

Timothy L. Van Meter

Methodist Theological School in Ohio
3081 Columbus Pike
Delaware, OH 43015
(740) 362-3437 (office)
tvanmeter@mtso.edu

Education

Emory University - Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Ph.D. - Graduate Division of Religion, 2003

Teaching and Learning without Walls: A Strategy for Ecological Religious Education
Dissertation explored a place-based model to teaching ecology and religion in dialogue with natural sciences, history, culture, and barrier island ecology on Sapelo Island, one of Georgia's Barrier islands.

Emory University - Candler School of Theology

1996 - M. Div.

Exemplars of the Perfected Community: Ecumenical Institute: Chicago (thesis)
Thesis explored a late 20th century progressive intentional community seeking to reform and renew religious practice through social engagement and rigorous philosophical and religious education.

Tennessee Technological University

1985 – B.S. Geology, minors in Biology and English

Current Work

Associate Professor of Practical Theology in Alford Chair for Christian Education and Youth Ministry – 2014

Executive Committee Member, Agroecosystems Management Program, Ohio State University
(Aug 2020 – present)

Coordinator of Ecological Initiatives – 2017 to present

Degree Director – Master of Arts in Public Theology; Master of Arts in Social Justice

Recent Courses

Methodist Theological School in Ohio (2006-present)

Courses include: Practicing Ecotheology, Liberative Models of Education and Organizing; Constructing Prophetic Hope through Creative Practice; Food, Land, & Faith Formation; Spiritual Formation and Social Change; Field Theology: Water and Watersheds; Field Theology: Air and Climate Chaos

Awards, Grants, and Symposia

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute “Extending the Land Ethic: Current Humanities Voices and Sustainability.” Summer 2016.
 Grant Director, “Formation in Place: Renewing Teaching Through Attention To Our Contexts” Grant awarded through Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning, 2016.
 Grant Director, “Seminary Environmental Leadership Initiative,” 425,000.00 grant from Luce Fund for Theological Education received by MTSO, Green Seminaries Initiative, Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development for three year initiative to work with seminaries to increase ecological engagement. 2017-2019.
 Grant Director, “Theology, Ecology and Race: Crucial Intersections for Innovative Education” from Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning, for faculty, staff, students and alumni to engage in questions at core of MTSO mission and vision. (completed Oct 2020)
 Coordinator, Seminary Hill Colloquy, a gathering of scholars from around the country to engage questions about theology, ecology, and race on the campus of MTSO. 2017, 2018.

Professional Service and Affiliations

American Academy of Religion (AAR)
 Ohio Ecological Food and Farming Association (OEFFA)
 The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
 Chair, Ohio Interfaith Power & Light, 2019 – January 2021
 Treasurer, Hispanic Summer Program – an organization offering Hispanic focused graduate level theology, sociology, history, and biblical courses for seminary students (2017- Oct 2021)
 Executive Board member, Green Seminaries Initiative (2016-2020)
 Ecological Society of America (ESA)

Publications and Lectures

“Distorted Imaginations: Land, Food, and Economies”, **Liberating People, Planet, and Religion: Intersections of Ecology, Economics, and Christianity** (Religion in the Modern World series). Joerg Rieger and Terra Rowe, eds. Rowman and Littlefield, 2024.
 “Theology, Ecology, and Race: Crucial Intersections for Innovative Pedagogy,” *The Wabash Center Journal on Teaching*, vol.3, no.1, Feb 2022.
Created in Delight: Youth, Church and the Mending of the World. Portland, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2013.
 “Millennial Dreaming: Cultivating Hope and Ecological Vision” Earth Day lecture, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, April 2016.
<http://livestream.com/accounts/2709489/events/5227800>
 “Do Something for the World: Youth Ministry and Ecology”, *Circuit Rider*, Nov/Dec/Jan 2015/16, V. 40, no. 1.
 “Living in the Delight of Creation: Youth Ministry and Practices in Ecological Theology”, *Journal of Youth and Theology*, vol. 8, no. 2, 2009.
 “No Longer Guests: On the Dynamics of Agency and Formation in Ministry with Older Adolescents” co-written with Katherine Turpin, *Journal of Youth and Theology*, vol. 1, no. 2, 2002.

