

## East Shore Climate Action Ministry CHARTER 2018-19

### Section A: Name

1. What is the name of your group?

*The name of this team is Climate Action Ministry (CAM)*

### Section B: Purpose

1. What is the purpose of your group? *CAM's mission is to:*

- *Increase awareness of climate change science and solutions.*
- *Advocate for governmental policies that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and eliminate the underlying causes of climate change.*
- *Collaborate with and support other reputable groups taking actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the causes of climate change.*
- *Promote environmental justice and assist communities that are more vulnerable to climate change impacts.*

2. How is your work related to one or more of our Seven Principles?

- *CAM's mission and activities most directly serve the seventh principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part" because climate change and its solutions necessarily reflect a myriad of cause and effect networks that impact the earth and its inhabitants.*
- *Because CAM promotes environmental justice (the fair distribution of environmental benefits and burdens), it also supports the first and sixth principles:  
"The inherent worth and dignity of every person"  
"The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all"*

3. How does your group connect with East Shore's Mission and Vision?

*The East Shore mission statement is: "We practice love, explore spirituality, build community, and promote justice."*

- *Practice love: The motivation for CAM members is grounded in love, as CAM is dedicated to reducing the suffering in the world that is and will be caused by climate change.*
- *Explore spirituality: Through the Climate Awakening Breakfasts the past two years, CAM has explicitly explored the relationship of climate action to*

*our spiritual and moral selves. To replace and build upon the Breakfasts, CAM will be creating other opportunities to connect climate action to our spiritual values such as worship services and discussion groups.*

- *Build community: CAM's activities at East Shore are welcoming of every church member and those from the greater community around us. By engaging in climate action together, we build relationships and community as part of East Shore Unitarian Church.*
- *Promote justice: Promoting environmental justice, including climate justice, is a core element of our mission. We advocate for laws and policies in our governmental systems that provide equal access to and just benefits from a healthy earth. As part of our activities, we seek to help communities that are more vulnerable to climate change impacts.*

4. In order to intentionally live our mission in our daily team work, a set of Right Relations guidelines is recommended for all Committees and Teams. Do you have an agreed upon set of guidelines?

*Yes. CAM adopted a set of right relations covenants in February 2018.*

5. What relationship does your group have, if any, to the 2018/19 Ends? Ends are East Shore's goals.

- *Goal 4 (first bullet): CAM has been, and will continue to be, working on building collaboration with climate and environmental action groups on the Eastside, which is one of our charter goals. We currently sponsor 350 Eastside.*
- *Goal 4 (third bullet): CAM is working with staff to examine the feasibility of installing solar photovoltaic panels on the campus to generate renewable energy. We will also work with staff and the Facilities Committee to identify any other measures that will increase energy efficiency on the ESUC campus.*

6. What are your specific goals for the next year? What impact do you expect from your efforts? If an activity is listed, what result do you expect from it? How will you evaluate the impact of your efforts?

*2018-2019 goals*

*Goal: Continue advocacy and other climate action work, as we have been doing*

*Impact: Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and increased climate justice through contributing our part, however big or small, to the broader efforts taking place.*

*Evaluation: Review our contributions during the past year to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting climate justice.*

*Goal: Provide and promote education events about climate change science and solutions.*

*Impact: Increased understanding of climate change and people's realization that we need to act now on reducing greenhouse gas emissions to prevent future catastrophic impacts of climate change. From the information and experiences provided, more people will know what they can do about climate change, be motivated, and act accordingly.*

*Evaluation: Review each education event for number of people reached and how effective we were in getting our message across. The latter may be based on oral or written feedback from participants.*

*Goal: Co-sponsor climate action events and advocacy with other climate action groups, such as CCL, Sierra Club, and 350 Eastside.*

*Impact: Greater climate justice, through facilitating the climate action work of other groups, which leverages our efforts for a greater over-all impact.*

*Evaluation: Review of each event we co-sponsor and an end-of-year evaluation of how effective our collaboration with each group has been in promoting climate justice.*

*Goal: Better integrate climate awareness, education, advocacy, and fundraising*

*Impact: Improved climate justice by making our climate action efforts more effective and efficient.*

*Evaluation: End-of-year review of CAM's effectiveness in integrating climate awareness, education, advocacy and fundraising.*

*Goal: Continue to develop outreach through the expansion of content on the CAM web page and through other avenues of communication*

*Impact: More people at East Shore and surrounding community understanding and acting to improve climate justice.*

*Evaluation: End-of-year review of our communication effectiveness in reaching and influencing more people.*

### **Section C: Group Structure, Leadership & Decision-Making**

1. Where does your group fit into East Shore's organizational structure – as a Board Committee, Ministry Team or Core Team? Who is your staff liaison or partner?

*CAM is a Ministry team that works in partnership with the Earth and Social Justice Coordinating Council, the Council's liaison, Ann Fletcher, and the Minister, Rev. Furrer.*

2. What are the minimum and maximum number of participants? To ensure community representation, no fewer than five members is recommended. Who are your current team members?

