

On Food and Faith: Ministry in the Time of Climate Change



**Center for
Earth Ethics**



MTSO
Methodist Theological School in Ohio



InFACT
INITIATIVE FOR FOOD+AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION



**The Climate
Reality Project**

Who We Are



MTSO provides theological education and leadership in pursuit of a just, sustainable and generative world. On a campus of timeless beauty in Greater Columbus, graduate students of many faith traditions are equipped to embrace the challenges and complexities of vocations in ministry and service.

The school has earned national recognition for its work at the intersection of ecology and theology. The most visible element of this commitment is MTSO's Seminary Hill Farm, which grows Certified Naturally Grown produce enjoyed in the campus dining hall and shared with the broader community. The commitment extends to other areas large and small: the MTSO Community Food and Wellness Initiative; a solar panel array providing power to classrooms; geothermal wells to heat and cool campus facilities; energy-efficient lighting; even water fountains designed to easily fill reusable – rather than disposable – bottles.

This fall, MTSO launches a new degree program, the Master of Arts in Social Justice, which equips students to lead, organize, educate and collaborate in diverse contexts. The MASJ joins the school's five other graduate degrees. The Master of Divinity prepares students for ordained ministry; the MA in Counseling Ministries provides an education in pastoral counseling; the MA in Practical Theology serves students planning educational and youth ministry; the Master of Theological Studies offers concentrated study in academic areas of theology; and the Doctor of Ministry is an advanced degree program for professionals in ministry. Learn more at www.mtso.edu.



The Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT) is a transdisciplinary Discovery Theme program at The Ohio State University. The InFACT mission is to transform the way we grow, process and distribute food, leading to vibrant, sustainable and resilient agriculture that places nourishing food at the center of just and vital communities in Ohio and beyond. Over 250

diverse food and food-related experts, as well as passionate students, communities of farmers, and engaged global partners are accelerating discovery and translating new thought into practical solutions to create food systems that are sustainable, defined as achieving a balance of ecology, economy, technology, and culture, and promoting the overall well-being of people, animals and the natural environment. We work in teams that extend across Ohio State colleges and in public-private partnerships to explore new models for food systems that promote health while balancing technology, ecological capacities in the face of environmental change, economics, justice and equity. Food security is a complex challenge and requires innovation on multiple fronts to effect change. We have identified roles for the arts and humanities in questioning food culture; for science and technology in creating new methods of food production, distribution, and use; for medicine in reviving the central role of diet in health; and for policy and business in re-examining private and public support for food systems that improve security for all. The program is co-led by Faculty Director Casey Hoy (hoy.1@osu.edu) and Executive Director Brian Snyder (snyder.1534@osu.edu). For more information see discovery.osu.edu/infact. Join us: <https://discovery.osu.edu/infact/become-an-affiliate>.



Center for Earth Ethics

The Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary sits at the nexus of ecology, religion, scholarship and activism. Our mission is to cultivate the public consciousness needed to make changes in policy and culture that encourage the flourishing of all life. In order to do this, we convene, educate, and participate in movements

for ecological and climate justice. We understand the climate crisis as the result of a flawed value system that puts short term inequitable monetary gain over the long-term health of the whole. In order to mitigate this crisis, we must recognize its moral and spiritual dimensions and work with people on the frontlines to protect the aspects of life of real value: clean air, clean water, healthy food, and strong, inclusive communities. Learn more at <https://centerforearthethics.org/>.



The Climate Reality Project®

The Climate Reality Project, founded and chaired by former US Vice President and Nobel Laureate Al Gore, is dedicated to catalyzing a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every level of society.

At Climate Reality Leadership Corps trainings, individuals ready to make a difference

in our planet's future spend three days working with former Vice President Al Gore and world-renowned scientists and communicators learning about the climate crisis and how together we can solve it. Join us and gain the skills, knowledge, and network to shape public opinion, influence policy, and inspire your community to act at this critical time. Learn more at <https://www.climaterealityproject.org/training>.

