

Calvary Creation-Care Coordination Team
Minutes
May 17, 2022

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

The meeting was opened with devotions by Pastor Ron.

The minutes of the April 15, 2022 meeting were approved.

Old Business:

- Goal 2 – Education:
 - The ELCA NE Synod EcoFaith trainings that were held in March were recorded and the recordings along with handouts from each week are in Google Drive for anyone's access. Those attending felt the sessions were very good and had a lot of information that we could use. It was also noted that the team at Calvary is doing many good things.
 - Pastor Ron reported that the ELCA NE Synod EcoFaith Network Summit ***"Holy Ground Holy Table"*** event held in March was very well done. Regeneration was the topic, and many things were discussed.
 - Pastor Naomi stated there is nothing new to report on the Outdoor Book Walk at this time. It will most likely be held in late summer or early fall.
 - Ron reported that Tammy Walhof, Director of Lutheran Advocacy Minnesota, is interested in coming to our area, possibly for a joint event with Vinje. This may fit under goal 6.
- Goal 3 – Congregational Life
 - Reusable Communion Cups: Cathy will contact the company to see if we can try the racks before purchasing. The group discussed simple ways to fundraise the money for the racks.
 - Share the Bounty: Jack reported that our committee will help with setting up tables, encourage using reusable bags, watch for spoiled produce, write announcements in Messenger/bulletin. Our committee would be in charge in June and August and the Social Kindness committee would be in charge in July and September. Pastor Naomi will work with the Social Kindness committee to figure out the jobs/roles, etc.
- Goal 4 – Building and Grounds
 - Pollinator Plot: Jack reported that a 60'x60' plot has been marked off. Jeff believes we can get the seed for free. Joel has talked with the Buildings and Grounds committee and approval has been given to initiate the plot.
 - Sunday School Atrium Planters Project: Halbritters will transplant the plants when ready and water them.
- Goal 5 – Worship
 - Everyone agreed that Earth Sunday and the tree give away went very well.
 - Calvary is planning three outdoor services the first Sunday of each month this summer.
 - Ron shared a book on the Season of Creation and discussed trying to have Calvary designate a season.
- Goal 6 – Coordination
 - ELCA / Synod:
 - i. Ron has had several conversations with someone at the National ELCA office in trying to find out more about partnering not only at the Synod level but at the national level.
 - ii. Jack and Ron recently met with Troy Pflibsen, Director for Evangelical Mission from the synod and discussed the possibility of getting an EcoFaith group going again in our synod.
 - iii. Ron is a delegate to the Synod Assembly and will be working towards a meaningful resolution for Creation Care.

- Local Government: Jack is looking for others willing to work in this area (Green Step program/U of M phosphorus recycling/etc.).

New Business / Other

- Naomi B. led a discussion on what Calvary has been doing to reduce the use of paper.
- Ron reported on a leadership retreat sponsored by the NE MN Synod EcoFaith Network that will be held August 15-17. A Save the Date invitation will be sent out soon and Ron encouraged members of the Calvary team to attend.
- Ron shared with the team that he and Connie plan to move to Wisconsin soon and resigned from his position as co-chair. Everyone on the team expressed that he will be greatly missed and thanked him for his work.
- Scott shared observations listening to the Linder Farm Network and has noticed that the Network has changed their “tune” regarding climate change. Another farmer has also shared with Scott that he is now believing in climate change.
- Discussion was held about how we can recruit new members to our committee. This discussion needs to continue.

Reminders: The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 21, 2022.

Pastor Naomi closed the meeting with prayer.