

SECOND UNITARIAN CLIMATE JUSTICE REVIVAL 2025



Pam Miller-Jenkins photo

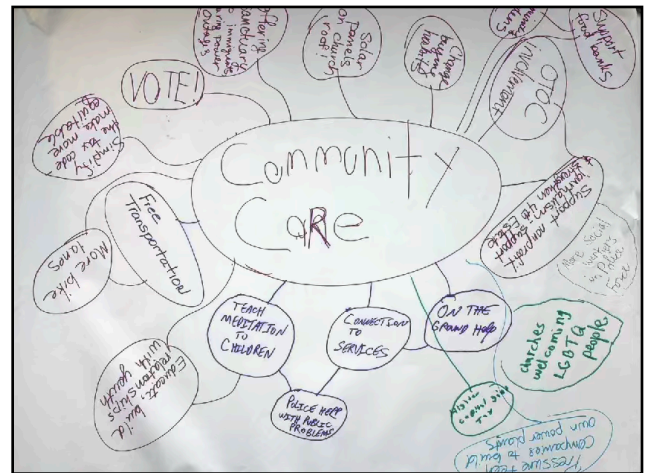
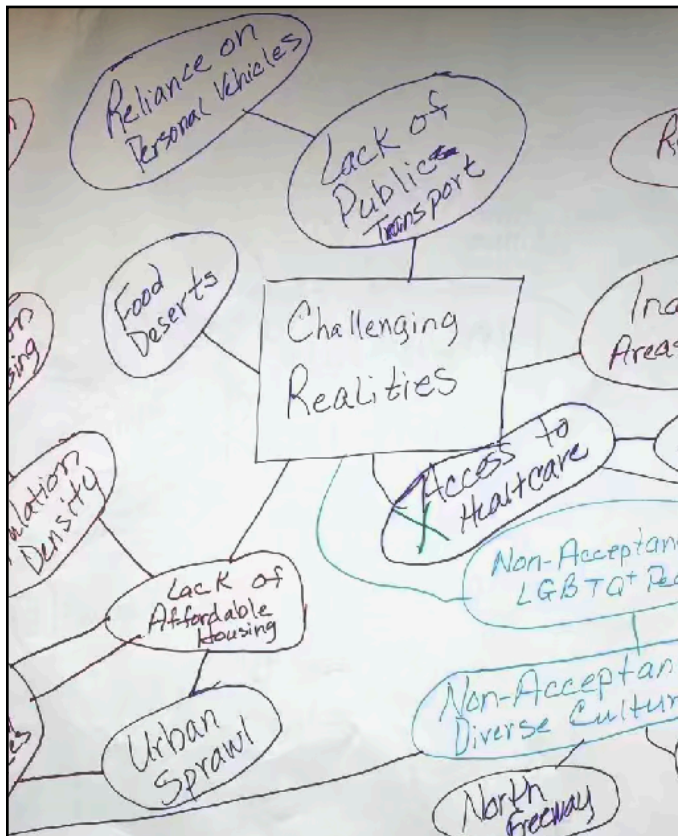
Discussions at the April 27 organizing hour. Foreground, L-R: Vicki Pratt, Carla/bill Kuhn, Mark Siepker and Tera Kirk. Background, L-R: Carol McCabe, Steve Abraham, Julie Kirn, Carol Johnson, David Johnson, Janet Nichols, Janet Doan, Helen Deffenbacher and Ken Deffenbacher.

Overview

In April 2025, Second Unitarian Church of Omaha held a Climate Justice Revival, joining hundreds of other UU congregations across the country who are working to revive their commitment to climate justice. The Revival was held on April 12, 19, 25 and 27; 38 people attended, including members of First Unitarian and friends of Second Unitarian.

How to read this report

This report is meant to be a report of record and to serve as a guidepost going forward for climate justice at Second Unitarian. This report is 35 pages long, but is mostly pictures! The first 10 pages or so are a recap of activities concluding with key takeaways intended to help guide next steps while the appendices are mostly scans of the materials created at the revival.



Participants were led through a number of activities to strengthen engagement. Clockwise from top left: mapping challenging realities, mapping community care and building rich pictures that envision climate justice in the year 2050.

Revival objectives

- Learn how climate justice and other issues of social justice interact.
- Identify individuals' issues of climate justice concern and find the common threads.
- Give Second Unitarian the tools for a new era of climate action — one that intentionally and faithfully breaks down silos and cultivates relationships that nurture collaborations needed to transform our congregation into an stronger advocate for climate justice.

Structure

APRIL 12

For the first session of the Revival, attendees were led through an introduction, some community agreements and then a grounding exercise where we “reimagined a world with love at the center.” Our first activity was then a foundational systems thinking tool called a Rich Picture. A Rich Picture is a radically simple and powerfully transformative exercise designed to move people out of default thinking and toward a more expansive, open and creative headspace. Attendees were asked to meditate on a world in 2050 where all communities flourish, humans and ecosystems together are thriving and everything we've ever hoped for has come true. Every policy, every plan, every action creates collective liberation. Each participant was then asked to draw their own rich picture, using no words and without concern about how well they could draw. After 15 minutes of drawing, individuals found a partner with whom they took turns discussing the meaning of their rich picture. All participants then contributed to a larger collective rich picture. **All rich pictures can be found in Appendix A**



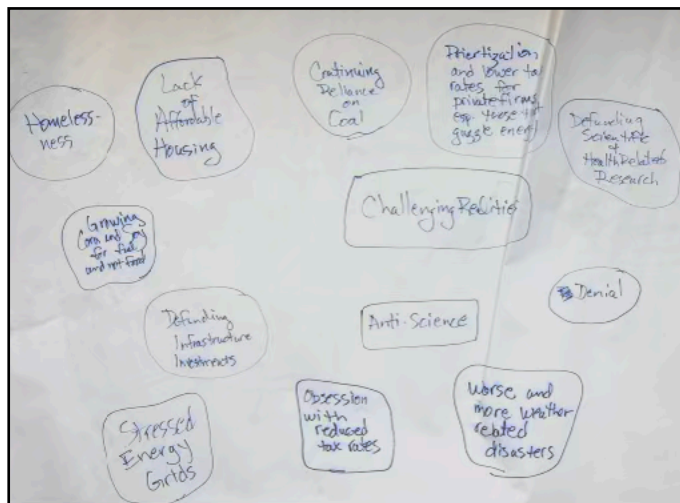
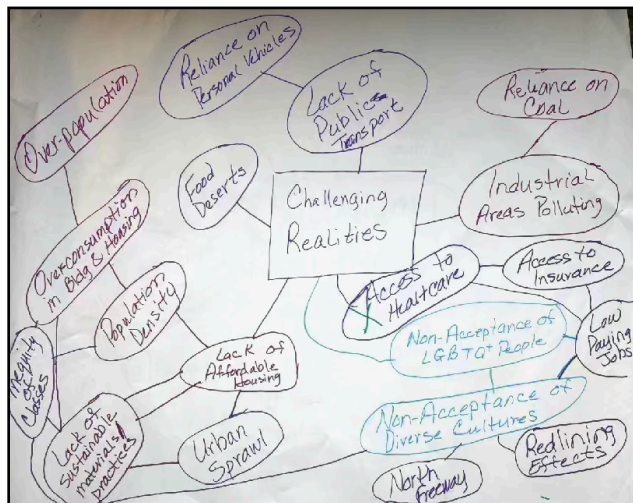
Above, David Johnson, left and Red Spiehs work on their rich pictures. Top right, an example of a rich picture. Bottom right, Chris Kohhammer and Janet Doan show off the collective rich picture.



Bob Hess photos

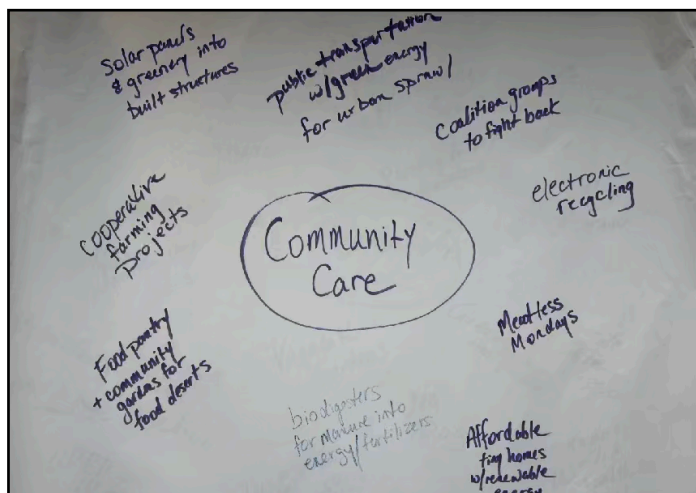
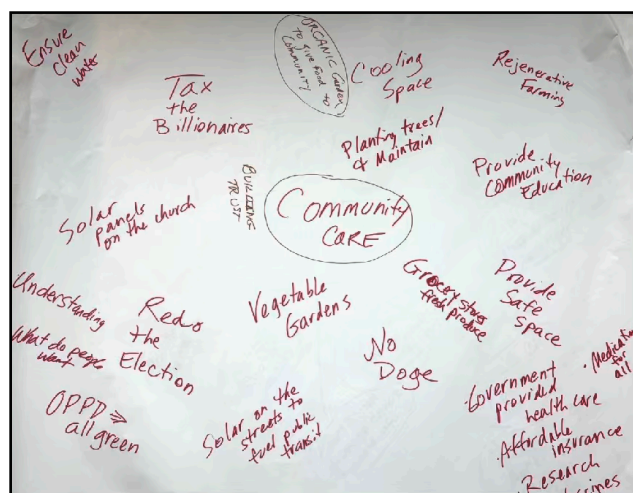
APRIL 19

For the Revival's second session, participants used another systems thinking tool called the "systems map" or "mind map." Using this tool, we first plotted out everything we can think of to make the connections on the Challenging Realities in our community. In small groups of 4-6, we discussed the ways injustice of all kinds impacts people, places, animals, ecosystems, and more in our community. Each group had a large piece of paper; "challenging realities" was written in the center. They then mapped out the challenging realities they discussed.



The second part of the systems map activity involved creating another map that responds to the Challenging Realities with ideas and solutions through Community Care. In the center of a new blank piece of large paper, "Community Care" was written, and different groups of people began responding to the challenging realities by brainstorming ways to interrupt, overwhelm, and eradicate injustice with joy and love at the center.

All maps and a breakdown of the Challenging Realities and Community Care can be found in Appendices B and C



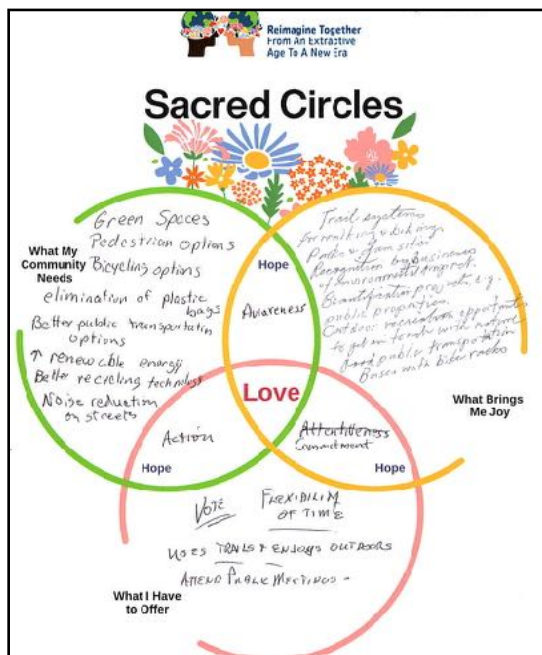


Bob Hess photos

Carol Johnson talks about what she thinks her community needs as Gary Toth transcribes.



Kristy Fennessy writes down Clyde Anderson's thoughts on his Sacred Circle. Below, an example of a filled-out Sacred Circle worksheet



APRIL 25

At our third session we began the process of fostering collaborative relationships with individual sacred circles. The Sacred Circles Framework was created specifically for the Revival to balance larger needs and priority actions of the community and what each individual person has to offer. On the Sacred Circles sheet are three intersecting circles. The top left, green circle is labeled 'What My Community Needs.' The top right, yellow circle is 'What Brings Me Joy.' The bottom, pink circle is 'What I Have to Offer.' At the intersections of each pair of circles is a space for our hopes. At the center of these circles is what is at the center of our faith - Love.

Attendees reflected on each circle one at a time, by discussing them in one-on-one conversations. In order to engage in the practice of deep listening, each person would hand their Sacred Circle sheet to their partner, who would record the first person's answers. The partners would then switch roles. After both members of the pair answered "What My Community Needs", both persons would move on to find a new partner to discuss "What Brings Me Joy." The process is repeated again for "What I Have to Offer." Using the reflected-back information on the Sacred Circles Worksheets, everyone each identified three words that they thought best represented their work going forward. Those three words were written into the places of intersection between the primary circles to create a representation of all each person has to offer, the issues they want to center, the things that bring them joy, and the hopes they have for the future — all with love at the center.

A compilation list of each attendee's three words is on the next page.

All Sacred Circles and breakdowns can be found in Appendix D.

