

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta
Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting
12:30 p.m., Sunday, February 21, 2016
FUUSM RE building - parlor

Attending: Geroge Banziger, Heather Royer, Dawn Hewitt, Patty Troisi, Rev. Lynda Smith, Dawn Wittberg, and Adeline and Mike Bailey.

Committee chair **Dawn Hewitt** called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

Agenda

Minutes of the January meeting were approved.

Letters published in local papers submitted recently by George Banziger were noted and Dawn expressed appreciation from the group.

Gardening Classes. The 2016 gardening classes are underway Sundays at 1 p.m. GS members are encouraged to attend.

Climate Change Café. The Café, which GS co-hosted, was held on January 30 with about 36 people in attendance. The event had strong interfaith support, particularly from the faith-based branch of Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action, the new environmental group that shared hosting duties.

Just Dinner February 19, 2016. Twenty-two people attended the potluck meal, including some from outside GS and FUUSM. Dawn's efforts to publicize the event, and the newspaper article resulting from her efforts, brought in several new attendees. George suggested that the next Just Dinner, to be held May 21, could be one of the meals FUUSM will offer as hosts for the Universalist Convocation. From 30 to 50 attendees are anticipated for the convocation. The idea was approved by consensus. A possible theme of GMOs was suggested.

LCD team for FUUSM. Mark Redd's proposal to undertake a low-carbon diet baseline evaluation of both FUUSM buildings was reviewed. Mike Bailey and Dawn volunteered to do an audit for heat loss starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday, February 27. George had a 13-month (January 2014-January 2015) total electric usage for both buildings: 17,430 for the church and 23,784 for the RE building. Dawn will contact former FUUSM bookkeeper Brenda Lisk for information about gas usage.

2016 Earth Day Events Heather Royer reported some very good news: Solid Waste Authority will once again be providing funding for prizes at the event in Parkersburg at the Art Center on April 23 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. The youth competition in creating art from recycled materials (this year, plastic water bottles) will go forward.

Since the Marietta Earth Day event is scheduled for the same date (April 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.), Heather will not be able to organize the GS presentation. Possible organizers were suggested, and Dawn H. will be contacting Debra Miller and Jim Grecni about leading the effort. Dawn Wittberg attended the planning meeting with Marietta organizers and reported that organizers are looking to focus on solar energy. Dawn H. suggested displaying clotheslines and other passive solar items to show that solar is an affordable energy source. Mike offered that he and Jim Grecni could (hope for good weather and) build a passive solar heater for demonstration. The WVUP event scheduled for Thursday, April 21, at which Rebecca Phillips has asked GS to

participate, was not discussed, but the original idea was to use the Marietta event theme for that event. Presenting an updated version of the GS booklet *It's Easy Being Green* was also in the plans, as well as including an arts/crafts activity for kids, and possibly some kind of food.

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: April 3: Ask Mark Redd if he will talk about the Low Carbon Diet; April 10: Solar panels – George Banziger, Mike Bailey, ask Dan Harrison, and maybe ask Kevin Morey; April 17: : Sharing Space with – Dawn Hewitt; and April 24 Upcycle Art – Heather Royer.

It's Easy Being Green revisions. Dawn Hewitt and Heather Royer have begun organizing the sections of materials and will be looking to the others on the IEBG committee (Patty Troisi and Cindy Taylor, plus Ralph Olander for web assistance) for help in gathering updated information.

Color Copying. Dawn said she has access to making color copies for \$0.17 per page at her workplace (*Bird Watcher's Digest*).

New Business

Friends of Lower Muskingum River membership. Dawn H. will contact Rhea Bockhorst to prepare a check drawn on GS's special fund to renew the group membership in FLMR.

Athens County Fracking Action Group request. The Athens-based activist group is looking for support in Washington County to protest fracking in the Wayne National Forest. Mike will contact Jann Adams about organizing efforts already in place (or the lack thereof) through the local Fracking Information group.

Announcements of events of interest. Adeline Bailey called attention to **Earth Hour**, scheduled for Saturday, March 19, from 8:30 – 9:30 p.m. and to the UUA-supported collective, **Commit2Respond**, which sponsors a major push beginning on World Water Day, March 22, and continues through Earth Day on April 22. Information on both events can be accessed on the Web: www.earthhour.org and www.commit2respond.org

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adeline Bailey, scribe