

Symposium on *Ecologically Informed Theological Education: Implications for Teaching, Learning and Seminary Life*

**Location: The Catholic University of America
School of Theology and Religious Studies, Washington D.C.**

Date: Thursday, March 16, 2017

A Call to Mid-Atlantic Area Seminary Faculty and Deans

Equipping the next generation of religious leaders to engage effectively in Creation care and environmental justice.

- Plenary, panel discussion and breakout sessions on the emerging field of faith-based environmental education in seminaries and theological schools.
- Networking and discussion on topics such as how seminaries can encourage faculty to include issues of ecology and creation-care in their existing courses in Bible, theology, homiletics and liturgy, ethics, and more, as well as innovate new courses.
- Ideas for clinical and field education and expanding vocational options.
- Planning project-based learning for the classroom, extra-curricular programs, student-actions, and community engagement with specialists in the field.

An increasing number of Americans are turning to their pastors, priests and rabbis for wisdom and guidance on ecological sustainability. Awareness is growing of the injustice and inequity of pollution and waste. This conference will offer you resources to prepare seminarians to address these ecological concerns from a faith perspective.

To register for the free conference go to <http://tinyurl.com/goa6rqq>

Lodging on the nights before and after the conference will be provided complimentary to out-of-town participants who register, as will some travel reimbursements. All meals at the conference are complimentary to registered participants.

Conference Co-organizers: The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development, the Washington Theological Consortium, the Green Seminary Initiative, and the Methodist Theological School in Ohio



This Symposium is part of The Seminary Environmental Leadership Initiative, which is funded through a grant from the Luce Fund for Theological Education, an initiative of the Henry Luce Foundation's Theology Program, and support from the Julia Burke Foundation.

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Thursday, March 16, 2017, Catholic University of America

8:30 am: Registration, coffee, light refreshments

9:00 am: Welcome from the organizers

The Promise of *Laudato Si* for Theological Education

Keynote Address from Rev. Msgr. Kevin W. Irwin, Dean Emeritus of the School of Theology and Religious Studies at the Catholic University of America and author of the forthcoming book, *A Commentary on Laudato Si, On Care for Our Common Home*.

10:30 Break

10:45 am: Breakout Sessions #1: Ecology in Seminary Mission and Community Life

After a brief introduction, participants will break into facilitated groups to discuss how to integrate ecological challenges into seminary mission, spiritual formation and community life.

12:00 pm Lunch

1 pm Afternoon Plenary: Weaving Ecology Throughout a Theological Curriculum: Impacts upon Program Development, Teaching and Learning

Presentation by **Dr. Tim Van Meter**, professor at the Methodist Theological School of Ohio

2:15 pm Break

2:30 pm Breakout sessions #2: Integrating Ecology Into Curricula and Course Development (depending on pre-registration signups):

Experienced professors will share ideas and generate conversation around ways to teach ecological themes in a range of disciplines, including Theology and Ethics, Biblical Studies; Ritual and Liturgy; Spirituality and Religious Practice; Preaching; Religious Education; Mission/Public Life; Practical-Pastoral Theology, and Field Education.

3:45 pm Break

4 pm Resources, Discoveries and Going Forward Sharing Learnings, Ideas, and Strategies to Move Forward in your Teaching and Institution.

5:15 pm Break and guided ecological walk on CUA campus

6 pm Banquet with Evening Plenary Session: Education and Engagement for Eco-theology and Justice
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Laurel Kearns, professor at Drew Theological School and co-founder of the Green Seminary Initiative, followed by discussion.

8:30 pm Conference adjourns

This draft schedule will be modified and refined as the conference planning develops. To register for the free conference, go to <http://tinyurl.com/goa6rq> Lodging on the nights before and after will be provided complimentary to out-of-town participants who register, as will some travel reimbursements. All meals at the conference are complimentary.

For questions, please contact Dr. Larry Golemon at lgolemon@wastheocon.org or Rabbi Yonatan Neril at yneril@interfaithsustain.com



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