

## **Green Team September 21, 2017**

Thanks so much to all of you for coming together over lunch today! It is great to meet the Godly Renegades of Bellevue. (Kate, we came up with what GREEN team stands for... Godly Renegades of Energetic Environmental Nerds- now you can decide if you really want to be one of us)

Here are my notes from today.

1. We opened with a prayer about seeds and new beginnings
2. We set some norms for our work together. We agreed to:

- start small and be clear
- have short-term and long-term plans with volunteers to do the plans
- give ourselves permission to say no
- be open to doing things differently than they have been done before.
- take responsibility for what we come up with

3. We talked about the list of ideas that I had brought to the team. There was one thing that Kate Ingalls had suggested that I forgot to bring up. It was the possibility of solar panels at the church building. We should keep that idea to discuss next time we are together.

The list we did discuss is below. Action items are listed separately at the very bottom.

- Composting- We will encourage composting more. This was seen as the short term, achievable thing we could make immediate progress on.
- Education items- Encourage use of washables instead of disposables (plates, silver, towels). We also talked about helping the congregation and other building users learn what can be composted. We decided that green practices for homes will not be a priority for us at this time. We also will use a bulletin board to let people know about upcoming events and issues.
- Guest speakers- We thought that an Earth Day event with a guest speaker from the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy about the Carbon Tax that will be on the ballot in Fall, 2018 might be a good way to reach out through the library to the neighborhood and larger community. This is the long term plan that we discussed.
- Partnerships- We thought that working through the Faith Action Network that we recently joined might be a useful place to start on this, rather than going through Jenny Phillips or Earth Ministry. Partnerships would focus on the faith component of environmental advocacy and issues.

4. We talked about our team as being a place where those who are not part of the congregation may find a way to connect with the church around environmental issues. Dorothy has agreed to include a note from me in her next preschool newsletter about opportunities to be part of what we are doing. Also, we came up with some options for neighborhood involvement. We also talked about meeting during the day as a possible barrier for attendance for those who work so our next meeting (and likely others) will be in the evening.

5. We set our next meeting time as Tuesday, October 10 at 5:30pm, ending by 7:00pm. Laura will again provide a light meal (low on the food chain/veggie). Please let me know if you have dietary restrictions. Second Tuesday of the month from 5:30-7pm could be an ongoing pattern.

6. Action Items:

LINDA- write directions for use of the dishwasher so we can make a poster and encourage people to wash dishes rather than use disposables.

## **Green Team Minutes**

### **October 10, 5:30pm**

Godly Renegades,

(For Geri and Phoebe, we have an acronym: The Godly Renegades of Energetic Environmental Nerds - GREEN)

Thanks so much to those of you were able to be with us on Tuesday evening. It was a fun and productive 90 minutes. I am so thankful that I get to work with you all! Here are my notes of what we did.

