

## Agenda

### Task for on the Care of Creation and Environmental Racism

August 4, 2020

Teleconference

3-4:30 PM (EST)

Present: Rev. Stephanie Johnson, Bishop Rice, Gabriela De Castro (interpreter), Andy Thompson, Brian Sellers-Peterson, Delia Heck, Lewis Powell, Melanie Mullen, Nathan Empsall, Robert Fitzpatrick, Sarah Nolan, Tyler Kerr, Perry Holmes

Using the New Zoom Interpretation Feature for this call.

Notes taken by Phoebe Chatfield.

1. Opening prayer, welcome (David)
2. Check-in/prayer request (David)
3. Approval of meeting minutes:
  - Two sets of meeting minutes to approve, both posted on Basecamp
  - April Minutes: Approved unanimously
    - - <https://3.basecamp.com/3336997/buckets/10749456/messages/2904143742>
      - Did not include attendance originally - Members were encouraged to let Stephanie know if they were present.
  - June Minutes: Approved unanimously
    - - <https://3.basecamp.com/3336997/buckets/10749456/messages/2904193747>
4. Updates from DFMS staff (Melanie/Phoebe)
  - Good news from Melanie: Executive Council has approved and finalized the COVID-related budget cuts, meaning that the remaining funds that were not cut can be used as normal. The remaining funds for the Task Force Grants are stable - we were pausing grant work for the spring and summer, but committees that have funds for grants can begin to operate again. In 2021 the grant program can continue. \$148,000 still there for grants, and the official "Hold" is over.
    - - Now we can plan well for next year with timelines, process, media plan, outreach

- Funds can be distributed first quarter of 2021 - so the grant process can start this fall or at the start of next year.
- Phoebe and Melanie have published resources on the Season of Creation and St. Francis Day: <https://episcopalchurch.org/season-creation-and-st-francis-day-resources>
- The Episcopal Church is encouraging everyone to host services, events and other efforts during the Season, from September 1st - October 4th. Melanie and Phoebe are going to host a planning/brainstorming call around August 18th to help support the planning for these local efforts.
- The Creation Covenant will be launched on October 4th, St. Francis Day, with a new sign up process for individuals and congregations. Members of the Task Force will be invited to review the Creation Covenant Sign-On process.

#### Good News Gardens:

- HUGE thank you to Brian Sellers-Peterson for planting so many of the seeds for this effort, and for all of his work stewarding the Agrarian Ministries Facebook page, the Society for the Increase of the Ministry
  - - 1,000 people in the Facebook Group
    - Almost 300 people signed up their Good News Garden
    - Monthly Newsletters and Zoom Calls
    - Incredible intersectional work, thinking about land use, indigenous land and growing practices, racial reconciliation, food access, etc!
    - Thank you to Melanie, Jerusalem Greer, and Phoebe's work on this


#### 5. Report from Theology Working group (Andy)

- The special issue of ATR is on track thanks to Andy and Sarah's tireless work on this effort.
- Everything needs to be done by the end of September. Drafts on everything, final review for most of these.
- Outreach to Bishop Curry about providing a preface - in process.
- Sarah and Andy are writing an editor's introduction
- The Theology Team is looking for some more proof-readers - any volunteers?
- Outreach and Publicity
  - - Melanie - can do a DFMS press release
    - How does it work? To read, do you need a paid subscription? Need to research that
    - Getting a Facebook Group going for Creation Care in some way? Distributing one article at a time?

- Richard - has been working with the Theology team, right now he is making videos interpreting theological texts and publishing them on Youtube. 10 so far, can be shared on Facebook (maybe with translation or subtitles).
- - Awesome. What a wonderful resource.
  - Sarah Nolan has shared Richards resources with Spanish-speaking folks
  - Sharing them every month in the Newsletter starting in August
- Andy - how can we make the ATR available in the ways we had hoped - what is happening with General Convention? Sharing that then would be critical
- Social media - awareness of social platforms is KEY - a whole generation is not using Facebook anymore. Should we be doing outreach on Instagram and Twitter as well?
- Another creative idea (Bishop Bascom) - could we do some sort of multimedia resource - short videos, podcasts, etc, to engage people with the resource and then direct them to the ATR!

