

MUCC EcoJUSTICE “GREEN TEAM”

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The Green Team continued to meet primarily via Zoom throughout 2021. We had an active year considering the ongoing challenges from COVID as many MUCC members remain excited and committed to caring for creation.

In June we created the Green Team banner as part of the website for MUCC; this allows access to connecting with the Green Team, see what is happening, and connecting with references.

Volunteers have continued work on the prairie garden.

We had a joint meeting with Building and Grounds to plan together how to care for MUCC property. Multiple trees were removed this year, mostly ash that were diseased. We have had discussions on recommendations for grounds management which may include planting some native trees, but also adding native plants which will provide habitat for insects/pollinators, while also storing carbon. Planting will be an evolutionary process rather than one large project (more to come on this in the coming year). Outdoor lights have been updated to LED. New patio benches are made from sustainable wood. We have also asked our cleaning person, Lucy, to use environmentally friendly cleaning products as much as possible.

We continue to be a member of Sustain Dane. This year Sustain Dane included their interview with MUCC (Pastor Bryan, Bruce Fischer and Julie Woodward) in their annual Summit which this year was titled, “Weaving Stories of Change”. We were one of three groups out of 26 interviewed that were included in the video made for the Summit addressing what types of things MUCC is working to change. Julie also attended the full day Summit at no cost due to MUCC’s membership. You may inquire with Julie to access the video from the day to learn more.

Of course, our big project this year was solar. Thanks to an awesome group of dedicated folks who did research, held meetings, voted “yes” in the congregational vote, and/or donated funds, Midwest Solar installed 40 solar panels on the MUCC roof in November. The cost was \$35,589 (see the Solar Campaign Report for details on the financial aspect of the project which includes funds raised and grants). We plan to have a monitor installed inside the church soon so all can watch the energy produced once the system is turned on. It was truly a community project as we had guidance from Memorial UCC who had already installed solar, and we have now shared information with McFarland Lutheran who is considering their own solar.

Julie Woodward and Bruce Fischer, co-chairs