SECOND UNITARIAN CLIMATE JUSTICE REVIVAL 2025

The following are a compilation of the three words each participant wrote in the middle of their Sacred Circles and the word cloud created by the UUA from those words::

time
discussion
change
community
action
time
family
collaboration
action
nature
compassion
healthy-lifestyles
community
relationships
collaboration

health
educate
nature
action
education
volunteering
egalitarian
persistent
reflective
volunteering
success
technology
advocacy
voice
time

energy
local
curiosity
collaboration
vote
engage
learn
integration
nature
education
forgiveness
caring
nature
collaborative
productive

thoughtful
openness
accountability
uplift
sustainability
growth
insight
awareness
action
commitment
witness
love
multigenerational



APRIL 27, Worship Service

The Climate Justice Revival concluded on April 27 with two events — a Climate Justice-themed worship service and an Organizing Hour following the service. At the worship service, titled “For Small Creatures Such As We,” Second Unitarian’s minister, Rev. Juniper Meadows, delivered some thoughts about climate justice in her sermon. Here are some excerpts:

“While the threat is real and the crisis urgent, I stand here today to remind you that we are not powerless. Each of us carries within us the capacity to change the course of this story. In part, the key to that change lies in a profound shift in our values, our perspective, and our sense of responsibility. It lies in the adoption of what we might call a planetary ethic. ... A planetary ethic calls us to live not just for ourselves, within ourselves, but for all beings, for the creatures that share this planet with us, and for future generations who will inherit the Earth we leave behind.

Climate change reminds us, in no uncertain terms, that the boundaries we have drawn between nations, peoples, and ecosystems are illusory. We are one planet, and we must begin to live as one people, with a shared responsibility to care for our common home. ...

Such an ethic tasks us to rethink our daily choices — how we consume, how we travel, how we produce energy, and how we interact with the world around us. It challenges us to push for systemic, collective change. We cannot combat climate change through individual actions alone. At the heart of this work is relationship. ...What we do to the Earth, we do to one another. What we neglect in the environment, we neglect in ourselves. This is why our response to climate change must not be born out of fear or guilt but out of love, love for our neighbors, for future generations, and for the sacredness of the Earth itself. A Love that is bigger. A Love that will not let us go. A Love felt in the faith that claims us even as we claim it. ...

May we reach within our hearts to uncover the thing we can do, no matter how small. New practices of recycling, of transportation, or education, of voting, or praying, or meditating, or volunteering, of working. Any place can be fertile ground for change. A place to start in our own part of it. Love is with us. Hope is with us. The Earth is with us.

Tag.

You're it.

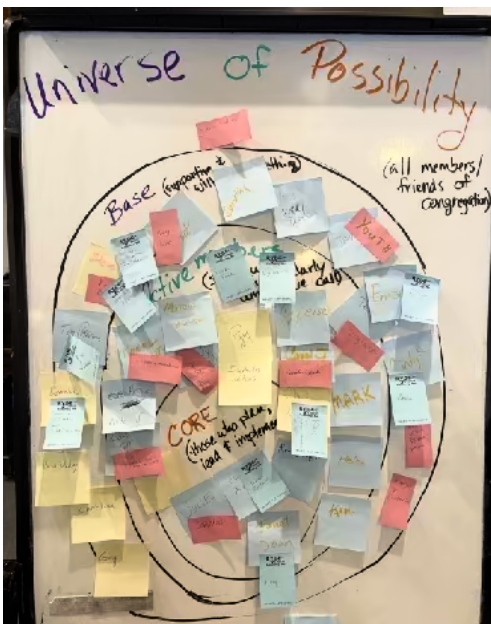
Or at least

part of it.”

APRIL 27, Organizing Hour



Janet Doan photo



Our Climate Justice Revival concluded with an Organizing Hour after worship service. This session was relationship-focused. Attendees mapped where they saw themselves in the Universe of Possibility — our Universe being members and friends of Second Unitarian. We created on a whiteboard a “Universe of Possibility” framework with four key areas: **The Universe**; **Base** (people who are supportive and will do something) ; **Active** (show up semi-regularly when we call); and **Core** (those who plan, lead and implement). Attendees were asked to put their names on a sticky note and place it where they saw themselves, at the moment, in the Universe of Possibility. After adding names to the Universe of Possibility, everyone entered a reflection process called 1-2-4. It started with individual reflection, then moved into pairs and finally discussions with groups of four. The reflection process centered around two main questions:

- Are you where you want to be (in the Universe of Possibility)? If not, what do you need to make a shift?
- What do you notice? What is working and what (or who) is missing?

After contemplating these questions alone, in pairs and in groups of four, discussions concluded as participants shared responses to these two questions: **Where** do you want to be on the map, and **One person** you want to talk with in the congregation about getting (or staying) there.

The Revival concluded with a blessing and round of deep gratitude for all attending.

Key takeaways

Some observations from the Revival..

- Issues of concern mentioned multiple times in Challenging Realities included: Pesticide use/ GMOs; food/grocery deserts; housing inadequacies; reliance on coal, including a mention of the coal-burning plant in North Omaha; defunding science; recycling shortcomings.
- Community Care actions mentioned multiple times included taking actions to hold leaders accountable, solar panels on the church roof, community gardens (with suggestions to share the harvest with those in need), collaborating with OTOC, other churches and like-minded groups..
- Sacred Circles responses:
 - Answers to “What My Community Needs” largely reflected Challenging Realities including: Better access to affordable housing/more landlord and property owner accountability; moving away from coal reliance; supporting/voting for leaders who will address climate change challenges.
 - “What Gives Me Joy” answers included trails, nature, green spaces, volunteering, family time, Second Unitarian and relationships.
 - “What I Have to Offer” responses included a number of folks offering time; writing/researching/ proofreading skills; volunteering; curiosity; willing to cook; collaborate; organizing protests; offer benefit of work experience related to climate issues.
- Based on the age ranges of most attendees, the Revival as structured didn’t seem to interest younger members of the congregation. Some work needs to be done on meeting younger members where they are on their concerns regarding climate.

Organizers

- Facilitators: Pam Miller-Jenkins, Kristy Fennessy
- Audio/visual and tech: Clyde Anderson
- Photographer: Bob Hess
- Planning team: Helen and Ken Deffenbacher, Janet Doan, Kristy Fennessy, Chris Kohhammer, Pam Miller-Jenkins

Participants

April 12

Cy Liese
Marcia Liese
Helen Deffenbacher
Ken Deffenbacher
Janet Doan
Clyde Anderson
Chris Kohhammer
Kristy Fennessy
Mark Siepker
Carol McCabe
Mary Anna Anderson
Peg Pidgeon
Mary Peters
Vicki Pratt
Tera Kirk
Red Spiehs
Carol Johnson
David Johnson
Pam Miller-Jenkins

April 19

Forrest Knapp
Anita Meyer
Carol McCabe
Mary Anna Anderson
Clyde Anderson
Peg Pidgeon
Mary Peters
Marcia Liese
Cy Liese
Dorothy Danielson
Helen Deffenbacher
Ken Deffenbacher
Janet Doan
Chris Kohhammer
Carol Johnson
David Johnson
Tera Kirk
Sue Aschinger
Bonnie Naylor
Red Spiehs
Pam Miller-Jenkins

April 25

Kristy Fennessy
Clyde Anderson
Mary Anna Anderson
Dorothy Danielson
Anita Meyer
Gary Toth
Chris Kohhammer
Janet Doan
Tera Kirk
Mark Siepker
Anita Jeck
Cy Liese
Carol McCabe
Carol Johnson
David Johnson
Helen Deffenbacher
Ken Deffenbacher
Pam Miller-Jenkins

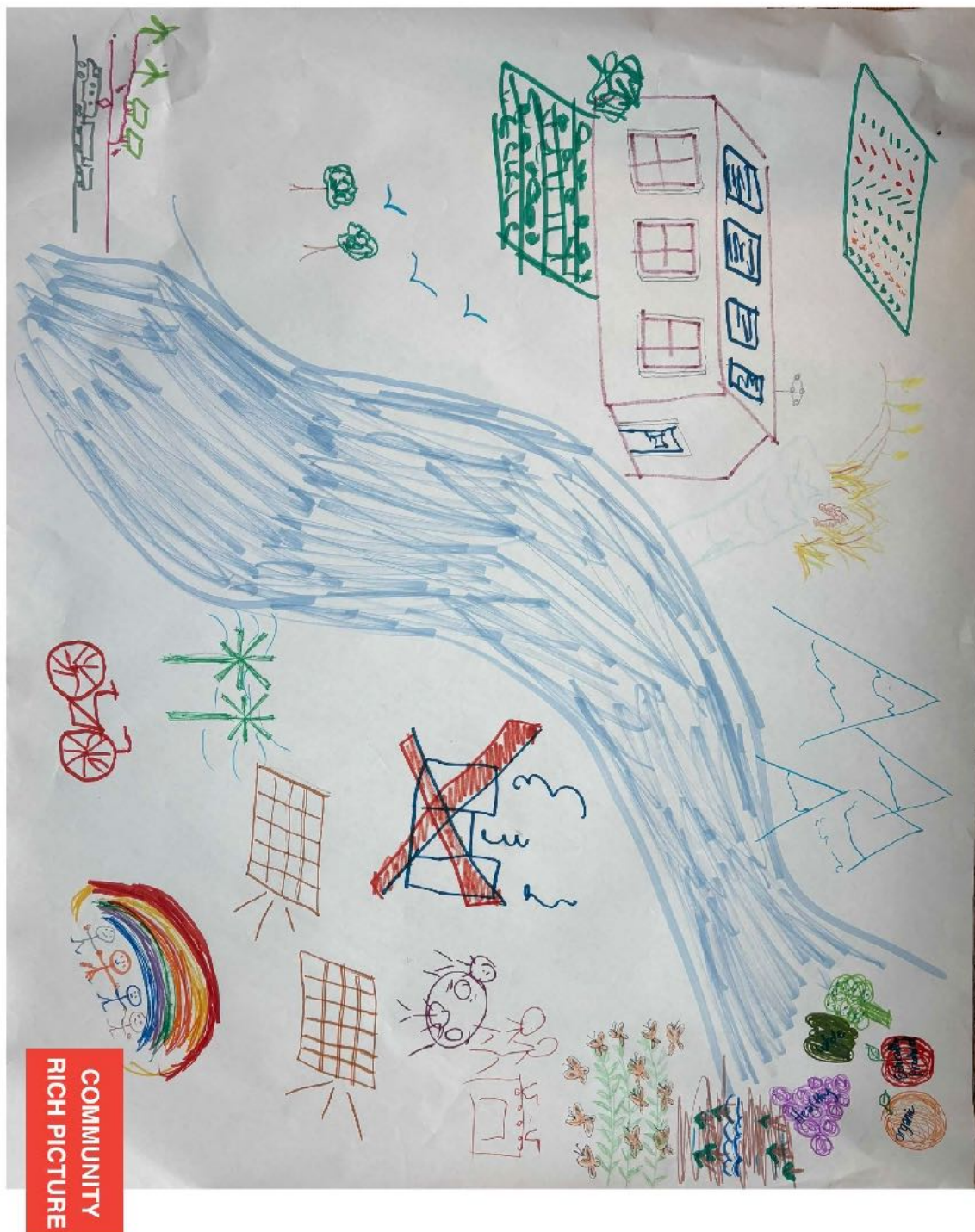
April 27*

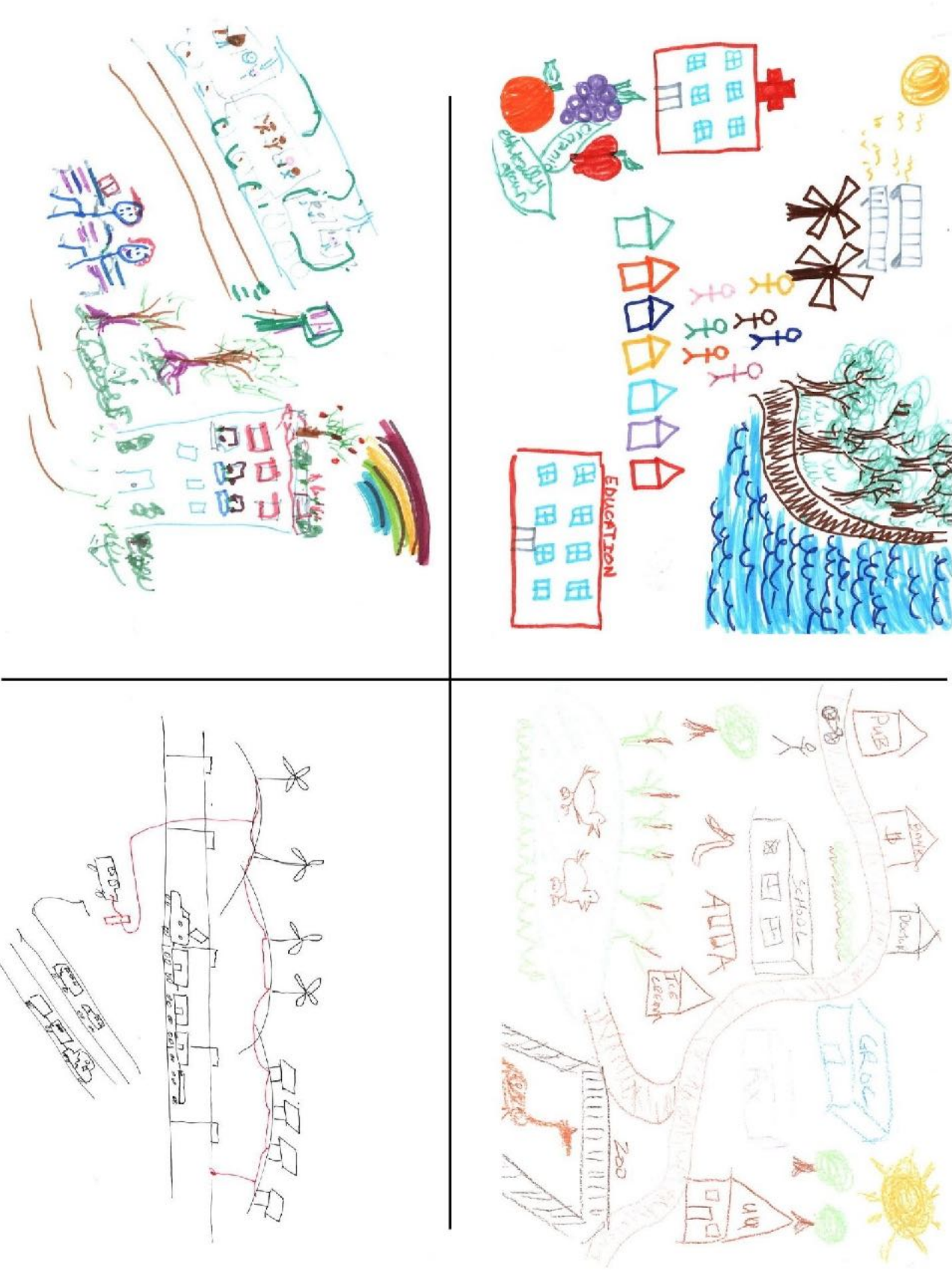
Marcia Liese
Cy Liese
Clyde Anderson
Dorothy Danielson
Helen Deffenbacher
Ken Deffenbacher
Janet Doan
Chris Kohhammer
Carol Johnson
David Johnson
Mark Siepker
Carol McCabe
Anita Jeck
Tera Kirk
Gay Abraham
Steve Abraham
Janet Nichols
Tom Peterson
Ember Bang
Cindy Ramsey
Vicki Pratt
Julie Kirn
Carla/bill Kuhn
Pam Miller-Jenkins
Via zoom:
Lorraine Duggin
Vicki Dudley
Gary Scarborough
Christina Noriega(?)