The Climate Speakers Network, a program of The Climate Reality Project, trains leaders from faith, minority, and low-income communities across the US to bring this global challenge down to street level – and bring the reality of climate change home to the people in their lives. CSN partners with frontline communities to empower those most affected by fossil fuels and climate change to use their voices to create overwhelming pressure on leaders to leave dangerous fossil fuels behind and bring real climate solutions to their communities. CSN also partners with faith leaders and groups nationwide, calling on the values of compassion, courage, and stewardship all great traditions share and awakening the faith community as an unstoppable force for action to protect the planet we share. Learn more at www.climatereality.org/climatespeakers.

For more information on all of our programs please visit www.climatereality.org.

Thanks to all of our partners!

Agenda

On Food and Faith: Ministry in the Time of Climate Change
May 30 - June 1, 2019

Thursday May 30, 2019

9:00 AM **Registration and Check-In**
9:45 AM The Gallery (outside the Centrum)

9:45 AM **Opening Ceremony**
10:15 AM (Location to be provided at check-in)

10:30 AM **Plenary: Diminishing Returns to Land, Food and People**
11:45 AM Location: Alford Centrum

A look at the state of land (soil and water), farming (food production), workers, and food systems landscape.

Moderator: Rev. Valerie Bridgeman, MTSO
Randy Woodley, Portland Seminary, Eloheh/Eagle's Wings
Ximena Pedroza, Student Farmworker Alliance/Coalition of Immokalee Workers
Casey Hoy, Ohio State InFACT
Laurie Anderson, Ohio Wesleyan University

12:00 PM **Lunch**
1:00 PM Location: Dunn Dining Hall

1:15 PM **Breakout Sessions: Our Sacred Texts and Teachings**
2:45 PM Location: Gault 133, 140, 145, 150

During this session we will split into four groups. Each group will stay together. Four speakers will rotate between session rooms and offer topics designed to deepen our understanding of faith and farming. Each session will last 25 minutes.

Session Facilitators:
Sacred Texts and Teachings
Rabbi Nate DeGroot, Hazon

Islam, Ramadan, and Hunger
Dr. Marium Husain, OSU Wexner Medical Center

Seeds, Tradition, and Culture
Beth Roach, The Alliance of Native Seedkeepers

Preaching and Teaching on Food
Grace Hackney, Life Around the Table

	Room 133	Room 140	Room 145	Room 150
Start Time				
1:15	Sacred Texts and Teaching	Islam, Ramadan and Hunger	Seeds, Tradition, and Culture	Preaching and Teaching on Food
1:45	Islam, Ramadan and Hunger	Seeds, Tradition, and Culture	Preaching and Teaching on Food	Sacred Texts and Teachings
2:15	Seeds, Tradition, and Culture	Preaching and Teaching on Food	Sacred Texts and Teaching	Islam, Ramadan and Hunger
2:45	Preaching and Teaching on Food	Sacred Texts and Teachings	Islam, Ramadan and Hunger	Seeds, Tradition, and Culture

3:15 PM Break

3:30 PM Location: Gallery

3:30 PM Plenary: Farming Food Systems and Our Communities – A Discussion

4:30 PM Location: Centrum

We eat every day but often without knowing where the food comes from, who the farmers are, etc. In this workshop, we will explore our own place in our food system and how our individual choices can create positive change.

4:30 PM Overview of MTSO Farm

4:45 PM Location: Centrum

MTSO President Jay Rundell

4:45 PM Farm Tour or R&R

5:45 PM

Join tour guides from MTSO to learn more about their amazing campus and how they've integrated sustainability and farming into their daily lives. Alternatively, take the afternoon to yourself and enjoy the amenities that MTSO has to offer.

5:45 PM Dinner

7:15 PM Location: Dunn Dining Hall

7:30 PM Art for Justice

8:30 PM Location: Centrum

An evening featuring poetry and spoken word performances Michael Mercil, Terry Hermsen, Juan Armando Rojas, Barbara Fant.

Friday May 31, 2019

8:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM Location: Dunn Dining Hall

9:00 AM Morning Meditation/Earth Honoring

9:15 AM Location: Outdoor chapel or Centrum

9:30 AM Plenary: Climate and Challenges on the Farm

12:15 PM Location: Centrum

Dr. Rattan Lal, Ohio State University
Mr. Al Gore, The Climate Reality Project

12:30 PM Lunch

1:30 PM Location: Dunn Dining Hall

1:45 PM Workshops Session 1

3:30 PM Location: Gault 133, 140, 145, 150 and Library Room 200

Two sessions of 45 minutes each to allow participants to attend two sessions.

