

Integral Ecology Committee program on climate change, February 3, 2020

Neil Douglas introduced the program as well as the members of the Integral Ecology committee and the students from St. Catherine's Montessori School, who participated in the program. Charlotte Sullivan led the group in reading through the Care for God's Creation slide, encouraged an attitude of contemplation and then read a poem celebrating the beauty of nature. Terry Wykowski introduced a consciousness-raising exercise and presented the confluence of spirituality and integral ecology, giving credit to Cathy Petro for her insights and material. (There is a link to the slides on this website.) Neil parsed the definition of integral ecology, coming into focus on climate change as a central concern and then defined climate change and the urgent threat it represents. Further, he summarized how we know climate change is occurring and that human activity is causing it. Jacob, Julia and Isabella, as representing the generation that will inherit the problem and the burden, described the consequences of unabated climate change. Just before breaking to consider a number of questions at the various table, the students described actions that individuals can take and Neil made the point that the problem is systemic and, therefore political. The questions were considered at the tables, facilitated by a group of pre-identified facilitators for 30 minutes. Liuda Flores called on each table to give a summary of their answers and related discussions. (A link to the questions is on this website.) A summary of the results of the table work is being developed and will be posted here when it is completed.) Carol Mayes closed the meeting by reminding us that our world is, indeed, wonderful and our task is to do everything we can to keep it wonderful for future generations, ending by playing a video featuring the song *What a Wonderful World*, sung by Louis Armstrong.