

Minutes, Interfaith EarthKeepers Hybrid Meeting
February 14, 2024

Attendees: Marilyn, Ron R, Tom, Betsy H, Sue C, Ron H, Mark L, Keith O, Cynthia B, Britni C

Moderator: Mark L Minutes: Britni C

Continuing Business

1. Fossil Free Eugene: No updates today.

2. Divest Oregon: If any members live in eastern lane county, they are looking for someone to write a letter to the Republican representative to support the COAL Act. Treasurer Read came out with a Net Zero Plan. Divest Oregon no longer has to convince the treasury that divestment is important, but there is still work to do. The COAL Act had a House committee hearing last week. *Added after meeting:* It passed through the House and had a Senate committee hearing on Thursday.

The Oregon UU Voices for Justice website has a [tutorial on how to use OLIS and give testimony](#).

3. Turtle Flats: The next volunteer restoration events are scheduled for March 23rd and April 20th. Many members from Mark's youth group have been attending.

4. KEPW Radio: They are willing to do a Saturday tour with youth. Mark announced this at his youth group and only one out of twenty were interested. They shared that the radio project feels like another homework project. If anyone has youth at their congregations that might be interested, please reach out to Mark at markl@fceeugene.org.

5. Earth Care Interfaith Fund: This is a local alternative to mainstream carbon offsets. It was suggested that people advertise this leading up to Earth Day in April. This [printable certificate document](#) is posted on the Earthkeepers blog. The certificate needs to be updated to include more information

6. Interfaith Earth Summit Debrief: Mark shared that there were spiritual moments during the event.

Sue shared that there were people who might be interested in EK meetings, but they can't make it on Wednesday afternoons, so it might be nice to have some meetings during the evening. A theme of the event was what happens if there is a huge problem and how we get together to solve it. Sue shared a story about two second grade girls who were sharing all of the things they have in common. It would be wonderful if our faith groups would focus on what we have in common and work together for climate action.

Keith shared that these events are good opportunities for outreach. The [Climate Resilience Cohort](#) for faith communities has monthly meetings to nurture collective resilience.

The Oregon Citizens for Environmental Rights Amendment was mentioned. There was a speaker from the Zen Buddhist perspective.

Mike Myers spoke about environmental trauma and anxiety. On March 2nd, he will hold a two hour program on mental health and climate resilience. He is interested in taking his practice outdoors. Would he be interested in doing a talk at Turtle Flats?

Ron R shared that the UU church was very welcoming. The event included a wide variety of issues and topics. The Community of Christ has a very active group. They have a [Climate Change Colloquy Series](#) online.

7. Moderators: We are always looking for people to moderate meetings. It would be nice to have a rotation so it's not always the same person. Sue will reach out to Dennis.

New Business

1. Green Team Summit: It was decided to push the summit back to May instead of April to allow for more planning time. *Added after meeting:* For those who would like to help plan the summit, there will be a planning meeting on Wednesday Feb. 28th at 12-1pm on Zoom and at First Congregational Church. Mark sent an email with the Zoom link.

Ideas for the event were shared:

- Plant giveaway.
- Each group gives a presentation. .

- Reach out to other faith communities to find out if they have a green team/earth stewardship group.
- Combine with a Turtle Flats volunteer event.
- Ron R works for an organic ice cream company that is getting interested in sustainability. His company would likely be happy to donate ice cream bars. What other companies might be interested in this? Nancy's Creamery was mentioned.

Earthkeepers, ask your green teams if this is something they'd be interested in. Would they come if there is food? Mark will reach out to Jared to see if Friends of Buford Park has any native plants or seeds to give away.

2. Meeting Location: Is there another congregation site that would like to host the April meeting or future meetings?

3. New Membership: A few new members attended today. Continue reaching out to your congregations.

Education Discussion - Nature's Best Hope by Doug Tallamy - Chapter 6

The book is available as an eAudiobook (free) through Hoopla via Eugene Public Library (search the title on the [library website](#)).

Keith: He shared a quote: "Earth's carrying capacity is dependent on our caring capacity."

Betsy: We're all travelers on this spaceship earth.

Mark shared some quotes from chapter 6. Carrying capacity "refers to the number of individuals of the species that can be supported indefinitely without degrading the local resources." Through purchasing preferences, the public has insisted over the years that the green industry focus only on the decorative value of plants..." "We've already degraded more than 60% of the earth's ability to support us." Planting natives and advocating that the city integrate natives is one thing we can do in our sphere of influence.

Cynthia: The birds can't always eat the berries and nuts from nonnative trees and bushes, and these plants don't always support the native insects that the birds eat. Birds pollinate the plants that we eat. Eventually our food systems will be seriously affected.

Ron: Sometimes you can engage people in changing their plants by talking about the benefits for monarch butterflies and bees.

Next Meeting: March 13, 2024 (online and in person at First Congregational Church)

Moderator: Mark

Minutes: Britni

Education Session: *Nature's Best Hope* - Read through chapter 7