Minutes, Interfaith EarthKeepers Hybrid Meeting  
August 9, 2023 at First Congregational UCC

Attendees: Sue C, Ron H, Ron C, Keith O, Rouanna G, Carl B, Mark L, Dennis R, 
Bob G, Katherine H, Betsy H, Philip B, Ruth D

Moderator: Sue C

Continuing Business

1. Possible KEPW 97.3 program. The Youth Radio Project is Janna’s personal 
project. Mark is interested in his youth possibly working on this. Janna visited 
last month, providing her email stationmanager@kepw.org for more information. 
Rouanna noted the website daily news blog has more than enough timely 
interesting climate/environment information to be used for discussion on any 
regular programming we develop.

2. Advocacy Updates
   • Sue discussed advocacy for black farmers, and the group endorsed our 
     public support of this effort.
   • Sue also reported the issue of forest land ownership is beginning to be 
     addressed. The Pacific Northwest Alliance is engaged in planning a protest 
     on this issue at a large timber industry gathering.
   • Climate Forests Coalition: Ron H. reported the final tally was over 500,000 
     comments submitted to the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land 
     Management in support of protecting mature and old growth forests as a 
     climate mitigation strategy.
   • Divest Oregon: Ron H indicated we continue to support this effort. The New 
     York Times recently engaged a specialist to analyze the Oregon investment 
     portfolio risk, and found it was much higher than they claim. Story also 
     covered by Willamette Week, to be on our news blog in a couple of days.
   • Ron H also reported we are supporting the March to End Fossil Fuels in 
     NYC in September prior to a UN session, as well as legislation in 
     Washington to phase out bank funding for fossil fuels

3. Turtle Flats August 12 - Mark notes that he would like to have a few more 
   people at the event, so we should resend our invitations. Dennis plans on 
   going.

4. That’s My Farmer Annual Dinner is October 2 this year, with food to be taken 
   out only. The proceeds go to farmers for food baskets for low income 
   individuals and families. Contact Katharine H to support this effort and the 
   opportunity to enjoy delicious food.

5. Dennis indicated NAACP is planning a planting project in Springfield in the fall, 
   further information pending.

6. Keith is monitoring the planning for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon annual 
   Interfaith Earth Summit in February. Carl B will possibly be involved. An effort 
   will be made to engage the Interfaith Hub and Ed Conrad
7. Next in-person hybrid online meeting in September will again be at First Congregational Church.
8. We start reading *Nature’s Best Hope* by Doug Tallamy. First chapter is assigned for discussion in September.

**New Business**
1. Ron C reported Unity of the Valley now has a climate group, and they are looking to be more involved in our efforts. He is interested in an event at western edge of the UO campus at Bank of America and US Bank. He is considering an action after students return September 28, possibly in coordination with 350EUG. There was general support for the issue, important to us since our early efforts in front of Chase Bank prior to the pandemic.
2. Rosanna noted there are petitioners circulating a protect animals petition that is focused on the extreme and impractical side of the issue.
3. Ruth indicated an effort to establish passenger rail service between Eugene and Florence is beginning. Contact her if you wish to support this.
4. Keith is considering the possibility of indigenous fire management and land restoration strategies as a 2024 Earth Day program. He is exploring the issue with connections which include the Long Tom Watershed team.

**Next Meeting:** August 13, 2023 (online and in person at First Congregational Church)
Moderator: Dennis R
Minutes: Britni C?
Education Session: *Nature’s Best Hope*, First chapter

Minutes: collaborative effort by Ruth D, Sue C, Ron H