

Calvary Creation Care Coordination Team
Minutes
December 19, 2023

Members present: Jack Behr, Naomi Powers-Baker, Joel Halbritter, Cathy Halbritter, David Sehloff, Kelly Welch
Guests: Steve Medin

Jack opened the meeting with devotion.

The minutes were approved for the November 28, 2023 meeting.

Old Business:

- Goal 1 – Organizing:
 - Planning Session approval: Joel moved to approve the new planning session documents that were worked on at the November meeting. The motion passed.
 - Jack stated that in January we will discuss action plans that we want to specifically start working on in 2024.
 - Brochure: Naomi prepared a draft brochure about Creation Care at Calvary. The team is asked to look at the brochure and we will make changes at future meetings to have it ready by the April EcoFair.
- Goal 2 – Education: no report
- Goal 3 – Congregational Life
 - Styrofoam Recycling: no report
- Goal 4 – Building and Grounds
 - Energy Efficiency / Renewable Energy: Joel reported that he and Cathy listened to a webinar by Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) regarding tracking data for benchmarking energy usage to other facilities similar to Calvary.
 - IPL Cool Congregations Challenge: Cathy reported that the application was submitted in late November. Entry winners will be announced in late February.
- Goal 5 – Worship: Jack shared remembrances from Pastor Dwaine’s first sermon that included memories of spending time in the beauty of God’s creation.
- Goal 6 – Coordination: Jack
 - Healthy Earth Healthy Kids EcoFair – April 27, 2024: Cathy / Jack - Jack and Cathy attended the last planning meeting.
 - i. Booth with Vinje and Bethel - Bethel, Vinje, and Calvary are planning to meet in January to start making plans for a shared booth at the EcoFair.
 - ii. Calvary support: \$250 was donated from Calvary Creation Care.
 - iii. Information shared by Jack: Willmar School district is joining as a sponsor for the EcoFair. Willmar Area Climate group will have a booth at the fair to focus on heat pumps.
 - Prairie Woods YES Program: Jack reported that a YES Team has been formed at Willmar Public Schools. The Willmar Rotary Club has provided start-up funds for the project.
 - SW MN Synod: Jack shared his plan to try to reestablish a creation care team within the synod.
 - Jack shared a resource from the National Association of Evangelicals entitled *“Loving the Least of These – Addressing a Changing Environment”*. that he and Cathy will be reading and will share information.
- Other – none

New Business:

- Jack shared information from Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) that will be holding an online meeting to share information about the Inflation Reduction Act Ambassador program on January 16 at 3pm. Refer to an email that was sent by Jack. David Sehloff said he will try to attend the online meeting.
- David asked if there has been a bible study focusing on creation care. Discussion followed about possible resources to look into this further.

- Steve Medin shared a book "*Braiding Sweetgrass*" by Robin Wall Kimmerer which may be of interest to others.

Reminders:

- The next meeting will be held on January 16, 2024 at 6:30pm.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.