

Minutes, Interfaith EarthKeepers Online Meeting
May 11, 2022

Attendees: Ron H., Marion M., Rouanna G., Dennis R., Phyllis and Len H., Bob G., Mark L., Betsy H., Cynthia B., Carl B., Katherine H., Ruth D., Merrily S., Mark L., from Florence

Old Business:

Marion Malcolm from CALC is looking for an opportunity to present their powerpoint entitled Re-imagining National Security. The premise is that we can't solve the climate crisis or racism without dealing with militarism. The pictures take about 10 minutes to show, but Marion is wishing to present an interactive session with discussion. Two CALC members would come as a team. This can be accessed as a Zoom but can also be in person. Marion will be sending a link to view the presentation and the flyer. We decided to view the presentation on June 1 but discovered a conflict with this date later in the meeting.*

Dennis reported that Lane County has passed The Climate Action Plan (CAP) and EarthKeepers has an invitation to meet with Commissioner Trieger on June 1 at 1:00 p.m at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 13th and Chambers. EarthKeepers are urged to let Dennis know if they can be part of this gathering to discuss what faith communities can do to help the County meet its CAP goals.

The film Youth v Gov is now available to watch on Netflix. It is a very moving retelling of the story of the children, now grown, who took the US government to court for knowingly supporting the fossil fuel industry even though knowing that climate change would be the result. Cynthia had no trouble accessing the movie and was able to show it multiple times. Mark was able to show it. One church had difficulty with the sign-up.

Wolf Report: The annual wolf count estimated a minimum of 175 wolves in Oregon, up just two animals from the 2020 count, according to the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. The lack of growth of the population was due to the death of the Catherine pack by poisoning (8 wolves), lethal action taken against wolves who were attacking nearby livestock (8 wolves). Four wolves died in motor vehicle collisions. There is a \$50,000 reward offered for information on the poisonings. The Oregon Dept. of Agriculture's compensation program awarded grants totaling \$130,814 to 10 counties in 2021. "The majority of funds were used for non-lethal preventative measures to reduce depredation and also for

direct payment to livestock producers for confirmed depredation and missing livestock,” ODFW wrote. Jay Hall has been hired as the state’s new poaching prosecutor. Turn In Poachers phone line: 800-452-7888. Quote from Oregon Wild: “Human-caused mortality is the number one factor prohibiting wolf recovery. This report unequivocally demonstrates the consequences of politicians prematurely stripping endangered species protections from wolves.”

There will be a meeting at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church on May 18th at 10:30 a.m. The meeting will focus on how the new Earth Care Interfaith Fund is operating.

The World Athletics Championships will be happening in July in Eugene. Could EarthKeepers gain some exposure with all the media? There will be a River Front Festival, but all tables have been spoken for. Some had heard that Joe Biden may come? We are expecting a possible 250,000 people! Some people voiced concern that this could be a terrorist temptation. We will revisit this topic at the June meeting to see if anyone has any good ideas.

Since Covid-19 cases are up 16.3% in Lane County, it was decided to continue Zoom meetings for at least a couple more months as things, hopefully, get better.

Merrily reported on an article in the Jan./Feb. 2022 issue of Smithsonian Magazine entitled “The Oldest Tree.” Bob Leverett, an 80-year-old hiker in the eastern mountains has been identifying old growth forest still extant. These are multi-species forests that have been left alone for at least 150 years. He is a proforestation proponent—preserving older existing forests—because Eastern White Pines accumulate 75% of their total carbon AFTER 50 years of age. “...if we simply left the world’s existing forests alone, by 2100 they’d have captured enough carbon to offset years’ worth of global fossil-fuel emissions—up to 120 billion metric tons. Leverett co-authored The Sierra Club Guide to the Ancient Forests of the Northeast.

New Business:

Dick Barnhart is a long-standing Oregonian and retired physician. After his retirement he spent time deep digging into the topic of climate change which he feels is the most important topic of our time. He has put together a 20-minute presentation which covers: 1. the indisputable science, 2. the IPCC—who are they? and 3. what can we do? He is trying to reach people who haven’t been convinced about climate change yet. Dick can discuss the current bills in the U.S. Congress. He can be reached at ricbar2@mac.com or 541-501-1774 if your

church or other group would like to hear him speak. This can be done by Zoom as well.

3rd Act's new campaign is call Senior to Senior. It is a push to get HS seniors registered to vote. See the website or our Facebook page to find out how to participate.

SOLV is planning a river clean-up this summer. Mark L. will contact them and report at our next meeting.

Rouanna will email everyone a poster she created, to be placed in our church women's restrooms, advertising the Eugene Main Library's policy of making all menstrual supplies free.

Education Session: We discussed pages 204-267 in Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We noted that the Western world view is so different from the indigenous world view. Man does not own Nature; Nature is a gift from God which man needs to steward. Humans need to see themselves as equal to, not above, other living creatures. Instead of using words like "subdue" and "dominion" we need to substitute "reciprocity". Next month's discussion will focus on pages 268-309.

Next Meeting Online: June 8, 2022, 12:00 to 1:30 pm

Moderator: Merrily

Minutes: Sue