Plenary & Paper Presentations

- “Conspiring for Climate Justice” - Oct 2024 UCC conference at Temple Hills UCC Camp.
- “Institutional Commitments to Sustainable Practices at MTSO” Food, Faith, Farms conference, Interfaith Food Cooperative, Petaluma California, May 8, 2024.
- “Living into Resilient Church in Challenging Times” Faith United, A United Methodist Church, North Canton, OH, March 2024.
- “Faith and Resilient Farming” Ohio Farmer’s Union, Dunn Dining Hall, January 2024.
- “Uncomfortable Choices: Climate Justice for Generational Thriving” Sprague Lecture, North Broadway UMC, Sept 30, 2023
- “Climate Anxiety and Hopeful Vision” Duke University, Social 210 - Contemporary Social Problems, guest of Dr. Maria Febbo, Sept 5, 2023.
- “Climate Change Responses: Food Sovereignty and Animals within Regenerative Agriculture” Rome and Assisi Spirituality and Sustainability conference. June 2023
- “Ecological Challenges & Creation Care” East Ohio Conference Committee of Diversity and Inclusion conference, Berea, OH. April 2023
- “Shades of Green: Faithfully Financing Climate Justice” Theological Commons event, moderator and convener, March 2022
- “A Conversation about Food, Land, and Race” Ohio Ecological Food and Farming conference, February 2021.
- “Decapitalizing the Means of Thriving” in Liberating People and Planet Series, Wendland-Cook Program in Religion and Justice, Vanderbilt University. September, 2020. (online)
- “Cultivating Hope, Courage, and Vision at the End of It All” keynote Chicago Symposium for Ecologically Informed Theological Education, Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago; December 2019
- “Christian Ecological Engagements with Institutional Practice” Religion and Animals Unit, American Academy of Religion, San Diego annual meeting, Nov 2019.
- “Cultivating Hope, Courage, and Vision at the End of It All” keynote; Los Angeles Symposium for Ecologically Informed Theological Education, Brandeis-Bardin campus, American Jewish University, November 2019
- “Ecology and Theological Education in Dialogue” Charles R. Foster Education conference; Candler School of Theology, April 2019.
- “Finding Hope in the Midst of Crisis” keynote, Southwest Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education. Brite School of Divinity, Fort Worth TX, March 2019
- “Ecological Faith Formation in Place” GBGM Ecology in the Built Environment; March 2019
- “Ecological Resistance Through Art” Center for Earth Ethics conference, Union Theological Seminary, Dec 2018. Also participated in planning at Director’s request.
- “Imagining Hope: Ecology and Theology in Place” keynote, Southeast Symposium on Ecologically Informed Education, Columbia Theological Seminary, Oct 2018
- “Food Security & Faith Communities”; Duke Inaugural Food and Faith convening; Duke University World Food Policy Center, Oct 2018.
- “Ecology in Theological Education” Ecological Society of America (ESA) conference – Paper presentation; Aug 2018.
- “Theology and Ecology in Place” UMC Chaplains conference; July 2018.