1. We opened in prayer over our lasagna and song for Linda's birthday!
2. We discussed progress on the tasks we were going to work on from last month
  - a. Linda- is still hoping to find time to write directions for the dishwasher. The goal will be to have them available in various forms so people can learn. It was noted that usually it takes at least three encounters with new procedures before they are really learned.
  - b. Jean- the bulletin board is up and looks good. Anyone on the team is welcome to add things.
  - c. Rich- We need a garbage cart for John with three bins to make removal of waste from the building more streamlined. We also need bins for classrooms. We can move to composting downstairs bathroom trash now. We need lids for coffee cups that are compostable.
  - d. Geri- has a contact at Pura Vida for compostable products and additional resources. The idea of a coffee cup fundraiser came up while Geri was talking as well, but it didn't seem like the time was right for that since we have many coffee cups available for visitors as it is. There was some discussion about budget and how coffee condiments and kitchen supplies are paid for. No one was completely sure.
  - e. Laura- has posters and also heard a request for simple descriptions. We can also encourage use of reusable cups and plates instead of disposable. We now have two outdoor compost bins which we can begin using, at no additional charge from Republic.
3. We talked about new ideas that have come our way.
  - a. solar panels- Roger reported talking with a salesman who sells solar panels who looked up the church on google maps and says we are an ideal location for solar panels. He described legislative incentives that allow buildings with solar panels to sell unused electricity back to the grid in WA state. Several proposals were mentioned, but one in particular that allowed for 40 panels (approximately 3.5 feet by 5 feet) would cost about \$48,000. The return on investment was estimated at about 10 years to break even, which would involve two revenue streams. One would be the savings that came from not having to purchase the electricity we generate and then use at the church. The other would be an approximately \$2700/year payment due to the legislative incentive program. The salesman estimated that we could fit approximately 150 panels and that for ideal electrical production, they would be placed on south facing roof sections either over the classroom wing or on part of Friendship Hall. An additional benefit would be potential cooling of Friendship Hall during the hot summer months due to the panels absorbing energy from the sun and converting it to electrical energy, rather than transferring it as heat to the room. That could be a reason to consider putting more panels on Friendship Hall and fewer on the classroom wing at first. The process for adding panels after the initial installation was not known. The conversation centered on whether the initial investment of \$48,000 was feasible.
  - b. Laura brought handouts about the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy and the support of faith communities for the carbon tax on the 2018 ballot.
  - c. Good World Trust- Laura brought the idea of a Facebook/Google Group presence called Good World Trust. Another pastor started it and couldn't keep it up so now we can take it and run with it if we want to. No one at the meeting expressed sufficient desire and expertise on social media to take this on.

4. At the very end, Jean asked when our next meeting would be and Laura suggested we keep with the second Monday at 5:30 schedule unless there is reason to change. So, our next meeting will be November 14 at 5:30pm (unless there is reason to change) and Laura will bring some food. Others are welcome to bring something too.

**To Do:**

Jean- talk to the UMW representative from the UMC in Yakima that recently installed solar panels and find out how they financed the initial investment. Also, ask if they would recommend any guest speakers about their project. Keep an eye on the bulletin board in case it needs updating.

Geri- follow up with the Pura Vida salesman and see what he can do for us.

Laura- look for a cart for John to use in picking up a sorted waste stream. Work with Rich on ordering new indoor compost bins. Contact Phoebe to see if she is interested in Good World Trust. Write a new e-news blurb about using reusable kitchen stuff instead of disposable.

Rich- Continue to work with Dave and John on moving toward reducing landfill waste and increasing compost. Continue to work with Dorothy on pre-school composting options.

Linda- continue working on the dishwasher instructions.

With Thanksgiving for you, for the rain, and for the other gifts of the Creator,

Laura Baumgartner  
Associate Pastor  
Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
<http://aldersgate-church.org/>  
425.746.9800 ext. 12

JEAN- Create a Green (Godly Renegades of Energetic Environmental Nerds) bulletin board. Include information about the Petroleum Pipeline project that would result in a methanol plant in Kalama, as well as flyers about two upcoming conferences, and Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy as they become available.

RICH- Have a conversation with John about composting bathroom waste. The downstairs bathrooms can immediately be converted to compost only. The upstairs bathrooms will need compost bins for paper towels. Find out from John if this is an imposition or if there is support he needs to make these things happen. Have a conversation with Dave about the outside compost bin, ordering compost bags for the bins, and whether our plans are affecting him negatively. See if the Trustees are willing to purchase four new compost bins (one for Smith Hall, one for each upstairs bathroom, and a counter top bin for the office).

BETTY- We talked about you being willing to start laundering kitchen towels. I don't know that we solved the issue of needing a bin for them. Do you want to think about how soon we might be able to start that and what else is needed? We also talked about stickers for the paper towel holders in the kitchen which didn't get assigned to anyone. Let me know if you want to do that or if you have suggestions for what should be on the stickers.

LAURA- Call Republic to see if we can get a larger compost bin and posters about what can be composted at our site. Make dinner for 10/10. Print flyers for the bulletin board. Write a note about the bulletin board and our meeting schedule for the bulletin and e-news.

7. We closed by composting our plates and food waste.

Let me know what I forgot or misremembered. I'm looking forward to our work together.

Pastor Laura Baumgartner  
Associate Pastor  
Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
<http://aldersgate-church.org/>  
425.746.9800 ext. 12