

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church
Green Committee
Minutes for March 7th, 2019



Attending: Sunny Ray, John Crampton, Pdon Pinkham, Bob Gerdes, Al Frechette

Meeting at 7:02 P.M. with a devotion from Sunny.

The minutes from January were approved.

Al distributed a brochure from [Presbyterians for Earth Care](#) and asked the committee to consider joining. He noted that he knew the Minnesota Chapter chair. There was a brief discussion and a motion was made and passed to join for three years. Al suggested we invite them to hold a meeting in our church so we can show them our progress and the committee members agreed.

Al reported on the arrangements for the April 13th Landscaping noting that he had prepared a bulletin insert, Oak Leaves Article for March and an article in the [Presbytery's Emerge Newsletter](#). John suggested we also do a sign-up sheet for carpooling at a table after services. Al said he would prepare one. Al asked if he should purchase cookies and arrange for coffee and the consensus was that he should do that.

Energy Management Reports were discussed. Bob demonstrated what we have at this point and John explained some additional options. Sunny reported that all of our utility bills are now scanned but someone will need to create a spreadsheet to track these bills. John suggested establishing a spreadsheet with a graphical interface and incorporating this task into the job description for the church's accountant. The Green Committee will work on a new financial graphical spreadsheet to present our net carbon usage and reduction in cost savings and CO₂ emissions. Sunny, John and Pdon will work on this.

[Choice of rate from Xcel](#) for the electricity we generate from our new solar panels was explained by John. The committee decided that John should meet with Xcel and phone conference with Sunny and Pdon to decide on which option to establish.

Pdon expressed concern about snow rapidly coming off the solar panels and possibly damaging the rain gutters or hurting someone using the door beneath them. It was suggested to put a sign on the door in the winter recommending it not be used when there is snow on the roof. Pdon said he would work with church staff to arrange this.

There was a discussion about improving our option for digital email communications. Pdon moved to develop a way to disseminate information from our committee to all church members. It was decided to use Oak Leaves, bulletin inserts, announcements and our committee's web page for general announcements and to use "reply all" or "reply to sender" appropriately to avoid email overload.

John suggested we make a 40 minute presentation on Sunday May 12th, on our roof top solar panels, community solar garden status, savings from LED, EV charging stations, plans for another rain garden and other ecological improvements our Committee has made. This will be discussed further and planned for our April meeting.

The article prepared for the Oak Leaves on our Earth Care Congregation re-certification was reviewed and approved for submittal.

There was discussion on getting more people involved in our events.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Sunny Ray, Chair,