

NOTES

St. Luke's Public Policy & Environmental Action Team (PPEAT) meetings

Sunday, 1 December 2019

11:30 AM, Chapter Room

In attendance: Sarah Braik, Gus Goodwin, Mary Linneman, Lin Parsons, Liz Parsons, Sallie Smith, Ted Poland

Tuesday, 10 December 2019

6:00 PM, Upper Parish Hall

In attendance: Sarah Braik, John Hennessy, Lin Parsons, Liz Parsons, Barbara Ryland

Team members expressed our condolences to Ted on the death of his wife, Sallie, and our admiration for his joining us so soon thereafter.

Diocesan and Legislative Updates¹

- John Hennessy co-chairs the [Maine Council of Churches](#)' Public Policy Committee. He and co-chair Carie Johnson would welcome additional committee members. Anyone particularly interested in eco-justice matters would be especially welcome. Currently, John is the only Episcopalian in the group so it would be helpful to have someone else from the Diocese on the committee as well.
 - Meetings take place the second Thursday of each month in Augusta during legislative sessions. When the legislature is not in session, the Committee meets in Brunswick.
 - **Please contact John if you are interested in serving.**
- There are about two dozen bills of interest and relevance to our work that will come before the legislature when its short session begins next month. John will keep us apprised of developments once the session opens.

Ongoing matters

- Please consult the [Episcopal Vision for Creation Care webpage](#) since it is the final version of a draft John had shared with us in November. This statement can be a good resource for our parish and diocesan work since the vision document is based on a variety of resolutions passed at various General Conventions.
 - See more about this below.
 - Sarah Braik volunteered to follow the [Carbon Tracker program](#) mentioned in this vision document as developed by the Diocese of California. She participated in a webinar and reported that the effort appears to have a lot of potential, especially because it can be geared to secular as well as faith-based groups. She observed that it could be a good tool to link with the Portland-South Portland **One Climate Future (OCF) planning process**.
 - She will have more information for us in January.

¹ Until the Maine legislature reconvenes in January, the bulk of this topic concerns Diocesan matters.

- Barbara has been attending some of the [OCF lunch and learn](#) sessions and recommends them to everyone.
- Mary Linneman obtained updated contact information from Ben Shambaugh on the composition of the **Portland area clergy group**. She obtained similar information for congregations participating in Family Promise. She, Sarah, and Liz drew up information on the Diocesan led **community solar farm initiative** and sent this to those two groups. Sarah sent something similar to the multi-faith group list she had compiled for use when we screened two films in the fall. The purpose of this effort has been to find out what other groups are doing in public policy and environmental action so as to work with them when possible and to avoid duplicating effort.

New initiatives

- [Vote the Common Good](#) is an effort led by an evangelical pastor, Doug Pagitt, to engage evangelicals in discussions about the current administration in Washington DC in the lead up to next year's election. Pagitt plans a national tour and will be in Maine on 12 February 2020.
- Our group agreed to propose that the Diocese adopt a **carbon offset policy**. This would be compatible with [Resolution A014](#) set out by the national church's Advisory Council at the most recent General Convention.
 - Gus Goodwin suggested that, since some offset programs can be of questionable value, we consider developing something locally based and managed. He gave the example of using the funds to help Maine youths plant trees. This would be the sort of goal to which we could strive over the long term.
 - John Hennessy asked that we put this proposal in writing, which we did (see PDF attached with this message) and submitted for consideration at the Diocesan Council meeting this past Saturday. John will report on the upshot of that meeting in January.
- Sallie Smith has proposed that St. Luke's host an informational meeting about the efforts at [Wolf's Neck Farm](#) to help farmers reduce carbon emissions and to educate the general public about sustainability measures. This would be an event scheduled for next spring. Our group enthusiastically endorsed this idea and Sarah Braik volunteered to take the lead as liaison and organizer.
- Liz suggested we highlight the expertise of several St. Lukans by offering a public forum in the spring tentatively entitled "**Faith and Civic Engagement.**" John Hennessy would moderate. The Team endorsed this idea as well so Liz will take the lead as liaison and organizer.
 - Both these envisioned events would likely be scheduled for late Saturday mornings.

Next meetings (members attend one or the other; not necessary to attend both):

- Sunday, 5 January 2020 11:30 AM, Chapter Room
- Tuesday, 14 January 6:00 PM, Upper Parish Hall

Save these dates:

- Wednesday, 13 December 5:45 PM, World Too Beautiful, Emmanuel Chapel
 - Gus Goodwin will offer the reflection

- Wednesday, 1 January 5:45 PM, World Too Beautiful, Emmanuel Chapel
 - Liz Parsons will offer the reflection
- Wednesday, 15 January 5:45 PM, World Too Beautiful, Emmanuel Chapel
 - Gail Donovan Kesich will offer the reflection