

(CL-621) EARTH MINISTRY FOR ECOLOGICAL RENEWAL

Instructor: Pastor Ric Hudgens
Appointment
Email: ric.hudgens@garrett.edu
12pm

Office Hours: By

Class Time: Fridays, 9am -

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to orient students to many of the perspectives, challenges, and emerging approaches to ecological ministry in an age of biospheric crisis. Some of the areas covered will include the following: place-based approaches focused on bioregions, practical methods of transitioning away from fossil-fuel based lifestyles, and justice approaches focused on food security; the distinctive leadership challenges of ecological ministry in an age of multiple, intersecting crises; and innovations in ecological ministry related to climate trauma, the practices of direct action, and the role of movement chaplains. In addition to discussing weekly reading assignments, class time will include eco-devotional practices related to scripture, exercises related to The Work That Reconnects, and interviews with leading practitioners in the emerging field of ecological ministry.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students who graduate from this course will be able to:

1. Articulate the distinctives of their bioregional origins and describe how those particular socio-geographical locations inform their current dispositions toward and capacities for leadership in various ecological ministries.
2. Differentiate and evaluate place-based approaches to ecological ministry, their strengths and weaknesses, theological assumptions and contributions, and implications for leadership.
3. Analyze the place of movement-related approaches in ecological leadership, as well as the demands, requirements and opportunities for ministry in these contexts.
4. Assess The Work That Reconnects, first by understanding its goals, rationale, methods, and theological implications, second by facilitating group exercises related to this work, and third by evaluating the effectiveness of the practices.
5. Articulate a theology of leadership in various ecological ministries that connects their individual leadership profile with one particular approach studied in class, analyzing their own strengths and weaknesses, and locating the growing edge in their own emergent calling.

Required Course Texts

Updated 11/26/2019

All of these texts are in print with the exception of one which is digital only. I have not listed the marketing behemoths, but you know who they are. I have listed the publisher's price as it was on their website when I checked. One independent alternative is listed afterwards. I recommend independents (Powell's, alibris, Indiebooks, Books-A-Million). Some publishers offer discounts for buying directly from them (e.g. Wipf & Stock / Cascade).

Harding, Rosemarie Freeney and Rachel Elizabeth. *Remnants: A Memoir of Spirit, Activism, and Mothering*.
ISBN 978-0822358794 Duke University Press. \$27.95 pb (alibris \$22.95)

Macy, Joanna and Johnstone, Chris. *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're In Without Going Crazy*.
ISBN 978-1577319726 New World Library \$18.65 pb (Powell's \$12.95 used pb)

McIntosh, Alastair. *Rekindling Community: Connecting People, Environment, and Spirituality*, 2015.
ASIN B015M9SQ7M Green Books (\$4.99 Kindle / \$4.49 NOOK) E-book only

Myers, Ched, ed. *Watershed Discipleship: Reinhabiting Bioregional Faith and Practice*, 2016.
ISBN 978-1498280761 Cascade Books \$24.00 publisher (Powell's \$30.00)

Gorringe, Timothy. *The Transition Movement and the Churches*, 2013.
ISBN 978-1848255074 Canterbury Press Norwich \$15.99 pb (Books-A-Million \$12.79)

Penniman, Leah. *Farming While Black: Soul Fire Farm's Practical Guide to Liberation on the Land*, 2018.
ISBN 978-1603587617 Chelsea Green Publishing \$34.95 pb (Powell's \$34.95)

Wheatley, Margaret. *Who Do We Choose to Be? Facing Reality, Claiming Leadership, Restoring Sanity*, 2017.
ISBN 978-1523083633 Berrett-Koehler Publishers \$26.95 pb (Powell's \$24.95)

Wylie-Kellermann, Bill. *Seasons of Faith and Conscience: Explorations in Liturgical Direct Action*, 2008.
ISBN 978-1556359231 Wipf & Stock \$23.20 publisher (Books-A-Million \$23.20)

Recommended/Supplemental Course Texts

Bendell, Jem. "Deep Adaptation: A Map for Navigating Climate Tragedy."