*CAM currently has seven members on its Steering Committee, eight other East Shore members who are regular participants in CAM activities, and occasional participation by other East Shore members. Five members of the Steering Committee is minimum.*

*There is no maximum number of participants.*

*Current active steering committee members: David Chapin, Ann Fletcher, Marilyn Mayers, Kristi Weir, Gregg Selby, Dave Porter, John Chmaj*

3. What are the leadership roles and responsibilities within your group?

*The chair of CAM is the only specific leadership position. The chair is responsible for calling and running the meetings, for communicating with the Council liaison, church staff, and the congregation. These responsibilities may be delegated to other members of the steering committee as needed. Taking of meeting minutes is rotated among members. CAM Steering Committee members are responsible for organizing and leading specific CAM events.*

4. How are leaders determined, and what are their term limits?

*The CAM Chair is selected by a vote of the Steering Committee, using the decisions making process outlined two bullets below. Chair term limit is three years. A previous CAM Chair may again hold the Chair position after an absence of two years.*

5. What, if any, are the term limits for your members?

*There are no term limits for CAM members.*

6. How are decisions made in your group (consensus, majority vote, officers, super majority percent)? What quorum is needed? Is email vote allowed?

*CAM decisions are made by majority vote of the Steering Committee, with a quorum of at least 50 percent of active Steering Committee members needing to be present. Email votes can be used if decisions must be made in a timely manner than the next monthly meeting.*

7. How are records kept and passed on for your group?

*Minutes are recorded for each steering committee meeting. The draft is sent out for corrections and approval via email. Approved minutes are kept by the chair and passed on to the new chair.*

8. How are members recruited and oriented?

*CAM members are recruited by publicizing CAM events to attract participation and by outreach from current CAM members to others at East Shore, especially to new members. Members are oriented through reading the charter, participating at meetings and events, and mentoring of current members.*

9. What, if any, qualifications are required for membership or leadership?

*There are no required qualifications for membership in CAM except interest and belief in its mission. There are no additional qualifications for the CAM Chair position, except that the Chair should have some previous experience on the Steering Team and some background knowledge/experience with climate change related advocacy.*

10. How does your group communicate and collaborate with the larger East Shore community?

*Many CAM Steering Committee members are members of other ministries and committees and are all active East Shore members. Consequently, there is robust communication and collaboration with the larger East Shore community. In addition, CAM communicates climate action activities and CAM's mission through a monthly newsletter (Climate Action Updates), the East Shore weekly email blast, posters around the East Shore campus, CAM Facebook page, focused emails to the CAM email list, putting on Sunday services, and participating in other Eastshore events (e.g., Earth and Social Justice Faire).*

11. What position on your team is authorized to approve communications publicized by Staff?

*Unless another CAM member is voted by the Steering Committee to be the liaison with Staff regarding communications, the Chair will function as communications liaison with Staff. If a CAM member other than the Chair is voted to approve communications, the chair will ensure that person's name is given to Staff.*

12. What types of decisions is your group authorized to make?

*CAM believes it is authorized to make decisions within East Shore's Bylaws and its Board Policies, and Procedures regarding:*

- i. what events to organize, support, or participate in;*
- ii. what other groups to collaborate with; and*
- iii. giving CAM funds to support other climate action organizations or events*

13. What kinds of recommendations, if any, does your group make and to whom (Board, Minister, Staff, congregation)?

*CAM occasionally recommends to the Board and/or minister that they be signatories for ESUC to certain statements and letters related to climate action. The group might also recommend to the Staff, Board, or Congregation procedures, policies or ends related to church environmental sustainability, carbon footprint, or other related issues.*

14. Does your group plan to sponsor any outside groups to use the church facilities? If so, please see Board Policy 1.16a and the Staff Procedures for Sponsorship of outside groups

*Yes. We are currently sponsoring 350 Eastside. We used the Board Policy 1.16 and related staff procedure for this sponsorship and will continue to do so for this and any other group we might sponsor.*

15. What is the expectation for longevity of the group and the plan, if any, for disbanding the group?

*CAM is expecting to be an ongoing ministry at East Shore as long as there are enough members who support its mission and engage in its activities. CAM's mission and direction may evolve depending on the interests of CAM members and the broader context of climate action regionally, nationally, and globally.*

#### **Section D: Finances**

1. Will your group present a budget proposal to the Budget Team?

*CAM will present a budget proposal to the Budget Team.*

2. If the Operating Fund is unable to grant the full amount of your budget request, will the group reduce its expenses, do its own fundraising, or both?

*CAM does not plan to do fundraising this year unless its budget is reduced.*

3. If your group plans to do fundraising, please describe how it will go about this. If you plan to solicit donations, use the following wording: "Your donation goes to East Shore's operating funds which supports (name of your team) and other programs."

*If CAM does need to fund raise in the future, it will revise the charter to include how that will be done, get approval from appropriate Staff and use the required wording above.*

4. What kind of decision process exists for how money is used?

*The CAM Steering Committee discusses and votes to approve all significant expenditures*

5. Which position on your team is authorized to approve team expenses?

*If an expenditure is approved by the CAM Steering Committee, the CAM Chair or another designated CAM Steering Committee member is authorized to submit the expenditure. CAM Chair will communicate the name of any designated person authorized to approve team expenses to appropriate Staff.*

6. Does your group have the need for a Prudent Reserve (funds set aside to hedge against a contractual liability)? If so, how much and what for?

*CAM does not have any contractual liabilities and does not have a need for a Prudent Reserve.*