



## Report to the Presbytery

27 Feb 2015

### Verbal Reports

#### 1. **Barbara Brown: Practical ways for making Earth Care meaningful in your church.**

Why is this important: Check out David Suzuki's video and graphs sheet: see Feb 20 entry at <http://curtkarns.blogspot.com/2015/02/why-its-urgent-to-get-our-values.html>

A request to all congregations: discuss how to make earth care a priority. How?

- a. Become a PCUSA Earth Care Congregation. Details available at *Earth Care Congregations; A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches*  
Accessible at:  
[http://www.presbyterianmission.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/environment/pdf/eccguidetogreeningchurches2013.pdf](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/site_media/media/uploads/environment/pdf/eccguidetogreeningchurches2013.pdf)
- b. We request that each congregation identify a local contact person in each congregation for YPEC to communicate with.

#### 2. **Doreen Simmonds: concerns on continued drilling in the arctic,** especially as it affects the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas.

One possibility: A Episcopalian and Presbyterian Conference: The G'wichin (Episcopalian) people are concerned about drilling in ANWR. Coastal Iñupiat (Presbyterian and Episcopalian) are concerned about drilling offshore. What about a conference on the Christian Ethics regarding Oil and Jobs in the Arctic?

See Doreen at <http://postcardsfromclimatechange.org/portfolio/postcard-north-slope/> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6WqzF1f8Dg>

### **Important Information Items**

#### **A New Worshipping Community—Written by Israel Nelson**

Beginning in late January, a group of individuals—not all Presbyterian—began meeting as an emerging worshipping community. The focus of the community is earth care. We gather about once a month at an agreed upon place to sing, pray, and review a writing or engage in other earth care activity. One of our gatherings focused upon the Celtic Christian belief that everything is holy and comes from the very essence of God. We reviewed the book *Christ of the Celts* by John Philip Newell, former Warden of the Iona Community on the Island of Iona. Another time we gathered at the Valley Community Recycling Center off 49th State Street in Palmer. We plan to gather there again in March (26 March at 7 PM). If you are interested in joining us, stop on by! We cannot predict yet how this community will develop. It will be shaped by those who choose to come and offer their insights about earth care, and are willing to continue exploring what God may be saying to us in the time of major climate change. We are reasonably sure that we need to practice living more simply so that others may simply live. And we support efforts to renovate church plants to be more environmentally efficient. Investing in a new permaculture approach to partnering with Creation to support and sustain life looks like a better approach than using more oil and strip mining for coal.

### **Multi-Denominational Climate Conferences 2015 & 2016—Written by Curt Karns**

In 2014 the Yukon Presbyterians for Earth Care organized a conference on climate change, held in Alaska with over 40 participants from across the USA. Participants looked at the issue of Earth Care, and particularly climate change, with leadership from U of AK scientists, Native American leaders and Alaskan faith leaders

Since then, Alaskan leaders from six denominations have committed to expanding that work as an ecumenical effort of the Alaskan Christian churches. Earth care leaders from the national leadership of the PCUSA, Lutherans (ELCA), United Methodists, Episcopalians, Russian Orthodox and African Methodist Episcopal denominations will gather in Fairbanks from August 18-22. While there they will plan a large gathering for the summer of 2016 designed to garner media attention on the Christian imperative of Earth Care (international Christian leaders like the Patriarch of Constantinople, Larry Rasmussen and Patricia Tull will be invited to attend), to gather a very large group from congregations across the country, and to share tools for bringing Earth Care ministry home in ways that can address climate change.

### **Special Projects—Written by Britt Johnston**

If we are mindful of the principle of Earth Care, we are likely to discover new opportunities for ministry in many of our activities. For example, when a church sale is negotiated, or when a training event occurs, is we ask the question, "how can we use this to support Earth Care?" in the planning process, we may see things we otherwise might overlook. A training event may be an opportunity to offer healthy or locally grown food at mealtimes as an example of how to improve our eating habits. A property sale may be a chance to require the buyer in the contract to do something good for the planet. Another example is the construction of our new church in Gambell. We are trying to use this opportunity to build a wind turbine to heat the building in place of fossil fuels. This could serve as an example to our own presbytery and to Christians around the world!

### **Earth Day 2015—April 22<sup>nd</sup>**



#### **Earth Day Theme: “Have You Anything here to eat?” Sustainable Food in a Changing Climate**

As disciples of Jesus Christ we commit to living out our faith daily. We do this individually, in community with one another, and in community with all creation. On this Earth Day Sunday we reflect in particular on how climate and food concerns impact us. How does food consumption and production impact the climate? How does climate change affect growing and accessing food?

*While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything to eat?” Luke 24:41*

*Earth Day guides available at*

<http://www.creationjustice.org/earth-day-2015---sustainable-food-in-a-changing-climate.html>