Boggs, Grace Lee. "Introduction to Evolution and Revolution". (handout, June 28, 2017)

Updated 11/26/2019

Cordova, JanMay et al. "Resist, Organize, Transform: An Introduction to Nonviolence and Activism" (2020)

DeChristopher, Tim. "Civil Disobedience is an Act of Love." (handout)

Debiec, Jack. "How Brains and Bodies Respond to Trauma", *Sojourners*, Sept 25, 2018

Dolman, Brook, et al. *Basic Relations Guide: A Citizens Guide to Protecting and Restoring Our Watersheds* (3rd ed, 2018) Download or purchase for \$10.

Faith Matters Network. "A Guide for Movement Chaplains: Spiritual & Emotional Care During Counter-Actions to White Supremacist Hate Rallies." (Nov. 2017, pdf)

Fisher, Tim. "Three Arguments for a Radical Ecopsychology," *Ecopsychology*, Vol. 5, No, 4 Dec 2013

Ghosh, Amitav. *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable*, esp. ch 3

Harding, Vincent. "Do Not Grow Weary or Lose Heart," *Sojourners*, March 2012.

Hudgens, Ric. "The Liberating Spirituality of Vincent Harding," *Rock!Paper!Scissors!*, Vol 1, No 1, 2018

Heltzel, Peter, and Salvatierra, Alexia. *Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World*, chs. 7,8,11, Appendix

Lentz, Jeremy. *The Patterning Instinct: A Cultural History of Humanity's Search for Meaning*, ch. 21

Levine, Peter. *Healing Trauma: A Pioneering Program to Restore Healing to Your Body*, ch. 6

Hopkins, Rob. *The Transition Handbook: From Oil Dependency to Local Resilience*, selections

Macy, Joanna, and Brown, Molly. *Coming Back to Life*, ch. 4

Menoken, Resmaa. *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*, ch. 18 "Body Centered Activism"

Sales, Ruby. "Where Does It Hurt?" Interview with Krista Tippett, August 2017.
Sanford, Whitney. *Living Sustainably: What Intentional Communities Can Teach Us About Democracy, Simplicity, and Nonviolence*.

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Smith, Andrea. "Decolonizing Trauma," *Sojourners*, Sept 19, 2016

Updated 11/26/2019

Transition Network Team. "The Essential Guide to Doing Transition: Getting Transition started in your street, town, community, or organisation." (pdf)

UUA, "Protest Chaplains Handbook: A Guide for Spiritual Care at Protests" (pdf, May 2016)

Weller, Francis. *The Wild Edge of Sorrow: Rituals of Renewal and the Sacred Work of Grief*, ch 7-9

White, Monica M. *Freedom Farmers Agricultural Resistance and the Black Freedom Movement*, ch. 5

United Nations, et al. "Social Dimensions of Climate Change: Discussion Draft." (pdf, no date)

Course Requirements

A. Class attendance and Participation (15%)

B. Online Journal (15%) A semester long journal with at least one entry for each week (12 entries). A minimum expectation of 500 words per entry. This journal directly contributes to your final Bioregional Reflection Paper. You may reflect on the content of the seminar, some aspect of your reading, or one of the Work That Reconnects exercise. Not a descriptive assignment (i.e. what happened) but a reflective one: how did I engage with this; what impact is it having me; what does it leave me wondering about? How is my vision for ecological ministry leadership being formed? (6000 words total). Due by final class May 20.

C. Wild Lectionary (10%) - A 750 word meditation or devotional on one lectionary passage from a "wild lectionary" perspective (<https://radicaldiscipleship.net/tag/wild-lectionary/>). **Due March 6.**

D. Three Papers (60%)

a. Place-based approaches (20%): Pick one of the place-based approaches studied in class. Describe its essence and why it is important. What are its strengths? What are its limitations? What in particular excites you about this model? How do you see yourself fitting into this model as an ecological ministry leader? What concerns or questions do you have? (1000 words) **Due April 17**

b. Soul Care Issues or Movement-based approaches (20%): Pick a pastoral care issue or some aspect of movement-based approaches studied in class. Describe its essence and why is important. What are its strengths? What are its limitations? What in particular excites you about this model? How do you see yourself fitting into this model as an ecological ministry leader? What concerns or questions do you have? (1000 words) **Due May 12**

c. Eco-Ministry Leadership (20%) Write an eco-biography which begins with a reflection upon the ecological context where you were born and raised. What bioregion were you a part of? How did it impact you? Correlate with the ecological ministry you are feeling called to? What gifts do you bring to this calling? What limitations? What is your growing edge as an ecological ministry leader?