* April 27 Attendees reflect only for the organizing hour held after the climate-justice themed worship service.

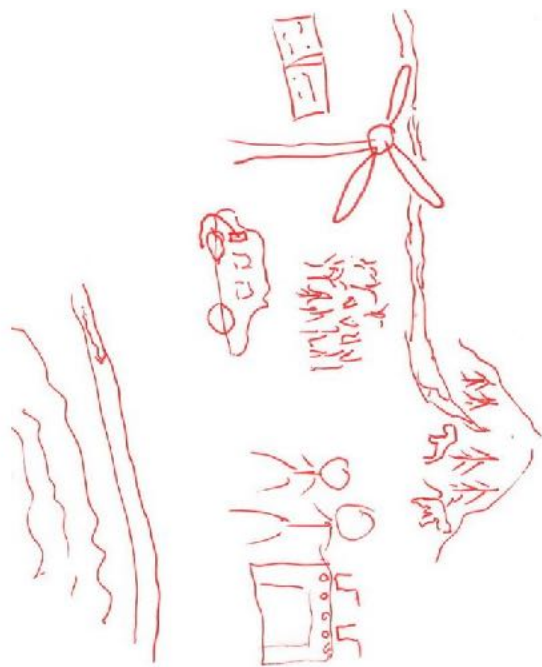
APPENDIX A — RICH PICTURES*

*Not all rich pictures were collected after the Revival









APPENDIX B — CHALLENGING REALITIES

Energy/pollution/CO²

- Continuing reliance on coal
- Stressed energy grids
- Reliance on coal
- North Omaha coal-burning plant
- Power grids
- Pollution
- GHGs -methane
- Polluting refrigerants
- Need solar and wind power sources
- Coal
- Air pollution
- No air conditioning
- Renewable energy: Decreasing subsidies from the Inflation Reduction Act, grants cut back for farmers

Political landscape

- Prioritization and lower tax for private firms, especially those that guzzle energy
- Defunding scientific and health related research
- Anti-science
- Obsession with reduced tax rates
- Defunding infrastructure investments
- Corporate abuse of resources
- Political silos
- Defunding scientific research
- DOGE - where's the support and the money?
- Food insecurity: Cuts to USAID, school lunch and Headstart (and other preschool programs)
- Voter suppression
- No political will

Weather/Climate

- Worse and more weather related disasters
- Extreme weather events
- Weather — climate change
- Heat areas
- More fires

Society/health

- Homelessness
- Denial
- Overpopulation
- Poor access to healthcare
- Non-acceptance of LGBTQ+ people
- Population density
- Inequity of classes
- Not much truth spoken
- High asthma/respiratory disease rates
- Adequate mental health support

- Fear
- Drugs
- Homelessness
- [Lack of] youth engagement
- “Othering” people
- Hate
- Consumerism
- Class of people - elitists
- Inequity during power outages
- Family fractures
- Low wages
- Lack of social interaction
- Walking = healthy
- Breathing issues
- Poor healthcare
- Transgender rights, esp. in public places and sports participation
- Social Support programs: social security, medicaid, medicare
- Poor access to insurance
- Low paying jobs
- Nonacceptance of diverse cultures
- Crisis of miscommunication

Planning/infrastructure/housing

- Lack of affordable housing
- Industrial areas polluting
- Redlining effects
- North Freeway
- Urban sprawl
- Lack of affordable housing
- Urban sprawl
- Cement - need green areas
- Lack of good housing

Transportation

- Reliance on personal vehicle
- Lack of public transportation
- Mass transportation
- Inadequate bicycle lanes
- [Inadequate] bus routes
- Walks too far to get to bus
- Car-centric
- Trolley only for tourists (needs to expand)

Food systems/agriculture

- Growing corn and soy for fuel and not food
- Food deserts
- Food deserts
- Groundwater depletion and contamination
- Pesticide overuse
- Mono-cropping
- Roundup weed killer

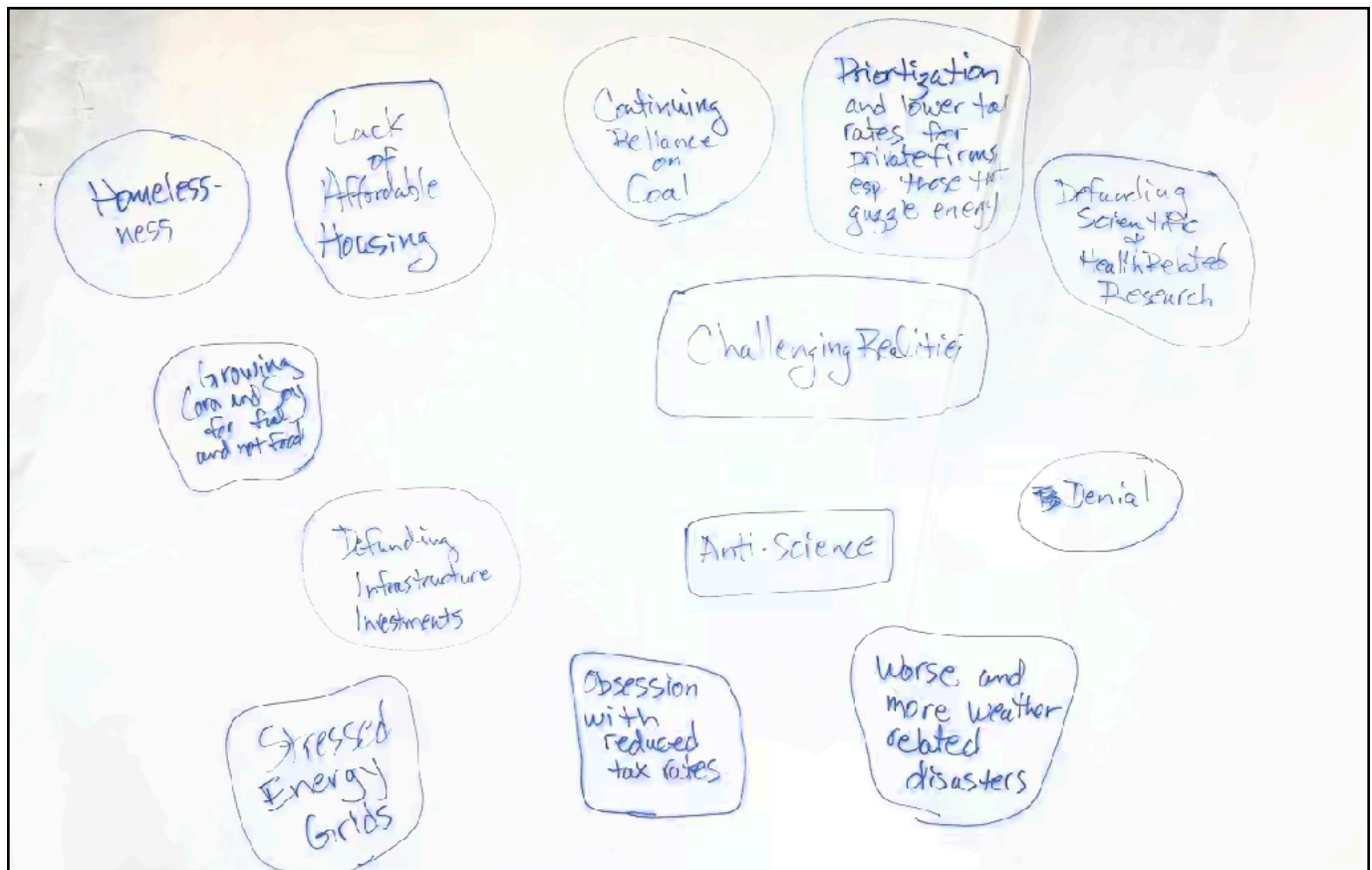
- Roundup ready seeds
- Hybridized for more pesticides
- Killing bees due to pesticides
- CAFOs
- CAFOs = polluting runoff, microplastics
- Water depletion
- Grocery deserts
- [Inadequate] nutrition
- Fossil fuel to make herbicides/pesticides
- GMOs

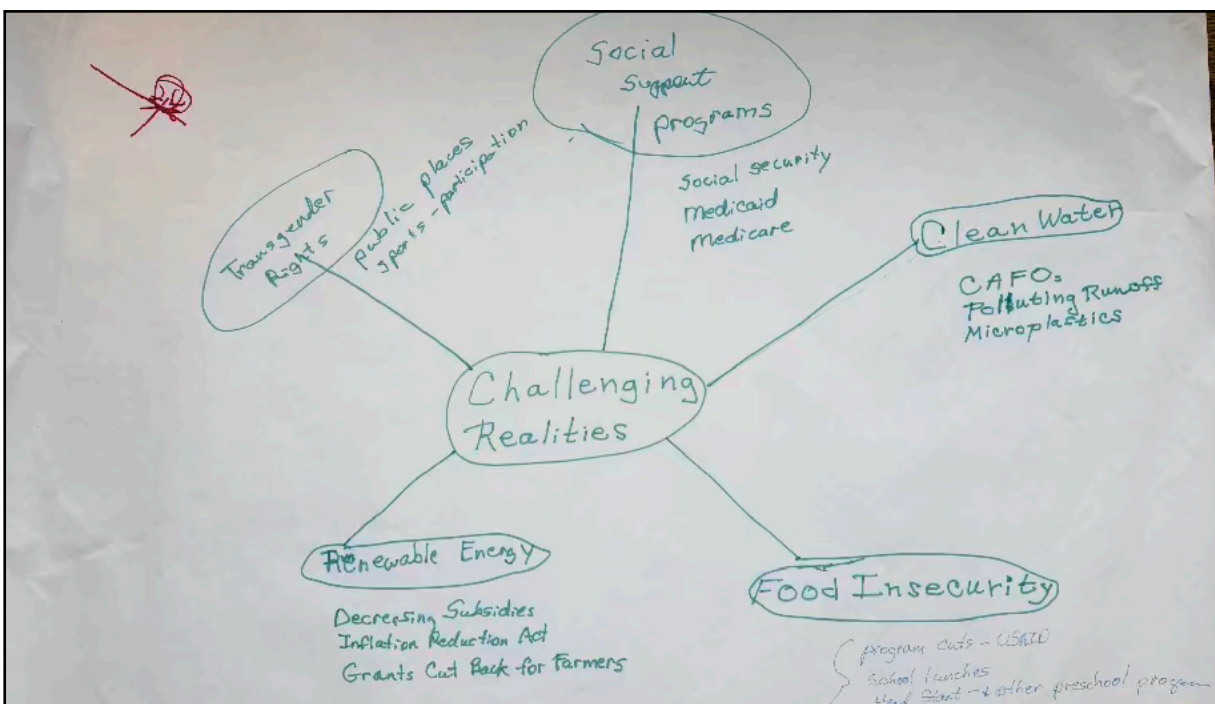
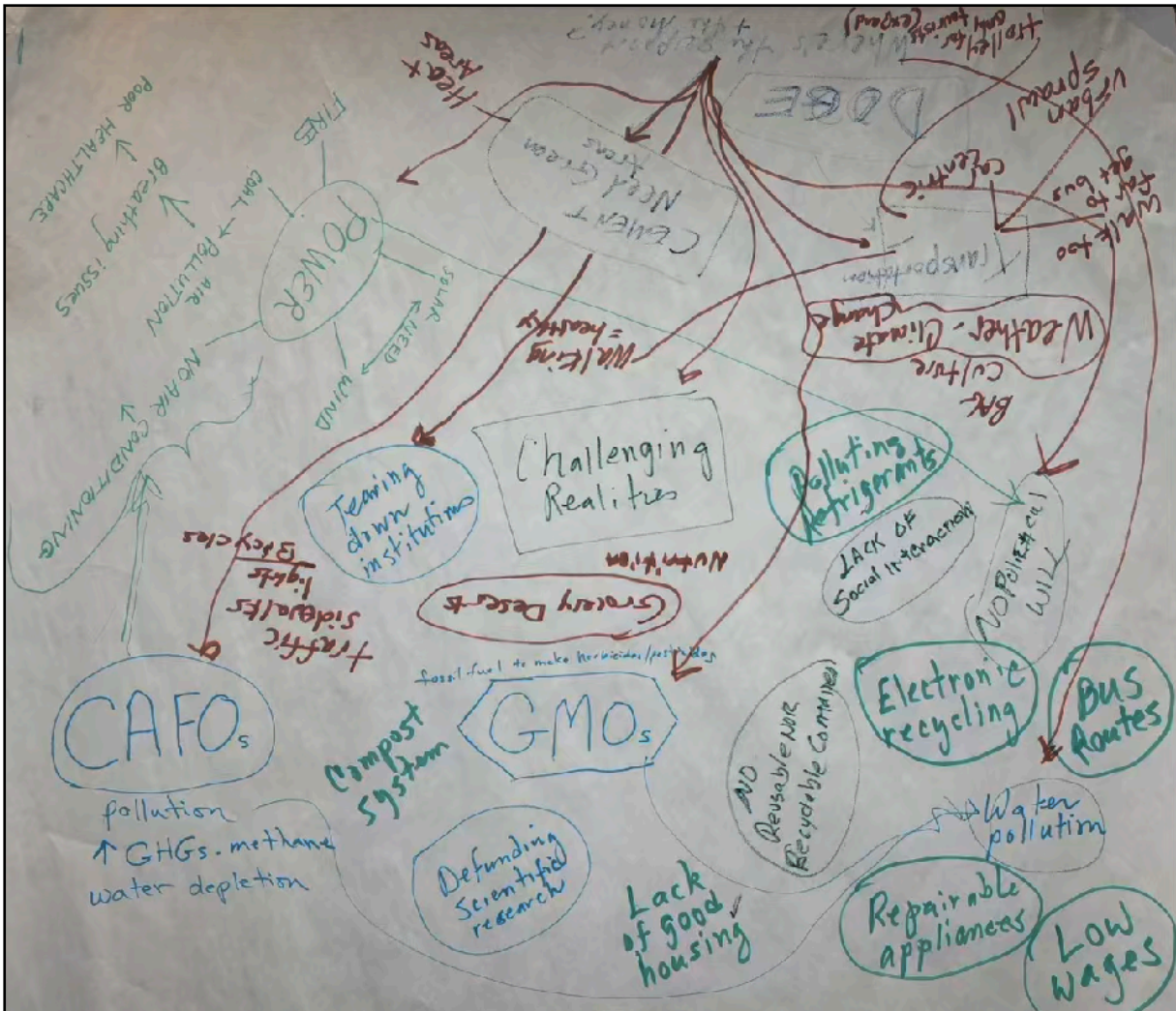
Recycling/sustainability

