

# **Environmental Stewardship Ministry**

## **Minutes for November 12,2020 6 pm**

**Attendance : Mariah Doyle (Ministry Leader,Moderator,Parish Council Liaison) ,Deacon Adelia Sandoval (member , Clergy Council Liaison ) ,Bertie Ninichuck (member , scribe ), Members : Susan and Bob Morano , Gene Rascon , Brother Christopher , B'ea Tiritilli (excused ).**

### **\* Deacon Adelia opened the meeting with prayers for the world and our environment.**

- \* Environmental Stewardship Ministry Statement of Purpose was read
- \* Minutes from the october meeting were read and discussed :
- \* Gene shared that if we enjoyed Brother Christopher's joke before end of meeting prayer last month that him being a Marine veteran , his jokes would get better and better as the time goes by .
- \* Bertie acknowledged Brother Christopher for his service .
- \* Susan suggested that Stephanie from the CPRM ministry could help us set up a private Facebook page for our ministry .
- \* Susan liked the idea that funds from recycling would be used for the Environmental Stewardship Ministry . She opened up further discussion of how we should do this ? Have it earmarked on churches's general fund ? Open a new account ?
- \* Mariah suggested that perhaps we should have a treasurer.
  - \* Adelia suggested that we put it in a coffee can . Perhaps Bertie could hold funds and receipts from recycle center until we wanted to use them .
  - \* Bertie showed envelope and reported that first trip to the recycle center yielded \$36.27 .
  - \* Group was pleased with this news . Gene said , "judging by Bertie's grip on that envelope that Bertie could hold the funds !

### **\* Bob motioned that the minutes be approved . Motion was seconded by Gene . Minutes were unanimously approved .**

#### **Discussion of environmental tips :**

- \* Last month's tip was : Be mindful to turn out the lights as you leave a room .
- \* New tip : Use energy saving light bulbs
- \* Susan suggested that possibly we could get some energy saving light bulbs that we could hand out to people at church or at our events .
- \* Adelia shared that they often are on sale at Denaults Hardware . You want to get LED lights . You can get these at Lowes . When you see BOGO sales of these types of lights , we should take advantage of that deal .
- \* Susan suggested having these lights at our table for the Ministries Fair at the beginning of the year as they could generate alot of excitement for our ministry

**New Business :**

\* Gene shares about justfaith.org

\* First Gene shares that the Franciscan Network is national in scope .Sacred Lands Coalition came out of it , as did Sacred Lands classes for eco justice and farming .

\*These programs align with the teachings of the gospel to care for the earth and one another .

\* Just Faith Ministries was born to create a community of care and vitality with very skilled people preparing people of like minds in matters of injustice and the environment .

\* Our Environmental Stewardship Ministry is in alignment with this thinking .

\* Just Faith seeks to build a foundation with people of faith that realize eco justice is urgent and needed to tip the scales back in balance for our eco systems and environment .

\* They have developed a series of classes dealing with the classical elements of land and the earth regarding food and farming production . Air keeping it clear and unpolluted . Water keeping it pure so that the oceans and eco systems remain in balance .

\* The programs combine the ideals and f Cristianity and the gospel along with the idigenous wisdoms and teachings and ecological knowledges and sciences .

\*There are three programs , they are virtual and do not need to be taken in any particular order .

\*Participants are determined by National invitation . Those selected will be trained to become instructors of these programs so that the knowledge and know how are spread .

\* Gene is an instructor . He trains people to do the Just Faith programs .

\* Deacon Adelia will be trained to present these programs at Saint Matthews .

\* At this time all classes are virtual . here are 8 meetings that are 2 hours a piece .

\*Native American speakers will be present to present their wisdom , teachings and

\* \$175 is the cost of the actual class . Gene has this expense covered . Students will cover the costs of their books . This should run between \$35 and \$40 .

\*Experiences involved would be going out to an actual farming situation for hands on knowledge of the environment . experience of what occurs there . Covid precautions would be honored .

\* Perhaps we could in time provide a scholarship fund for some students .

\* Classes start in January

\* Some high profile people have participate and engaged with these programs and classes . Kelly who spearheads the program has been part of a group that Al Gores's daughter was in as were some of the Kennedys and the First Cohorts group .

\*Program is 8 weeks (2months) possibly to be held on saturday mornings 8am -10 am or 9am-11am .

\*Courses train students to be able to go forth and teach their own communities once the virus restrictions subside .

\*March is the new ministries fair . It will be important to have people trained in the Franciscan ways so that this work will be peaceful .

\*Deacon Adelia points out that all the work is done for us by the Just Faith . They have formulated the programs and facillitate them .

\*Gene will cover the class fee . When the books become available students will purchase them at \$35-\$40 . Gene says , "You have to pay if you want to play . "

\* Gene acknowledges that we have our own Indigenous expert in the person of Adelia . New Ideas Discussion :

\* Adelia could do Song of the Earth Services when the virus subsides . The people that attend these would be open to the classes and/or information presented .

\* Mentioned was upcoming Elizabeth Beekly program concerning climate solutions and prioritizing our solutions this monday november 16th at 10 am .

\* there was mention of URI and their cooperation with other groups that they may be interested in these classes and programs .

\* Adelia mentioned \$1 , 000 for groups that excel in environmental programs to be used in such programs . The example of prize winner was a church really raised the bar this contest . They sold their church and built a new one that was environmentally sound .

\* Susan recommended that with a new administration coming in we might consider letter writing to Congress about environmental matters .

\* Adelia brought up we could get involved in stopping the building of the desalination plant in Huntington Beach . It is being pushed by the Poseidon Company who are very rich and influential . The plant would kill water creatures with brine salt destroying the eco systems . The Poseidon Company has been telling the residents of Huntington Beach that the plant will reduce the cost of their water however they have not told the residents along the river bed that their water costs will raise and that they will be footing the bill for the plant . The Native Tribes have not been notified of their intentions as they should have done as required by law . We could write letters about this , it would be a good table topic at March Ministry Fair . Azul has information on this .

\* Brother Christopher suggested that since Saint Matthews is in a business park that after our services we could clear trash in the lot . This would show fellow shop owners what we are about . We could even pick up trash in surrounding neighborhood . Of course we would keep participants safe and follow covid protocols .

\* Brother Christopher shared story of his mischievous past during a turn out the lights for an hour event in Nashville .

\* Brother Christopher closed our meeting with a beautiful and inspirational prayer .

\* Our next meeting will be thursday december 10 th at 6 pm .