**IIPL Dubuque Chapter Meeting – September 11, 2016**

**Meeting Notes**

**Attendees**

First Congregational – Jane Worm

Assoc. PVBM – Barb Ressler

Catholic – Paul Schultz

PVBM – Mary Bonita, JamesMarie Cross

Church of the Resurrection – Judy Giesen

Sinsinawa Mounds – Christin Tomy

Srs of the Presentation - Joan Lickteig, Sr. Dolores Moes, Irma Ries

Srs of St. Francis – Meg Gemar

St. John’s Lutheran – David

St. Luke’s UMC – Mary and Robert Armstrong, RRS Stewart

UUs – Chas Winterwood

Westminster Presbyterian – Paul Uzel

Iowa IPL – Sarah Paulos

Irma welcomed chapter members to Sisters of the Presentation and opened with a prayerful silence.

Sarah Paulos convened the meeting, thanked all who volunteered, shared the agenda.

Mary Armstrong recruited hosts for future chapter meetings.

**Brief review of common necessities to host meeting:**

1. Perhaps some small refreshment to eat – a snack or whatever/drink- i.e. water, lemonade . . .
2. Name tags/marker
3. Sign in sheet
4. Setting up space, Flip chart/markers, signs, projection screen?

**Agenda**

1. Assessment Resources – Methods to measure where our congregations are in terms of caring for creation. Paul Schultz and Sarah Paulos share this part of the agenda.
2. Congregational Covenant Check-in
3. Convener and Communications Roles
4. Green Team Training Day
5. Story Circle Idea
6. Set Agenda for next time

**1. Assessment Resources**

**Paul Schultz** shared his background and personal commitment to earth care

He was employed as the *Resource Management Coordinator* for City of Dubuque, and helped to create the Petal Project and Green Vision Schools program.

He explained a couple of Assessment tools/resources for congregations.

A. The Petal Project Certification Process (ECIIGA)

A local green business certification process, congregations qualify. St. Joseph the Worker is Petal Project certified. Categories include: building energy use, water, waste, education of staff, pollution prevention. (There is a $200 the first year, and $100 every year thereafter.)

B. Earth Ministry workbook for assessing and suggestions for caring for creation.

C. Green Vision Education Program – to help local schools care for the earth in their own buildings. Paul has created a list of tips pertinent to congregations drawn from this program.

**Sarah Paulos** shared these resources:

**A. EPA’s Energy Star for Congregations** program – <https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/owners_and_managers/congregations>

Best in the industry for managing energy use of a congregational building. They have an online measurement tool to establish baseline, then suggestions and very good how to instructions in an excellent workbook to walk you through your facility to see where changes could be made. IIPL has a partnership with them so we have access to actual people there who can help and offer trainings. Flyers were available. (no cost)

**B. Iowa IPL’s Cool Congregations** Excel calculator simple but uses actual data so you can see your progress, - covers transportation, building energy use, waste.

Accompanied by the two handouts – 14 steps for congregations, or the two 25 Steps handouts for the householder program – many of these steps apply to congregations as well.

Urbandale UCC is using our Iowa IPL calculator and list of steps to reduce energy use.

(No cost.)

### C. National IPL - Cool Congregations.org online calculator for congregations – transportation, building energy use, waste, goods and services. (No cost.) <http://www.coolcongregations.org/calculator/>

### They also have a contest with prizes:

### FIVE ENTRY CATEGORIES for the contest.

### <http://www.coolcongregations.org/take-the-challenge/what-is-ccc/>

1. Cool Congregations Planner

Audits • Planning Reports • Fundraising

2. Energy Saver

Lighting • Insulation • Windows & Doors • Heating & Cooling Systems  
3. Renewable Role Model

Solar • Wind • Geothermal • Solar Water Heating  
4. Sacred Grounds Steward

Native Landscaping • Organic Gardening • Water Conservation • Bike Racks • Wildlife Habitats • Recycling & Composting  
5. Community Inspiration

This includes congregations that inspire congregants to save energy at home.  
 It may also include congregations working within their communities to assist in adapting to and coping with climate change.

Nat’l IPL also has a **certification** program – your congregation can be certified at different levels of energy saving – Green - 10%, Red - 20%, Blue - 30%, Gold -40% and above. Showcased on national IPL website and literature.

<http://www.coolcongregations.org/about/list-cool-congregations/>

**D. Alliant Energy** has audit services, and many incentives and rebates. If you are looking at your buildings energy use, be sure to contact Alliant.