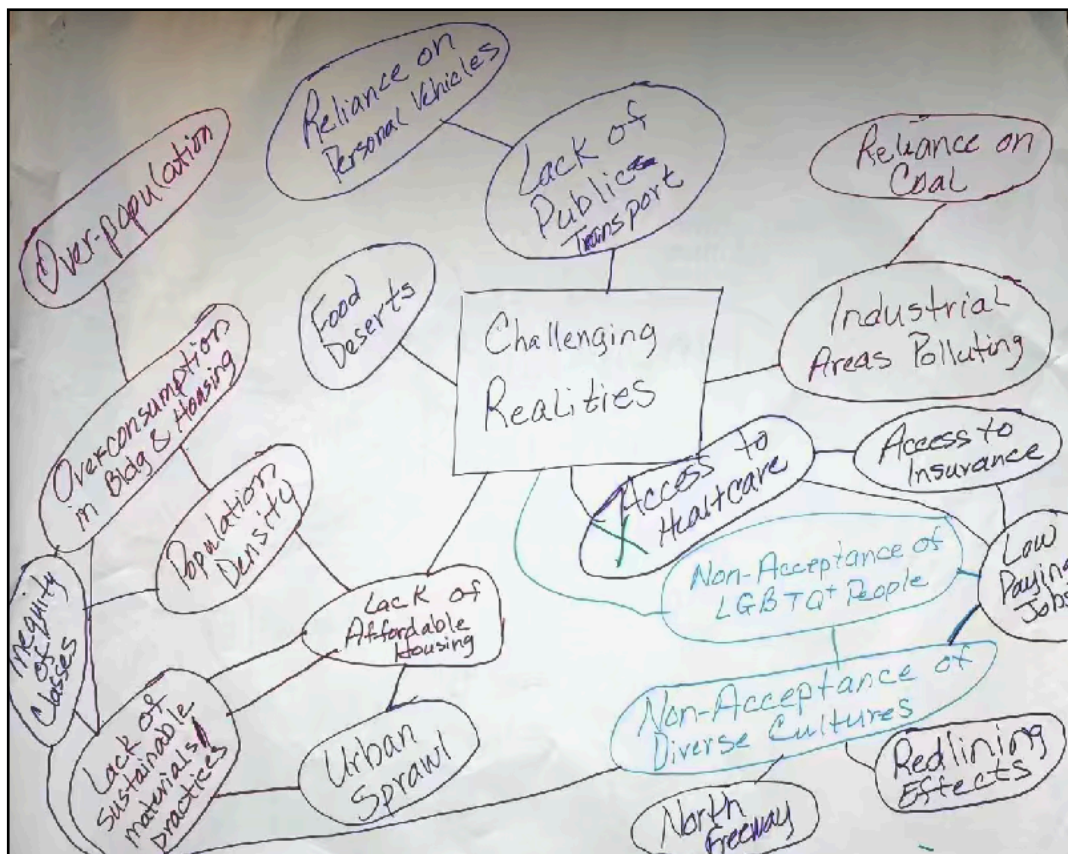
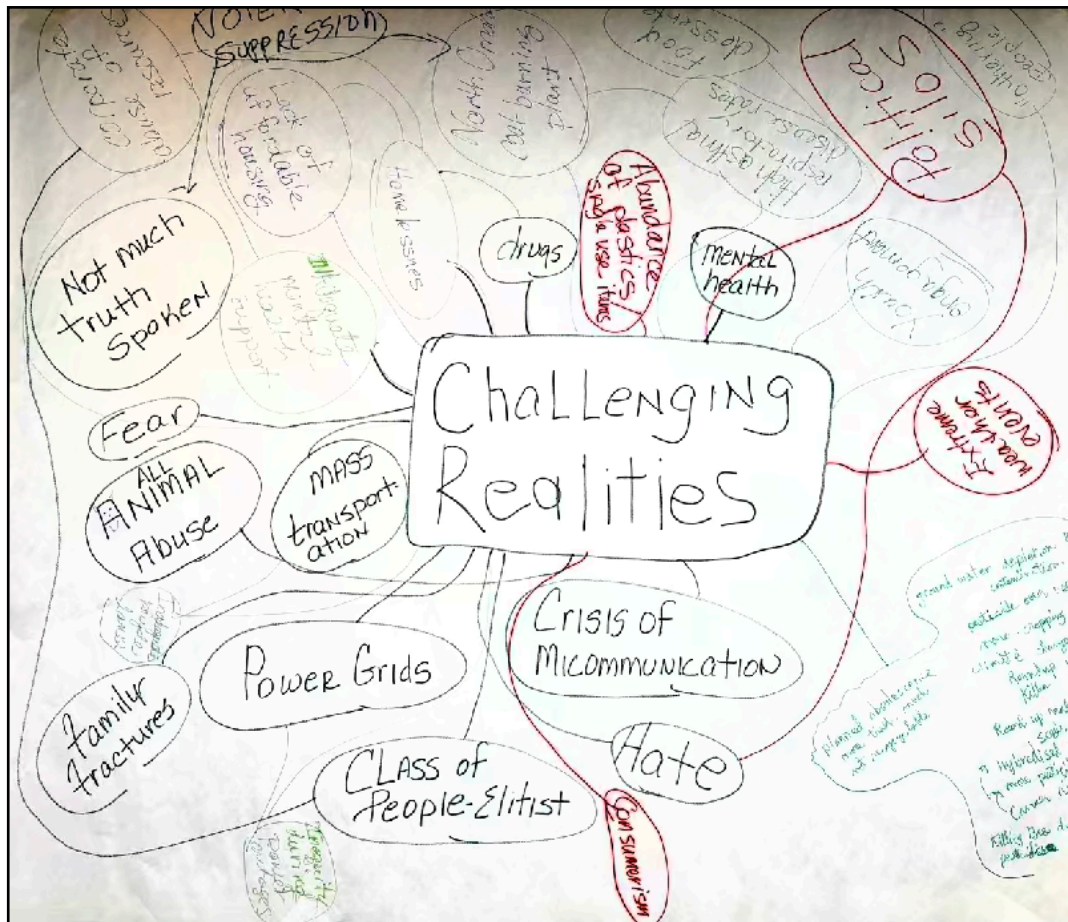
- Lack of sustainable materials/practices
- Overconsumption in building and housing
- Abundance of plastics/single-use items
- More trash/waste that is not recyclable
- No reusable nor recyclable containers
- [Lack of] repairable appliances
- [Inadequate] electronic recycling
- (Plastic?) Bag culture

Misc.

- All animal abuse
- Planned obsolescence







APPENDIX C — COMMUNITY CARE

Energy/pollution/CO²

- Solar panels and greenery into built structures
- Affordable tiny homes with renewable energy
- Solar panels on the church
- Solar on the streets to fuel public transit
- Solar panels on church roof
- Focus on energy conservation/solar panels
- Attend OPPD board meetings to encourage elimination of coal and increase in renewable energy
- OPPD >> all green

Political landscape

- Coalition groups to fight back
- Tax the billionaires
- Redo the election
- No DOGE
- Policy help with public problems
- Higher capital gains tax
- Attend city council meetings
- Government provided health care
- Medications for all
- Affordable insurance
- Vaccines
- Pressure tech companies to build their own power plants
- Hold city's feet to the fire to implement climate action and resiliency plan

Society/health

- Understanding
- Teach meditation to children
- Engage with neighbors
- OTOC
- Change buying habits
- On the ground help
- Churches welcoming LGBTQ people
- Connection to services
- OTOC involvement
- What do people want
- Sierra Club

Food systems/agriculture

- Cooperative farming projects
- Food pantry and community gardens for community deserts
- Meatless Mondays
- Organize garden to give food to the community
- Public transportation with green energy for urban sprawl
- Biodigesters for manure into energy/fertilizers
- Ensure clean water
- Regenerative farming
- Grocery stores fresh produce

- Vegetable gardens
- Diversify crops — incentives for more crops
- Adoption of native plants
- Adoption of pollinator gardens
- Community gardens/gardens culturally relevant
- Planting trees and maintain
- Community gardens
- Community garden

Transportation

- More bike lanes
- Free transportation
- Encourage carpooling or bicycling to church
- MetroTransit Advisory committee

