

Green Team Meeting

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Present: Pastor Betsy, Terry Potter, Christa Andersen, Tim Gossett, Ken Birt, Pat Spangler, Tom Meyer, Janet Binder, Barbara Faidley

United in Faith and Climate Leadership – Tim Gossett

Ames UCC applied for and was awarded a \$950 grant from an ecumenical, interfaith organization called One Home, One Future (onehomeonefuture.org). It would go towards 2 events: a seminar for clergy and other church staff, and a climate storytelling workshop in a public venue. These events would be held in cooperation with Iowa Faith and Climate Network, which would also assist with the costs.

Ames's UCC grant was approved for \$500, and this amount has already been received.

The objective of this effort is to get significantly more congregations in Ames, Iowa involved in climate care ministries. Ames has approximately 50 congregations and less than 10% have active creation care ministries. We'd like to see this number grow.

The first component will be a 1-day seminar in November of 2025 on creation care ministries. Ames UCC will be the host, and publicity will begin in August. This seminar will include several speakers from Iowa State University, Iowa Faith & Climate Network, and other environmental organizations. Topics will include climate science, climate-informed ministry, helping people with eco-anxiety, advocacy in Iowa, and climate storytelling. In addition, participants will be able to learn about 2 congregational projects: an Episcopal church that recently added solar panels to their building and Ames UCC's heat pump installation project.

The second component will be a public event focused on climate storytelling, "What's Your Climate Story?" This event will be held at the Ames Public Library this winter. It will also include a presentation by a children's librarian on excellent, new children's books on environmental topics. In addition there will be a program on talking about difficult topics like climate change with children.

Expected Expenses (per the grant)

- Publicity mailings - \$100
- Coffee, snacks. Lunch - \$500
- Honoraria - \$300
- Events supplies - \$50
- Printing costs, time planning the event and leadership by the staff of Iowa Faith & Climate Network will be donated.

Marketing + Communications Strategy

- We'll be mailing an invitation to each of the congregations, plus following up with a phone call or visit. The public event will be publicized through the library's channels and local & social media groups.
- Iowa Faith & Climate Network will do a follow-up blog post after the event.

Suggested Outline of the Seminar

- Date: Tuesday or Thursday, November eleventh or thirteenth
- Gathering & Displays
- Welcome (Betsy/Hannah)
- Presentations & Speakers
 - *Brian Hornbuckle, ISU Agronomy Prof. who teaches climate classes
 - *Lee Tesdell, farmer, board member at Center for Rural Affairs
 - *Alice McGary, Mustard Seed Community Farm
 - *Tim Youngquist, ISU Prairie Strips program
 - *Ecoanxiety Speaker, Linda Shenk
 - *Green Team panel of 3 – from St. Thomas Aquinas, Ames UU and Ames UCC
- *Lunch (provided by Ames UCC)
- *Interactive Session: Climate-informed ministry, Tim Gossett
- * Church projects
 - *Rob Hogg, Christ Episcopal Church, Cedar Rapids, former state senator
 - *Nolan Sagen, Sustainability Coordinator for City of Ames

Marketing + Communications Strategy

Iowa Faith & Climate can assist with registration & promotion

Tim - will contact Eco America to see if we can change the date of the seminar to Thursday, February twelfth, and the climate storytelling workshop to follow weeks later. This would allow more time to plan.

-Contact Good Neighbor and Troy at the Bridge Home to obtain congregational names, addresses and contact information .

- Request permission from Ames UCC Executive Committee to carry out the seminar and the public event focused on climate storytelling.

Big Blue Stem Audubon Society was at Ames Farmers market.

“Lights Out Iowa” program to protect migratory birds on September 4 at Story County Conservation

See card on Green Team bulletin board for information on what individuals can do to protect birds by Laura Beskow. Janet Binder’s sister

Electric Heat pump update – Ken Birt

Green Team thanked Ken for his work on getting bids from contractors and overseeing the installation of Electric Heat Pump #1 which cools and heats the parlor, small kitchen & library. The thermostat is in the former library.

Ken is evaluating 5 bids for heat pump # 2. There is money in the property escrow account to pay for this.

“Human Footprint” on Iowa Public TV recommended by Tom Meyer