

Public Policy and Environmental Action Team
September 9, 2025 6-7 PM
Via Zoom

Facilitator: Sarah

Minutes: Charles

Present: Sarah, Charles, Kathy, Dick, Barbara, John, Eleanor, Sam

1. 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.

2. Reflection: “We need to be prophets of hope...and catalysts for transformation” Lisa Graumlich, paleoclimatologist and deacon in the Episcopal church

3. Announcements

- a. Dick is putting together a PPEAT report for the diocese summarizing our recent focus and actions.

4. Diocesan and legislative updates (John, Dick, Sarah)

- a. State
 - i. Legislature is not in session so there were no updates.
- b. Local
 - i. Thursday, September 11th (7–9 AM) for the kick-off event of [*Eggs & Issues Semester 1 – “Portland: A 21st Century City.”*](#) This first course will offer a timely discussion on both the immediate challenges and long-term opportunities facing our downtown. Hear from Mayor Mark Dion and Cary Tyson of Portland Downtown as they address short-term issues and solutions; Kevin Bunker of Developers Collaborative, who shares insights on adaptive reuse and increasing housing density; and Elizabeth

Jones of the Portland Museum of Art, who explores how arts and culture can anchor lasting revitalization. With major projects on the horizon, this conversation will examine what it will take to restore vitality and foot traffic to one of Portland's most iconic corridors.

1. Eleanor will be going and can report back.
- ii. How else can we have more of a local presence and impact? Portland City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month at 5 PM. The South Portland City Council meets Tuesdays at 6:30 PM. September 10 at 5 PM there will be a [Zoom cruise ship workshop](#),
 1. Topic regarding use of "scrubbers" while docked in Portland.

c. Federal

i. Endangerment Finding

1. On July 29 [the EPA proposed to rescind its 2009 endangerment finding](#) that forms the basis of all federal climate pollution regulations.
2. Without the endangerment finding, the EPA may not be allowed or able to regulate greenhouse gas pollution from sources like power plants or vehicle tailpipes, as they have done for years. It is my understanding that citizens can now make [official comments](#) on the Department of Energy's [proposal](#) to challenge and repeal the 2009 EPA Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding.
3. The process is open to the public as part of the formal rulemaking procedure, and any citizen can submit written comments that become part of the public record. Citizens can also register to attend public hearings.
4. The EPA's proposed rollback of the endangerment finding is [open to public comments](#) until September 15, and the agency will hold virtual public hearings on August 19 and 20. After responding to the public comments, the EPA will finalize the rule. We urge you to click on the above link and submit your comment. We need to show the EPA that there is overwhelming support for preservation of the endangerment finding.
5. All PPEAT members are urged to submit a comment. We need to show the EPA that there is overwhelming support for preservation of the Endangerment Finding.

d. [Office of Government Relations Faith and Citizenship Guide](#)

5. New business

- a. Invitation to Attend BTS Convocation as a Team on October 16 & 17 at Maple Hill Farm Inn & Conference Center in Hallowell. The theme is: 'Flipping the

Script: Claiming Our Voices, Telling Our Stories'. We can attend as a team for \$160. [FMI and the registration form](#).

- i. Kathleen is interested and will find out how much it costs for one person so we know how many people we would need for the team discount.
 - b. Diocesan Council opportunity
 - i. Meet 4 times a year, work on budget to support diocesan activities: contact Fred Fowler if interested or FMI.
- 6. Ongoing matters
 - a. Follow up on supporting Deqa Dhalac
 - i. Charles will draft a supportive letter on behalf of PPEAT, send out to list before passing to Rep. Dhalac.
 - b. Season of Creation
 - i. September 21 PPEAT hosts Harvest Celebration coffee hour with all local offerings and forum on composting/food insecurity.
 - ii. Weekly bulletin articles written by Sarah
 - iii. Season of Creation banner
 - 1. Need help carrying it on September 14 and 21
 - a. Phoebe Blume can on the 14th:
 - b. Dick can on the 21st
 - c. [Racial Equity Steering Committee Report](#) (Dick)
 - i. Dick will write a letter to Mayor Dion, who has not responded to emails.
 - d. White Christian Nationalism forum (Dick)
 - i. November 2 with Jodi Hayashida
 - e. Looking for new PPEAT Co-Chair to serve this year alongside Charles
 - f. Walking Together update (Mary)
 - i. Will meet on Sunday 11:30-1 PM.
 - g. Creation Care Team update (Sarah)
 - i. There will be an Earth Keeper retreat at Bishopswood Sept. 26-28.
 - ii. We have a new member, from St. Luke's: Angel McCorkle.
 - h. Ideas for resolutions for Diocesan Convention-deadline is September 25
 - i. Eleanor and Sarah to draft red flag resolution.
 - 1. Episcopal Peace Fellowship happy to cosponsor this.
 - ii. Charles and Dick to draft Voter ID resolution.
 - iii. [Resolution submission form and instructions](#)
 - iv. [Walking Together resolution](#)
 - v. October 19th could have a forum at the cathedral regarding the resolutions. Sarah will contact Abby and George.
- 7. Next meeting: October 14, 2025 6 PM