Planning/infrastructure/housing

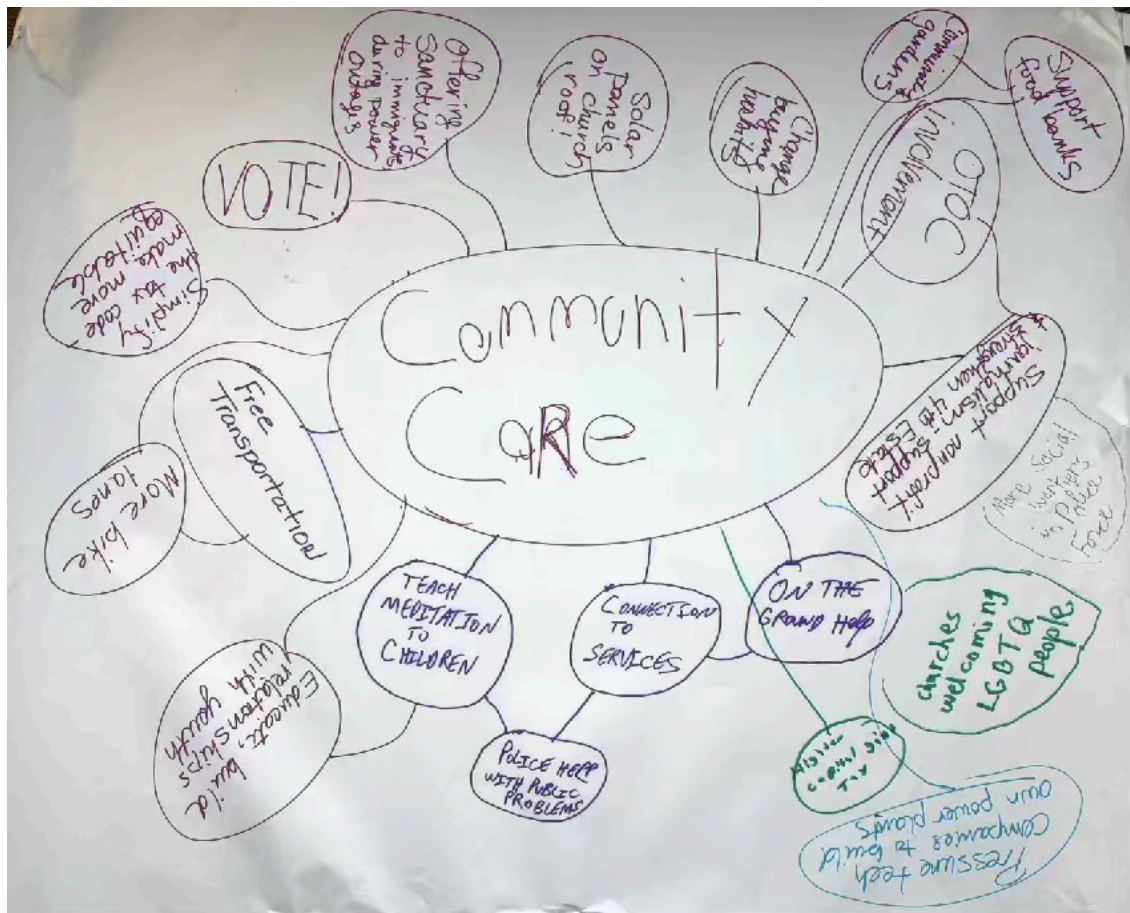
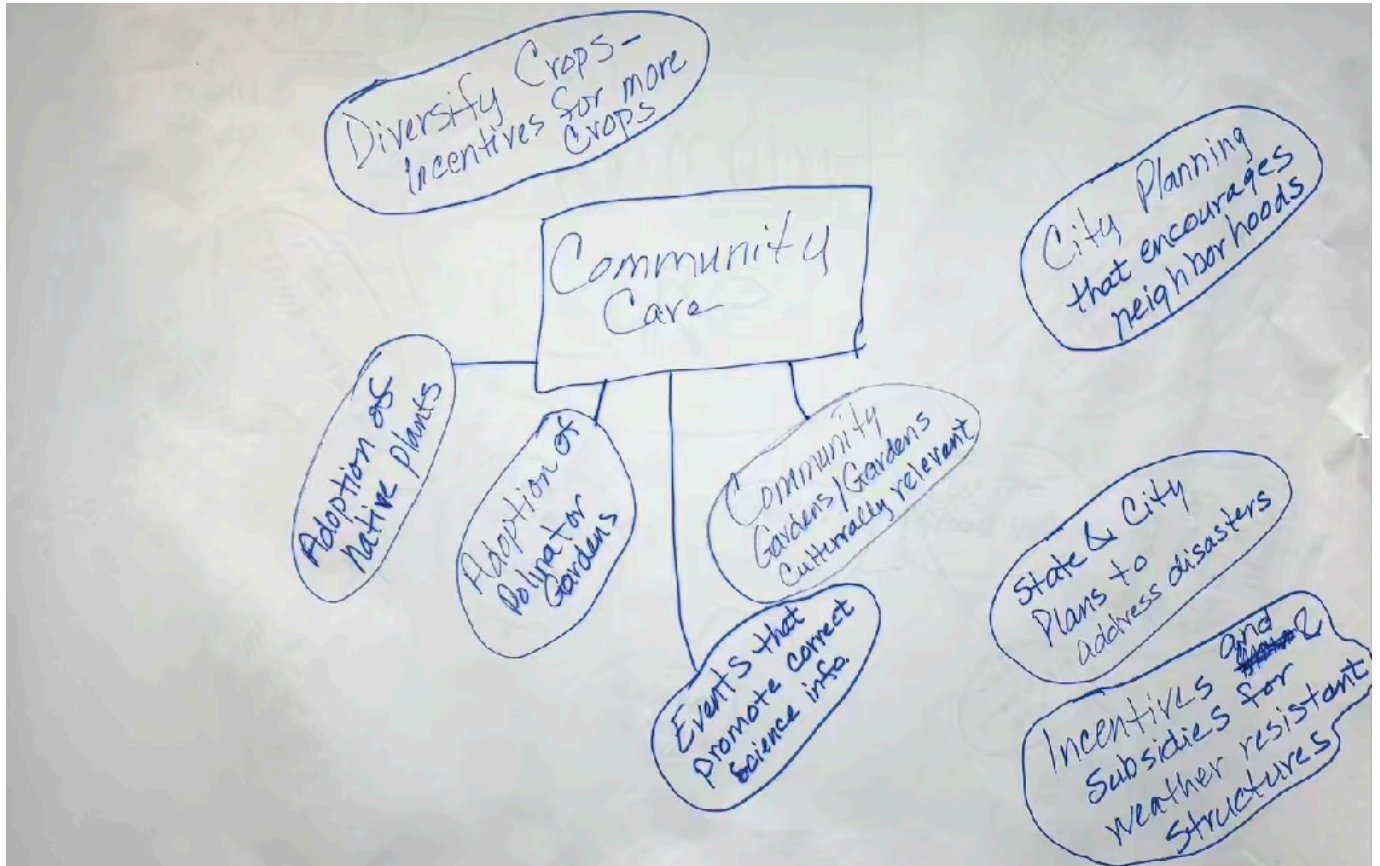
- City planning that encourages neighborhoods
- State and city plans to address disasters
- Habitat for Humanity
- Incentives and subsidies for weather resistant structures

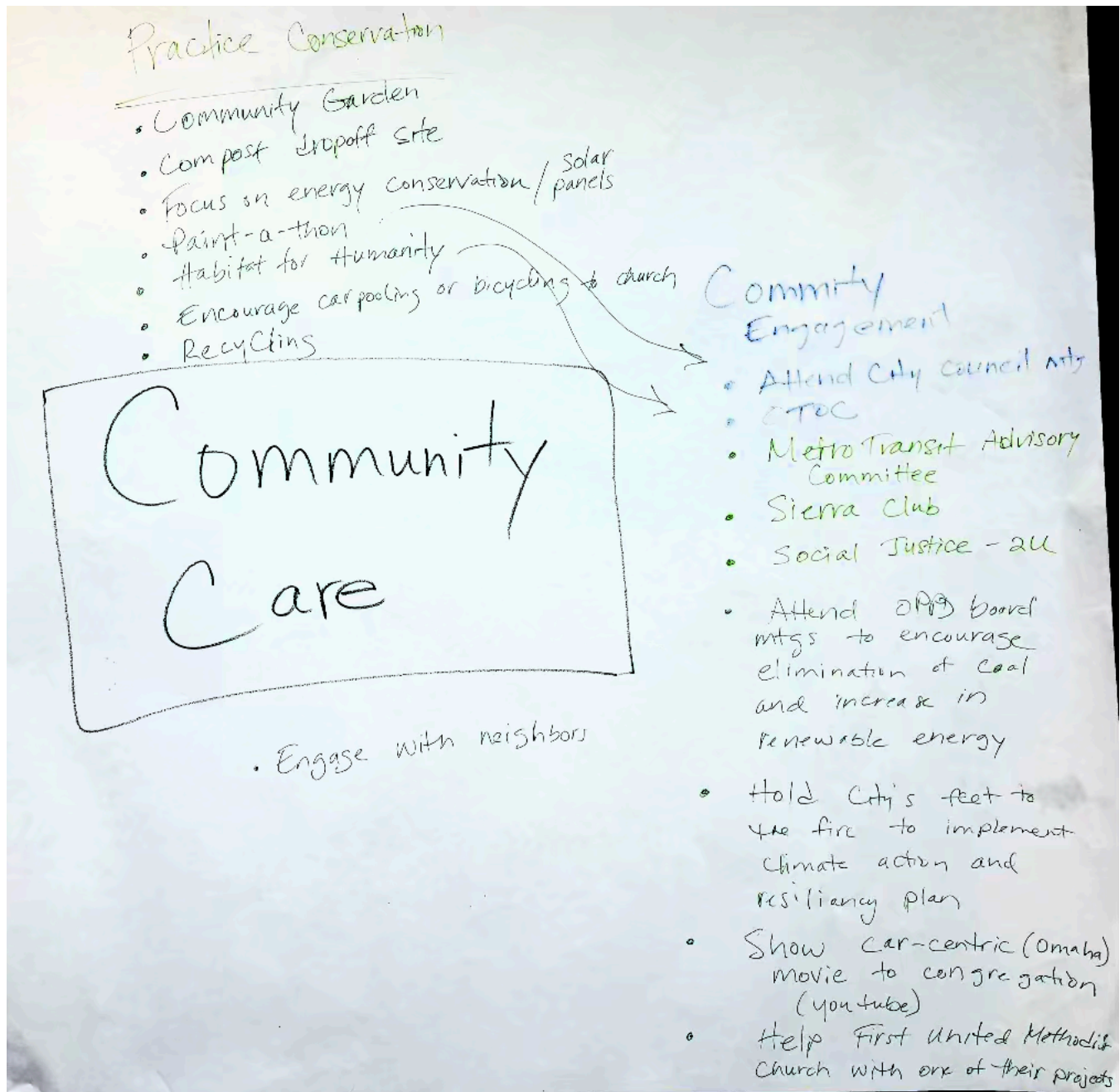
Community/connection

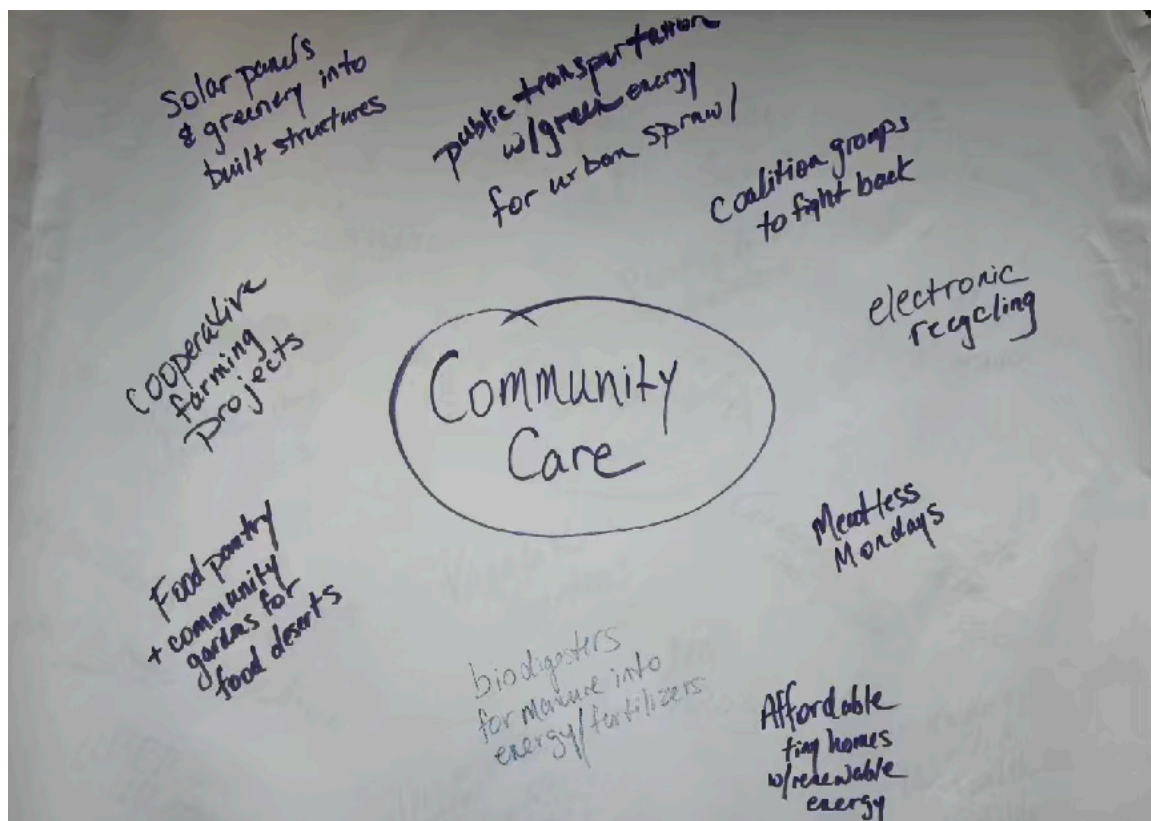
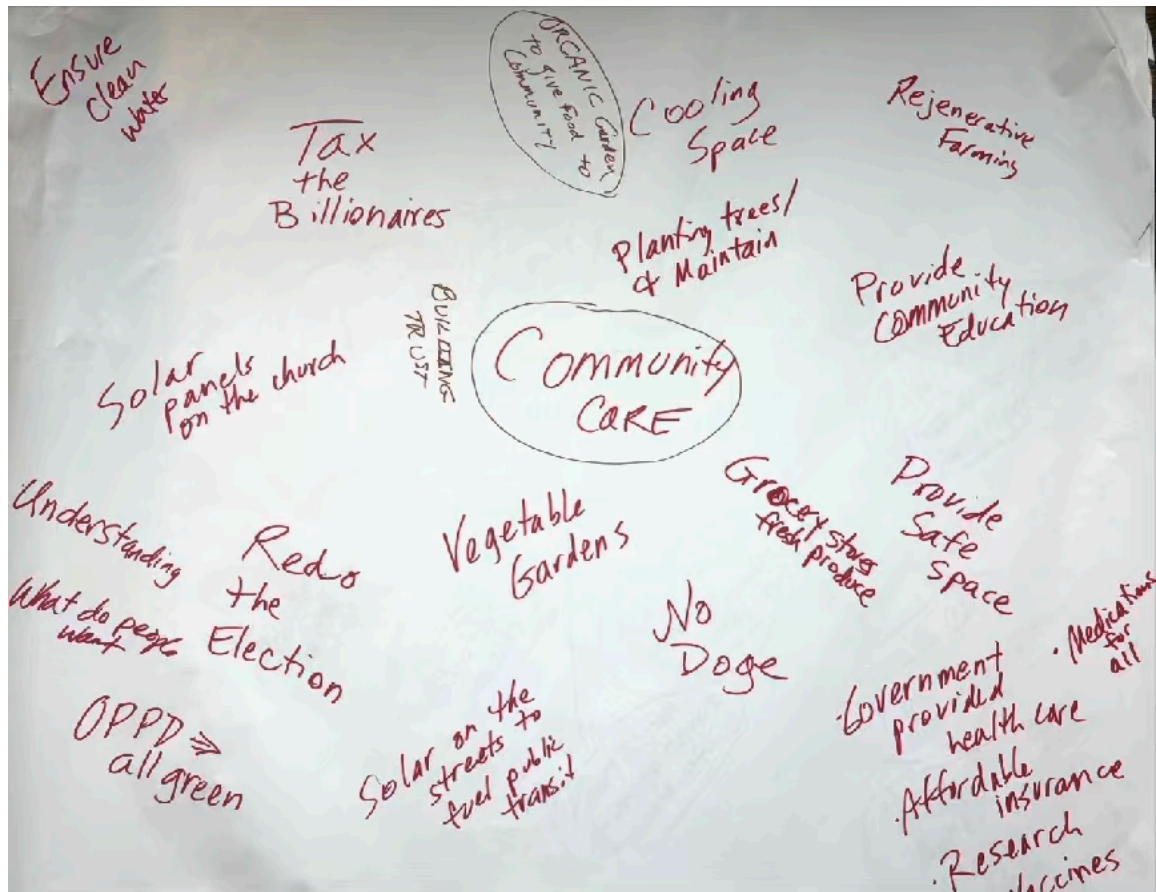
- Building trust
- Cooling space
- Provide community education
- Provide safe space
- Events that promote correct science info
- Support food banks
- Support nonprofit/public journalism and support the 4th Estate
- More social workers in police force
- Offering sanctuary to immigrants during power outages
- Compost drop-off site
- Paint-a-thon
- Recycling
- Social Justice committee at 2U
- Show car-centric (Omaha) movie to congregation
- Help First United Methodist with one of their projects
- Research