- “Watershed Discipleship” Center for Earth Ethics Ministerial Training conference, Union Theological Seminary; June 2018.
- National Food System Resilience and Equity Workshop at Stanford University. Invited to be part of Ohio State Food Equity Team. May 2018
- “Eco-justice in Faith communities” - Spirituality and Sustainability conference in Assisi, Italy May 2018.
- “Imagining Hope: Ecology and Theology in Place” Ecological Society of America Annual Conference, Portland OR; August 2017.
- “Imagining Hope: Ecology and Theology in Place,” Spirituality and Sustainability Conference, Rome and Assisi, Italy; July 2017.
- “Greening Theological Education: Seminary Hill Farm and MTSO” Aldo Leopold Conference, “Bridging the Urban/Rural Divide,” Baraboo, WI; June 2017.
- “Millennial Dreaming: Cultivating Hope and Ecological Vision,” Thrive Conference, Western PA UMC conference, May 2017.
- “Weaving Ecology throughout Theological Education”; keynote at DC Symposium for Theological Education, March 2017.
- “Seeking Hope and Resilient Communities on a Warming Earth”, presented to multiple groups at churches and schools, Jan 2015-present.
- “Constrained by Hope: Art, Poetry and Resilient Community,” Food and Faith Conference, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA, June 2015.
- “Youth, Embodiment, and a TheoPoetics for Creaturely Resistance,” IASYM European Conference on Youth Ministry, Budweis, Czech Republic, April 2014.
- “What if They’re Right? Young Adults Leaving Church,” IASYM European Conference on Youth Ministry, Tallinn, Estonia, April, 2012.
- “Youth Cross-Cultural Trips in an Age of Empire: Mission, Service, Pilgrimage” International Association of Youth Ministry Conference, Cambridge, UK, January 2007.
- “Living in the Delight of Creation: Youth Ministry and Practices in Ecological Theology,” International Conference on Youth Ministry, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, UK, January 2009.

Conferences and Educational events - Planned and Led

- National Faithlands Conference - Aug 2024
- Pathways Summer Program - June 12-16, 2023
- Stinner Ambassador Education Director – 6-week educational program for young adults (ages 18-26) exploring intersections between food sovereignty, regenerative agriculture, racism, gender, climate change, community resilience. June/July 2023
- Pastoral Influence for Climate Changed World. Retreat for pastors & lay people, planned and led in partnership with Creation Justice Ministries and the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative. October 16-18, 2023.
- December 2019 – Chicago Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education, Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago - Luce Fund for Theological Education; keynote as well as planned and led conference
- November 2019 – Los Angeles Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education, Brandeis-Bardin campus of American Jewish University- Luce Fund for Theological Education, keynote as well as planned and led conference.

May 2019 - On Food and Faith: Ministry in a Time of Climate Change, MTSO – planned and led in partnership with the Climate Reality Project and the Center for Earth Ethics

April 2019 - Boston Regional Symposium on Ecology in Theological Education, Boston School of Theology, Boston University, Boston, MA - Luce Fund for Theological Education; planned and led

March 2019 - Southwestern Symposium on Ecology in Theological Education, Brite Divinity School; Fort Worth, TX - Luce Fund for Theological Education conference - keynote as well as planned and led conference

March 2018 – Southeastern Symposium on Ecology in Theological Education, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA - Luce Fund for Theological Education; keynote as well as planned and led conference

October 2017 – Midwest Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, OH - Luce Fund for Theological Education, planned and led conference.

March 2017 – DC Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education, Catholic University, Washington DC- Luce Fund for Theological Education; Keynote as well as planned and led.

Additional Service

Executive Committee Member, Agroecosystems Management Program, Ohio State University
(Aug 2020 – present)

Hispanic Scholars Program, Board member

IPEJI Eco-Justice Preaching Mentor, work with Center for Earth Ethics and Union Seminary to increase the abilities of select students to offer ecologically aware justice centered preaching as a core skill

Previous Service

Faculty Coordinator for Ecology and Justice Specializations in M.Div. MAPT, and D.Min degrees as well as Youth and Young Adult Specializations in M.Div. and MAPT degrees
Stinner Ambassador Education Director – 6-week educational program for young adults (ages 18-26) exploring intersections between food sovereignty, regenerative agriculture, racism, gender, climate change, community resilience. June/July 2023

Grant Director, Connecting Pathways for Vocation funded by Lilly Endowment. The grant offers space for intersectional ecology, antiracism, and vocational exploration