Session One: 1:45 pm to 2:30 pm

Session Two: 2:45 pm to 3:30 pm

Room	Session	Facilitator
Room 133	Standing with Farm Workers	Julie Taylor, National Farm Worker Ministry
Room 140	Localization as Economic Development	Hisham Moharram, The Good Tree, Inc.
Room 145	Making your Community Energy Efficient and Sustainable	Alycia Ashburn, Ohio IPL
Room 150	Transforming your Community, Creating Change	Landon Adams, New Salem Baptist Church
Room Library 200	Finding Wisdom in Plants	Karenna Gore and Mindahi Bastida, Center for Earth Ethics

3:45 PM Workshops Session 2
5:30 PM Gault 133, 140, 145, 150 and Library Room 200

Two sessions of 45 minutes each to allow participants to attend two sessions.

Session One: 3:45 pm – 4:30 pm Session Two: 4:45 pm – 5:30 pm

Room	Session	Facilitator
Room 133	Reparations: Embodied Earth & Spirit	Randy & Edith Woodley, Portland Seminary, Eloheh/Eagle's Wings
Room 140	Using Gardening to Heal and Grow Community	Aster Bekele, Felege Hiywot Center
Room 145	Food Apartheid	Heber Brown, Pleasant Hope Baptist Church and Erica Williams, Poor People's Campaign
Room 150	Storytelling Workshop	Jill Leanness and Alaura Carter, The Climate Reality Project
Room Library 200	Eating for Community and Climate	Sarah Withrow King, CreatureKind and Adrienne Krone, Allegheny College

5:30 PM **Casual Dinner**
6:30 PM Location: Dunn Dining Hall

Saturday June 1, 2018

8:00 AM **Breakfast**
9:00 AM Location: Dunn Dining Hall

9:00 AM **Morning Meditation**
9:45 AM Location: Outdoor chapel or Centrum

10:00 AM Breakouts: Seeds of Hope Workshops
11:00 AM Location: Gault 133, 140, 145, 150

In this series of workshops, we will hear from individuals who are working in their communities to create long-term community building change. Please select one of the four options.

Room	Session	Facilitator
Room 133	Grief, Climate Change, and Prophetic Hope	Tim Van Meter, Methodist Theological Seminary
Room 140	Protecting and Preserving Sacred Spaces	Mindahi Bastida, Center for Earth Ethics
Room 145	Preaching Hope in the Time of Climate Change	Heber Brown, Pleasant Hope Baptist Church
Room 150	Intentional and Anticipatory Communities in the Hindu Tradition	Chris Fici, Union Theological Seminary

11:00 AM Guests return to the Centrum

11:15 AM Plenary: Food Futures: Healing the Planet and Ourselves in the
12:30 PM Process
Location: Centrum

As we leave this conference, we want to turn our thoughts to where we are returning to. Our faith houses are rooted to the land and the communities they serve. In this plenary, we explore how our houses of worship can better feed and service our community's needs as the impacts of climate change become pronounced.

Moderator: Tim Van Meter, MTSO
 Elaine Nogueira, Godsey, MTSO
 Bill Miller, Ohio Farmers Union
 Brian Snyder, Ohio State InFACT
 Karena Gore, Center for Earth Ethics

12:45 AM Closing Ceremony
1:00 PM Location: Centrum

1:00 PM Training Concludes

Breakout Descriptions

Friday, May 31

Workshops Session 1: You can choose 2 sessions to attend.

Round 1: 1:45PM – 2:30PM

Round 2: 2:45PM – 3:30PM

Standing with Farm Workers

Gault 133

Julie Taylor, National Farm Worker Ministry

Farm workers often face inhumane working conditions with little opportunity for recourse because of the unjust systems that surround farm labor. In this session, you will learn how to ally with farm workers to advocate for labor and human rights.

Localization as Economic Development

Gault 140

Hisham Moharram, The Good Tree, Inc.

As the wealth gap continues to grow and economic opportunity becomes scarcer, creating new, sustainable communities can seem impossible. In this workshop, we will explore how localizing our food systems can spur economic development and independence in rural and urban communities.

