

Calvary Creation-Care Coordination Team
Minutes
March 15, 2022

Members present: Jack Behr, Pastor Naomi Mahler, Scott Glup, John Gilbertson, Ron Hanson, Joel Halbritter, Cathy Halbritter

The meeting was opened with prayer from Pastor Ron.

The minutes of the February 22, 2022 meeting were approved.

Old Business:

- Goal 2 – Education:
 - Ron reported that two sessions have been held of the Creation Care Training/Information Sessions with the ELCA NE Synod EcoFaith and several Calvary members have participated, and feedback has been good.
 - Ron reported that ELCA NE Synod EcoFaith Network Summit/“*Holy Ground Holy Table*” on March 26 will focus on regenerative practices and the way that we look at food. Ron handed out information about the event.
 - If interested in attending, Pastor Ron encouraged members to Google the American Climate Leadership Summit on March 28-31 and sign up. This is a four-day event with many speakers. There is a cost of \$25/day or \$50 for all four days.
 - Pastor Naomi reported that she has been looking at some books that might work for the outdoor book walk and places to put the book up. She and Naomi Baker are also considering setting up Stations of the Cross at the green space.
- Goal 3 – Congregational Life
 - Ron discussed some ideas about growing congregational involvement by trying to get more people involved such as implementing some small projects that people could come and work on. Scott suggested that we may want to talk to existing groups and see what things they think should be done.
 - Cathy & Pastor Naomi have started conversations with the altar guild about returning to the use of the glass communion cups.
 - Creation Care Tips have not been included in the weekly Messenger for some time. Naomi will check on this with office staff.
- Goal 4 – Building and Grounds
 - No new information was presented on the proposed pollinator plot.
 - Prairie Woods Grant - Scott said they are waiting to find out if they are selected to go to the next round and will let the committee know.
- Goal 5 – Worship
 - Earth (Rogation) Sunday
 - i. Pastor Naomi & Naomi Baker-Powers are continuing to plan for the worship service. The committee agreed to call it Earth Sunday instead of Rogation Sunday.
 - ii. Ron has contacted a woman that works for the ELCA and would be willing to speak on Earth Sunday. She would talk about the church's role and relationship with caring for creation. She is an advocate on a statewide level. The committee agreed that it might be better to wait to have her speak until sometime in the fall as it will be a busy Sunday morning with the tree project.
 - iii. Jack handed out an outline of information about the tree project and reviewed all the different things that need to be done. Jack, Pastor Naomi and Cathy will work on the details after Jack meets with the Vinje committee next week. Scott volunteered to lead short education sessions about the trees. Pastor Naomi will speak with Janel to involve Sunday School with the project.

- Goal 6 – Coordination
 - Ron reported that more work needs to be done to see if we can get a creation care group going within our synod.
 - Ron spoke with Pastor Ask at Vinje and he was meeting with the mayor (Green Step program/U of M phosphorus recycling/etc.).
- Other
 - Pastor Naomi reported that the last day of Sunday School will be May 1 and so if Sunday School children want to plant flower seeds for the planters in the atrium it will need to be done in April. Pastor Naomi will speak with Janel and Pastor David to see if this could be done on April 24 or another Sunday or if we will skip this altogether.

New Business / Other

- Goal 3 – Congregational Life
 - Reducing paper use discussion was postponed until next month.

Pastor Ron said he'd like this committee to have a voice in the long-range strategic planning committee at Calvary.

Reminders: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Naomi.