

Interfaith EarthKeepers Meeting

October 22, 2025

Location: Unitarian Universalist Church of Eugene

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

In attendance: Barb Reuter, Penny Palmer, Anyu Savelle, KC Hancock, Jerry Smith, Carl Bybee, Britni Cacan, Sue Craig, Katherine Hunt, Victoria Koch (**Zoom attendees:** Ron Hess, Teresa O'Brien, Cynthia Black, Kenny Watkins, Ron Raynes)

Invocation: Mark Lindberg

Continuing Issues / Upcoming Events

- **Cooling Centers:** Barb Reuters had attended an EarthKeepers training in Seattle. Among the issues addressed at that training was the importance of not assuming a community wants a particular intervention without first asking. Barb polled the group for interest in surveying local communities for their climate resiliency needs. Discussion included reference to her pastor's suggestion of community or neighborhood "town halls" to gauge need, suggestions to explore existing resources (St. Vincent DePaul; Lane County funds for community resilience centers). There was general interest from attendees in supporting community resilience, and a decision to carry forward the topic to a future meeting.
- **Apple Harvest Event 9/27 (Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah):** Mark reported this was an enjoyable event, with participation from Wildcraft Cider in pressing the apples into cider. Unfortunately, there were a couple of cases of poison oak eruptions, and one volunteer incurred a leg fracture. There will be a Fall Plant Sale at Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah Nursery 11/1, and also a Food for Lane County workshop on composting that same day on Coburg Road.

- The Stronger Together Interfaith Potluck was on 10/19. The panel on resilience was reported to be informative, the get-together providing a good opportunity to interact with folks from local faith communities. Several attendees noted it would be helpful to better advance information regarding event details.
- Interfaith Alliance for Migrants Candlelight Vigil 10/9: 65 people attended, including an unhoused passerby who volunteered to participate on the spot. The next of these events is planned for 12/18 at Alton Baker Park.
- Outreach to other faith communities: Carl mentioned having come across a Catholic-affiliated group that had organized around Pope Francis' climate encyclical. This group apparently languished for some time but is regaining momentum.
- Earth Care Interfaith Fund - promotion: With the holidays coming, holiday fairs provide an opportunity to plug gifts to this fund as a gift-giving alternative. At the end of the meeting brochures were made available for attendees to use and distribute.
- First-time attendee Victoria Koch shared she attended out of curiosity regarding the group's efforts. She belongs to a group called Sophia Sanctuary, a spiritually oriented group structured around cyclical rituals (e.g., moon phases, equinox, solstice). Some rituals are rooted in Native American practices.
- Other: Sue Craig mentioned she has been trying to reach faith groups in eastern Oregon. Tom Boyd shared information regarding a local individual making a walking pilgrimage across the country who stayed in several churches. Liberty Walks is the organization she created in support of this effort, the website for which is linked here. www.libertywalks.org

Local Organizations

350 - Eugene

Sierra Club

Third Act

Oregon Coalition for Environmental Rights (OCERA)

Divest Oregon

ACES: Carl mentioned concerns around the fact that the Eugene No Kings event was not permitted. Having done so might have decreased some conflicts between marchers and drivers, who were not alerted to the need to plan alternate routes. Consensus among attendees was in support of obtaining permits for such events. EarthKeeper attendees attending the ACES meeting later this date plan to share this input.

Interfaith Clergy United

City of Eugene

Education

We discussed the last chapter of Rebecca Solnit's *Hop in the Darkness*. Mark shared his favorable reaction to the closing chapter's emphasis on process vs. outcome, sharing one person's description of their activism as a state of being, a "home in which I live." Mark said that for him the book did a good job of giving people hope in dark times.

Here Comes the Sun by Bill McKibben was selected as the next book for the group to read, starting with the first two chapters.

Next Meeting: 11/26/25 at Unitarian Universalist Church of Eugene

