

## **CT Conference UCC Environmental Ministry Team Minutes of the Tuesday, October 13, 2009 Meeting**

In Attendance: Martha Nilson, Steve Gilson, Katie Freygang, Ian Stoggard, Patsy Bjorling, George Stone,

Pre-meeting discussion with Eric Anderson: Eric described how the FIDO system works (a mailing list server which allows subscribers to send an email to one address and have it broadcast to those on the preset list by the moderator, Steve Gilson, once vetted for applicability to the people on the list – in this case – those interested in the Environmental Stewardship effort of our Ministry).

Flyers we send out (e.g. – about Green Church workshops) – go into the “bulk mail”. Despite the name, this “bulk mail” package is now sent by email to all authorized (UCC) CT ministers.

Opening prayer: Ian Skoggard

### **Green Church Workshop Report-**

Martha and Ian attended. Mallory Bagwell and Rev. McCaffrey spoke. The original plan was a talk, a tour-of the church to see steps taken and breakout sessions. The tour was abbreviated into an explanation. Bagwell’s talk was “expansive green speak” with good ideas for motivation and tips on unearthing resources. Only 10 attended but representing 6 churches so it was more of an intimate discussion. Emphasis was on record keeping and using logos for identity. Overall the effort was disheartening with the low turn out given the large promotion effort. Churches don’t seem to have the numbers to participate.

Katie suggests regional managers issued by the EMT to consolidate and aid church efforts.

Martha suggested that the presentation remain general enough to help everyone, not just churches. We want to green both “churches and people” and we want to support people at every stage.

Patsy suggested Jerry at EnergyStar.com; George suggested Irejn.com for cost analysis tools related to churches.

After some discussion on how to inform and energize congregations, a revised plan for workshops was proposed:

Katie will inquire in Kent for March, and Ian will inquire in Ridgefield for a January event. We discussed the possibility of a Final Summit in Hartford in June for the current round of workshops.

For the future, a strategy for promoting the resolution and action steps might be:

- Annual Stewardship Meeting Presentation (Saturday after Labor Day.)
- Reach out sessions (modified workshops) in the 5 regions of the state
- Enhanced Website with more steps, ideas and resources
- Optional workshops at bi-annual conference and also awards presentations.

### **350.org Report-**

Posters are out. Martha contacted other conferences, Ian is working in New Haven on a huge photo op. Katie is working locally. Patsy will ask Devita if we can we do something at the conference to ring the bell at 3:50pm?

### **Strengthening the Website Report**

Ian has been in contact with Courtney. Tracy Gionfriddo from Asylum Hill CC is writing green tips for church newsletters to publish. This is a project of the Inter-Religious Eco-Justice Network, of which we are a member. He will set up a direct link for these with Eric, apprise her of the Action Steps so they can be incorporated.

We have 52 signed up for the Green Church initiative.

Dorothy Lovett Buckley may have an additional list and Steve has compiled most of our contacts. We will try to review and consolidate these lists so that all interested people receive our emails

### **Skipped Item: Stewardship Programs:**

In response to our intent to develop a Green Challenge as part of a Fall Stewardship Programs: Martha suggested a call for stewardship on our website and in our Action Steps. Katie saw this as being initiated by posting a data sheet that lists monthly kW usage and actions taken to make reductions. Martha suggested adding a new line item to church budget sheets to be developed for improvements. All suggestions in between are welcome and this subject will be discussed more fully at the next meeting when our attendance is stronger.

### **CT Conference Annual Meeting (Oct 24) Report**

Two CT Conference churches (Cornwall level 2, Middletown, levels 1 and 2) have completed enough of the Green Action Steps to receive awards at the Fall Conference. Others may join last minute. Patsy will set up a table and everyone will bring handouts as discussed.

### **New Business:**

- George completed our annual report and submitted it to the Conference office.
- The Resolution has been adopted by 3 other UCC conferences – Massachusetts, Maine and Florida. Massachusetts adopted our resolution and placed our Green Church Action Steps in “justice and witness” section of their website.
- We invite all interested in the CT Conference of the UCC to attend our meetings and become members of the Environmental Ministry Team. Membership. We also hope that Dorothy and Courtney will be able to attend the meetings below.

Closing prayer -Patsy

**Next meeting dates:** Nov 10, Dec 8, Jan 12, Feb 9, and Mar 9 (Tues @ 5 at CT UCC Conference Center at 125 Sherman Street in Hartford.)