

Earth Care Committee
Highland Presbyterian Church
1/25/2022 and 2/8/2022 via Zoom

Members Present: Cathy Smock, Martha Makela, Helen Jones, Viola Randall, Jenny Siegenthaler, Elisa Owens

Staff Present: Megan McCarty, Kent Winters-Hazelton

Trees for Birthdays

Megan reported that this idea was submitted by Ainsley Jones. Three possible organizations should be contacted to gather information: Louisville Grows, Trees Louisville, Metro Parks. Several suggestions were made about ways to incorporate this idea, including a tree each month for all of that month's birthdays, a way to celebrate the Sages since we haven't had their gathering due to Covid, or for baptisms. Martha, Cathy and Helen offered to gather information, with Helen being the person since Martha and Cathy have chosen other projects.

Update: Louisville Grows is the cheapest option, coming in at \$100/tree. A proposal will be sent to CITW to send \$1200 (one tree for every month) to Louisville Grows and begin sending birthday cards to everyone in the church.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Megan reported that EVOLVE Kentucky is the organization that puts the charging stations in locations in Kentucky. They raise money and then install the station. HPC may not have the correct electrical supply, that needs to be determined. HPC also needs to consider the location of the station: Parking lot vs. street site. We need to know the cost, cost of operating it, and whether there is liability. Martha will pursue this project.

Update: Martha, Steve, Megan, and Rob Mill met with Evolve. They were very impressed with our parking lot space and said the easiest way for them to do this would be to come down from the transformer in the parking lot and over to the charging station that they build. Different options for charging locations were discussed, but the further away you go, the more money and more challenging it gets as you have to dig into asphalt. If we placed the charging station on the corner of the grassy spot next to the two "reserved" parking spaces, we wouldn't have to rip up any asphalt and the cord for the charger could easily reach 6 different parking spaces, which means we wouldn't have to "give up" any spaces. Estimated cost is around \$8,000, but they will send a formal proposal and then the committee will decide where to go from there.

Louisville Climate Change Action Network

Cathy reported that they assess physical spaces, analyze space use, do energy audits and help hire contractors to do needed work. They can also assist groups in finding funding for such projects. She will gather more information about ways we could use their services.

Update: Committee met with Sarah Lynn Cunningham in February to gather more information surrounding an energy audit. Bill Wade provided the information that we have done this before and we should look at the previous audits performed before we assess moving forward.

Solar Panels

Lights 2K for 5K might be a local group that could help with the cost of solar panels. Jenny is going to contact HPC member John Cullen to see if he has contacts or info on solar panels. City of Louisville has a green initiative that might also help. Rev. Winters-Hazelton commented that he knew of a church that had investigated solar panels and that the cost was \$400,000.

Earth Care Congregations

PC USA has a program that acknowledges congregations that are committed to green initiatives. Applications are due by February. You must reapply every year, and each year the requirements increase to retain the designation. The designation includes most areas within the church, including education, sermons, physical plant, and outreach. Cathy and Megan will touch base about the application process.

Update: Cathy and Megan recognized that the deadline to fill out the application was Feb 15 and it needs session approval, which meets Feb 16. We will work this year to start generating ideas for how this might come about for 2023. Application will be filled out all year and come to session for approval in November.

Elisa Owens reported on KIPL, Ky. Interfaith Power and Light. They help form green teams, encourage solar projects, energy audits, and they can assist with financing. They partner with LCAN and sometimes utilize their assistance with contractors and projects. KIPL is hosting an art show in April and they'd like to work with HPC to promote the event and recruit art projects. Martha suggested that HPCNWS might be able to do some children's art on the topic, and Megan suggested using HPC youth. Michael Harper would be helpful with this project.

Community Garden

Megan reported wanting to find a space to start a community garden, starting with three raised beds: one for the church, one for the weekday school, and one for KRM. (If all these folks want in on this project.) The space that gets the most sunlight all day is along the Pluene Mobley building. We could have three beds to the right of the door on Highland Ave and see if we can maintain these. If there is more interest, we would have the ability to expand further along the wall.

Next Meeting: March 8, 4:00 pm