

Creation Care Meeting Notes

Mon Mar 28, 2022

Recap and discussion of our March 6 Visioning Retreat Meeting

The Sustainability and Creation Care Committee held a Strategic Visioning Retreat on March 6. Members engaged in thoughtful discussion around the group's mission and brainstorming ideas for delivering on that. Some of the findings include:

- One of the missions of Creation Care is education. But we need to rise beyond education to challenge parishioners to become involved in fighting the climate crisis. We need to create "a place of change" a "collective spirit".
- We discussed how to more fully engage parishioners. And how to deal with the enormity and overwhelmingness of the climate crisis. But it was pointed out that "even if the challenges are global, doesn't mean we shouldn't act."
- Ingrid pointed out that an example of a successful program is the Sustainable Middlesex event which combined a positive message and education about how extensively we're already acting to address Climate challenges with clear calls-to-action about what each of us can do to fight climate change.
- The Group determined that we should prioritize our activities on programs that integrate with regional or national groups outside Epiphany. These activities can be educational, and also can engage many members of the parish community and can identify clear action they can take to make an impact.
- We discussed how to draw in more people in the parish community. We discussed the importance of tangible actions and activity that parishioners can see, touch and feel. Things like:
 - Gardening: permaculture and sustainable gardening, native gardens, pollinator gardens
 - Engaging youth/children – asking them what excites them
 - Working with groups that are already are engaged: Network for Social Justice, etc.
- We planned a Communications plan to broaden our communications: A regular "Creation Care Corner" article in 3Crowns as well as Facebook and Instagram posts. We'll plan these each month in our Monthly Meetings

The group discussion covered many topics, so if I've missed important findings, please let Josh know.

Update on the MassIPL Environmental Audit.

The report from the MassIPL Audit is expected to be released in Mid-end of April. Josh will verify timing with MassIPL>

Discussion of Earth Day 2022 events

Earth Day is April 22 this year. Because this is the weekend after Easter, we felt it would be wiser to conduct longer-term activities throughout April/May. Josh will request of Nick to include special prayers for the Earth in our Sunday celebration and will write a paragraph for 3Corwns. And we discussed 3 other types of events related to Earth Day.

1. Working with Property Committee to plan a Native Garden/Pollinator Garden on the Parish grounds (and invasive plant removal). This may be coordinated with the larger property assessment with an architectural consultant that Property Committee is initiating. [Laura Dike will ask Jennifer Tidwell to help with coming up with a plan to recommend to Property].
2. Earth Day related youth activities. Planting flowers and plants for children, a Kahoot event for youth. [Josh to talk to Bryn and Eva about these.]
3. A watch day for the *Climate Solutions and You* series or the *Sustainable Middlesex* webinar events and Epiphany co-sponsored with Mass 350 and the UU Church. [The content for this is complete. We need to determine the best dates/times to conduct an event like this. We're looking for a co-leader to work with Josh to set this up.]

Composting – Contracting with Black Earth Composting.

We're approved to proceed with this. Josh will determine how to fund this and Hannah will reach out to Black Earth.

The Creation Care communications plan for April

Creation Care is planning to create a set of regular communications with a paragraph in 3Crowns every other week, and Facebook and Instagram posts.

For April We'll write:

- Susie to write a paragraph on composting for the April 7 3Crowns
- Josh to write paragraph for Earth Day for the April 21 3Crowns (which is April 22 this year)