

Minutes
Public Policy and Environmental Action Team
August 13, 2024 6-7 PM
via Zoom

Facilitator: Charles Skold

Minutes: Sarah Braik

Present: Charles, Dick, Eleanor, Meredith Barbara, Sarah, Dick, Sam

The Cathedral of St. Luke sits on unceded Wabanaki territory. We acknowledge that we have benefitted from the exploitation and subjugation of those whom our forebears failed to understand and honor.

We also acknowledge the legacy of colonization embedded within the technology, structures, and ways of thinking we use every day, leaving significant carbon footprints and contributing to changing climates that disproportionately affect indigenous people worldwide.

Let us acknowledge all this, and take collective responsibility to make good use of our meeting time, and to work towards dismantling the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism, to preserve lands and waters for future generations, and to support indigenous sovereignty.

Reflection. (offered by Kathy):

“Do not depend on the hope of results. When you are doing the sort of work you have taken on, essentially an apostolic work, you may have to face the fact that your work will be apparently worthless and even achieve no result at all, if not perhaps results opposite to what you expect. As you get used to this idea, you start more and more to concentrate not on the work itself, but on the value, the rightness, the truth of the work itself.”

- Thomas Merton

1. Announcements

- a. Caleb will be leaving us at the end of August when he moves to MA. We are very sorry to see him go but wish him all the very best in this new life chapter that he pursues.

- b. Anyone may contribute an opening reflection: just let Ruth or Charles know.

2. Diocesan and legislative updates: (John Hennessy, Dick Farnsworth)

- a. We are beginning to see some rustling re: leadership at the Senate level but it depends on what happens with the election.

- b. Upcoming [Diocesan Convention](#) and the resolution deadline - October 7th.

- c. Episcopal Church resources for [Election Engagement](#)

3. Ongoing matters

- a. Review our [flier](#) (Charles)
 - i. Status of flier updates
 - ii. Still in review
- b. Update on hosting EcoMaine presentation on Fighting Food Waste. Just confirmed, the session will be held September 22 (Ruth)
 - i. Three parishes will be partnering
 - ii. Sarah will look into hosting coffee hours on Sept. 8 and 22nd.
- c. Diocesan Climate Justice Council update – (Barbara)
 - i. Barbara spoke about the restructuring under Maine Episcopal Public Policy Network. The councils have been disbanded but will still be meeting, some under different names. The objective is to be more efficient, collaborative and transparent. A steering committee is being formed, consisting of two members from each committee. Climate Justice is meeting this Thursday to decide what to keep, what to discard and what to change.
- d. Season of Creation – (Sarah, Dick)
 - i. September 8 Rep. Ben Collings on Faith and Climate Action
 - ii. Reminder of book discussion at St. Alban's and signup required: *Sacred Nature – Restoring our Ancient Bond with the Natural World* by Karen Armstrong, the discussion will begin on August 26 – in person at St. Albans from 6.30 to 8.15 pm. The group will be limited to 12 people and registration details will be forwarded as they are available.
 1. We don't know how many spaces are left. Brigham Paul with St. Alban's will facilitate. This will hopefully be in person, but there may be Zoom for those who can't participate in person.
 - iii. Mary reported that there were no additional experiential offerings from the BTS resource Sarah had shared.
 - iv. Update on the suggestion that St. Luke's consider an ongoing prayer for the earth in our weekly Prayers of the People.
 1. Sarah will do so after SOC is over
 - v. Linda Carleton is designing a SOC banner and organizing a painting party to create/complete the banner.
 1. It will be part of the procession during SOC. Need the OK from George. Eleanor will be the touch person for it. It can live during the week perhaps outside or in the Upper Hall or on the tower, where it will be protected from the weather. Sarah will talk to George and Linda.
 - vi. Dick is hosting a brainstorming meeting on Monday 8/5 to identify additional ideas.

1. Third Sunday of September: nature walk in Fore River Sanctuary or going to New Gloucester to the Shaker Village. Dick got in touch with Audubon Society but it is not on their management list. Dick is trying to find out who is responsible. Their naturalist would probably be more than happy to do a guided tour. Got the name of Andy Kapinos who is supposed to get back to him in the next day or two. We decided to go with the Fore River hike. Sarah can put in a placeholder if Dick doesn't hear in time from Andy.
 - e. Randi Hogan will speak with us at the September meeting. Ruth has agreed with Randi for her to come to our September meeting and share her experiences with being the Chair of the Conservation Commission in Scarborough. Ruth suggests Randi share with us as a first topic of the agenda for September.
4. New Issues
 - a. Planning for Voter Registration/Encouragement – (Sarah) would like to organize planning for voter registration/encouragement most likely in the October timeframe. Possible ideas discussed:
 - i. October coffee hour to discuss voter registration. Sam will find a reasonable date and talk to George and let us know.
 - ii. Mary will explore availability of a guide to the ballot often provided by The League of Women Voters.
 - iii. Sarah will organize a Vote Forward letter writing party during the same coffee hour.
5. Next meeting September 10, 2024, 6-7pm via Zoom. Charles may be out of town on that date. He will check in with Ruth.