



Midwest Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education

Implications for Teaching, Learning and Seminary Life

Tuesday, October 17

1 p.m.	Arrival and registration	Gallery
1:15 p.m.	Welcome	Centrum
1:30 p.m.	Science panel	Centrum
3:10 p.m.	Break	
3:30 p.m.	Breakout sessions	
	A pilgrimage to the holy lands of Appalachia	G133
	Climate conversations	G140
	Global ethics and theological education	L200
	Educating in place	Courtyard
	Urban Farming	Centrum
5 p.m.	Break	
6 p.m.	Dinner	Dunn Dining Hall
7:30 p.m.	Keynote address Dr. Lonnie Thompson	Centrum
9 p.m.	Closing	



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Wednesday, October 18

8 a.m.	Breakfast	Dunn Dining Hall
9 a.m.	Interreligious panel	Centrum
10:45 a.m.	Breakout sessions	
	A pilgrimage to the holy lands of Appalachia	G133
	Coalition of Immokalee Workers	G140
	Global ethics and theological education	L200
	Educating in place	Courtyard
	Urban farming	Centrum
noon	Lunch	Dunn Dining Hall
1:30 p.m.	Pedagogy panel	Centrum
3:30 p.m.	Plenary address Dr. Valerie Bridgeman	Centrum
4:30 p.m.	Closing and sending forth	Centrum



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Leaders

Keynote

Lonnie G. Thompson is a Distinguished University Professor in the School of Earth Sciences and a Research Scientist in the Byrd Polar Research Center at The Ohio State University. His research has propelled the field of ice core paleoclimatology out of the Polar Regions to the highest tropical and subtropical ice fields. His observations of glacier retreat over the last three decades confirm that glaciers around the world are melting and provide clear evidence that the warming of the last 50 years is now outside the range of climate variability for several millennia, if not longer. He has published over 185 peer-reviewed publications including several in the journal *Science*, led over 54 field programs, and has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Ocean and Atmospheric Association and NASA. Thompson has been recognized with many honors and awards including the National Medal of Science, the Tyler Prize (the World Prize for Environmental Achievement) and the Dan David Prize. In addition, he is an American Geophysical Union Fellow, an American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Plenary

Valerie Bridgeman is a farm-girl-turned-city-girl-turned-dragged-back-to-the-farm-girl. She loves working and living on Seminary Hill. She serves the school as Interim Dean and Associate Professor of Homiletics and Hebrew Bible. She also is founding president of WomanPreach! Inc., the premier organization that brings public speakers to full prophetic voice.



Leaders

Science Panel

Greg Hitzhusen is Assistant Professor of Professional Practice in Religion, Ecology and Sustainability at The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources; he sits on the President and Provost's Council on Sustainability at OSU, and was founding director and board chair of Ohio Interfaith Power and Light. He has previously worked for the National Religious Partnership for the Environment and as Land Stewardship Specialist for the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Programs. His teaching and research focus on the intersection of faith and environment, building sustainable communities, and partnerships between scientific and faith communities.

Shoshanah Inwood is rural sociologist and an assistant professor in the School of Environment and Natural Resources at The Ohio State University. She holds degrees in rural sociology, environmental science and biology. Her career has focused on the intersection of agriculture, environment, and society in the context of community and economic development. Shoshanah has maintained a dual focus studying both the role of communities in food system development and the socio-cultural household level processes that underlay the American food and agriculture system.

Jeff Reutter has worked on Lake Erie since 1971 and was the director of The Ohio State University's Sea Grant College Program and Stone Laboratory, the oldest freshwater biological field station in the country, for almost 30 years. He is now retired and working part-time as a special advisor for the programs while serving as the US Co-Chair of the US and Canadian team of scientists working on solving harmful algal bloom and dead zone issues in the Great Lakes and around the world.

Gregory Simpson holds a PhD in chemistry from the University of the West Indies, and Master of Divinity and Master of Sacred Theology degrees from Union Theological Seminary. He is the Associate Director of Alumni Relations and Planned Giving at Union Theological Seminary in New York as well as Eco-Ministry Fellow at the Center for Earth Ethics. His research is focused on Biblical ethics, intellectual property rights and climate change.

