



Climate Stewardship Summit

Thursday, November 7, 2013
8:00am – 5:30pm
Asylum Hill Congregational Church
Hartford, CT

8:00 – 8:30 – Registration

8:30 – 8:45 – Welcoming Remarks, Opening Interfaith Prayers

Welcome – *Terri Eickel*, Interreligious Eco-Justice Network

Prayers - *Rabbi Joshua Hammerman*, Temple Beth El, *Aida Mansoor*, Muslim Coalition of CT, *Rev. Kent Siladi*, CT Conference, United Church of Christ, *Bo Gak Sunim*, Dae Yen San Buddhist Temple and Meditation Center

8:45 – 9:00 – Mission Statement of Summit

Remarks – *Rev. Tom Carr*, Second Baptist Church of Suffield

9:00 – 9:45 – KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Speaker - *Mary Evelyn Tucker*, Yale Divinity School & School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

9:45 – 10:00 – Discussion, Q & A

10:00 – 10:30 – Coffee/Tea Break

10:30 – 11:30 – ROUNDTABLE I: Faith, Morality & Climate Change

Moderator – *Dr. Yehezkel Landau*, Hartford Seminary

Participants - *Rev. Tom Carr*, Second Baptist Church of Suffield, *Rabbi Joshua Ratner*, Jewish Community Relations Council, *Bo Gak Sunim*, Dae Yen Sa Buddhist Temple and Meditation Center, *Imam Mohammed Tabarrisi*

11:30 – 12:00 – INTERFAITH WORSHIP SERVICE

12:00 – 1:00 – Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 – ROUNDTABLE II – Pathways for Advocacy & Action

Moderator – *Christine Woodside*, author

Participants - *Roger Smith*, Clean Water Action, *Rev. Jim Antal*, MA Conference, United Church of Christ, *Jose Aguto*, Friends National Committee on Legislation

2:00 – 3:30 – Workshops

1. **The Science of Climate Change & Global Warming**

This workshop will examine the scientific evidence for climate change and its disastrous impact on human society and the natural world.

Facilitator – Karim Ahmed, National Council for Science & the Environment

Participants – Raymond Bradley, University of Massachusetts*

2. **Putting Our Values to Work Through Effective Policy Advocacy**

Learn about current climate-related state and federal policy initiatives that need our support, and discuss how advocacy grounded in our religious principle can make a difference.

Facilitator – John Humphries, CT Roundtable on Climate & Jobs

Participants – Roger Smith, Clean Water Action; Jose Aguto, Friends National Committee on Legislation

3. **Divest& Reinvest Now: Fossil Fuel Divestment – and Reinvestment in a Clean Energy Future for Faith Communities**

A growing number of faith communities are debating divestment from fossil fuel holdings, and reinvestment in a clean energy future, within their endowments and pension funds. This workshop will explore the theological basis for this effort, and provide tools for the religious communities to conduct education and support resolutions on this issue, and to work with finance committees and investment trustees.

Facilitator – Patsy Bjorling, Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ

Participants – Rev. Fletcher Harper, GreenFaith

4. **Challenge & Opportunity: Raising Environmental Stewardship as a Religious Ethic**

In this workshop, participants will be able to explore various obstacles to discussing climate change within their congregations, as well as learn successful strategies used by others to transform the conversation from a political debate to a moral, ethical, and spiritual commitment.

Facilitator – Rich Walser, Yale University

Participants – Rev. Sally Bingham, Interfaith Power & Light; Geoff Feinberg, Yale University

5. **City On A Hill: How Communities of Faith Can Lead By Example Through Energy Efficiency & Renewable Technologies**

Religious communities are looked to for guidance and direction on moral issues. This workshop will discuss how our energy choices reflect our religious values and how people of faith can lead the larger community towards a just and sustainable future.

Facilitator – Terri Eickel, Interreligious Eco-Justice Network

Participants – Catherine Diviney, West Hartford Energy Specialist

6. **Spiritual Help for Hard Times: Ancient Scriptures' Hope for Life on Earth**

As we face and address the crisis of climate change, what are the moral, ethical, and spiritual teachings that emerge from the ancient texts of the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions? How might these inspire and encourage us to action for the sake of God's planet, our home?

Facilitator – Rev. Dr. Owen Owens, American Baptist Churches USA

Participants – Rev. Chuck Redfern, Quaker Hill Baptist Church, Rabbi Josh Ratner, Jewish Community Relations Council

7. The Sanctity of Nature: A Shared Value for All

To explore the concept of the sacred in nature, which is deeply embedded in Buddhist, Hindu, Taoist and Native American faith traditions. What might we learn from these traditions in addressing climate change in Western societies?

Facilitator – John Grim, Yale University

Participants – Bo Gak Sunim, Dae Yen San Buddhist Temple and Meditation Center

8. Tapping Into Potential: Encouraging Youth Action for Environmental Justice

Learn about youth groups working on issues related to climate stewardship and how to work alongside the next generation of climate stewards.

Facilitator – Desmond Batts, Goodwin College, Sarah Hillier, Office of Catholic Social Justice Ministries

Participants – Rev. Rob Mark*, Church of the Covenant, Tyrone Black

9. Worshiping the Holy in an Age of Climate Change

To worship God has always been central to the life of communities of faith. In an age of devastating ecological and human degradation, how shall we offer prayer and praise to the One who is Creator of all? This workshop will explore ways to raise the concern of climate change and environmental justice through liturgy, prayer, and worship.

Facilitator – Rev. Tom Carr, Second Baptist Church of Suffield

Participants - Rev. Stephanie Johnson, Seven Dioceses of New England, Anne Rowthorn, author

10. Faith in Action: Climate Change & Social Justice

Resource scarcity, dislocation, and loss of community resilience are all aspects of climate change that disproportionately impact people that are already marginalized and oppressed in our society. A vision of growing Beloved Community through locally based community-based resilience programs is at work in some of Connecticut's urban centers today. This panel will offer examples of visionary programs that congregations can join in to express their faith through social justice activism.

Facilitator – Rev. Dr. Frances Sink, Unitarian Universalist Society, Stamford, CT

Participants – Monique Bosh, Green Village Initiative, Nia Rhodes Jackson, Mill River Collaborative

3:30 – 3:45 – Coffee/Tea Break

3:45 – 5:15 – GRAND PLENARY ROUNDTABLE – Rising to the Challenge: Forward with Faith & Leadership for Creation

Moderator – Rev. Fletcher Harper, GreenFaith

Video Presentation – William McKibben, 350.org

Participants - Rev. Sally Bingham, Interfaith Power & Light, Rabbi Joshua Hammerman, Temple Beth El, Deacon Art Miller, Office of Black Catholic Ministries

5:15 – 5:30 – Closing, Benediction.

(* invited)