

Creation Care Meeting Notes: Jan 31, 2022

Participants:

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Agenda

- Opening Prayer
- An update on the MassIPL Environmental Stewardship Assessment.
- Update on Drawdown event with UU Church
- Leaf Blower request (who'd like to address?)
- Update on composting at Epiphany
- Planning for our Creation Care Retreat March 6

Notes:

Opening Prayer

Chief Seattle's Letter to Washington's Governor 1854

(Chief Seattle was the leader of the Suquamish and Duwamish tribes in what is now Washington and Oregon)

Humankind has not woven the web of life.
We are but one thread within it.
Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.
All things are bound together.
All things connect.
Amen

Closing Prayers

A Nuche Tribe Prayer (also known as Ute tribe)

When you were born, you cried
and the world rejoiced.
Live your life
so that when you die,
the world cries and you rejoice.

Second Nuche prayer

Treat the earth well.
It was not given to you by your parents,
it was loaned to you by your children.
We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors,
we borrow it from our children.
Amen.

Update on the MassIPL Environmental Stewardship Assessment

In Nov. and Dec, the Property and Creation Care working groups prepared for MassIPL documents on utility utilization, space usage and energy usage of the property. These were sent to MassIPL in Early January.

The next step is for MassIPL to conduct an on-site property assessment. That has been scheduled for Feb 25. A sample of that assessment, conducted for the Winchester UU Church is being posted on the Sustainability & Creation Care web page. <https://3crowns.org/sustainability>

Following that on-site visit, MassIPL will develop a detailed Assessment of the Parish energy usage and emissions which will include recommendations for reducing energy use and emissions. That will be used to develop a roadmap to zero carbon emissions.

Update on Drawdown event with UU Church

The Winchester Unitarian Church (in conjunction with 350 Mass) is sponsoring a 6-part Webinar series based on the book and film series [Drawdown](#) by Paul Hawken. Drawdown means not just *reducing the increase in Carbon emissions*, but beginning *to reduce the actual level of carbon in the atmosphere*.

This 6-part series will run on Sunday Evenings between Feb 20 and March 27. Each session will feature a video from Project Drawdown followed by an interactive online discussion with a local sustainability expert.

Epiphany will be sponsoring this series with the Winchester UU Church. We'll start communicating more info about the specific dates, times and topics of the 6-part series beginning Feb 7.

Leaf Blower request

The Sustainable Winchester group is planning a proposal to limit the use of noisy gas-powered leaf blowers in Winchester, modeled on similar measures in Arlington and Lexington. They've asked Epiphany if we'd be willing to pilot the use of battery-powered leaf blowers at the Parish and be a success story for how this works. Creation Care will fund either the purchase of a battery-blower for the church or hiring a contractor who uses this technology. Susan offered to investigate which option we could employ.

Composting

Creation Care is willing to fund a service to pick up compostable food (and other) waste to be converted to compost. Once we return to in-person as the pandemic winds down, the need for this will increase. Firms like Black Earth Compost offer pick-up service for Winchester. Susan Almquist offered to research the services which Epiphany could contract.

Planning for our Creation Care Retreat March 6

Our Strategic Planning retreat will be Sunday March 6 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm. Lunch will be served. The topic for discussion is How do we engage the Community – Parishioners, people outside the Parish, and youth.

It's important that youth be part of this discussion, and Pam suggested that Josh connect with Eva Dalzell to invite her and recommend youth to join us.

We discussed how (with less focus on Adult Forum as a formal means to engage parishioners) we can invite parish members of all ages to participate, even if they are not in Church on Sundays.

Each of us will think about ways in which we can engage the Parish community.