

ATTENDANCE: Gerri Aston, Michael Churchman, Eleanor DelBene, Rosine Hall, and Freya Neely.

OPENING REFLECTION: Eleanor read a poem by Mary Oliver named "Song of the Builders" and asked each of to reflect on what in the poem speaks to us currently, representing where we are in our lives. A number of similarities were found: the cricket, building the universe, full of energy, footprint, finding your pace, and moving grains.

MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING: only correction was that luncheon meetings for the convention are actually called "convention conversations." No additional corrections.

APOSTLE ARTICLES: No article in this month's Apostle, although the retreat is to be listed in the calendar. December issue submission is due by Nov. 1st; Michael will do a review of the retreat. It was discussed to try to have additional articles written and on stand-by. Gerri Aston will check with Roger Conville about an additional article.

LIAISONS: Gerri spoke at the Birmingham Clericus and distributed brochures about the retreat. She also sent a follow-up email to the rectors and deacons to the Clericus.

Michael has emailed the brochure to all Liaisons and mailed a copy to those without email. He will send a follow-up email to make sure everyone sends in registrations.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Eleanor DelBene presented a preliminary Task Force budget for the 2005-06 Diocesan budget, which she presented at a Diocesan Council budget meeting. She also shared ways that the Task Force is involved in activities that do not involve a request for financial support

Freya Neely reported that we have \$4,298.63 in acct. # 240250-0 after receipts of \$686 from sales of CD's and study guides. She also reported that we have \$1,717.23 in acct. #636106, our budgeted account. This account is what Eleanor made a presentation for and what we use for printing, lunches, and other misc. costs involved with the Task Force. We all need to make sure any money goes through this account.

CD UPDATE: Cost of the CD is \$5.00 each. Several Dioceses have purchased them for their use. Eleanor will get a list from Denise to see who they are.

There have been some questions about if the CD is working properly. Michael will get an additional copy to test on his computer. Others will check their CDs.

Additional information: After trying several different copies of the Version II CDs, it has been determined there is a problem with the sound on the Version II CDs. Bishop Andrus had a problem at the UN, and the Diocese of South Florida added their own sound, without knowing it should have the letter read with music. Eleanor is to meet with Nancy to discuss how this can be remedied. It also brought up the thought of having the slide/letter presentation available on a website or other format. More information will follow.

BISHOPS MEETING AND MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: Bishop Andrus attended the Province IV Bishops meeting in Puerto Rico, where he promoted the MDG. At this meeting, priorities were discussed and the MDG will continue to be emphasized. There was also a special meeting at the UN MDG +5 where many made the emphasis of how important the MDG continue to be. At this meeting, many churches, including the Episcopal Church, recommitted themselves to their importance. BISHOP ANDRUS SUGGESTED THE BOOK WHAT CAN ONE PERSON DO? WHICH IS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE EPISCOPAL BOOK STORE.

Camp McDowell October 21-22, 2005

Michael discussed current attendance projection, which was still low. Each agreed to call all Liaisons to ensure adequate attendance.

Michael will do registration, with assistance by Freya.

Liturgy - Freya and Kerry were to plan liturgy, but since Kerry will be unable to attend, Gerri will assist Freya in planning. Gerri shared St. Andrews, Birmingham using Prayer C and a Stewardship for Creation Liturgy.

5:00 PM Friday evening Registration

6:30 PM - Gather for dinner. After a welcome by Bishop Andrus and the Task Force, we will then share the pastoral letter context and view the CD. Eleanor will lead an opening meditation of reading the mission statement, allowing time to let it speak to us, then each person introduce themselves, where they are from and what about themselves mirrors the mission statement. Eleanor will offer the Cosmic Walk, before having the camp staff to take us on a night hike, to view the night sky, appropriate to the physical ability level of the group.

Saturday: 8 AM breakfast

8:45-10:00 AM Advocacy: Mark Andrus - Millennium Development Goals: keeping our focus involved at the global as well as the local level; Mark Johnston - advocacy at the local level.

10:00-10:30 BREAK and time outside

10:30-11:45 Education: Gerri Aston - a Study Guide session supporting the CD.

Noon - Lunch

12:45-2:00 PM – Roger and Rosine – local opportunities like the Energy Audit and rain gardens. Rosine wants to recognize the importance of a discussion about creationism/evolution and/or Science/Religion. She shared some of her experience in her classroom of students with a combative attitude where students are being prepared before they come to college on how to combat science in comparison to creationism.

2:15 – closing Liturgy of Creation – Gerri will coordinate Bishop, Mark Johnston and her involvement.

3:00 – nature hikes led by Camp staff

??? – Dinner at Mark and Maggie’s for anyone who wants to stay

Michael will contact Rob Morpeth and Mark Johnston about a laptop, projector, and speakers. Rosine will arrange to bring a back up from AUM.

Michael will create a worksheet for participants to make an action plan, “What can I do?” Also should have newsprint available to capture ideas that surface.

Freya mentioned a few helpful websites she has found (www.earthministry.org & www.protectingcreation.org) and volunteered to create a Book/Resource List. She will email Task Force to ask for suggestions, as well as create a space at the retreat where we can display any helpful resources we have found. (Another helpful book: The Cry of Creation, a Call for Climate Justice.)

Eleanor will bring CD’s, study guides, energy audits, and prayer cards.

Freya volunteered to make nametags. She will need the list of attendees ahead of time.

Please arrive around 2PM to help setup.

Web page: Rosine has designed it and it is ready to go. It will probably cost some money to start it and approximately \$14-16 per month.

Possible names: careofcreation.dioala.org - communicates our name but is too long. Other ideas:

www.holygreen.org

www.greenala.org

www.greenstewards.org

We like www.greenala.org the best, so Rosine will register, put the website online, and email the group.

Convention 2006: Theme is Prayer.

Freya talked with the person at the Convention Center and will coordinate with them for recycling. We hope to recycle paper, plastic and aluminum cans.

Rosine will make a poster about Auburn University at Montgomery’s saving \$1,000,000 annually by changing to efficient lighting. Everyone thought it would be a good idea to make “Food for Thought” posters.

We want 2 tables for our booth.

Miscellaneous/Additional:

- Pat Byington has a copy of the study guide that accompanies the CD pastoral letter to review and possibly include in Bama Environmental Notes.
- Gerri presented the idea to be thinking about of having our Task Force sponsoring a speaker of name-recognition for next fall, at Camp McDowell.
- November 3, 2005 will be the liaisons meeting in conjunction with DuBose lectures at Sewanee. Duke professor Ellen Davis will be the featured speaker. Mark Andrus knows her and has heard her speak, and speaks very highly of her. There will also be an opportunity to hear other speakers and have dinner with them. Freya Neely offered for us to stay at her Sewanee home while we are there for the meeting. Bishop Andrus, Rob Morpeth, and Eleanor to attend.
- December 3rd will be an Advent retreat in Florence.

Upcoming meeting dates

We set **Monday, December 14th, 12 PM – 3 PM** as our next meeting date, at Carpenter House to review the retreat and make final plans for convention.

Eleanor encouraged us to think of what we want and can do to increase our effort.

For our closing prayer, we gathered in a circle. Eleanor invited everyone to a moment of silence, and then to comment on our time together.