Summer Symposium 2012: Religion and Environmental Stewardship
Presenter Profiles

The Rev. Dr. Jim Antal has been an active environmentalist since the first Earth Day in 1970. After graduating from Princeton, he pursued a Ph.D. at Yale in the yet to be born field of environmental ethics. Ordained in the United Church of Christ, he has taught, served as a Chaplain and headed two national peace organizations. Antal then led congregations in Newton, Massachusetts and Shaker Heights, Ohio. In his current position as Minister and President of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, in 2007 he helped lead the Interfaith Climate Rescue Walk across Massachusetts. In conjunction with Bill McKibben, in 2008 he challenged 350 of Massachusetts’ UCC congregations to ring their church bells 350 times to raise awareness around global warming. While serving as a subject of and a spokesman for the Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow’s national Body Burden project, he discovered that being a vegetarian since 1971 did not keep his body from absorbing an undue amount of chemicals. An avid cyclist, you may see him on the road wearing his “God is Still Speaking” jersey. Jim and his wife, Cindy, have two sons.

Andy Barnett is an interdisciplinary problem solver. As an ordained Episcopal deacon, professional jazz musician, and environmental manager, he combines music, theology, and science to empower communities to make justice real. For example, he helped Ohio’s Episcopal churches articulate a theological rationale for creation care. These same churches changed 5,431 light bulbs in a program that will save roughly $298,700 and 3.6 million pounds of carbon dioxide. He also contributed to the Presidential Climate Action Project which was presented to then-Senator Barack Obama in a personal meeting. His research focuses on local climate solutions that are big enough to matter and small enough to manage. He will graduate from Yale’s joint MA program in Religion and Ecology in May 2012 and he will depart this June conference for a European tour with the Theodicy Jazz Collective.

Stephen Blackmer is completing his final year at Yale Divinity School and preparing for ordination in the Episcopal Church. Steve’s particular interest is in what Christianity (and other spiritual and religious traditions) can offer the movement to conserve Earth and her people in a time when the analytical and persuasive tools of science, economics, and policy are not enough. Prior to returning to school, Steve worked for 25 years to conserve forests and strengthen rural communities in the Northern Forest of New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, and New York. Steve is an Environmental Fellow with the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation, was a Bullard Fellow at Harvard University, and was awarded the National Conservation Partnership Award. He has a Master’s degree in Forestry from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and a Bachelor’s degree in Anthropology from Dartmouth College. Steve lives with his wife, Kelly Short, in Canterbury, New Hampshire.

The Reverend Thomas Carr is the Senior Minister of the First Baptist Church of West Hartford, Connecticut. For 25 years he has been involved in issues of ecology and environmental justice with local congregations, ecumenically and on an interfaith basis. He is the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut Eco-Justice Coordinator, served on the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Working Group, is presently part of the National Religious Coalition on Creation Care and the Interfaith Moral Action on Climate, and is co-founder of the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, Connecticut’s Interfaith Power and Light. He worked with others throughout Connecticut to pass legislation to clean up the “Sooty Six” power plants and has assisted religious communities understand the need for energy conservation, the purchase of renewable energy and the elimination of toxins. He also preaches, offers
workshops and works with religious communities helping them understand their particular faith traditions role in caring for Earth and all of God’s creation.

**Maggi Dawn** is a singer/songwriter, has cut five albums of her own songs, and organized and executed the well-known "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" on BBC Radio while at the University of Cambridge. Maggi Dawn is associate dean of Marquand Chapel and associate professor (adjunct) of theology and literature, Originally from England, Dawn came to Yale in 2011 after teaching and serving as chaplain at the University of Cambridge for a number of years. She is the author of four books: *The Accidental Pilgrim: Modern Journeys on Ancient Pathways* (Hodder and Stoughton, 2011), *The Writing on the Wall: High Art, Popular Culture and the Bible* (Hodder and Stoughton, 2010), *Giving it Up: Daily Bible Readings from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day* (Oxford: BRF, 2009), and *Beginnings and Endings (and What Happens in Between): Daily Bible Readings from Advent to Epiphany* (Oxford: BRF, 2007). Dawn is the composer of a number of contemporary songs and hymns, published variously by EMI (Kingsway) and Big Jungle Music, an ordained priest in the Church of England, an accredited pastoral supervisor with APSE (Association of Pastoral Supervisors & Educators), a writer member of PRS for Music, and a member of the Society for the Study of Theology (UK). She serves on the Advisory Board for the Royal School of Church Music and is a senior member of King’s College and Robinson College in the University of Cambridge, where she was formerly chaplain and fellow.

