**IIPL Dubuque Chapter Meeting – August 7, 2016**

**Meeting Notes**

Irma welcomed chapter members to Sisters of the Presentation.

Carrie Lohrmann welcomed people and said she would lead today’s meeting.

People introduced themselves around the table.

Carrie opened the meeting with a brief review of IIPL Dubuque Chapter’s previous 2 meetings (June and July 2016) and passed around copies of the Congregational Covenant provided by Sarah Paulos.

**Congregational Covenant:**

Members read the Congregational Covenant aloud around the room and discussed it.

* No members have proposed the Congregational Covenant to their churches or faith groups. All were interested and we agreed that each member should propose it to their own congregation this fall. It should go to the appropriate group (possibly Green Team) and ultimately church leadership.
* St Luke’s brought the Congregational Covenant idea to their church council, but they didn’t have specific information for the council to act. St Luke’s members present thought that the one-page Congregational Covenant description would be enough information for their church council to discuss it and hopefully act.
* Irma brought up the question about what a church Green Team is. It does not have a specific name, but it is whatever committee or group that has taken on environmental stewardship within a congregation.
* A financial commitment is not an absolute requirement? (discussed at the July chapter meeting), but we agreed the proposed options on the congregational covenant are low cost and reasonable. Carrie brought up what Sarah Paulos mentioned to her: that congregations who donate financially to an organization often take their affiliation with that organization more seriously and check their own involvement and action in relationship to the group. Members present proposed an idea for a free will offering at a church event to support the annual financial pledge. It should be specified in the printed information if the proposed pledge is, indeed, annual. This needs to be discussed at the September chapter meeting as there is still confusion about it – if a $50 minimum annual donation is required.
* Members discussed that the Congregational Covenant is non-intensive and provides guidance – both positive features of asking churches and faith communities for an initial commitment.

**Regular Meetings:**

Chapter members agreed to meeting monthly on the 2nd Sunday 3-4:30 pm. Before 3:30 is too early for members who occasionally have lunch events or other church meetings immediately after Sunday morning worship. The 2nd Sunday was chosen because 3rd and 4th Sundays conflict more with holidays in November and December.

The September 11 meeting host will again be Sisters of the Presentation, but the meetings will move around to different congregations and faith communities in Dubuque each month because members believe this will attract more attendance, involvement and awareness from different congregation members. Mary Armstrong will coordinate meeting locations – create and maintain a sign-up so we know meeting locations further in advance than one month and can verify our congregations do not have event/space conflicts over month before each meeting.

**Brainstorming Session Notes:**

1. Where are our own churches/faith communities at with understanding Climate Change/green awareness and what do they/we need? Green teams? Education? Action?
   1. Westminster – there is energy there now, the power base is shifting, there are new structures – teams and projects, less committees.
   2. St Luke’s – inactive green team, does not meet regularly anymore, they had short-term goals and projects, but need a plan.
   3. St. John’s Lutheran – small congregation, committee of one, no action.
   4. Holy Trinity Lutheran – no green team, but climate change presentations to adult forums in spring 2016 laid the groundwork for beginning a green team, announcements about the Dubuque IPL Chapter meetings have also brought more awareness.
   5. DACU – represents 50 area congregations.
2. Best Practices:
   1. Congregational Covenant.
   2. Active Green Team in faith community – how does it fit into the leadership and volunteer structure? Social justice, regular committee or project-based? Who is required to be involved? – Representatives from other groups/congregation leadership? Facilities – includes management, maintenance, education, congregants – 4 elements, more holistic, can address practical issues.
   3. Assess success and make goals – most members present said their churches/faith communities could use this and want it to be a main part of the September monthly Dubuque IPL Chapter meeting. Standard Assessment Tool? Paul Schultz volunteered to lead a main portion of the September monthly chapter meeting. (Paul Schultz is an active environmentalist in Dubuque, his areas of expertise include food waste management, composting, faith communities, biogas, organic gardening/farming and many more. He appears regularly at city council meetings, regularly meets with the Dubuque City Manager about green issues, is a retired city employee, is a mentor to young environmentalists, sits on environmental boards and commissions in Dubuque, and is an active board member of Green Dubuque.) At the September chapter meeting, Paul will explain what assessments can look like. He mentioned the Earth Ministry Toolkit (from Seattle).
3. Event and Project Planning:
   1. Chapter members agreed that February 2017 is a good target for a Faith Community Green Team Training event in Dubuque.
   2. Host Jim Martin Schramm from Luther College – talk on joyful stewardship. This was an event idea.
   3. We want to tell our stories – Dubuque congregations, progress they have already made, struggles and where we are going next. Carrie is interested in gathering this information, perhaps through a questionnaire to chapter members.
   4. We want to gather resources that our congregations and other local faith communities can use.
   5. We want to have regular communications from our chapter – when and to whom? Content?
   6. People expressed wanting alerts of local activism issues – to involve our faith communities and communicate these to our own congregations.

**Volunteers:**

1. R.R.S. Stewart volunteered to make meeting announcements, and organize resources for all chapter members to access.
2. Mary Armstrong volunteered to coordinate meeting hosts – create a sign-up list and make sure the group has meeting hosts scheduled far enough in advance.
3. Event organizers (speakers) – Barb Ressler and Paul Uzel volunteered to lead some event planning.
4. Paul Uzel volunteered to tell the local Dubuque Boy Scouts about our chapter.

**Other Notes:**

Dubuque Day of Peace Committee meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Our chapter will be brought up at their October meeting after the Sept Day of Peace events.