

Preparation for Provincial Meeting Part 2

This installment (Part 2) – What is religious ecology? Until recently, we had no sense that caring for the Earth was a moral issue. No significant academic field of ecology and religion existed until after 1995. Today, more than 260 scholars in the U.S. and a network of 8,000 people around the world are examining these converging perspectives. We can learn more about the state of the issue by examining the work Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim have been doing as leaders in the religion and ecology dialogue.

Introducing our Facilitators: Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim



Mary Evelyn Tucker is a Senior Lecturer and Research Scholar at Yale University where she has appointments in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies as well as the Divinity School and the Department of Religious Studies. She teaches in the joint MA program in religion and ecology and directs the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale with her husband, John Grim. Her special area of study is Asian religions. She received her Ph.D. from Columbia University in Japanese Confucianism.

Tucker has been involved with the Earth Charter since its inception. She served on the International Earth Charter Drafting Committee from 1997-2000 and was a member of the Earth Charter International Council.

John Grim is a Senior Lecturer and Research Scholar at Yale University, where he has appointments in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies as well as the Divinity School and the Department of Religious Studies. He teaches courses in Native American and Indigenous religions and World religions and ecology.

Tucker and Grim studied world religions with Thomas Berry in graduate school and worked closely with him for 30 years. They are the managing trustees of the Thomas Berry Foundation. They founded the Forum on Religion and Ecology at a culminating conference at the United Nations in 1998. They now direct the Forum at Yale where they also teach religion and ecology.

Religion and Ecology

Video presentations

Start here:

- An Integrating Vision: Ecology, Economics, Equity by Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker, St Vincent Church – Baltimore, 2015. <https://youtu.be/ak33CUTzPv0> 67 minutes

In their series, "The Cry of the Earth: How Pope Francis Calls Us to the Science Faith, and Action of saving Our Common Home", St. Vincent (co-sponsored by St. Ignatius Catholic Community) presented Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker. of the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale. In her talk she discusses how Pope Francis highlights the conjunction of ecology, economy, and equity in what he calls an integral ecology. From this perspective, working within the limits of nature can lead to thriving human societies. In contrast, he laments, exploiting the Earth without limits has led to destruction of ecosystems and increased human inequities. This talk will explore how religious, educational and scientific communities can draw on the encyclical for assisting the flourishing of life.

If you want to go deeper:

- Chautauqua, Mary Evelyn Tucker. including Q&A <https://youtu.be/U30yWozYr5U?t=4m13s> 36 minutes to the beginning of Q&A.

Week One of the 2013 Chautauqua featured Mary Evelyn Tucker exploring the themes of her Emmy-winning documentary "Journey of the Universe." The film (based on her book with evolutionary philosopher Brian Thomas Swimme) draws together scientific discoveries in astronomy, geology and biology with humanistic insights concerning the nature of the universe.

- Presentation to The Land Institute, Nourishing Community: Ecology, Economics, Equity, 2015. 50 minutes, <https://youtu.be/Mg6COqbhhhY?t=6m21s>