Thelma Velez, a PhD student at Ohio State University in the School of Environment and Natural Resources, has worked on domestic and international projects related to climate change, biofuel production, and sustainable agriculture. She is on the Ohio State University Food Sustainability Panel, which is working toward creating a more sustainable and resilient food system. Her current research looks at the motivations of alternative food movement actors and organizations using theories of values and perceived psychological distance.



Leaders

Interreligious Panel

Ken Kitatani is the executive director of Forum 21 Institute, a multidisciplinary research association for catalyzing positive, integrative solutions and actions for human and environmental upliftment. In 1995 Kitatani was ordained as a minister for Sukyo Mahikari Centers for Spiritual Development and currently is the assistant director of the San Francisco Center.

Geraldine Patrick Encina is the scholar in residence for the Center for Earth Ethics. “My spirituality is determined and defined by the original instructions encoded in the single spark of divine love-light from which derived all that is in an ever unfolding, evolving dynamic. I am now at a crossroads, where ecology is perpendicularly intersecting faith at a time called Now-one of urgency or sudden awakening.”

Susan Ritchie is minister of the North Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Lewis Center, Ohio, director of the UU House of Studies at MTSO, and an immediate past trustee of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Author of *Children of the Same God: Unitarianism in Historic Relationship with Judaism and Islam*, she served as theologian to the Interfaith Relationships and Climate Change Panel at the UUA’s General Assembly in 2016.

Jessica Shimberg currently serves as the spiritual leader of The Little Minyan Kehilla, a central Ohio congregation she helped create in 2006. A recovering litigator, trained mediator, and facilitator of conflict transformation, Jessica spent her early professional life assisting others in learning and utilizing collaborative ways to address systemic and interpersonal disputes. A lifetime of lessons and continued learning allows Jessica to assist others in the meaningful pursuit of an ongoing relationship with the Divine in our world through ritual, prayer, activism, and other creative and traditional approaches to religious expression.



Leaders

Pedagogy Panel

Laurel D. Kearns is Associate Professor of Sociology and Religion and Environmental Studies at Drew Theological School, and co-editor, with Catherine Keller, of *EcoSpirit: Religions and Philosophies for the Earth*. Her research is focused on religious involvement in ecological issues and movements, with particular interests in environmental justice, climate change and food. In addition to her teaching and research in religion and ecology, she founded and helps steer the Green Seminary Initiative.

abby mohaupt is co-director of the Green Seminary Initiative and a PhD student at Drew University in the Graduate Division of Religion. Her research and teaching has focused on ecology and Christian faith communities, particularly how communities live out an ecological faith.

Elaine Nogueira-Godsey is Assistant Professor of Theology, Ecology and Race at MTSO. Her research and teaching are focused on the intersection of Postcolonial Theory, Ecology, Gender and Liberation Theology. She advances pedagogical approaches to ecotheological teaching from the perspectives of gender, race, sexuality and class. Such a framework explores the contributions (practices) that religiously grounded commitment to social and environmental justice can generate for sustainable and ecologically viable societies.

Andrew Schwartz is the Deputy Director at The Center for Earth Ethics. A graduate of Union Theological Seminary, he has spent the last seven years working at the intersection of climate change, public policy and social justice.

Tim Van Meter is Associate Professor of Practical Theology in the Alford Chair of Christian Education and Youth Ministry. He teaches courses in ecology, social justice and adolescence. Research interests include climate change, food security, young adult farmers, and place based education explored through constructive and contextual theologies seeking to create communities for faithful change.



Breakout Sessions

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Appalachia (G133)

Join Fr. John Rausch and Sister Robbie Pentecost, OSF in on a virtual pilgrimage to the "Holy Land" of Appalachia. Considered a mineral colony by industry, Appalachia reveals scars from mountaintop removal and pollution that affect numerous communities. Wander the valleys with women of courage seeking to empower themselves for the future of the mountains, then pause for a mountaintop prayer as a cry for God's justice. Appalachia: now and the future.

