

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta
Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting
12:30 p.m., Sunday, January 17, 2016
FUUSM RE building - parlor

Attending: Heather Royer, Dawn Hewitt, Adeline and Mike Bailey, Gary Hamilton, Ralph Olander, Patty Troisi, Rev. Lynda Smith, Stuart Smith, Barbara Kidd, Cindy Taylor, Brad Bond,

New committee chair **Dawn Hewitt** chaired the meeting.

Agenda

Minutes of the December meeting were approved.

Gardening Classes. The 2016 gardening classes are beginning this Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Roger Kalter has recruited a new coordinator. The committee has no further input this year, but classes are of interest to GS members, so we are encouraged to attend when possible.

Climate Change Café. The Café, which GS is co-hosting, will be on January 30, 2016, from 7:00 – 9:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action, the new environmental group organized in Parkersburg, will be sharing in hosting duties, as well as the Low Carbon Diet Teams that are offshoots of GS. Adeline Bailey will e-mail an updated task list for the event, with a plea for volunteers. Many from GS have already committed to help.

Just Dinner February 19, 2016. Dawn Hewitt and Caroline Putnam have met to discuss plans for the upcoming Just Dinner. Dawn has created a flyer, which she will make available for distribution. Caroline will reach out to other churches to invite them. A suggested theme for the February dinner is “eating environmentally in winter.”

LCD team for FUUSM. Mark Redd developed a proposal for creating a Low Carbon Diet team to evaluate the church's carbon footprint and look for even greater improvements in lowering the carbon used in church practices and building useage. Volunteers for the team are Dawn Hewitt, Mike Bailey, Gary Hamilton, and (probably) Mark Redd.

Capital Campaign influence. At the last meeting, the idea of “lobbying” for solar panels to be included in the upcoming capital campaign was raised. It was suggested that GS be represented on the steering committee. GS member Ralph Olander, who already serves on the steering committee, said that the group will be soliciting input from the congregation in several different ways before any decisions are made about the tasks that need to be addressed and campaign's goals to be achieved. He emphasized that the steering committee serves an administrative function, not a policy-making one.

2016 Earth Day Events Heather Royer is heading up the Parkersburg Earth Day event at the Art Center on April 23. Plans include arts and crafts activities for children and youth, a story corner, and the competition in creating art from recycled materials (this year, plastic water bottles). Although the date for the Marietta Earth Day event has not been announced, Heather is hopeful that the same theme and setup can be used for the Marietta event and for the WVUP event on Thursday, April 21, at which Rebecca Phillips has asked GS to participate. Discussion on possible themes included a display that gives solutions for recycling difficult items (such as batteries), and presenting an updated version of the GS booklet *It's Easy Being Green*. The booth/table would also include an arts/crafts activity for kids, and possibly some kind of food. Mike Bailey will be

contacting the past organizers of the Marietta Earth Day for information about what is planned. He will also be looking into where batteries can be properly disposed of or recycled.

Adult RE Classes in April. Heather Royer is the coordinator for the series. She is planning to offer a separate topic for each of the four Sundays in April, with different leaders for each class, as follows: Solar panels – George Banziger, Mike Bailey, and maybe Kevin Morey; Low Carbon Diet – Mark Redd; Junk into Art – Heather Royer; and Cohabiting with Wildlife (and how to be better neighbors) – Dawn Hewitt.

It's Easy Being Green revisions. Because the idea of having a new edition of the booklet ready for Earth Day was raised, the committee set a deadline of April 16 for the 2016 version. Discussion included the need for information about climate change and an evaluation of the current “chapters” to see what else might be revised or eliminated. Because the current pdf version is difficult to edit, Dawn and Heather suggested that a different format be considered, perhaps using a website or blog created in WordPress, and including hotlinks to sites for retrieving information from authoritative sources instead of regurgitating it in booklet form. To present the blog/website at Earth Day events, Heather suggested a sticker with a URL for the booklet/website. Dawn suggested a QR code, or perhaps a sticker with a QR code so that visitors to the booth/table could access the blog/site via their smartphones. Volunteers for a subcommittee to work on the new IEBG included Heather Royer, Dawn Hewitt, Patty Troisi, Cindy Taylor, and Ralph Olander.

Recycle Cds/DVDs. Ralph and Mike reported that they had found a way to recycle CDs and DVDs. Mike will send out an email with more information.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adeline Bailey, scribe