

Ecology, Spirituality, and Religion

Presents:

ECO-ALCHEMY

*Anthroposophy and the History and
Future of Environmentalism*

Prof. Dan McKanan, Harvard Divinity School

For nearly a century, students of Rudolf Steiner's anthroposophy have made significant contributions to environmental activism. They created the first certification system for organic agriculture, initiated the lawsuit that inspired Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, invented community-supported agriculture, and founded the world's largest "green banks." Yet many environmentalists, including participants in these Steiner-inspired initiatives, are either unfamiliar with anthroposophy or see Steiner's worldview as incompatible with their commitments. In this presentation drawing on his new book, Harvard Divinity School professor Dan McKanan will offer an overview of Steiner's contributions to environmentalism, and suggest some of the ways Steiner-inspired initiatives challenge all environmentalists to embrace a broader sense of ecological connection.

Dan McKanan holds the Emerson chair at Harvard Divinity School, where he has taught since 2008. He first encountered biodynamic agriculture in the summer of 1995, and began spending time at Camphill Village Minnesota in 1999. For the past twenty years, he has been studying anthroposophy's contributions to social and ecological renewal, and the fruits of his research appear in *Touching the World: Christian Communities Transforming Society* (Liturgical Press, 2007) and *Eco-Alchemy: Anthroposophy and the History and Future of Environmentalism* (University of California Press, 2017). Currently he is writing a book on the evolution of the Camphill movement. Dan is a committed Unitarian Universalist and a sympathetic outsider to the anthroposophical movement.

JUNE 7TH

7:00 - 9:00 PM

ROOM 311