

Public Policy and Environmental Action Team Agenda
April 13, 2021
6-7 PM

Facilitator: Sarah Braik
Minutes: Charles Skold

1. Reflection (Sarah)

Give us grace to trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something
unknown, something new.
And yet it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through
some stages of instability –
and that it may take a very long time.
Grant us patience to let our ideas mature gradually—to grow,
to shape themselves, without undue haste,
without trying to force them on,
as though we could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances
acting on our own good will)
will make of us tomorrow.
Only God could say what this new spirit
gradually forming within us will be.
May we give God the benefit of believing
that the divine hand is leading us,
and accept the anxiety of feeling ourselves
in suspense and incomplete.
“Patient Trust,” in *Hearts on Fire*

2. Diocesan and legislative updates - John Hennessey

- Diocese will have submitted input on at least 27 issues
 - Topics: Anti-racism, tribal sovereignty, voting rights, etc.
- Conducting legislative hearings over Zoom
 - Opportunity for submitting virtual testimony
 - Challenge for connecting with the public
 - Faster schedule so we don't always have a lot of notice before work sessions
- PPEAT testimony
 - Read the testimony we submitted: [Testimony in opposition to LD 253, 557, 1083 and 1099 on behalf of the Public Policy and Environmental Action Team](#)
 - Great job submitting testimony from PPEAT on good government bills
 - John was able to draft testimony opposing voting ID requirements
 - Many people responded quickly to add their names

- Next time we can try to give everyone more time to participate if possible
 - Some more good government bills will be coming up
 - More opportunity for PPEAT to submit testimony on this issue
- Justice Council meeting this week
 - Advocacy umbrella for all the different advocacy groups
 - Facilitated by Eleanor Prior
- Tribal sovereignty bill
 - Gaming piece removed and put in separate legislation
- Questions about other legislative items
 - Question about bill relating to rail from Portland to Lewiston
 - Question about restraint and exclusion in public schools
- Link to John's recent [130th Legislative Report](#)

3. Ongoing matters

- Diocesan Climate Council update
 - Developing climate resolution for the Diocesan convention in October
 - Submitted testimony supporting the "Pine Tree Amendment"
 - Weighed in against returning to plastic bags
 - Diocesan Earth Day service
 - [Morning prayer for Sunday April 25th](#)
 - Portland-South Portland [One Climate Future](#) plan and the [Maine Climate Council's plan](#) and also how this Team could be involved.
 - Troy Moon is available on May 11
 - One Climate Future
 - 6-6:30
 - What do we want him to discuss?
 - Portland's climate goals with One Climate Future
 - What impact is it having on city decisions and operations?
 - What is our role to help achieve these goals?
 - How can we make the plan more simple and accessible to everyone?
 - Can we have a summary version of the document to be more easily digestible?
- Schedule [Kiss the Ground](#) screening
 - Film about sustainable agriculture
 - 85 minute film
 - Interfaith Power & Light
 - Can be screened free of charge in April
 - Anyone who registers can download and watch on their own
 - Also have a DVD copy
 - Would like to watch together if possible
 - Charles check about logistics of screening film over Zoom
 - Tentative Date Monday April 26th
 - 6-8pm
 - Dick Farnsworth to facilitate discussion from 7:30-8:00pm
 - Publicity (Sarah)

- Try to announce in the Dio Log
 - Ask to put on St. Luke's facebook page
 - Check with Katie Clark about an all-Diocesan email
- Bridging the two Maines: Possible Zoom conversations between paired District 1/District 2 or rural/urban parishes: [Conversations across Difference](#), National ECUSA resource for facilitating this kind of conversation, We divided into pairs in breakout rooms to practice using the following questions
 - What do you love?
 - What have you lost?
 - Where does it hurt?
 - What do you dream?
 - Reflections from our conversations
 - Learned a lot, enjoyed it
 - Similar to efforts in the legislature to connect across party
 - Talk about things that aren't partisan
 - By sharing personal insights and challenges begin to break down the tension
 - Know people as people as opposed to the "other side"
 - Similar to Next Church civil discourse
 - Realize there's a person, not a political platform
 - We will discuss next month suggestions for putting this to use.

4. New matters

- Diocesan resolutions
 - We could consider submitting a resolution for consideration at Diocese convention
 - Diocese is able to define and announce its stance on various issues
 - Ideas to consider
 - Ban solitary confinement
 - Currently is limited, but we could move to "ban"
 - There's currently a bill being considered in the legislature
 - Deadline is 1st Monday in September
 - Come up with ideas we could consider for next meeting
- Action item summary
 - Plan screening of Kiss the Ground
 - Charles check Zoom logistics
 - Sarah ask Katie about promoting on Facebook and email
 - Dick Farnsworth to lead discussion after
 - Think about possible Diocese resolutions for next month
- Others?
 - April 20th Diocesan Town Hall 5-6pm-keep an eye out for the announcement in an email
- Next meeting Tuesday May 11, 2021 6-7 PM