**Meeting Notes for 12 March 2017**

**Attendees:** Mary Armstrong (St. Luke’s), Robert Armstrong (St. Luke’s), Judy Giesen (Resurrection), Kim Glaser (Resurrection), Sue Hattel (St. Luke’s), Sister Joan Lickteig (Presentation), Carrie Lohrmann (Holy Trinity Lutheran), Mary McDermott (Resurrection), Father Jack Paisley (Resurrection), Mary Purdy (St. Luke’s), Craig Reber (UUFD), Barb Ressler (Presentation), Paul Schultz (Anawim Community), Sharon Speckhard (St. John’s Lutheran), R.R.S. Stewart (St. Luke’s / UUFD), Terry Stewart (St. Luke’s), Linda Stovall (Westminster), Tom Stovall, (Westminster), Paul Uzel (Westminster), Jane Worm (First Congregational)

**Convenor:** Craig Reber began our meeting at 3:13pm.

**Recorder for this meeting:** Paul Uzel

**Debrief of the Green Team Training**

Kim from Resurrection commented that it was a very informative presentation. Judy G. brought up the fact that some found the informational first part a bit repetitive from other presentations, but that the rest was great.

Father Jack Paisley Mentioned that there were other organizations attending and this became a repeated topic for conversation concerning the various venues of our meetings.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church reported that as a result of the Green Team Training, their church is beginning a Team. Westminster Presbyterian Church reported on their first team meeting and that their Team will be commissioned as a “mission team” during an upcoming worship service. They are also applying for funding through the WPC mission funding program to cover both the initial membership in DBQ IIPL and to fund their Bring Your Own Bag project work.

**Discussion about communication**

Everyone regularly attending the monthly meetings should have the email addresses of each other. Further discussion about this led to the observation by Carrie Lohrman that we may need to set up an email filing system that people can access online, such as Google docs.

**Plastic Bag Ban**

The Iowa General Assembly passed a bill which is on the Governor’s desk and will likely be signed, removing the sovereign right of local governments to regulate plastic bags. We discussed a variety of approaches possible and being taken in Dubuque. We talked about “boomerang bags” (cloth bags issued by the vendor such as a grocery store, then returned by the customer, after which it is laundered and put back into use by the vendor.) Churches can be the vendors in this type arrangement, although HyVee is apparently considering this as well, according to Carrie. Apparently there are a couple of seniors at Loras in the Capstone program working on this issue as well. Craig presented Cloth Bags UUFD are having made with their logo. We discussed getting cloth bags printed with the DBQ IIPL name and logo.

After discussion and friendly amendment, it was MOVED by Paul, SECONDED by Sue and ADOPTED by unanimous consent that a small task force of our group investigate what DBQ IIPL should do in term of making bags (boomerang or otherwise), educating/motivating churches in this area and if necessary, apply for a grant from Sustainable Dubuque to print bags ourselves with DBQ IIPL. Paul Schultz, Craig and Barb volunteered to be on this team.

**Review of Long Term Goals** from February meeting (with how goal was rewarded at March meeting for including on flyer).

1. Plan a city wide educational event with a major speaker--James Martin Schramm after he returns in August. (Plan a city wide educational event with a major speaker— Dr. James Martin-Schramm, Luther college religion professor and author responsible for helping the college drastically cut their emissions, and former board chair of Iowa IPL.)
2. Sponsor an IIPL Event on a rotating basis, one per year. (Sponsor an Iowa IPL educational program annually in the Dubuque-area. The programs Iowa IPL offers are The Good Life Redefined, Food· Faith· Climate, Cool Congregations, Faith in a Changing Climate)
3. Increase the number of congregations to expand participation in our local IIPL Chapter activities to 10 groups. (Won’t list on flyer - We already have 10 congregations attending our monthly meetings and four have Green Teams)
4. Walk with individuals and congregations in reducing their carbon footprint by sharing the Assessment Tool and supporting them as they use it. (Share our “Green Assessment for Congregations” with Dubuque-area congregations and supporting them as they use it.)
5. Hold regular meetings of our IIPL, inviting all interested people of faith. (Since we are already doing this, won’t list on flyer.)
6. Support the proposed city ban on the usage of plastic bags. (Support policies and practices reducing the usage of plastic bags..)
7. Create community partnerships. (Create community partnerships with interested parties and others (the City, Green Iowa Americorps, Green Dubuque, etc.)