Recycling/sustainability

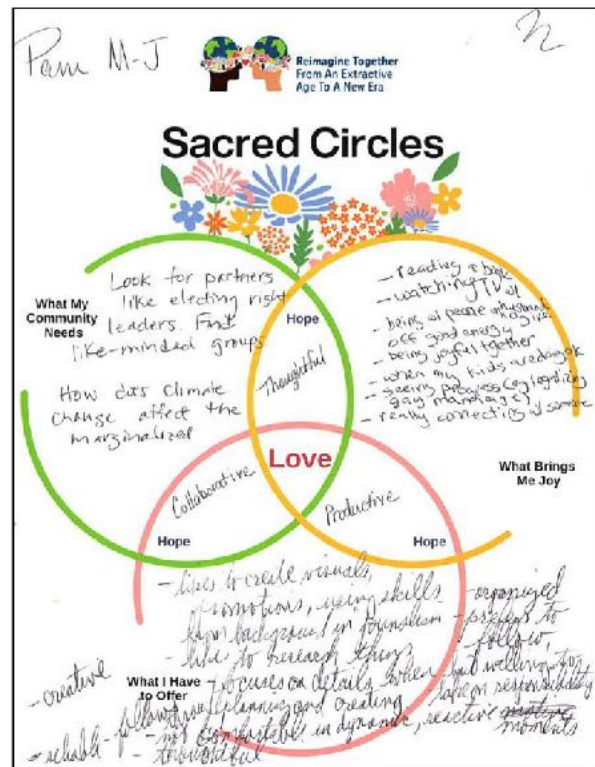
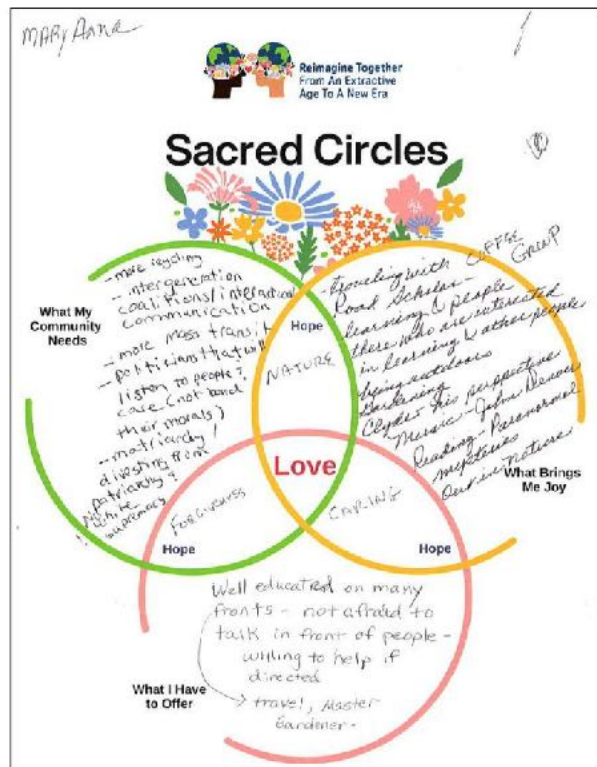
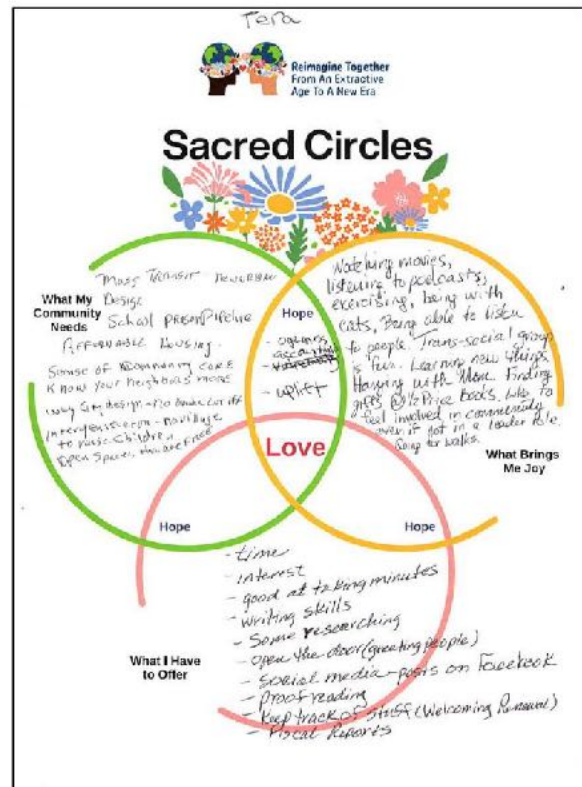
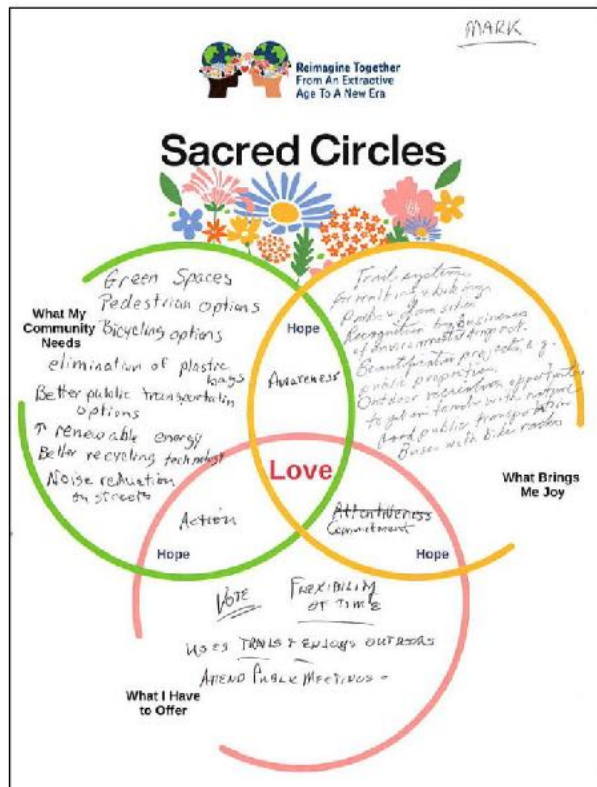
- Electronic recycling

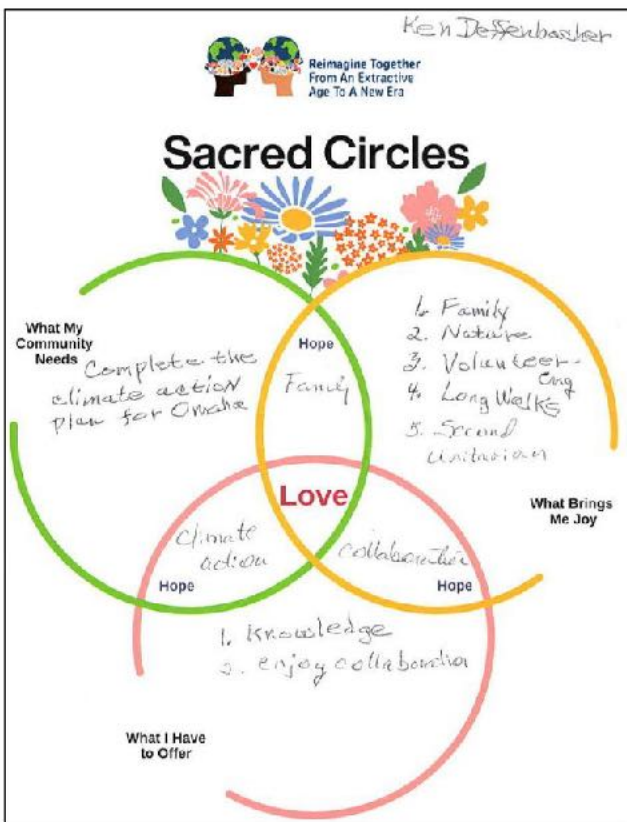
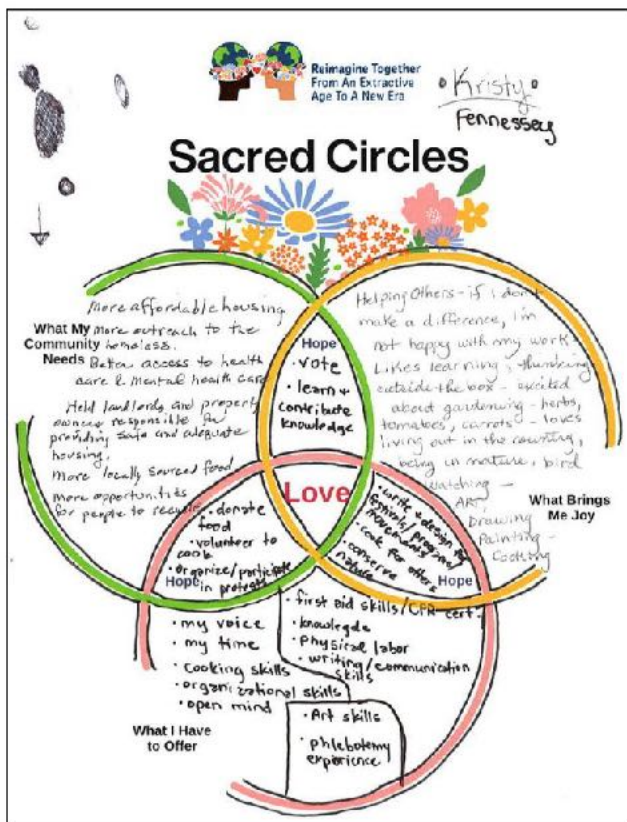
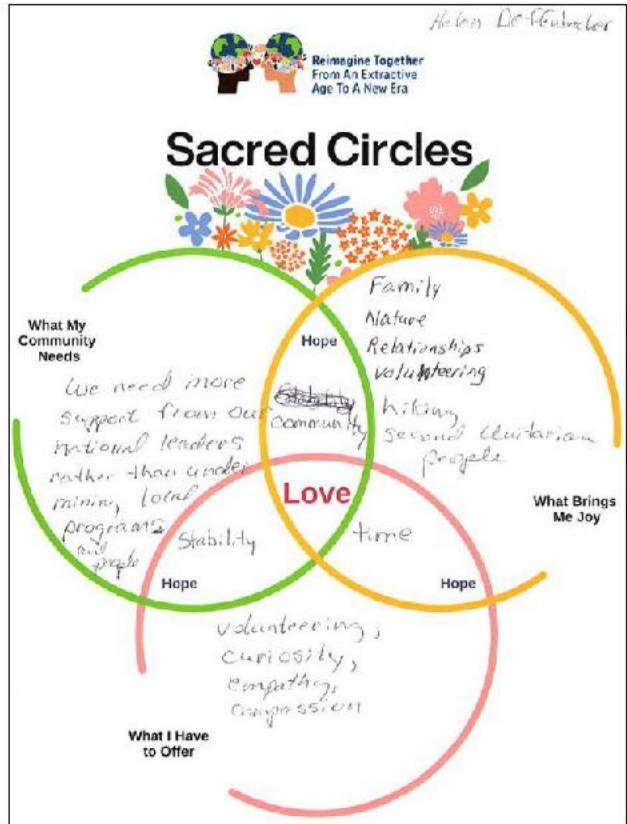
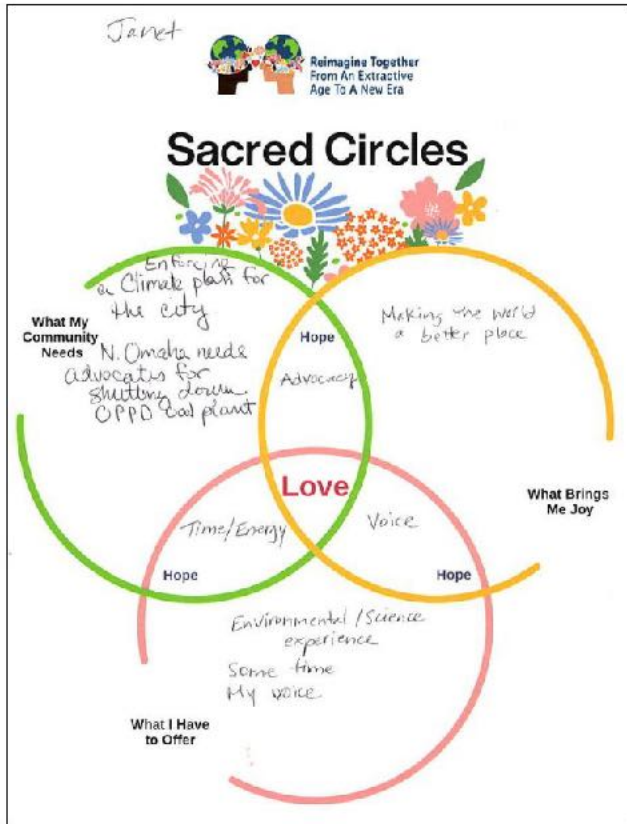


