

Invitation to a Symposium on
Ecologically Informed Theological Education:
Implications for Teaching, Learning and Seminary Life

A Call to Mid-Atlantic Area Seminary Faculty and Deans

March 16, 2017 (day long event, with half-day option)

**Location: The Catholic University of America
School of Theology and Religious Studies and Pryzbyla Center**

Objectives of the Symposium:

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

Rationale:

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

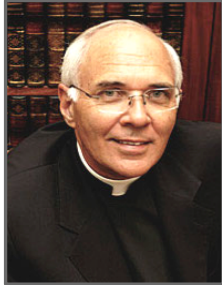
Registration:

To register for the free conference go to <http://tinyurl.com/goa6rqg>.

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



Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education: Schedule of Events, Thursday, March 16, 2017, (at CUA Pryzbyla Center)



8:30 am Registration, coffee, light refreshments

9:00 am Welcome from the organizers

Morning Plenary: *The Promise of "Laudato Si" for Theological Education*

Msgr. Kevin W. Irwin, Dean Emeritus of the School of Theology and Religious Studies at CUA. Forthcoming book, *A Commentary on Laudato Si, On Care for Our Common Home*.

10:30 Break

10:45 Breakout Sessions: *Ecology in Seminary Mission and Community Life*

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



12:00 pm Lunch (with vegan options)

1:00 Afternoon Plenary: *Weaving Ecology Throughout the Theological Curriculum: Impacts upon Program Development, Teaching and Learning*

Dr. Tim Van Meter, professor of Christian Education at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO), and **Dr. Elaine Noguera-Godsey**, assistant professor of Theology, Ecology, and Race at MTSO. Discussion Follows

2:15 Break



2:30 pm Breakout Sessions: *Integrating Ecology Into Curricula and Course Development*: discuss your teaching and curricular design. Possibilities include: Theology and Ethics, Biblical Studies, Ritual and Liturgy, Spirituality and Religious Practice, Preaching, Religious Education, Public Theology and Mission, and Field Education.

3:45 Break

4:00 Resources, Discoveries and Going Forward Sharing Learnings, Ideas, and Strategies to Move Forward in your Teaching and Institution.

5:15 Break and guided ecological walk on CUA campus



6:00 pm Dinner (with vegan options) and Evening Keynote:

Education and Engagement for Eco-Theology and Justice

Dr. Laurel Kearns, professor at Drew University and Theological School and co-founder of the Green Seminary Initiative.

Responses from a panel representing different traditions.

8:30 pm Conference adjourns

To register for the conference, go to <http://tinyurl.com/goa6rqq>. There is no charge, thanks to the support of the Julia Burke and Luce Foundations. Lodging at a nearby retreat center will be provided complimentary to out-of-town participants who register, as will some travel reimbursement. For questions, please contact Dr. Larry Golemon at lgolemon@washtheocon.org or Yonatan Neril at yneril@interfaithsustain.com.