**Amity Doolittle**’s research focuses on property rights and how control over and access to natural resources is defined, negotiated, and contested by different stakeholders. She is interested in understanding the social and political processes that result in centuries of social inequalities and unequal distribution of the benefits and burdens of natural resources. Her research often takes on a historical approach focusing on issues of legal and cultural pluralism. Her research approach is interdisciplinary, combining perspectives from anthropology, political science, environmental history, and political ecology to explore environmental histories, property relations and conflicts over resources use. Her research has been primarily in Southeast Asia, but she has also worked on projects in Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama, and Peru. Current research is focused on history of land use change in New Haven, Connecticut.

**Geoff Feinberg** recently joined the Yale Program on Climate Change Communications as a research director. Prior to this, he was a vice president at GfK Roper Public Affairs & Corporate Communications, where he specialized in public opinion, thought leadership, social marketing, and strategic communications research for nearly 20 years. Geoff has always had a special interest in environmental topics. While at GfK, he served for several years as chief survey research consultant to The Sustaining Family Forests Initiative (http://www.sustainingfamilyforests.org), a joint effort by the American Forest Foundation, Yale F&ES, and the U.S. Forest Service. Geoff has also conducted national polls on environmental topics for Yale and Stanford University. He has served clients ranging from Fortune 500 corporations to universities to foundations to public relations firms to major media. Since its founding in 2008 until his recent move to Yale, Geoff had been GfK director of the Associated Press-GfK Poll (www.ap-gfkpoll.com), which covers a range of current political and social topics and is one of the most widely reported media polls in the world. Geoff has also worked on numerous social marketing projects including, for five years, as the primary research consultant to The Meth Project (www.methproject.org), a program designed to educate teens about the dangers of methamphetamine use. Geoff has long been active in the research community. He has served in numerous positions on the Executive Council of the New York chapter of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (NYAAPOR) including as President, Program Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer. He received the chapter’s Distinguished Service Award in 2007. Geoff is also a member of the Market Research Council.
grew up in Kent, Ohio, and was educated at Kent State University (B.A., double major in psychology and English) and Dartmouth College (M.A., experimental psychology).

Melissa Goodall is the Assistant Director of the Yale Office of Sustainability. In this role, she is responsible for strategic projects and outreach to advance Yale’s position as a global institutional leader on sustainability and climate change. She is particularly focused on fostering strategic faculty, staff, and student partnerships across the university that lead to the research and implementation of sustainability best practices. Her specific areas of interest are connecting global policy to local action; food and community; and sustainability planning. Her current projects include developing a sustainability strategy for the Yale Medical Campus, crafting a Statement of Sustainability for the Yale Office of the Vice President, and organizing the Yale Global Climate Coalition – an international workshop for students to be hosted in Rio de Janeiro in June. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the Yale Climate and Energy Institute and chairs the University’s Paper Reduction Committee and Sustainability Microlon Committee. For the five years prior to joining the Yale Sustainability team, Melissa was the Associate Director of the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy. Before coming to Yale, she spent five years as an international environmental policy project manager, primarily focused on climate change impacts, mitigation, and adaptation in developing countries. During this time, Melissa worked mainly with the United Nations Development Program. Melissa has a Master of Science in Resource Management and Administration from Antioch University New England, where she is currently pursuing her doctoral degree. She is also currently a UNEP GEO-5 research fellow. She and her husband own a sustainable coffee shop in New Haven.

Mary Gorham is a member of New Haven Friends (Quaker) Meeting, and been working to support environmental and social sustainability efforts in a number of ways. As a certified executive coach, she provides coaching, leadership development, and organizational consulting to leaders in both for-profit and nonprofit organizations who are dedicated to socially, environmentally, and financially sustainable results. She is also a Distinguished Fellow at the Fowler Center for Sustainable Value at Case Western Reserve’s Weatherhead School of Management. In this role, she and her colleagues are working to make explicit an accessible and compelling framework for understanding the reinforcing power of spirituality and sustainability. They also will be offering practices that unleash the power of individual and collective spirituality in organizations, on behalf of the simultaneous flourishing of the enterprise and of all life. Mary lives with her husband and two daughters in Woodbridge, CT where they are strong supporters of Massaro Farm, a 57-acre local community farm.