6. Eco -justice, proposed project with Poor People's Campaign, Truth and Reconciliation work,  
(Delia and Stephanie)

#### Asset Map Trainings

- Eco-Justice was tasked with convening a group on this - Delia, Phoebe, Perry, Bishop Rob, Tamara Plummer from the to discuss the Asset Map and trainings/local engagement.
- - Delia created a wonderful resource integrating with the creation covenant:  [Asset Map & Covenant for Care of Creation.docx](#)
  - 4 types of training:
    - - Communications and operations personnel (on the Diocesan level).
        - We would provide a website page template that could be edited and embedded for diocesan and congregation web pages
        - We would offer 5 generic maps that all diocese would get access to (climate change, etc) and then the diocese could pick 5 more (sea level rise, localized flooding, prairies farming, food access, depending on the local context)
        - This would also be offered to any consulting firms that diocese use for their web presence
      - Climate Champions and Animators
        -

- Builds off Bishop David's idea about creation care champions in every congregation and community, especially engaging young people
- Training these folks on the context for how to understand asset map data and work with local organizations to make change in a diocese
- Affinity Groups
  - Builds off the work that Brian Sellers-Peterson and Phoebe are doing building groups, networks, etc
  - Open trainings, based on an issue (vs based on a local diocesan context)
    - Ex. Bringing together coastal folks to do trainings on sea level rise, or Jubilee folks to do food access, or a training on health care access and cancer rates
- Just Transition groups/trainings
  - Like we talked about areas that are very oil-dependent or less engaged, could this be a good use of the Asset Map as well?

## Racism and eco-justice

- Planning process that Andy, Melanie, Delia, Stephanie Johnson, etc have been engaged with, answering the call to respond to systemic racism and white supremacy with our churches, church land, and church resources.
  - Version 6 of the planning process is shared on basecamp <https://3.basecamp.com/3336997/buckets/10749456/messages/2904207448>
- Working to engage existing Episcopal Church structures. Would hire a consultant to help develop a toolkit for diocese, and a diocesan pilot program.
- Partner with the Poor People's Campaign and other partners. Delia has met Rev. Barber III (Rev. Barber of PPC's son) who works with Climate Reality on environmental racism. He could be a critical partner on this.
  - Other groups are the HBCU Climate Consortium
  - Melanie has also developed another partnership with someone in North Carolina who could be a great communications connector
- Finance: There are funds from the EcoJustice line and some other Creation Care lines that are available. At least \$20,000 could be spent this year from Line 165 and Line 173.
  -

- As well as paying the consultant, we would have funds to facilitate partnerships with PPC and/or to facilitate engagement in Diocese to hold trainings with local groups or leaders
- Might be some room to move upwards with funds too!
- If we get this environmental reparations off the group this would be a KEY area for next triennium
- Idea - could we start this in Diocese that have Eco-Justice Missioners?
  - - San Joaquin could start, Arizona and Western MA also have missioners, Prov V has infrastructure
- Plan would be to move this to August 14th Executive Council Meetings
- **Unanimous support to move this forward.**

## 7. General Convention planning

- Talk of doing just elections virtually in 2021, and then moving General Convention to 2022
- Blue Book - Sarah Nolan agreed to be the BlueBook Coordinator
  - - Everyone who has reflections will share with her
    - Report itself will be 3 reports and a summary (Stephanie will draft) and then resolutions that we will want the next group to work on.
      - - One resolution to enable the creation of another task force
        - More resolutions on key areas of action
        - This is about our legacy that we want to pass to the next group!
    - Guidance from Executive Council on how to write this will be sent to Sarah and she will share! Precise directions, etc
    - Brainstormed resolutions - Stephanie Johnson will compile into a document and start sharing on Basecamp. Goal - 5-6? Following a clear guide for how to write these as well.
      - - Asset Map work
        - Creation Covenant work
        - Just transition work - we got stalled with that but it could be something to pick back up? Perspective from the house of bishops on that?
        - Liturgy - we haven't done much on that, that could be a good resolution to offer. New Zealand prayer book?
        - Agrarian work, church land, and the results from Nurya's project - could these become a resolution? Brian's thoughts in this area?
          - - Work on how churches acquired their land, Vermont is modeling some wonderful work, Alaska, getting people together to consider this.

- Displacement of Japanese-American farmers in California, too!
  - Learning from our Jesuit brothers, Georgetown engaging in reparations, return of land to the Lakota, etc
- Divestment and reinvestment in clean energy? Supporting the statement before about a goal for the church to be % clean energy by blank date
  - - New data from CPG on divestment before General Convention
    - Fossil free funds in diocese - can we get data on how they've done?
    - Solar work - San Diego, San Joaquin, Southern Ohio
      - - Unclear what that resolution should look like, but if not from us, from who? An important effort
  - Clean Water, Water Conservation
  - Celebrating the Season of Creation annually (liturgy, materials, action steps, covenant) - could be a good umbrella resolution and helpful if other resolutions don't happen
- This Task Force will be disbanded the day that General Convention meets, and the new one won't be reformed for 3-4 months afterwards. So we need to provide a concise writing (visionary and clear) to help them.

## 8. Other business

- Grants committee will schedule a call to determine the next steps with grants!

## 9. Closing Prayer - David.