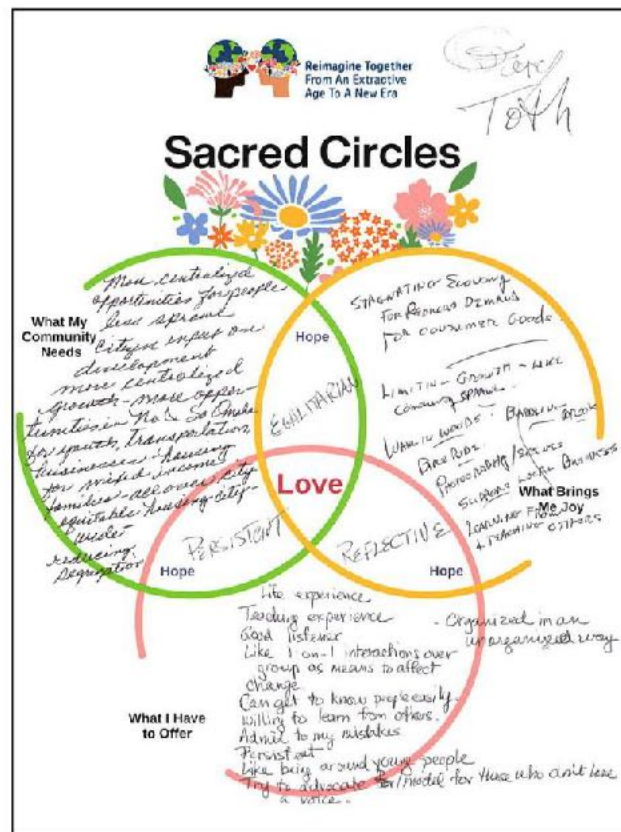
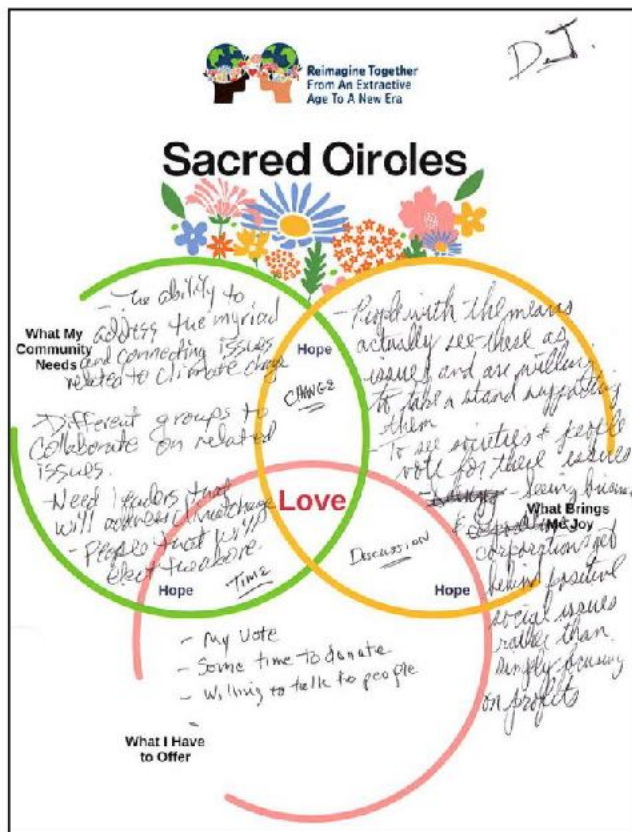
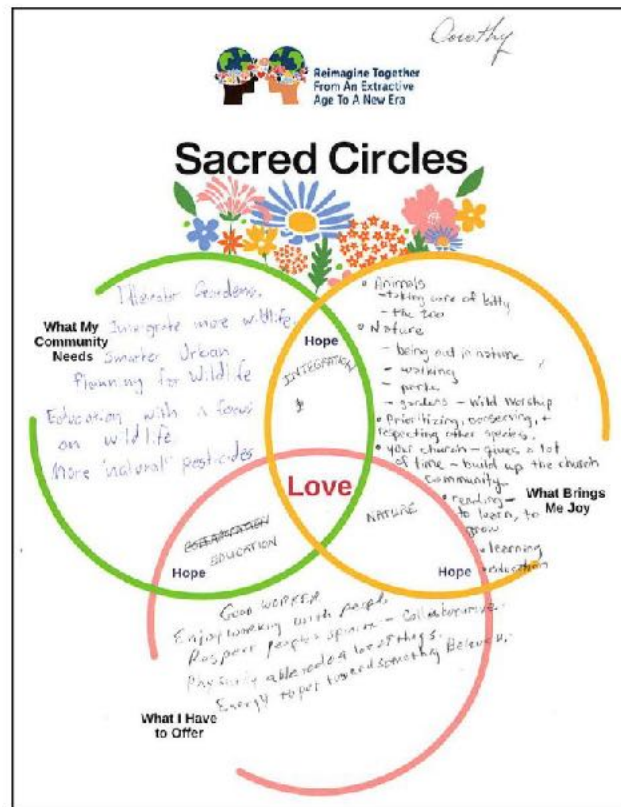
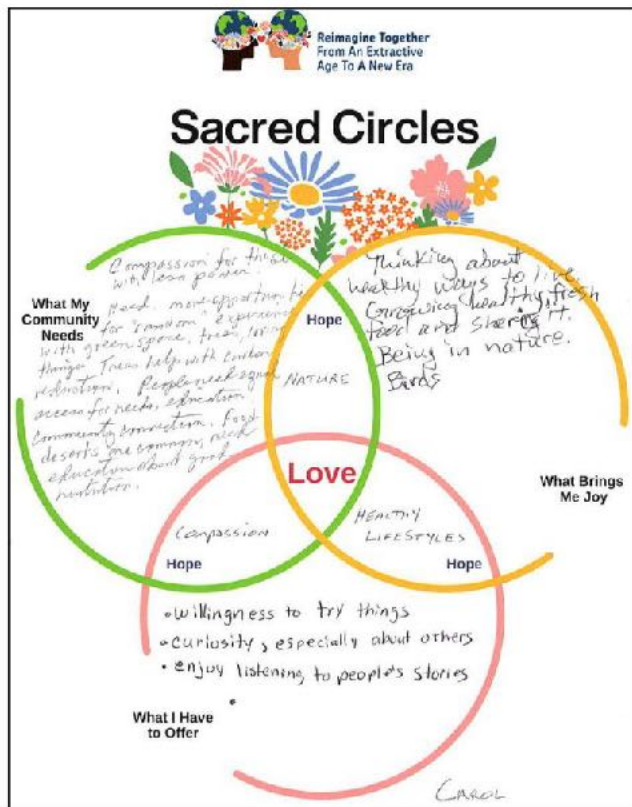


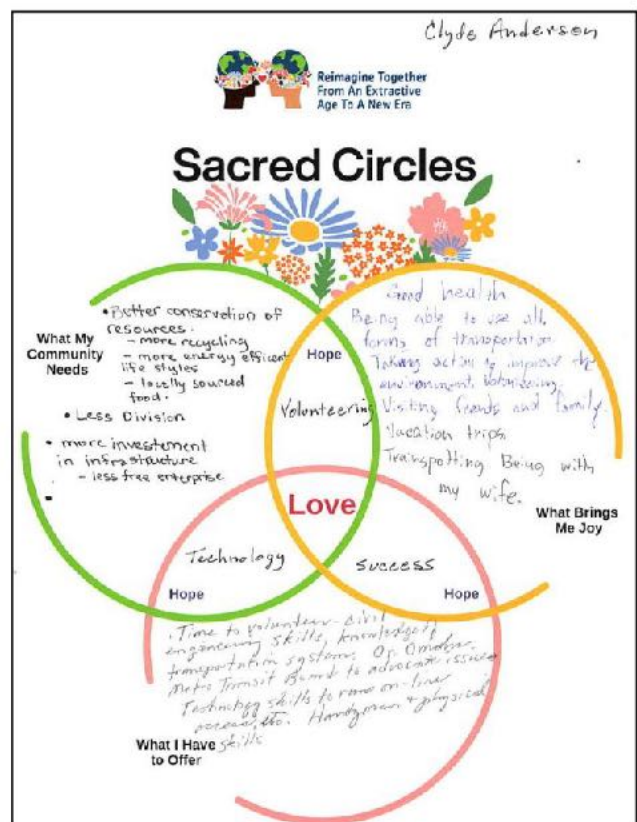
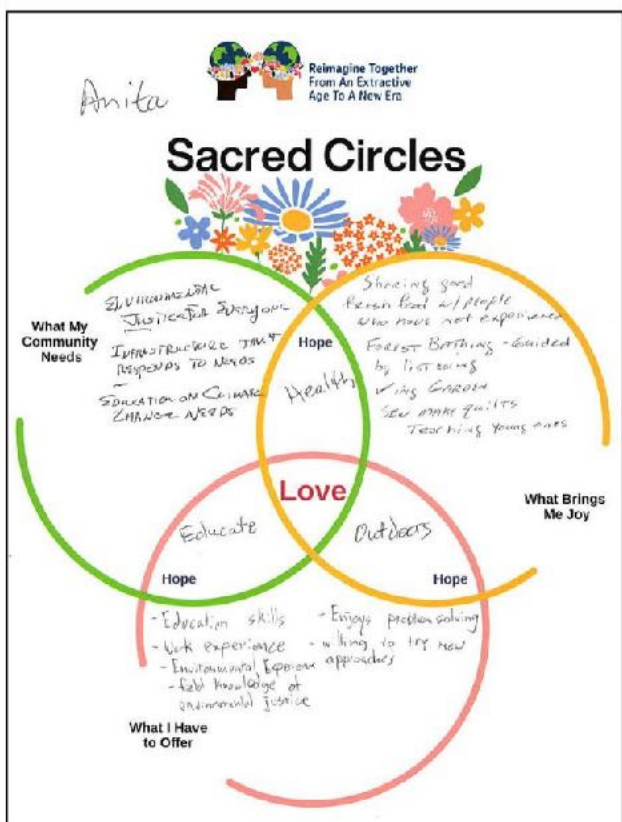
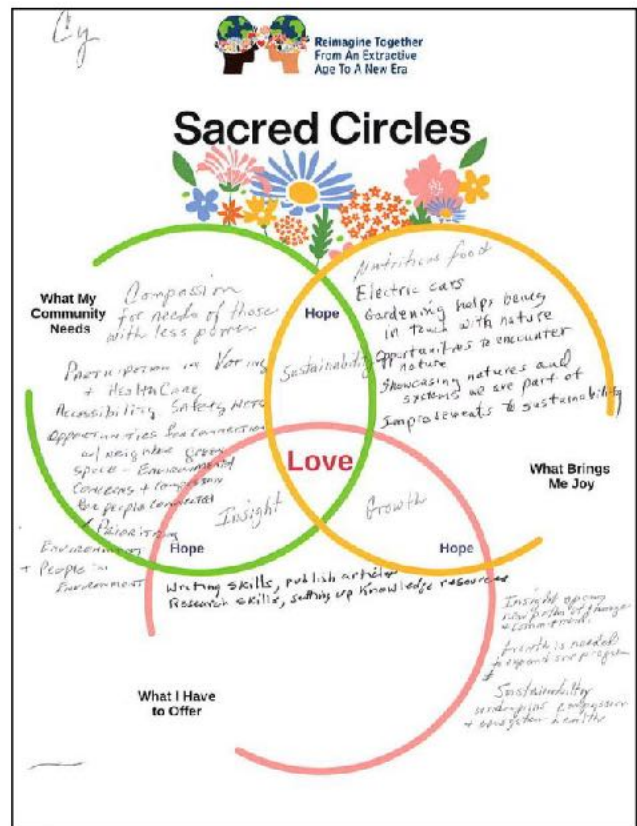
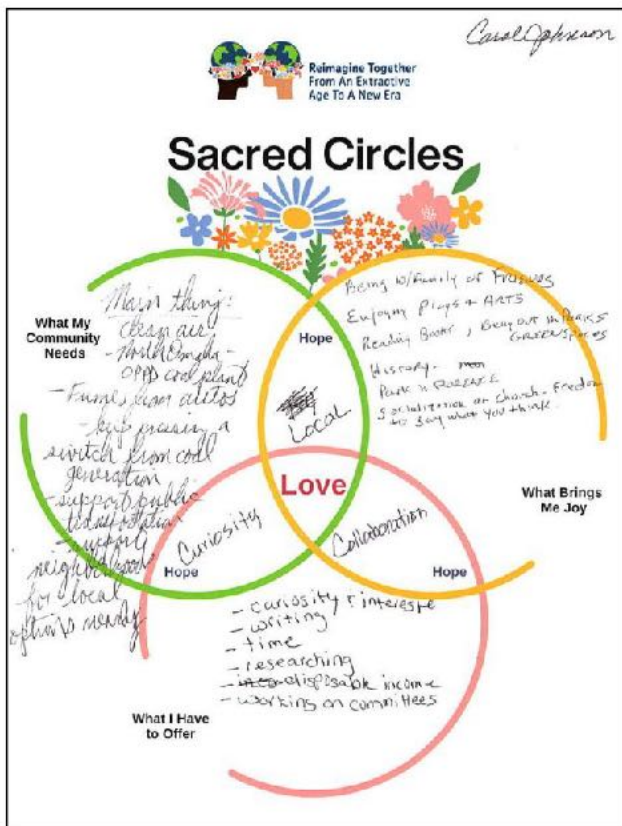


