

<p><b>Congregational Meeting Results   March 29, 2015</b></p> <p><b>Key to Numbers at Right:</b> “Dot Voters” = Number of congregants selecting this as their first choice by voting with a dot at the Annual Meeting. “Organizers” = number of volunteers who offered to help organize the specific action. “Implementers” = number of volunteers who offered to help implement it.</p>	Dot Voters	Organizers	Implementers
<b>SHIFT to a Low Carbon Future</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transition together to healthy, sustainable eating for body and planet,</b> supporting each other as a church community to eat less meat and more ethically sourced foods through movies, learning events, tip, shared meals.</li> </ul>	39	6	24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lower the church’s carbon footprint by installing a solar photovoltaic system.</b></li> </ul>	30	8	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conduct a UUCS Religious Education program for all ages on climate justice.</b></li> </ul>	11	4	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Initiate a public campaign to make Sarasota the “Greenest City on the Gulf Coast”</b> by changing building codes and building green infrastructure.</li> </ul>	17	2	11
<b>ADVANCE the Human Rights of Affected Communities</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Promote healthy, sustainable eating for the next generation,</b> partnering with families and staff of Children First (Sarasota County’s Head Start agency) &amp; All Faiths Food Bank in transitioning to healthy, sustainable eating together.</li> </ul>	23	6	17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Help small farmers and communities in developing countries grow sustainable, resilient crops and ensure adequate clean water</b> by supporting the Equal Exchange Red Cherry Challenge or UUSC’s Blue Buckets campaign.</li> </ul>	18	4	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organize a collective effort of church members to divest from fossil fuel companies and reinvest in community sustainability projects.</b></li> </ul>	3	2	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Join with local interfaith allies to advocate for low-income families facing the impacts of climate change</b> such as SURE or Interfaith Power &amp; Light.</li> </ul>	5	3	12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Advocate for more green transportation solutions accessible to all residents, especially those dependent upon public transportation.</b></li> </ul>	7	0	4
<b>GROW the Climate Justice Movement</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Campaign to increase access to renewable energy for everyone,</b> supporting a Florida Constitutional Amendment to allow people and businesses to generate and sell solar power to others.</li> </ul>	34	5	16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Advocate for more land conservation and better land use as people and animals migrate inland from rising seas.</b></li> </ul>	8	1	12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Host a series of “Strange Bedfellows Conversations” to build broader coalitions for climate justice,</b> bringing together diverse organizations from across the political and religious spectrum.</li> </ul>	6	4	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organize a church-wide boycott of Koch Brothers’ products.</b></li> </ul>	25	2	12

• Advocate for a Florida or National Carbon Fee/Dividend Policy.	10	2	13
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**Notes from Meeting on Sunday, April 5**

**Welcome & Orientation**

We opened with the words of Rev. Russell Meyer of the Florida Council of Churches describing the inspiration for the Florida Interfaith Climate Change Conference, April 10-11 at Northland Church in Longwood, FL (Greater Orlando area):

“I’ve come to see that the spiritual work for our generation shifts the narrative dramatically. Here in Florida, the public policy narrative owes everything to the ideology of commodification. It’s all about buying and selling property and experience. The role of government is cast only as a structural support for commerce. Yet we all know that the most meaningful things in our lives are priceless—the joy of a child’s smile or the touch of a loved one or the wonder of sunrise or the beauty of a poem, these are not mere things to be bought and sold. The truth is that we are relational beings, and the narratives of relationships are what give our lives meaning, hope and purpose.”

We discussed our goal of presenting a recommended set of commitments to the church Board of Trustees for approval at the May or June meeting, committing to at least one action in each of the Commit2Respond pillars: Shift to a low carbon future; Advance the human rights of affected communities; Grow the climate justice movement.