Making your Community Energy Efficient and Sustainable

Gault 145

Alycia Ashburn, Ohio IPL

Many faith communities want to become more energy efficient and sustainable but are uncertain how. In this workshop, Alycia will share best practices for making your faith house (or home) more sustainable as well as recommendations for how to go about it.

Transforming your Community, Creating Change

Gault 150

Landon Adams

Many of us feel called to work outside of the church to impact our larger community. In this workshop, Landon will share tips on how to engage outside community partners to create change and inspire hope.

Finding Wisdom in Plants

Library 200

Karenna Gore, Center for Earth Ethics

Mindahi Bastida, Center for Earth Ethics

In the modern era many of us have lost touch with the natural world, including the healing found in the relationship with plants that grow in the wild. In this workshop, Karenna and Mindahi will share some readings and exercises from a course that the Center for Earth Ethics has developed over the past few years at Union Theological Seminary: Plant Wisdom and Ecological Consciousness.

Friday, May 31

Workshops Session 2 : You can choose 2 sessions to attend.

Round 1: 3:45PM – 4:30PM

Round 2: 4:45PM – 5:30PM

Reparations: Embodied Earth

Gault 133

Randy Woodley, Eloheh Eagles Wings

Edith Woodley, George Fox University & Eloheh Eagles Wings

The Western worldview, with a foundational dualistic reality, tends to think of reparations only towards people. “Reparation is the enduring effort to make compensation for what has been taken. Acts of reparation are unambiguous and should have a direct relationship to the offense.” Randy and Edith Woodley will challenge you to break with Western dualism and live a lifestyle of shalom/harmony way, which includes reparations to creation. Bring your difficult questions.

Using Gardening to Heal and Grow Community

Gault 140

Aster Bekele, Felege Hiywot Center

Food brings us together even when the world around us wants to tear us apart. In this workshop, learn how cultivating food and eating together can reshape the communities we live in.

Food Apartheid

Gault 145

Heber Brown, Pleasant Hope Baptist Church

Erica Williams, Poor People’s Campaign

There is enough food produced in the world for no one to go hungry yet countless communities around the country experience food insecurity and have little or no access to healthy, fresh foods. In this session, Heber Brown and Erica Williams will explain the systemic factors that lead to hunger and poverty in our communities, and what we can do about it.

Storytelling Workshop

Gault 150

Jill Leanness, The Climate Reality Project

Alaura Carter, The Climate Reality Project

In this session, Jill and Alaura will share how to transform the narrative on climate change into a story of opportunity and hope that can help move the dial towards community action on climate change.

Eating for Community and Climate

Library 200

Sarah Withrow King, CreatureKind

Adrienne Krone, Allegheny College

Industrial food production causes harm to the environment and vulnerable communities. Sarah and Adrienne will discuss ways that faith communities can make small changes with a big impact.

Saturday, June 1

Workshops Session 3: You can choose 1 session to attend.

10:00AM – 11:00AM

Grief, Climate Change, and Prophetic Hope

Gault 133

Tim Van Meter, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Climate change is hard. It causes fear, anxiety, and uncertainty for the future and in our political climate, it is difficult to talk about. In this workshop, we will learn how to deal with our own climate grief and how to help those in our congregations.

Protecting and Preserving Sacred Spaces

Gault 140

Mindahi Bastida, Center for Earth Ethics

Sacred spaces exist around the world. Some are in buildings while others are found deep in forests or on the shores of a lake. In this workshop, we will learn the importance of sacred spaces found in nature, why they must be protected, and how they contribute to the ecological health of the world and our spirits.

Preaching Hope in the Time of Climate Change

Gault 145

Heber Brown, Pleasant Hope Baptist Church

For many reasons climate change is not a frequent topic in our pulpits. In this workshop, Rev. Brown will help provide tips and tools for preaching effectively on climate change.

Anticipatory Communities in the Hindu Tradition

Gault 150

Chris Fici, Union Theological Seminary

Anticipatory communities reimagine how we live with one another and how we will need to live in a world redefined by climate change. Join Chris as he shares what Hinduism and anticipatory communities have to offer our changing world.