

## Creation Care Monthly Meeting Notes: Nov 29, 2021

### Participants:

In Person: Susan Almquist, Jenny Rynne, Ingrid Geis, Pam Chester, Pierre Trepagnier, Josh Reynolds  
Zoom: Unable to connect.

### Agenda

- Opening Prayer
- Welcoming new members
- Update on MassIPL Property ESA (Environmental Stewardship Assessment)
- Summary of the Glasgow UN Climate Summit (COP26) which ended Nov 12.
- Recycling update
- Planning a Creation Care retreat in January
- Closing Prayer

### Notes:

#### New Members

We're welcoming Jenny Rynne and Bryan Diaz to the Creation Care group.

#### Update on MassIPL Environmental Stewardship Assessment

Epiphany is working with Mass Interfaith Power and Light (MassIPL) to conduct an Environmental Assessment of the Church property and the rectory. This will help identify opportunities to save energy and reduce our carbon footprint, and will feed into an overall Plan being developed by the Property Committee. It will also serve as the basis for a Roadmap to Zero Carbon for the Parish. MassIPL recently completed a similar Assessment for the Winchester Unitarian Church (attached). It is an extensive and detailed document identifying both immediate and long-term opportunities to reduce energy consumption and emissions.

The Creation Care Group and Epiphany Property Committee have formed a Working Group to provide preliminary data on utility usage and energy requirements which are required before conducting the MassIPL onsite visit. The Working Group will meet in mid-December to review the data when completed and submit to MassIPL.

#### Summary of the Glasgow UN Climate Summit (COP26)

At the Glasgow COP26 Climate Summit in November, leaders from nations throughout the world met to discuss initiatives for fighting climate change. The Creation Care group discussed the results in our November meeting. Although resolutions were passed to limit methane emissions and reduce deforestation, many observers believe the resolutions were insufficient to prevent the 1.5 degree increase global temperatures. The funding that richer nations committed to provide to poorer nations is substantially less than the amount requested, and a crucial resolution to "phase out" coal production was watered down to less powerful statement. The Creation Care team followed up this assessment with a discussion of related issues such as advocating for non-fossil fuel investments and the need for enhancements to the power grid.

The results of the Glasgow Summit will be discussed in more detail in the Nov/Dec Creation Care Newsletter.

### Recycling update

Currently Pam Chester, Ellen Rockefeller or other Creation Care members are volunteering to take home food waste for composting. We discussed funding a weekly service to pick up and compost Epiphany food waste. Suzie Almquist agreed to research composting services with which Epiphany can contract.

### Planning a Creation Care retreat in January

The Creation Care Ministry will conduct a strategic planning retreat to discuss our Mission, Strategies and Tactics for 2022. This will be a 2-3 hour meeting conducted on a Saturday or Sunday.

Josh will send out a Doodle poll to identify the best date/times to hold this retreat.

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### **Opening Prayer: Prayer in solidarity with creation**

Oh how beautiful are your ways, O God, the works of your creation. Raise our consciousness to know and feel deeply in our hearts our connectedness to all that is.

Instill in us the gift of being co-creators and sustainers of life. Teach us new and unsuspected ways of living so that current and future generations can walk humbly in beauty, love all compassionately, and live justly in solidarity with all creation.

Loving and gracious God, give us the courage to seek this transformation of self and society and the strength to see it through.

*Amen.*

*-- School Sisters of Notre Dame Green Team*

### **Closing Prayer: Prayer for the kinship and unity of all creation in Christ**

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

*Amen.*

— *Pope Francis*