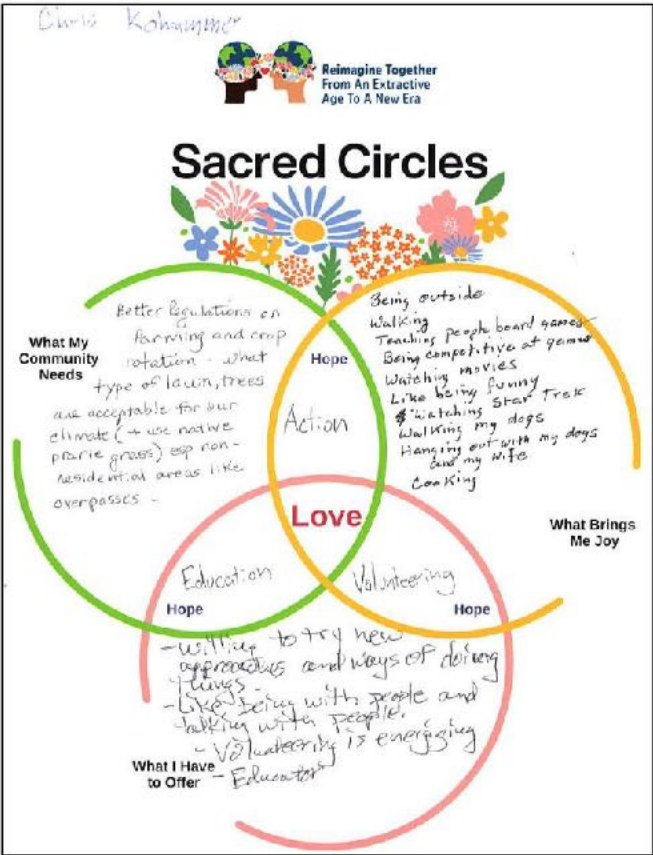
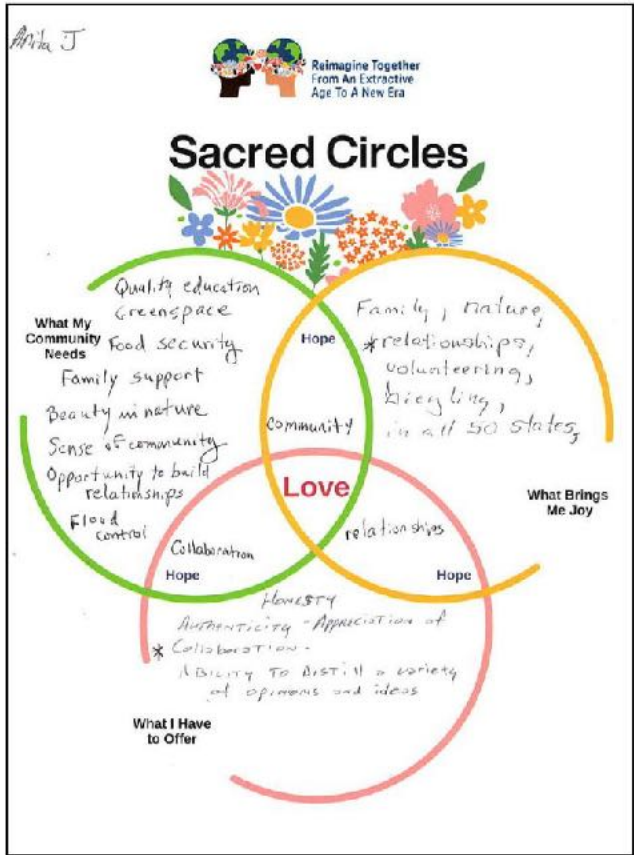
APPENDIX D — SACRED CIRCLES











Breakdown of Sacred Circles

What My Community Needs

- Green spaces
- Pedestrian options
- Elimination of plastic bags
- Better public transportation options
- Renewable energy
- Better recycling technology
- Noise reduction on streets
- The ability to address the myriad and connecting issues related to climate change
- Different groups to collaborate on related issues
- Need leaders who will address climate change
- People that will elect leaders who will address climate change
- More support from our national leaders rather than undermine local programs and people
- Complete the climate action plan for Omaha
- Compassion for those with less power
- Need more opportunities for “random” experiences with green spaces trees, living things. Trees help with carbon reduction.
- Equal access for needs, education community connection

What Brings Me Joy

- Trail systems for walking and biking
- Parks and dam sites
- Recognition by businesses of environmental impact
- Beautification projects, e.g. public properties
- Outdoor recreation opportunities to get in touch with nature
- Good public transportation
- Buses with bike racks
- People with the means to actually see these are issues and are willing to take a stand supporting them
- To see societies and people vote for these issues
- Seeing businesses and corporations get behind positive social issues rather than simply focusing on profits
- Family
- Nature
- Relationships
- Volunteering
- Hiking
- Second Unitarian people
- Family
- Nature
- Volunteering
- Long walks
- Second Unitarian
- Healthy ways to live
- Growing health, fresh food and sharing it

What I Have to Offer

- Vote
- Flexibility of time
- Uses trails and enjoys outdoors
- Attend public meetings
- My vote
- Some time to donate
- Willing to talk to people
- Volunteering
- Curiosity
- Empathy
- Compassion
- Knowledge
- Enjoy collaboration
- Likes to create visuals, promotions, using skills from background in journalism
- Likes to research things
- Creativity
- Reliability
- Prefers to follow but willing to take on responsibility
- Thoughtful
- Organized

What My Community Needs

- (Eliminate) food deserts; one common need (is) education about good nutrition
- Quality education
- Greenspace
- Food security
- Family support
- Beauty in nature
- Sense of community
- Opportunity to build relationships
- Flood control
- Environmental justice for everyone
- Infrastructure that responds to needs
- Education on climate change needs
- Better regulations on farming and crop rotation
- What type of lawn, trees are acceptable for our climate (i.e., use native grasses) esp. nonresidential areas like overpasses
- Better conservation of resources
- More recycling
- More energy efficient lifestyles
- Less division
- More investment in infrastructure
- Less free enterprise

What Brings Me Joy

- Being in nature
- Family
- Nature
- Relationships
- Volunteering
- Bicycling in all 50 states
- Sharing good fresh food with people who have not experienced (it?)
- Forest bathing - guided by listening
- (Check?)ing garden
- Sew - make quilts
- Teaching youth
- Being outside
- Walking
- Teaching people board games
- Being competitive at games
- Watching movies
- Watching Star Trek
- Walking my dogs
- Hanging out with my dogs and my wife
- Cooking
- Good health
- Being able to use alternate forms of transportation
- Taking action to improve the environment
- Volunteering
- Visiting friends and family
- Trainspotting
- Vacation trips
- Being with my wife
- Stagnating economy for reduced demand for consumer goods
- Walk in woods
- Babbling brook

What I Have to Offer

- Willingness to try things
- Curiosity, especially about others
- Enjoy listening to people's stories
- Honesty
- Authenticity - appreciation of
- Collaboration
- Ability to distill a variety of opinions and ideas
- Education skills
- Work experience
- Environment experience
- Field knowledge of environment justice
- Enjoys problem solving
- Willing to try new approaches
- Willing to try new approaches and ways of doing things
- Like being with people and talking with people
- Volunteering is energizing
- Educator
- Time to volunteer
- Civil engineering skills
- Knowledge of transportation system. On Omaha Metro Transit board to advocate issues
- Technology skills to run online access, etc.
- Handyman and physical skills

What My Community Needs

- More centralized opportunities for people
- Less sprawl
- Citizen input on development
- More centralized growth
- More opportunities in North and South Omaha for youth, transportation, businesses
- Housing for mixed income families all over the city/ equitable housing citywide/ reducing segregation
- Enforcing a climate plan for the city
- North Omaha needs advocates to shut down OPPD coal plant
- Mass transit - new urban design
- School to prison pipeline reform
- Affordable housing
- Sense of community care - know your neighbors more
- City design - North Omaha is cut off
- Intergeneration - no village to raise children
- Open spaces that are free
- Look for partners or like minded-groups to advocate with
- Consider how climate change affects the marginalized
- Main thing: Clean air, close North O OPPD coal plant
- Fumes from automobiles
- Keep pressuring a switch from coal generation
- Support public transportation
-

What Brings Me Joy

- Limiting growth like community sprawl
- Bike ride
- Photography
- Supporting local businesses
- Learn from and teaching others
- Making the world a better place
- Watching movies, listening to podcasts
- Exercising
- Being with cats
- Listening to people
- Trans-social group is fun
- Learning new things
- Hanging with Mom
- Finding gifts at 1/2 Price Books
- Like to feel involved in community even if not in a leader role
- Going for walks
- Reading a book or watching TV with my husband
- Being with people who give off good energy/being joyful together
- When my kids are doing OK
- Seeing progress (e.g, gay marriage)
- Being with family or friends
- Enjoying plays and arts
- Reading books
- Being out in parks and green spaces
- History - park in Florence
- Socializing at church - freedom to say what you think

What I Have to Offer

- Life experience
- Teaching experience
- Good listener
- Facilitating 1-on-1 interactions (as opposed to a group) as a means to affect change
- Can get to know people easily, willing to learn from others
- Admit to my mistakes
- Persistent
- Like being around young people
- Try to advocate for/model for those who don't have a voice
- Environmental/science experience
- Time
- Voice
- Time
- Interest
- Good at taking minutes
- Writing skills
- Some researching
- Open the door (greeting people)
- Social media (FB posts)
- Proofreading
- Keeping track of stuff (Welcoming Renewal)
- Fiscal reports
- Donate food
- Volunteer to cook
- Organize/participate protests
- My voice
- My time
- Cooking skills
- Organizational skills
- Open mind
-

What My Community Needs

- Support neighborhoods for local options nearby
- More recycling
- Intergeneration coalitions/ interracial (?) communication
- More mass transit
- Politicians that will listen to people and care (not bend their morals)
- Matriarchy/divesting from patriarchy
- No white supremacy
- More affordable housing
- Hold landlords and property owners responsible for safe and adequate housing
- More outreach to the homeless
- Better access to mental and physical health care
- More opportunities for people to recycle
- Pollinator gardens
- Integrate more wildlife
- Planning for wildlife
- Education with a focus on wildlife
- More “natural” pesticides
- Compassion for needs of those with less power
- Participation in voting and health care
- Accessibility; safety nets
- Opportunities for connection with neighbors
- Green space
- Environmental concerns
- Compassion for people
- Prioritizing environment and people in environment
-

What Brings Me Joy

- Coffee group
- Traveling with Road Scholars - people who are interested in learning and being outdoors
- Clyde - his perspective
- Music- John Denver
- Reading - Paranormal mysteries
- Out in nature
- Helping others - if I don’t make a difference, I’m not happy with my work
- Learning and thinking outside the box
- Excited about gardening, herbs, tomatoes, carrots
- Loves living out in the country being in nature, bird watching
- Art, drawing, painting
- Cooking
- Animals - Taking care of kitty, the zoo
- Nature: being in nature, walking, parks, gardens, wild worship
- Prioritizing conserving and respecting other species
- Giving time to church; building up church community
- Reading, to learn and to grow
- Learning
- Education
- Nutritious food
- Electric cars
- Garden helps being in touch with nature
- Opportunities to encounter nature
- Showcasing natures and systems we are a part of
- Improving sustainability

What I Have to Offer

- Curiosity and interest
- Writing
- Time
- Researching
- Disposable income
- Working on committees
- Well educated on many fronts (travel, master gardener) - not afraid to talk in front of people
- Willing to help if directed
- Write and design for festivals/ programs/movements
- Cook for others
- Conserve nature
- First aid skills CPR certified
- Knowledge
- Physical labor
- Writing/communication skills
- Art skills
- Phlebotomy experience
- Good worker
- Enjoy working with people
- Respect people’s opinions - collaborative
- Physically able to do a lot of things
- Energy to put toward something I believe in
- Writing skills,
- Publish articles
- Research skills
- Setting up knowledge resources
-

OUR 2U CLIMATE JUSTICE HISTORY

- Our Church sponsors educational events on climate change for not only our members but our greater Omaha community. One example is First and Second Unitarian churches co-sponsored the Climate Up Close lecture on Sunday, June 29, 2025, at First Church.
- We offer opportunities for our members to participate in other educational events related to climate change and the environment such as the tour of First Star Recycling on June 12, 2025 and the Regenerative Farm Tour on July 19, 2025.
- Our church, when possible, practices environmentally sustainable practices like converting our lights to LED, encouraging recycling, hosting a household compost drop-off site, sponsoring a community garden, utilizing drought-resistance plantings where possible to minimize irrigation, and encouraging carpooling to events such as the Gay Pride Parade.
- One of our current Building & Grounds projects is routing stormwater away from the southeast corner of the building and to a rain garden to be located near the Peace Cairn. Instead of dumping the stormwater into the street, which was our original intention, flowing the water to the rain garden will allow the water to soak into the ground and help replenish the water table. We hope to have some attractive plants in and around the rain garden.
- Second Unitarian is a member of OTOC, and from 2014 until 2023, OTOC had its Environmental and Sustainability Action Team. Several members from both First and Second Unitarian churches served on the team and participated in its actions.

APPRECIATION

Thank you once again to the planners, facilitators, participants and supporters of our Climate Justice Revival. Together we made it happen, and it's just the beginning! To conclude this report, here are the closing words from the Organizing Hour to inspire us as we go forward:

Let us breathe together and ground into the reimagined world we dream about.

A world of beauty and plenty.

A world of deep relationships with one another and the more than human world around us.

May we weave the fabric of connection and interdependence.

May we lean into love at the center.

May we know that we are not alone.

Blessed be.