

Interfaith Earthkeepers Meeting

January 29, 2026

Location: First Congregational Church of Eugene

Moderator: Mark Lindberg **Notetaker:** Tom Boyd

In attendance: Cynthia Black (Zoom), Mona Bronson, Carl Bybee, Britni Cacan, Sue Craig, KC Hancock, Katharine Hunt, Tom McFarlane, Theresa O'Brien (Zoom), Ron Raynes, Barb Reuter, Garry Swanson, Kenny Watkins, Tom Boyd.

Invocation: Mark Lindberg shared a piece adapted from writings of Cameron Trimble:

Spirit of Life, You who speak in rustling leaves and running water, open our hearts to the chorus of creation. Teach us to listen for the small voices—the moss, the bird, the breath of soil. Let gratitude be our language, and tenderness our law. When we forget our kinship, remind us gently. When we hurry past beauty, slow us down. Let us live so that the world, seeing us, might say, "There goes one who remembers." Amen. -Rev. Cameron Trimble

Continuing Issues / Upcoming Events

Attendees shared names and faith/spiritual affiliations. We welcomed Tom McFarlane and Mona Brunson from the Center for Sacred Sciences, which has an Earth Stewardship Committee, and Garry Swanson from Laudato Si, a Catholic-based group guided by Pope Francis' second encyclical, a call to global climate action. With the current meeting's focus on strategic planning, ongoing/upcoming initiatives were addressed selectively.

- There will be a Lobby Day at the capitol on February 16 to support the Make Polluters Pay bill <<https://orclimatehub.org/event/makepolluterspay/>>. In addition it was noted that the Oregon League of Conservation Voters is organizing a Rally, also at the capitol, on February 5 to defend Oregon's clean air and water agencies <<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdsPeUSLCY2jdvj2cPJBrvvm2X8ay9qBXRXflIMrzTvjTNVpA/viewform>>.
- We briefly discussed the recent candlelight vigil in solidarity with immigrants, and the Stronger Together potlucks. Carl Bybee was to contact Temple Beth Israel Rabbi Ruhi about getting Buddha Eye added to informational emails. Mark plants to send out the flyer for the next event when available.
- Cynthia encouraged attendees to share information regarding their fellowships' climate related events to include in our online calendar.
- Guest Presenters: At the February meeting there will be a presentation by Rob Dickinson and Sue Pileggi of Protect Lane County Watersheds, focusing on Measure 20-373. Cynthia commented that a family member had shared concerns around liability that such legislation might pose for small landowners. Barbara commented that, though the November presenter (Eric Richardson) was most informative regarding community resilience efforts, she had thought we would be hearing from city representatives on climate resilience efforts. It was proposed that for a future meeting we invite a speaker from the City of Eugene to address climate resiliency and partnership opportunities. It was proposed that we set a limit of 20-25 minutes for guest speakers and designate an attendee to monitor time.
- Britni asked if any attendees were aware of how to voice opposition to the proposed Amazon distributions facility. Carl volunteered to pass along relevant information from the ACES coalition.

- Sue spoke on the importance of the Northwest's forests in planet health (carbon sequestration; concentrating water) and Mark advocated for Robin Wall Kimmerer's Plant Baby Plant movement <<https://plantbabylet.com/>>.
- Mark mentioned a planned Turtle Flats restoration event for Saturday, February 21, and plans to update and distribute the SignUp Genius link pending further event details from our Turtle Flats volunteer coordinator.
- Miscellaneous areas for followup consideration include adding Third Act's Plug-In Solar Initiative to the next meeting's agenda, exploring ways to broaden dissemination of information (e.g., newsletter, social media, followup on Lookout Eugene's solicitation of news of our activities), having attendees share earth care activities from their fellowships, and looking at ways to assist Ron with IE's website.

Strategic Planning: Most of this extended meeting was facilitated by KC, identifying IE's priorities for action. She guided us through an exercise involving a group ranking of areas of interest. She will collate this information for presentation at our upcoming February meeting.

Education: *Here Comes the Sun* by Bill McKibben was not discussed due to lack of time. The plan for February is to discuss Chapters 1-4. We will then read Chapters 5-6 for March.

Next Meeting: February 25 at First Congregational Eugene, 1050 E. 23rd Ave. Eugene 97405