John S. Rausch, a Glenmary priest, writes and organizes in Appalachia where he has worked for over 40 years. A strong environmentalist, he speaks out against the devastation of mountaintop removal and advocates for the rights of labor and sustainable economic development.

Robbie Pentecost, OSF, has served the Appalachian region for the past 22 years, providing tools and resources for the empowerment of women and their communities. Her commitment to God's creation flows from her Franciscan heritage and is evidenced by her organizing work to save people and their communities. She currently serves as Executive Director for the New Opportunity School for Women based in Berea, Kentucky, and is a Fellow with the Center for Women, Faith and Leadership which is part of the Institute for Global Engagement.

Climate Conversations: the distance between head and heart (Tuesday only, G140)

Come and be a part of a listening circle, one that could happen in your own community, which could "Be the Spark" for building a movement that builds leadership and empowers action on climate change based upon deeply held values and faith.

Sara Ward is the current Executive Director of Ohio Interfaith Power & Light and one of its original steering committee members. Ward previously served as Director of Ohio's State Energy Office in the Ohio Department of Development and oversaw the State's Weatherization Assistance Program. She is a recipient of the 2013 Living Faith Award and is a Green Faith Fellow, a comprehensive education and training program to prepare lay and ordained leaders from diverse religious traditions for environmental leadership. Ward is also serving as the Spiritual Director for Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

Educating in Place (Courtyard)

An exploration of how MTSO's campus shapes our teaching and learning, including the history and present work of Seminary Hill Farm. This breakout will be outside and include a significant amount of walking. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Tim Van Meter is an Associate Professor of Practical Theology in the Alford Chair of Christian Education and Youth Ministry. He teaches courses in ecology, social justice and adolescence. Research interests include climate change, food security, young adult farmers, and place based education explored through constructive and contextual theologies seeking to create communities for faithful change.



Breakout Sessions

Global Ethics and Theological Education: Implications of the Earth Charter (L200)

The Earth Charter is the product of a decade long, cross cultural, global civil society dialogue on common goals and shared values to guide development policy to support a just, sustainable and peaceful future. This breakout session will describe the implications of the Earth Charter for the disciplines of theological education, contextualizing the Earth Charter in religious and United Nations global ethics efforts.

Rick Clugston coordinates the Sustainability and Global Affairs program of the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary in NYC. He coordinates the Sustainable Development programs of the Forum 21 and has been on the Council of Earth Charter International and/or the Board of Earth Charter Associates for 17 years.

Peter Blaze Corcoran served as faculty at College of the Atlantic, Swarthmore College, Bates College and Florida Gulf Coast University and as a visiting professor at colleges in Australia, the Netherlands, Fiji, Malaysia and Kenya. He recently accepted an appointment as a Research Fellow at the University for Peace in San Jose, Costa Rica, attached to the Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development. His latest edited book is *Envisioning Futures for Environmental and Sustainability Education* (2017).

Urban Farming (Centrum)

Presentation and discussion on food, faith, and the intersectional struggle for justice in an urban Appalachian community and the spiritual and cultural connections to gardens and gardening.

Patrick Kaufman is co-founder of Franklinton Farms and Project Coordinator for MTSO's Community Food and Wellness Initiative. For nearly a decade, he has engaged in urban agriculture and community food systems work in underserved Columbus neighborhoods to resist injustice and build equitable community for all.

Widowed in 2013, **Paula Penn-Nabrit** and her late husband "CMadison" launched PN&A, Inc., a consulting firm, in 1986 and homeschooled their three sons until college. She is a 4th generation congregant at The Church of Christ of the Apostolic Faith and a graduate of Columbus School for Girls, Wellesley College and The Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University.

Coalition of Immokalee Workers (Wednesday only, G140)

Join organizer from the CIW to learn about the Fair Food Program, the movement for farmworker justice and how theological schools can be involved.

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) is a worker-based human rights organization internationally recognized for its achievements in the fields of social responsibility, human trafficking and gender-based violence at work. Built on a foundation of farmworker community organizing starting in 1993, and reinforced with the creation of a national consumer network since 2000, CIW's work has steadily grown over more than twenty years.