

CT Conference Environmental Ministries Team meeting  
Notes from the Tuesday, February 7, 2017 conference call meeting

- Attendees
- UCC Environmental Justice Center– Pam Arifian
  - Old Lyme – FCC Old Lyme – Cynthia Willauer
  - Mystic – Mystic Cong Church – Walter Grant
  - Hartford – Asylum Hill Cong Church – Christie Davis
  - Cornwall – UCC in Cornwall - Katherine Freygang
  - New Haven – Church of the Redeemer – Ian Skoggard
  - West Hartford – FCCC – George Stone

George read the opening verse of the Bible, wherein God created the earth, and later said that is was very good.

This is what we are called to conserve, steward and pass on to the generations yet to be born.

Events in the next weeks and months are listed at the end of these notes.

Meeting discussions:

1. Katie Freygang reported for a workgroup creating a Transparency Resolution - in support of public information about energy-producing infrastructure. The intent is to assure that information is available so that the public can learn how the construction of such infrastructure would affect our water and land quality. Once drafted, this resolution will be submitted for consideration at our CT Conference annual meeting on June 16/17. The workgroup is seeking comments you may have to improve the initial draft, attached. Members of the workgroup are listed at the end of these notes. Comment directly to Katie Freygang at: [kfreygang@aol.com](mailto:kfreygang@aol.com)
2. This issue relates directly to the proposed construction of gas pipelines in CT. To volunteer to help with information on gas pipelines, contact Ian Skoggard at: [iskoggard@hotmail.com](mailto:iskoggard@hotmail.com)
3. Our budget submission - \$ 1,800 for 2017, is included in the Conference budget.
4. Pam Arifian continues to receive requests for speakers on environmental topics. We agreed that we need to develop a list of potential speakers, so that she can respond when a request is presented. IREJN (the InterReligious EcoJustice Network) is hoping to present a webinar series on EcoJustice issues, in which we could both participate and speak. People felt that any talks and events would gain provide the greatest education and participation if offered to the entire community.

If you are willing to speak, present a film or lead a discussion on one or more environmental topics, please contact Pam at: [pama@ctucc.org](mailto:pama@ctucc.org).

5. A film “Tapped” available about the danger to public water supplies. This is especially topical as CT is in a drought situation, with residents being asked to conserve water. George will contact one of the local groups to explore acquiring the film and presenting it, perhaps in conjunction

with other groups. Several bills have also been proposed in the CT Legislature on water use, especially relating to the use of public water supplies for commercial sale. If you wish to get involved with water issues, contact George at: [george@stone-stonect.com](mailto:george@stone-stonect.com).

6. Fracking waste contains many chemicals, many of them dangerous or toxic. Several locations in CT have been proposed for processing out-of-state fracking waste in CT. Christie Davis is knowledgeable on the impact of this waste and the impact on our CT land, water and air resources, and will be working on this topic. To become involved, please contact Christie at: [davis-chris@msn.com](mailto:davis-chris@msn.com)
7. Pam Arifian reported on the CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs. They are working to:
  - a. Amend the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008 to require interim targets for reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and
  - b. Improve the Lead by Example program of 2011 to increase energy efficiency in state buildings.

We discussed if we might partner with the RoundTable and, perhaps, becoming an affiliate. We need one or two people to commit to attending two meetings a year, one by conference call, one in person.

If you can participate, contact Pam Arifian: [pama@ctucc.org](mailto:pama@ctucc.org).

8. Contacting legislators to advocate for environmental justice and protection issues. Several bills have been submitted to the CT Legislature related to our mission of caring for the environment, which supports all life on Earth. Our Legislative Advocate, Michele Mudrick, has provided a sample testimony (attached), which can be submitted in writing or in person.

We will work with Michele and our CT Conference provide ways to contact legislators and provide information to make the process of testifying easier. George, Katherine and Pam will work on this.

Note from George: After the meeting, we learned that Ray Jones, former minister of the Federated Church in Orleans, Cape Cod, serious hiker on the Appalachian Trail, master gardener, clarinetist in several symphonies, Naval officer and member of First Church, Guilford's Environmental Ministry Team, died a week ago. The service on Saturday was attended by many, with two large baskets of vegetables on the table along with sunflowers in recognition of Ray's passion to care for our environment and his gardening prowess. It was clear from the remarks by ministers and family that Ray's legacy of environmental concerns will be carried on.

Ray was remembered in music by the Naval Hymn, For the Beauty of the Earth, and two clarinet pieces, beautifully played by Steven Mustakos.

Our condolences to Sue Jones, Ray's wife of 68 years.

**Upcoming activities:**

**Mar 10:** - Rise with Standing Rock and Native Nations March, Washington, DC

**Mar 18** – Super Saturday in Wilbraham, MA - for the CT, MA and RI Conferences. See the CT Conference website to sign up: [www.ctucc.org](http://www.ctucc.org). Workshops include:

1. Climate Change 101 – with Jim Antal
2. Community Organizing 101 – with Kelly Gallagher
3. Here I Stand, I can do No Other: Resistance, Civil Disobedience and the Church – Jim Antal and others
4. Legislative Advocacy in CTUCC – with Michele Mudrick

**Apr 29** – People Climate Mobilization – Washington DC

**May 19-21** – Environmental Justice Retreat at Sliver Lake Conf. Center – for youth in grades 9-12.

**Jun 16–17** – Conference Annual Meeting – in Hartford, CT with the MA & RI Conferences  
Consider attending, be present at the workshop for the resolution. Be a delegate from your church, speak in favor of the resolution and vote as a delegate.

**Jun 30-Jul 4** – General Synod, Baltimore

**Transparency Workgroup members:**

Dan Esty, Yale Law School's Hillhouse Professor of Environmental Law and Policy, and an intern.

Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, and an intern

Ed Meyer, former Senator in CT and in NY, CT UCC EMT

Katherine Freygang, Co-chair, CT UCC EMT

Ian Skoggard, Co-Chair, CT UCC EMT

George Stone, Co-Chair, CT UCC EMT

Additional CT UCC members are welcome - contact Katie Freygang at: [kfreygang@aol.com](mailto:kfreygang@aol.com)