

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

**Attendance: Don Taylor, Bill Johnson, Mark Saelens, Barry McPherson, and guest Paul Galbreath**

**Barry opened the meeting with a reading from the article “Sustainability and Spiritual Direction” by Pat Hoerth in the March 2010 issue of “Presence”, a journal for spiritual directors.**

**1. Expansion of church’s 12th St Community Garden for “Plant a Row for the Hungry” program**

- **Session approved the expansion after Jim Myers made a presentation and Barry made a motion as Moderator of the Peace and Justice Committee.**
- **The approved motion read: “*Authorize the 12th St Community Garden on our church property to be expanded by 8-12 rows to contribute locally to the “Plant a Row for the Hungry Program” without disturbing the rows of current gardeners. Authorize church member Jim and Kathy Myers to oversee the garden operations under authority of the Eco-Justice Team of the Peace and Justice Committee. Authorize water use to continue and be metered so the church will be compensated for it through gardener fees. And authorize the addition of several more compost bins, if needed, but not sheds or other structures.*”**
- **This will 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)).**
- **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.**

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

- **As decided at our last meeting, Barry used Eco-Justice funds to buy 5 lb of organic fair trade coffee from Old River Coffee Roaster Co. in Siletz (Herb Jennings) and ordered another 5 lbs from the Presbytery Coffee Project. He stocked these bags in the coffee cupboards with notes posted in front of them in an attempt to get the whole church to use fair trade organic coffee for all church functions/events.**

- The notes read: *“The bagged coffee is fair trade organic coffee for all church uses, not just after-worship coffee hour. We will be providing all of it we can so there is no need for others to make purchases. Alternatives are to donate to the little clear coffee box on the counter, or write checks to the Eco-Justice Fund. This, we encourage! Fair trade organic coffee is better for coffee farmers’ income and their health, better for the fish and wildlife on and around the coffee farms, better for the health of those to whom we serve coffee, and better for our local environment. Thank you! The Eco-Justice Team of 1st Presbyterian Church.”*
  - Bill J. is willing to sit at a table each Sunday at coffee hour and sell bags of organic fair trade coffee for home use. Revenues would go directly into the coffee collection box. We can purchase and sell beans and also pre-ground coffee. Bill is also interested in offering to grind the coffee beans on site for customers.
3. Dr. Paul Galbreath’s plan to include our church in his sabbatical addressing incorporation of ecological thinking in worship
- Dr. Galbreath attended our meeting tonight and explained his interest and approach.
  - He is interested in finding out what people do for creation care in their daily lives, and then designing worship services that incorporate/honor/celebrate that information.
  - Paul wants to come back later this fall to have conversations with members of our congregation about their daily lives/activities related to creation care, and then return later in the year with ideas on how to incorporate those stories into worship---perhaps a specific worship service in the spring.
  - We set the dates of Nov 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> (Sunday afternoon and Monday morning & afternoon) for his visit, and we will publicize his being available and try to get a good turnout.
  - He will be working with five other congregations in a similar manner: 2 in Oregon (Pioneer Pres in Warrenton, Valley Pres in Portland) and 3 in WA/BC (a Cambodian Pres in Tacoma, a Native American Pres in Puyallup, and St. Andrews Pres in Victoria, BC).
4. November 6<sup>th</sup> Creation Care Conference at Westminster Pres in Salem

- Barry co-chaired a meeting of the Presbytery's Eco-Justice Team today in Salem to help plan this event.
- Westminster Pres Salem has been added on to and its media equipment updated, so the tour today was very encouraging.
- Paul Galbreath will be part of the program.
- Cost will be \$25/person with a \$5 discount if registering before October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- More details are posted on our E-J bulletin board and webpage.

#### 5. Minutes for Creation Care

- We'll need to do a couple of them on the *Plant a Row for the Hungry* program this fall/winter.
- We'll need to do one on the Nov 6<sup>th</sup> Creation Care Conference.
- Barry will work with Herb Jennings to do one on Nov 7<sup>th</sup> regarding fair trade organic coffee for all church functions.

#### 6. Articles for church newsletter

- See the article that just came out in the September issue.
- Mark S will send Barry an article on Soles4Souls for an upcoming issue.
- Need to publicize Paul's activities here Nov 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### 7. Updates to Eco-Justice webpage

- Barry made a number of updates to the webpage last month, including a new logo.
- An announcement of the Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> Creation Care conference was posted.
- Mark S will send Barry an article on Soles4Souls to post.

#### 8. Next E-J Field Trip by van

- Cindy McConnell says she will take the lead in organizing the trip for October or November as soon as she is done with some other pressing issues.
- 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.

#### 9. Upcoming 350.org event on 10-10-10

- This is a worldwide event on October 10<sup>th</sup> to conduct work parties and celebrate efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10%.
- The increased efficiency of our new furnaces in the church should be included in a contribution to this event.

**10. Investigation of alternative energy sources for church**

- We have an email with good info from Charles Lewis regarding wind that we need to review.
- Mark S is looking into doing photoelectric and wind power on the County building he works in.
- Barry will talk to Don Heist at the Greenstone re. their solar electric panels.

**Next meeting: October 6<sup>th</sup> (the 1<sup>st</sup> Wed of month) at 7 PM**