(1000 words) **Due May 20**

The grading system at Garrett-Evangelical is as follows:

97-100 A+	83-86 B	70-72 C-
93-96 A	80-82 B-	67-69 D+
90-92 A-	77-79 C+	63-66 D <62 F
87-89 B+	73-76 C	

Academic Policies and Support Services

Attendance: The seminary expects that students will attend all classes, but students who miss more than 20% of the class sessions should not expect to pass the class (Academic Handbook, p. 17).

Academic Accommodations: Garrett-Evangelical is committed to providing a quality theological education and will provide reasonable accommodations for documented conditions. Students requiring specific assistance such as classroom changes, alternative ways of note-taking, different classroom procedures, or alternative testing formats are urged to request the appropriate accommodations from the director of academic studies/registrar. The director of academic studies/registrar can advise students on other support services and resources, for example, diagnostic testing. Students must complete a request for accommodations using the form available from the director of academic studies/registrar or through MyGETS documenting their condition(s) through appropriate verification methods.

Writing Support: Garrett-Evangelical offers two types of writing support: content editing and proofreading. Content editing is handled through the Writing Center, under the direction of Dr. Diane Capitani. Contact Dr. Capitani at dianecapitani@aol.com to make an appointment. The student proofreading program is supervised by Ms. Krista McNeil, director of academic studies and registrar. Papers can be sent electronically to garrett-proofreaders@googlegroups.com and proofread using Microsoft Track Changes. Please allow at least 24 hours for documents that are 10 pages or less.

Plagiarism: Garrett-Evangelical takes the question of academic integrity and plagiarism very seriously. All professors are required to respond to all suspected incidents of academic dishonesty, especially plagiarism. Students are expected to understand and abide by the plagiarism policy (see Academic Handbook, p. 69-75).

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. Feb 7 **Introduction**

PART ONE

2. Feb 14 **The Earth Community We Dream Of**
McIntosh (complete)
“Social Implications of Climate Change”
3. Feb 21 **The Earth Community We (Don't) Have - I**
Macy, chs.1-4
Jem Bendell, “Deep Adaptation”
Jeremy Lentz, “Deep Transformation”
4. Feb 28 **The Earth Community We (Don't) Have - II**
Macy, chs. 5-8
Ghosh, Amitav (esp. ch 3; on reserve)
Fisher (handout)

PART TWO

5. Mar 6 **Place-based Approaches: Watershed Discipleship**
Myers (introd and afterword; selected chapters)
Basin of Relations (download)
*Wild Lectionary paper due
6. Mar 13 **Place-based Approaches: Transition Movement**
Gorringer (complete)
Guide to Transition (download)
7. Mar 20 **Place-based Approaches: Food Justice Communities**
Penniman, chs. 3,11,13
White, ch. 5
Harding, chs. 37-40

NO CLASS (Spring Break) March 27

(INTERLUDE)

8. April 3 **Leadership for Earth Community**
Wheatley (complete)
Grace Lee Boggs (handout)
Vincent Harding (handouts)
Ruby Sales (handout)

NO CLASS (Good Friday) April 10

PART THREE

9. April 17 **Soul Care Issues: Climate Anxiety, Trauma, Grief**
Weller (handout)
Levine (handout)
Menaken, ch.18 “Body Centered Activism”
Smith, “Decolonizing Trauma”

*Place-based Approaches paper due
10. April 24 **Soul Care Issues: EcoFaith Recovery**
EcoFaithRecovery.com
11. May 1 **Movement based Approaches: Liturgical Direct Action**
Wylie-Kellermann (selected chapters)
An Introduction to Nonviolence and Activism
DeChristopher (handout)
12. May 8 **Movement based Approaches: Movement Chaplaincy**
Harding, chs. 23-31
Faith-Rooted Activism (selected chapters)
Protest Chaplains Handbook
A Guide to Movement Chaplaincy
13. May 12 **Conclusion**

*Movement-based Horizons paper due
- Wednesday, May 20** ***Final paper due: Eco-Ministry Leadership**