**Reviewing Possible Actions: Congregational Dot Voting and Volunteer Commitments to Organize and Implement (See Congregational Reeting Results chart above).**

Here were our takeaways:

- There was clear consensus around the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice actions in each pillar, expressed consistently through the dot voting exercise, the earlier survey of “Climateers”, and the number of people offering to help organize and implement. Two broader themes also emerged across pillars as shown in the table below: Transitioning toward healthier sustainable eating patterns, and promoting renewable energy.
- While there was less interest in some of the other actions, there were volunteers who expressed interest in organizing or implementing those. The consensus in the Task Force was that while we should focus on the two broad themes and first and second choice actions listed below for our collective efforts, we should also welcome the leadership of others who are energized to organize any of the other actions. For example, four people indicated interest in leading a

multigenerational Religious Education program on climate justice for children and youth.

<b>Broad Theme</b>	<b>Shift to a Low Carbon future</b>	<b>Advance the Human Rights of Affected Communities</b>	<b>Grow the Climate Justice Movement</b>
<b>Transition to Healthy, Sustainable Eating</b>	1. Transition together to healthy, sustainable eating for body and planet.	1. Promote healthy, sustainable eating for the next generation.  2. Help small farmers and communities in developing countries grow sustainable crops and access adequate clean water	
<b>Promote Renewable Energy</b>	2. Lower the church’s carbon footprint by installing a solar photovoltaic system.		1. Campaign to increase access to renewable energy for everyone (i.e. FL Constitutional Amendment)  2. Organize a church-wide boycott of Koch Brothers’ products.

**Organizing the Work**

The Task Force consensus was to:

- Invite someone from each group of “action organizers” to volunteer to be the convener of that “Action Task Force” (e.g. Transition to Healthier eating) for purposes of planning the action and finalizing the recommendation to the Board. The Action Task Force will be asked to identify any congregation resources that might be required (e.g. money, support of other church Committees, etc.) and “shop” their recommendation with those who might need to know. Brock will

send notes to each of the six action groups above this week explaining the role and soliciting a volunteer convener. If that doesn't work, he'll start dialing.

- Rename the Commit2Respond Task Force as the "Commit2Respond Steering Committee" and ask the conveners of each "Action Task Force" to serve on the steering Committee so we can compare notes.
- We thought it was more reasonable to shoot to make commitment recommendations at the June Board meeting, Tuesday, June 16 at 7 pm.
- The next Commit2Respond Steering Committee meeting will be Sunday, April 26 at 9:30 am in the Library.

**Upcoming Climate Events & Meetings:**

- Fri-Sat, April 10-11 **Bridging Spirituality, Healing and Action: Florida Interfaith Climate Justice Conference, Greater Orlando** 7:00 pm Friday to 3:00 pm Saturday. More info at <http://interfaithflorida.com>. This is a UU-initiated interfaith conference organized by the Florida Council of Churches at Northwood Church in Longwood, FL.
- Saturday, April 18 **Visit to the Historic Green Village on Anna Maria**—One of only 100 Platinum LEED plus Net Zero Energy developments worldwide. Carpooling from the church parking lot at 9:15 am. (This excursion is full. No more reservations are available.)
- Sunday, April 26 **Commit2Respond Steering Committee** (9:30 am, Library)
- Tuesday, April 28 **Sarasota Climate Change Meetup**. Brock Leach is speaking on **Climate and Poverty** at the North County Sarasota Library, 7 p.m.
- Friday, May 1 **Freethinkers Briefing: "Climate Change: Urgency and Action"** Presented by John Darovec and Coty Keller, Sanctuary, 10 - 11:30 am. [Details at http://uusarasotafreethinkers.weebly.com/](http://uusarasotafreethinkers.weebly.com/)
- Sunday, May 10 **Commit2Respond Steering Committee** (9:30 am, Library)
- Sunday, June 7 **Commit2Respond Steering Committee** (9:30 am, Library)
- Sunday, June 14 **Commit2Respond Steering Committee** (9:30 am, Library)
- Tuesday, June 16 **C2R Recommendations at UUCS Board Meeting** (7 pm)