gas ban. Salem is watching what is happening in Eugene, and other communities may follow. Check out Fossil Free Eugene's [website](#) for more information.

Good news: Northwest Natural's combined hydro gas/fracked gas proposal was dropped! The facility was going to be built in the Bethel Trainsong neighborhood.

8. [Divest Oregon](#): Britni C testified along with five others at the Oregon Investment Council meeting last week. The 2023 [Treasury Climate Protection Act](#) legislative concept has been submitted. Action opportunities:

- Provide written testimony or testify in person at an Oregon Investment Council meeting - next meeting: December 7. 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.)

9. [Climate Forests Coalition](#): November 17th at 11:30am - Rally and submission of signatures to Forest Service in Portland at Terry Shrunken Plaza. [Click here](#) for more info and carpool sign up. [Click here](#) to sign the petition.

10. Randy Woodley visit to Eugene Friends Retreat in February: No update at this time.

11. Overconsumption strategies: Britni is working on a flier on overconsumption, holiday shopping, and alternative gift ideas to share with others. Please email britnicacan@gmail.com if you have additional ideas.

Brainstormed ideas:

- Give an activity
- Give to a non-profit or individual who needs support
- Handmade gifts
- Edible gifts
- Books
- Homemade coupon books for tasks/services (see item 6)
- For kids: money based on age; a third to spend, a third to share, a third to save

12. Leadership: Let Ron and Sue know if you'd like to volunteer to run the meeting every third month.

New Business

[UK Eco Church Program](#) - Keith Oldham: Keith has been involved in tree planting and managing grounds at St. Leonard's church in Seaford, England to increase biodiversity. Churches can sign up to be considered for an Eco Church Award. There are five areas in which churches must demonstrate environmental engagement:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

Additionally, the UN created a short [documentary](#) on rewilding in Sussex.

Education Discussion

Exercises 16-30 of [Becoming Rooted](#) by Randy Woodley: Mark shared that exercise 31 "Lived Experience" was especially powerful. "What we do about what we know determines who we are." Sue shared that the exercises offer a lot of wisdom. Indigenous people are willing to learn *from* nature, which is in contrast with the modern Western view of "we know everything."

Discussion Topics

1. Election results
2. Plant based diet

Next Meeting

Online: December 14, 12:00 to 1:30pm

Moderator : Ron H

Minutes: Britni C

Education Session: Exercises 31-45, [Becoming Rooted](#), by Randy Woodley