

Attending: Gary Smith (chair), Steve Halsted, Marty Lamb, Grady McCallie, Jane Smith  
Let us know they couldn't attend: Geri Bowen, Skip Stoddard

NEXT MEETING: **Day switch** Wednesday, Jan. 14, 7 pm, Hoffmann room

**ALL** Let Gary know if this date works for you. Now that choir has moved to Thursdays there is a conflict with our usual Thursdays.

### **PROJECT: LOBBY DAY**

Responsible: all

Date: Tentative – Exploratory Meeting with Green Tea congregation contacts – January 25 or February 1, late afternoon; Lobby Day – late April or early May

Gary and Grady will be calling you to ask you:

- a) Do you support CUCC's sponsoring a UCC+friends Lobby Day on NC transportation legislation?
- b) Are you willing to work on this project in some capacity?
- c) Which Green Tea contacts are you willing to call to invite them to the Exploratory Meeting?\*
- d) Would you be willing to attend the Lobby Day?

*Gary, Grady, Jane, Marty, Steve have all voted "yes." Marty reminded us that, as a state employee, she can not participate in the actual Lobby Day.*

### **The proposal**

For more details, read Grady's proposal. The following reflects our discussion.

CUCC will sponsor a Lobby Day on green & just transportation legislation for NC. The effective time to hold such a day is a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday in late April or early May. The legislative agenda is being developed by a coalition of NC environmental and justice advocacy groups; CUCC supports many of them. As the agenda is being developed, issues of fairness to low-income North Carolinians is a core part of the discussion. CUCC and those individuals advocating are, of course, encouraged to make the message their own. The Wake County legislative delegation is informed about these issues and generally supportive; key legislators for advocacy are in Greenville, Asheville, and Wilmington.

CUCC will invite participation of UCC congregations from around NC and the Green Tea congregations who hopefully will invite their contacts around the state. An Exploratory Meeting will be held Jan. 25 or Feb. 1 to brief the Green Tea congregations on the idea. Steve Jackson of NC Justice Center (representing the justice wing of the discussion) will be invited to present the legislative agenda as it has been developed at that point. The question on the table: As a group, is it feasible for us to plan and implement a Lobby Day on these issues?

CUCC will offer lodging to UCC participants who travel long distance. The Lobby Day will begin the night before with hospitality and fun for those who have traveled far and who are in town. On the day, a legislative briefing will begin at about 9 am. Afterwards, participants will go to the legislature to meet with legislators, probably in teams.

\*Grady advised us that the logistics of a lobby day are fairly simple to develop; many resources and successful models exist. A key player is the registrar and Jane is willing to play that role. ***The critical work is in getting participants to commit to attend. This takes personal phone calls and networking in order to be successful.***

**TO DO:**

**GRADY** will call **Geri, John, Edith and Sam** and **GARY** will call **Skip, Paul, Ron and Chris** to brief them on the discussion and ask the questions above. These conversations will happen by December 14. Based on these conversations, Gary will let the JCC know if we decided to proceed with this project and, specifically, with the Exploratory Meeting.

If the answer is "yes,"

**GRADY** will draft an email which Gary will send to Green Tea congregations before Christmas inviting them to the Exploratory meeting.

**STEVE** will contact the Southern Conference to confirm that there are no issues with congregations sponsoring a Lobby Day given our tax-exempt status.

**ALL** will make personal contacts with members of the Green Tea congregations to invite them to the Exploratory Meeting and will report back to Jane on the results. Let Jane know whom you will be contacting.

**JANE** will schedule the space for the Exploratory Meeting and track responses.

**PROJECT: "Mountain Top Removal" SCREENING**

Responsible: Gary and Jane

Date: TBD

**TO DO:**

**GARY AND JANE** will ask their friends at The Prince of Peace Episcopal Church's ASP program to view the movie to determine if showing it to ASP participants would be the way to proceed.

**PROJECT: GREENING CUCC'S GROUNDS**

Responsible: ad hoc grounds group

Date: in process

The group is compiling the list of suggestions and will post it online when ready.

**PROJECT: GOING GREEN IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER**

Responsible: Marty Lamb

Dates: Jan. 11, 18, Feb. 1, 8, 15 (skipping Jan. 25 for congregational meeting)

**TO DO:**

**ALL**, consider attending!

**PROJECT: Environment NC LETTER TO PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA**

Responsible: Gary Smith

Dates: in process

The group agreed to sign the letter, but decided not to refer it to our Green Tea contacts in order not to overwhelm those emerging relationships.

TO DO:

**GARY** will send our "signature" to Environment NC.

**PROJECT: ALL THINGS CONGO series**

Responsible: ad hoc group from SJM and KCC

Dates: Lent

Steve reported that Pr. Claudio and Fernand are interested and will meet with the ad hoc group in the first two weeks of January.

TO DO:

**STEVE** will set up the first meeting of the ad hoc group.

**PROJECT: FOLLOW UP LETTER FROM LUNCH+VOTE BUS RIDE**

Responsible: Gary Smith

Dates: on-going

NOTES: Gary reported that the SJM approved communicating in writing with Mayor Meeker to express our concerns about the cancellation/rerouting of bus service for community events. Our concern is that those without internet access would have no way to know of the replacement route or cancellation. We will propose that groups requesting rerouting should pay for signs for bus stops and flyers for the effected buses. JCC agreed to this proposal.

TO DO:

**GARY** will send the letter to Mayor Meeker.

**PROJECT: Caring for Creation CONFERENCE**

Responsible: individual interest

Dates: March 5-8, Lake Junaluska conference center, NC

TO DO:

**JANE** will write an item for the next newsletter and blog advertising the conference and inviting people to contact her if they would like to carpool.

**PROJECT: Raleigh's Comprehensive Plan**

Responsible:

Dates: on-going

TO DO:

**JANE** will write an item for the next newsletter, appropriate bulletin, and blog inviting people interested in addressing the plan to contact her so she can put them in touch with each other.