

Minutes
Public Policy and Environmental Action Team
November 12, 2024 6-7 PM
via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82887198993?pwd=cS83TUlpK1NLM2UzUEtyOGFMMFBxQT09>

Meeting ID: 828 8719 8993

Passcode: 100294

Facilitator: Ruth Roemer

Minutes: Sarah

Attendance: Eleanor Roberts, Sarah Braik, Dick Farnsworth, Sam Allen, Ruth Roemer, Barbara Ryland, Mary Linneman

Territory Acknowledgement:

The Cathedral of St. Luke sits on unceded Wabanaki territory. We acknowledge that we have benefitted from the exploitation and subjugation of those whom our forebears failed to understand and honor.

We also acknowledge the legacy of colonization embedded within the technology, structures, and ways of thinking we use every day, leaving significant carbon footprints and contributing to changing climates that disproportionately affect indigenous people worldwide.

Let us acknowledge all this, and take collective responsibility to make good use of our meeting time, and to work towards dismantling the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism, to preserve lands and waters for future generations, and to support indigenous sovereignty.

Reflection/Prayer:

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the people of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace; Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1. Announcements
 - a. John has a detached retina and is resting following emergency reattachment.
2. Diocesan and legislative updates (John, Dick)
 - a. Democrats have a majority in the House and Senate though some recounts are still in process.
3. Ongoing matters

- a. Ruth's term of Co-Chair ends with the December 2024 meeting and Sarah is not wanting to resume that role so we will need a new Co-Chair effective end of December – anyone interested in taking on the role please contact Charles or Ruth
 - i. Put announcement in the epistle
- b. Update on review/update of our [flier](#) (Charles)
 - i. Dick emailed Charles but didn't get a response. He will check the email address and email him again.
- c. Sam has been active with Window Dressers. There is a [Portland Window build](#) in January. Sarah will get the information and Barbara will put it in the next Eco-Tip looking for both volunteers and those who need window inserts.
- d. Creation Care Team (Barbara)
 - i. Sarah applied to be a member of the Steering Committee of the MEPPN. She hasn't heard back yet though John is still actively recruiting
 - ii. Meredith T has not heard yet regarding a possible follow-on book discussion (Thank God for Evolution) at St. Alban's. Follow up at November meeting.
 - 1. TABLED
- e. Food Waste Update
 - i. Ruth re: contact with Kate Cough – her article in Maine Monitor
 - ii. Would someone be willing to work with Ruth using the information Susanne provided as a handout to create a possibly quarterly calendar of topics and possible additional actions we could take on the topic?
 - 1. Ruth followed up with Kate and Susanne. Possibility: composting workshop. Mary will work with Ruth on developing topics and schedules.
- f. Charles/John
 - i. What information can we access about the bill aimed at supporting food waste diversion that did not make it through the funding process this year – see reference in the article?
 - <https://themainemonitor.org/food-waste-dep-study/>
 - ii. Maine is the only state in New England without some kind of organic recycling law – is this of any interest to PPEAT for any type of action?
 - 1. This is an issue to ask Charles. TABLED til December. Dick says the bill may be reintroduced this year. If so we will support it.

- g. Voter Registration/Encouragement activities– Sarah
 - i. 11 volunteers wrote 200 letters.
 - h. Follow up next meeting - Sarah to pursue discussion with George, after SOC, about adding to weekly Prayers of the People a prayer for the earth.
 - i. She hasn't yet.
4. New Topics:
- a. White Christian Nationalism – is this a topic for further PPEAT consideration? (Dick)
 - i. Ruth came across a book on how to stop White Christian Nationalism. Dick told us that a significant portion of the votes for Trump came from White Christian Nationalists. Dick will dig around for someone to present to us. He will read the book. Americans United is a strong advocacy group for separation of church and state. There was a Diocesan clergy meeting where someone presented on White Christian Nationalism. George thinks this would be appropriate for education efforts at St. Luke's. Find out who presented. Dick will follow up with George. Barbara will look in the BTS Center archive for resources on White Christian Nationalism.
 - ii. Sarah recommended the book [*Citizen: Faithful discipleship in a partisan world*](#) by Andrew C. Coyle, who is or was a bishop in Texas. She would love to lead a book discussion group. We will discuss this next week, as Dick may have a book to recommend on White Christian Nationalism instead.
 - iii. Faith formation group didn't really come together. George has no time to be involved in this. The focus has to be on finding a new Dean. Ruth had hoped for a faith formation plan for a year. George is the person to ask if we want to lead a book discussion group..
 - b. Mary brought up what Linda Carleton had mentioned on Sunday about what we can do as a church regarding Trump's immigration policy: sanctuary. There would need to be at least one shower which would be an expense. Ruth: we have so much space that is little used. Mary: actually all the downstairs rooms are being used by our various ministries. Dick: social safety net also. PPEAT needs to be thinking about this. St. Luke's still supports Family Promise. Eleanor: we should focus on the good things we are already doing and not be disheartened by the fact that we can't house people. Ruth: we can support other efforts in our community, and we can come to the vestry to say we are interested in exploring what role St. Luke's might play re; immigration issues in the next months. Eleanor: this is a good idea. The next vestry meeting is next Wednesday at 6 PM. Ruth would be

willing to go. Sam reminded us of the guest policy: there is time at the beginning of the meeting; only 10 minutes. Most of Wednesday's meeting will be about populating the four search committees. Sam: recommends that we go in December. Could meet with George and Sam beforehand. Send the request to Sam. Ruth; Dick is interested but may not have much time. Background work is needed. Ruth will reach out to Linda. Let Ruth know if they want to be part of the pre-conversation.

5. Follow up Spring 2025
 - a. Possibility of PPEAT members participating as a committee in new offering by the larger Episcopal church, 'Love God: Love God's World' (Kathy)
 - i. Kathy and Mary thought this would be good for next fall's Season of Creation. Put on the agenda at the end of spring-May/June. Barbara will help Mary and Kathy.
6. Next meeting December 10, 2024, 6-7pm via Zoom.