

The Story of More

A small group from church recently met remotely to discuss the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team's book club read this summer: *The Story of More*,s by Hope Jahren (also the author of bestselling *Lab Girl*). In a sentence, this is a book about (as the subtitle says) *How we got to climate change and where to go from here*. A theme running through the pages is that "most of the want and suffering in the world today originates not from the Earth's inability to provide but from our inability to share ... it is because so many of us consume far beyond our needs that a great many more of us are left with almost nothing."

One of the last chapters provides five steps you can take if you want to live in a more equitable world:

1. Ask yourself, of the large number of issues raised in the book, which ones are most important to you? World hunger? Extinction of species? Weirding weather? Green energy? Pollution of the oceans? Animal rights? Public transportation? Beach erosion? Healthy school lunches? National parks? Organic farming? Arctic warming? Women's health? Identify one of those issues to focus on.
2. Then go through your habits and possessions and ask: How much of your personal life is working against your values?
3. Ask then if you can make your personal activities consistent with your values. Pick out one change that you can make. For example, can you drive fewer miles? Buy 40% less food so you discard less in the garbage? Eat fewer meals of meat each week? Buy locally? Buy less? Give up "more"?
4. Can you also make your personal investments consistent with your values?
5. And can you move your institutions toward consistency with your values? Your children's school? House of worship? Place of employment?

As Jahren points out "down the road, it won't matter what we do as much as it matters what we *all* do. ... Even if you consider yourself on the right side of environmental issues and a true believer in climate change, chances are that you are actively degrading the earth as much as, or more than, the people you argue with. An effort tempered by humility will go much further than one armored with righteousness."

The Green Sanctuary Ministry Team looks forward to the start of the new church year this fall (whether remotely or in person) and invites your participation in our events.

Toni Bandrowicz, Chair of the GSMT

THE STORY
OF MORE



How We
Get to
Climate
Change

and
Where to
Go from
Here

HOPE JAHREN
 *bestselling author of *Let's Get It**