

GreenFaith Certification Program Statements of Support from St. Aidan's Rector Susan E. McGarry

Church Bulletin Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7:

GreenFaith: A two year program in faith to God, justice and the environment. Your vestry will be considering whether or not to enter a two year program with GreenFaith, an interfaith organization that helps religious communities make their facilities more efficient, and green, challenges the members to do the same. GreenFaith also helps religious communities move beyond that to participation in the wider aspects of eco-justice, both locally and internationally. The vestry has not even discussed this yet. We are in the information gathering stage. One important piece of information will be, does this inspire you (as worshippers here) to come forward to share in the leadership of a program like this? Some of you will be approached individually, but the vestry and I may miss some terrific potential for leadership simply because we either do not know of your passion or we have forgotten. So please come forward and make your interest known. Contact me (Susan, 973-6067, smcgarry@umich.edu), or any vestry member: Alan Vayda (981-1785, vayda@computer.org), Fran Board 424-0104, franbaord@gmail.com), Sue Pfoutz (995-5276, suepfoutz@comcast.net), Shirley Coombs (971-0136, cooms@umich.edu), Michael Earle (761-7390), Jim Barber (761-9626). Several of us have participated in an informational webinar about this program. We will be able to make copies for you to view yourselves. So if you want to explore this further, ask for a copy of the webinar. It will answer a number of questions.

Church Bulletin Nov. 14, 21:

The vestry has decided to participate in a two-year program with GreenFaith, an interfaith organization that helps religious communities make their facilities more efficient, and green, and challenges the members to do the same. In the tradition of eco-justice (presented to us by John Board two weeks ago) GreenFaith will help us to live more lightly, in our church and in our homes. It will help us live more faithfully in a commitment to eco-justice in all of its facets: to the earth and all its inhabitants, including the human community. It will ask us to be leaders in this movement. What the vestry needs is the energy and enthusiasm of any among us who feel called to work in this holy and just ministry. If you are interested, please contact Susan, 973-6067, smcgarry@umich.edu, or Alan Vayda, 981-1785, vayda@computer.org. John's sermon is available on <http://www.staidan.org/ecojustice.html>.

Church Bulletin Nov. 28

We will present our application to GreenFaith this week to join the GreenFaith certification program. This should help us with the part of our vision that helps us provide a place of beauty and hospitality to others. We are also applying for a National Episcopal Church scholarship to help fund the program. So join those who have already expressed an interest in supporting this program with you time and enthusiasm (contact Alan Vayda or Susan McGarry) in developing the eco-plan. Also pray for the success of this application as it is judged on the national level.

Email to St. Aidan's members sent Nov. 29:

The GreenFaith Green Team (consists of: Susan McGarry, Alan Vayda, Michael Earle, John Board, Lark-Aeryn Speyer, Marian Laughlin, Jim Barber, and Stephen Uche) met this morning to officially sign a commitment and finalize our application to the GreenFaith Certification Program. At the same time, we prepared our application for one of the National Episcopal Church Scholarships for this certification program. The vestry adopted a formal resolution endorsing the program at their regular meeting on November 10, 2010.

Briefly, the certification process will offer us both challenge and support to improve all aspects of our environmental stewardship, (spiritual, stewardship, communication and environmental-justice). In particular it will help us become systematic in our planning, accountable to our schedule, and much more intentional about our communication and our networking within our congregation and beyond it than we have been.

I want to add to verbal statements of my support to the vestry on November 10, and to the gathered congregations in church on October 24 and November 14, my written statement of support for this GreenFaith Certification Program. I support our participation in the program and will offer my leadership and support to every aspect of its implementation.

Susan E. McGarry, rector St. Aidan's