

**Notes from Eco-Justice Team Meeting  
7 – 8 PM, August 4, 2010  
1st Presbyterian Church, Newport**

**Attendance: Don Taylor, Jim Dunlap, Barry McPherson, and guest Jim Meyers**

**Don Taylor opened the meeting with prayer.**

**1. Proposed changes in use of Church's 12th St Community Garden**

- **Jim Meyers made a presentation on a garden project that is his and his wife Kathy's passion (he provided a 4-page handout).**
- **This would be part of a national program organized by the Garden Writers Assn. Foundation of the USA. It's called "Plant a Row for the Hungry" (see [www.gardenwriters.org](http://www.gardenwriters.org)).**
- **Jim and his Kathy met with Mark McConnell, who got the 12<sup>th</sup> St Garden started through the E-J Team and the Session several years ago and has managed it to date.**
- **Jim and Kathy are proposing an expansion of the garden to incorporate the *Plant a Row for the Hungry* program, where all the produce would be used to feed the hungry in the local area.**
- **Jim met with Food Share, and they are interested in the produce. The Yachats Community Garden will be contributing. Jim will find out more about any restrictions they have regarding garden chemicals or other issues (the 12<sup>th</sup> St Garden has sought to be 100% organic).**
- **The project will seek produce from other plots in the 12<sup>th</sup> St Garden, as well as that from other gardens in the community.**
- **Jim & Kathy would administer the program, collect the \$15/plot for our church, monitor the water meter, etc.**
- **No permanent structures are planned (such as a garden shed).**
- **However, composters will be an integral part (one is already in place and Jim will talk with Mark Saelens about Mark's interest and help in getting more).**
- **The Team doesn't know of any major conflicts at present regarding other proposed uses of the property by our church.**
- **The E-J Team approved the proposal tonight, and now it needs Session's approval. Jim is willing to make the presentation to Session on behalf of the E-J Team. Next Session meeting will be the 4th or 5th Tuesday.**
- **Don Taylor will ask Administrative Elder Jim Gamb to assess liability issues.**

## **2. Fair trade organic coffee for the church**

- **Barry bought 5lbs of organic coffee from the Presbyterian Coffee Project for about \$6.50/lb including shipping. He will get reimbursement from the Eco-Justice Fund. This coffee is for Sunday coffee time, as we have been doing for several years.**
- **To get the whole church to use fair trade organic coffee for all church functions/events, the Team may have to buy enough to saturate the kitchen so no other coffee needs to be purchased or donated.**
- **It's hard to get people to understand that finding coffee bargains and donating this low-price coffee transfers a "cost" to the health and income of coffee farmers, the sustainability of native flora and fauna in the coffee farm areas, and the health of church members and others to whom we serve coffee.**
- **Barry will place a large order with the Presbyterian Coffee Project and talk to Carol Jones (Elder in charge of the kitchen).**

## **3. Dr. Paul Galbreath's plan to include our church in his sabbatical addressing incorporation of ecological thinking in worship**

- **Dr. Galbreath is a Professor at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA, who is on sabbatical in Portland for 1 year.**
- **He has a grant (from the Lilly Foundation?) to work with churches to incorporate more ecological thinking in worship.**
- **We're one of 6 "pilot" churches he will work with in the Presbytery (others are: Valley, Bend?, Salem?, Eugene?).**
- **He plans to attend our next E-J Team meeting (Sept. 1st ).**

## **4. Photo-electric panels for church roof**

- **Barry has begun talks with local photo-electric panel installers about costs, loans, reimbursements, and pass-through tax-credits (Sunwise, a company in Philomath, and Solar Ki, a company in Corvallis that just completed projects in Nye Beach and Seal Rock).**
- **Laura Uhler of Solar Ki is willing to come talk to our congregation/E-J Team/Session.**
- **Barry will talk to Don Heist at the Greenstone inn/hotel in Nye Beach (they had panels installed by Solar Ki.**
- **Barry will try to get more information from Presbytery's Jenny Holmes and other churches in the Presbytery who are ahead of us in seeking photo-electric panels (in Newberg, Salem, and Eugene, so far).**

#### **5. Next E-J Field Trip by van**

- We have a tentative plan of sites to visit in the Corvallis area, but no date set (hopefully in the fall). Sites may include a research forest, the ocean wave research center at OSU, various photo-electric panel installations, an organic food restaurant, etc.
- Cindy McConnell said she will take the lead in organizing the trip.

#### **6. Field trip to view fish and wildlife issues along new Hwy 20 route**

- This was to be a trip with other groups organized by ODOT and the Mid-Coast Watersheds Council staff (MCWC).
- The trip was planned and then cancelled at the last minute due to rain.
- The new date is Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. Contact Barry if interested.

#### **7. Minutes for Creation Care**

- We'll need to do a couple of them on the *Plant a Row for the Hungry* program this fall.
- We'll need to do one or more on fair trade organic coffee for all church functions.

**Next meeting: September 1<sup>st</sup> (the 1<sup>st</sup> Wed of month) – 7 PM**