

Minutes, Interfaith EarthKeepers Online Meeting

December, 2022

Attendees: Ron H, Britni C, Rouanna G, Bob G, Mark L, Sue C, Keith O, Dennis R, Phyllis H, Betsy, Cynthia B

Moderator: Dennis R, Minutes: Britni C

Old Business

1. Alternative holiday gifts/non-consumption strategies:

- contributions to Earth Care Interfaith Fund, That's My Farmer CSA Food Share Low Income Fund, or other charitable organizations
- [homemade "coupon" book](#) with coupons for activities, chores, etc
- for grandparents: write a letter a week
- laundry strips to save turtles (in place of plastic jugs of detergent)
- soup or cookie mix in a jar

**There are more ideas within articles on the IFEK website

2. Electrify Eugene Update: 140 people signed up to give testimony at the public hearing on November 21st. Those who didn't get to testify because they ran out of time were able to testify on December 12th. Northwest Natural encouraged and bribed customers to show up at the hearing. They may fund efforts to get this issue on the ballot. City Council has set aside other business to determine the councilor 7 position, which was held by Claire Syrett, who was a champion for Electrify Eugene.

Dennis also shared an idea about hosting public events to share with citizens and churches about what green investments we might be eligible for with the Inflation Reduction Act.

3. Divest Oregon update: 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](#).

For more ideas, see interfaihearthers.org blog post for Monday 12/12/22.

4. Earth Stewardship Update - Mark L: The November 12 event at Buford Park was a success. At least 30 people attended. They pulled English ivy, blackberry, and poison oak, and they planted Douglas aster. They took a tour of Turtle Flats, a previous gravel extraction site that is being restored. Mt. Pisgah was taking out some small conifers and giving them away for free as Christmas trees.

5. [Climate Forests Coalition](#): They will continue to work to save old growth forests. PNW forests are capable of storing more CO2 than the Amazon. Sue also brought up the [Pacific Northwest Forest Climate Alliance](#) of which IFEK is a member.

Also discussed was whether or not we need permission from the group to sign on to letters. It was determined that if it is last minute (day of or next day) then we may sign on IFEK without permission. If it is not last minute, please send the info to leadership first.

6. UU Earth Action Monthly Film series:

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

7. Eugene Friends Retreat - Randy Woodley: February 4th on Zoom. In-person was too expensive. Cynthia will find out if it will be recorded or if she may share the link to the Zoom meeting.

8. Leadership volunteers: Dennis stepped up to help facilitate meetings.

New Business

1. Interfaith Earth Summit: Feb 5, 1:30-5:30pm. Local people will meet at UU in person (don't yet know if online is an option for locals) to view online sessions together. To include Portland, Corvallis, Eugene, etc. This event is organized by [Oregon Interfaith Power and Light](#), a subgroup of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

Twenty-eight people attended the planning meeting. At our next meeting, we need to get an approximate number of attendees and plan for our 1.25 hour session. Reach out if you have an idea for a presentation. Mark is going to see if any of his youth are interested. Sue will reach out to Kat about technology. Ron will ask about using the sanctuary instead of the chapel.

Schedule:

- 1:30 - 2:00 Introduce participants
- 2:00 - 2:30 Presentations on Zoom
- 3:45 - 5:00 Program planned by IFEK
- 5:00pm candlelight vigil

2. Interfaith Power & Light Faith Climate Action Week - "Living the Golden Rule: Just Transition to a Clean Energy Economy" (Earth Week April 14 - 23). Agenda item for next meeting.

3. Outreach to inactive congregations: Call people and have a conversation about IFEK. Ron will reach out to Temple Beth Israel. Dennis will contact Carl Bybee.

Education Discussion: Becoming Rooted, by Randy Woodley, Exercises 31-45

Next Meeting: **January 11, 2023 on Zoom**

Moderator: Dennis R, Minutes Britni C

Education Session: **Becoming Rooted, Sessions 46- 60**