**Other discussion related to these goals**:

Barbara has been in contact with James Martin Shram and will work on getting him to commit to a date for an event sometime between August and the end of 2017. This would qualify as the one individual chapter event in our charter from IIPL. We have already completed the IIPL presented event in our charter with the Green Team training.

We have six Green Teams already existing or well on their way into existence and it appears we have 13 congregations or organizations involved in our Chapter.

We consensually decided that congregational green teams can work with their own congregations on individual members’ or families’ carbon footprint training. We as a chapter will share our Green Assessment for Congregations.

We discussed the meaning of partnerships, as there are listed on our ‘rolls’ individual congregations, some other organizations and individuals as well. We opted for language as open as possible.

Carrie motioned to approve the revised flyer, seconded and passed by unanimous consent

**Infrastructure / Review of Chapter Roles**

In August 2016, no attendees had proposed a Congregational Covenant to their churches or faith groups. At that meeting, we proposed members take the covenant to their congregations. A financial commitment is not an absolute requirement of the Congregational Covenant R.R.S. volunteered to be the Communications Secretary, making meeting announcements and organizing resources for all chapter members to access. Mary Armstrong volunteered to coordinate meeting hosts – create a sign-up list and make sure the group has meeting hosts scheduled far enough in advance.

Since that time, meetings have moved around to different congregations and faith communities in Dubuque each month because members believe this will attract more attendance, involvement and awareness from different congregation members. In discussion we decided to continue this practice, with the host congregation providing the Convener and Recording Secretary for the meeting. Mary and R.R.S will check in with the Convener and Recording Secretary a week before their meeting. R.R.S. passed around a sign-up sheet for the remainder of the year (schedule below). We noted the Second Sunday of May is mother’s day - so we moved that meeting to 7 May.

Mary asked for a list of congregations involved - R.R.S. will put one at the end of these notes. R.R.S. had created a Facebook page since February’s meeting. She and Sarah Paulos are administrators of it in - she will add Mary as an admin as well.

**Check in on Covenants & Green Team activity**

Westminster - Parishioners can turn in plastic bags and get a canvas bag; they ordered 500 cloth bags, plastic bags will be made into blankets; developed mission statement

First Cong - replace all the lightbulbs

St. John’s Lutheran - replacing light bulbs

St. Luke’s - Also replaced light blubs, planning for earth Sunday service 23 April

UFFD - Will also do earth Sunday service 23 April

Bag it showing Sunday 8 April at 9am, Mindframe Theaters. Admission is free.

Paul shared about climate march on 23 April

Meeting adjourned at 4:43pm.

Respectfully submitted Paul Uziel (Page 1 & other discussion related to goals)

& R.R.S. Stewart (Attendance, Review of Longterm Goals & Page 3).

Congregations represented by attendees to at least one IIPL Dub Chapter meetings since May 2016 or the Green Team Training are:

Anawim Community

Church of the Resurrection,

Dubuque Area Congregations United,

Dubuque Friends Worship Group

First Congregational United Church of Christ,

Gloria Dei,

Grandview Methodist,

GreenIowa Americrop

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,

Holy Spirit Parish,

Hope Church,

Journey Assembly,

Saint Anthony,

Saint John’s Lutheran Church,

Saint Luke’s Methodist Church,

Saint Joseph the Worker,

Saint Joseph Key West,

Saint Michael's Wheaton

Saint Raphael Cathedral,

Sinsinawa Dominicans

Sisters of Christian Charity,

Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary,

Sisters of Saint Francis,

Shalom Spirituality Center

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Dubuque,

Wahlert Catholic High School

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2017 Meeting Sign-up

Date Location Contact

9 April St. Luke’s Mary Armstrong

7 May

11 June Resurrection Mary McDermott & Kim Glaser

9 July First Congregational Jane Worm

13 August

10 September Holy Trinity Lutheran Carrie Lohrmann

8 October Westminster Tom Stovall

12 November

10 December