**Brainstormed:** what would you like to see in an assessment tool to help you figure out where your congregation is at in terms of caring for creation? To help determine your congregation’s goals going forward. What would be useful to you?

Paul suggested:

* Collect Real Data, not estimates
* Choose a tool that has someone to help support congregations in using it
* Consider broader ecological footprint in conjunction with carbon footprint.
* Measure food practices

Others suggested:

* Simple tool preferred
* Education component – of congregational staff and congregational members
* Maybe measure transportation of congregational staff, and work of the congregation like mission trips
* Measure interest of congregation or green team - what areas they would like to work in.
* Measure strength of green team
* Measure cost savings as well as energy use savings
* Measure pollution prevention ie. green cleaning supplies, waste management (ie. composting, recycling)
* Measure advocacy efforts – at local, state, and federal level

**Assessment Committee** will look at all options and make a suggestion to the group for best tool(s) for the group to use to assess their congregations. Possible report at November meeting.

Paul Schultz will lead this group

Mary Armstrong, Judy Giesen, Joan Lickteig offered to help

**2. Congregational Covenant Check-in**

Jane Worm from First Congregational reported that her congregation has signed the IIPL Congregational Covenant and their check has been rec’d by IIPL.

RRS Stewart from St. Luke’s Methodist & David Theis from St. John’s Lutheran reported that the request is in the process at their congregations.

**Group decided to have a *Check in* at each month’s meeting and create a roster of congregations that have signed the IIPL Congregational Convenant.**

**3. Convener and Communications Roles**

**Convener Role** Brainstormed:

* Follow agenda, keep everyone on track and on time
* Listen well to determine what direction the group wants to go and reflect it back to the group.
* Keep group focused on both long-term goals and short-term goals.
* Identify action items from the discussions, and solicit volunteers at the meeting to be in charge of the action items.
* Ask for reports on action items at each meeting.
* Set agenda for each meeting based on the group’s desires.
* Make sure everyone who wants to has a chance to speak
* Term length one or two years

Sarah suggested that the group create a timeline of events for the group including short-term and long-term goals, which would help convener do their job.

**Communications Persons Roles** Brainstormed:

* A corresponding secretary – RRS is interested in doing this. She has an incredible list of contacts for Dubuque congregations. She could solicit input from group and include in a monthly communication in addition to upcoming meeting notice.
* A recording secretary – someone to take minutes of the meetings.
* Barb Ressler will take notes for the next meeting.

**4. Green Team Training Day**

Sarah proposed Agenda for the training day:

1. Best practices and resources from IIPL
2. Invite other green teams to present about themselves through table displays
3. Invite a few green team leaders to speak on their most successful strategies
4. Make it a workshop by making time for teams to take some of the initial steps like sharing their story about why they care enough to do something about climate change and what motivates them, writing a draft mission statement, brainstorm goals and strategies

Volunteers who will help plan the Green Team Event –Paul Uzel, Barb Ressler, RRS Stewart

More volunteers requested.

Date to be determined for February 2017

**5. Story Circle Idea**

Make time at each meeting for a congregational representative to tell their story about what they are working on, successes, challenges they are facing, what strategies they are trying to overcome the challenges, where they are going next, ask for advice from the group.

Carrie Lohrman could conduct survey to determine who would share when?

**6. Set Agenda for next time**

Congregational Covenant Check-in

Discuss and approve Convener and Communications person roles, decide on selection process

Update from Assessment Committee led by Paul Schultz

Update from Green Team Training Day committee

Update from Carrie Lohrman on survey?

Outreach – who else do we want to be part of the group? What are the best ways to reach them? (see Judy Giesen’s bulletin announcement for one idea)

Resource sharing – IIPL educational resources

Time to share alerts of local activism issues

Please contact Sarah with agenda requests. programs@iowaipl.org

**Future Meeting Dates/Places**

October 9- St. Luke’s at 12th and Main

November 13- 1st Congregational at 10th & Locust

December 11 - St. John’s at 13th and White

**Volunteer Review**

1. Paul Schultz will lead the committee to recommend assessment tool.
2. Judy Giesen, Mary Armstrong, Joan Lickteig will assist Paul.
3. Barb Ressler, RRS Stewart, and Paul Uzel volunteered to plan February’s Green Team Training Day.
4. Barb Ressler will take notes at the October meeting.
5. St. Luke’s Methodist will host the October meeting.