Jeanie Graustein is the Environmental Justice Ministry Coordinator for the Office of Catholic Social Justice Ministry, Archdiocese of Hartford. She works with parishioners to reflect on the theological and moral aspects of urgent challenges such as clean air and water, global climate change, environmental health and justice, and food security. Developing resources from Church tradition, recent teachings, and the sciences that show the essential links between care of creation and care of neighbor, she empowers Catholics to engage in practical action and advocacy. A 20-year member of Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS), she co-chaired the 2004 conference, “Earth’s Waters in Crisis: a Scientific, Spiritual and Moral Challenge.” She has long fascination with and involvement in Earth history, participating in archaeological and paleontological field work, and has been a docent at Yale’s Peabody Museum. B.A. in anthropology, U.C. Berkeley; M.Ed., Utah; and M.Div. (’95) Yale Divinity School
**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. He has undertaken field work with the Crow/Apsaalooke people of Montana and Salish people of Washington state. His published works include: *The Shaman: Patterns of Religious Healing Among the Ojibway Indians* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1983) and, with Mary Evelyn Tucker, a co-edited volume entitled *Worldviews and Ecology* (Orbis, 1994). With Mary Evelyn Tucker, he directed a 10 conference series and book project at Harvard on “World Religions and Ecology.” He edited *Indigenous Traditions and Ecology: The InterBeing of Cosmology and Community* (Harvard, 2001) and co-edited the Daedalus volume titled *Religion and Ecology: Can the Climate Change?* (2001). He is co-founder and co-director of the *Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale* with Mary Evelyn Tucker.

**Fletcher Harper** is an Episcopal priest and GreenFaith’s Executive Director. Under his leadership, GreenFaith has developed innovative programs linking religious belief and practice to the environment. An award-winning spiritual writer and nationally-recognized preacher on the environment, he teaches and speaks at houses of worship from a range of denominations nationwide about the moral, spiritual basis for environmental stewardship and justice. A graduate of Princeton University and Union Theological Seminary, he served as a parish priest for ten years before becoming GreenFaith’s Executive Director. He was named an Ashoka Fellow in 2011.

**Willis Jenkins’** research focuses on environmental ethics, sustainable communities, global ethics, and theological ethics. He is author of *Ecologies of Grace: Environmental Ethics and Christian Theology*, published in 2008, editor of *The Spirit of Sustainability*, and co-editor of the forthcoming *Bonhoeffer and King: Receiving Their Legacies for Christian Social Thought*. Professor Jenkins previously taught at the University of Virginia and at a rural campus of Uganda Christian University. He has significant international experience in community development initiatives, was co-founder of the Episcopal Young Adult Service Corps, and served on the Episcopal Church’s Standing Commission on World Mission, 2000–2006.

**Reverend Stephanie M. Johnson**
For nearly 20 years, Stephanie worked for government agencies and companies as a town and environmental planner with a particular emphasis on water protection. Currently, Reverend Johnson works for the Episcopal Bishops of New England providing support to nearly 600 congregations in reducing their carbon footprint. Additionally, she coordinates a *Food, Faith and Farming* project for the Episcopal Diocese of New York. Stephanie won the 2011 St Francis Philanthropic Award for Preaching on Creation Care from Earth Ministries in Seattle, Washington. She graduated from Fordham University with a BA in History and the University of Stockholm, Sweden International Graduate School with a Graduate Diploma in Policy and Planning. Reverend Johnson received her Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School in 2010 and anticipates completing a Master of Sacred Theology, also from YDS, in 2012 with a thesis on congregational environmental ministries.

**Dr. Laurel Kearns** is Associate Professor of Sociology and Religion and Environmental Studies at Drew Theological School and the Graduate Division of Religion of Drew University, where she has taught certification, masters, Ph.D and D. Min students since 1994. Born and raised in Florida, she received a B.A from Florida State in Religion, Art and Humanities, her M.A. and PhD from the Institute of Liberal Arts at Emory University in 1994, with a concentration in the Sociology of Religion. She has researched, published and given talks around the globe on religion and environmentalism for over 20 years. In addition to helping found the *Green Seminary Initiative*, she has been a board member of GreenFaith.
since 1995, and is now serving on the Sustainability Committees of both Drew University and the American Academy of Religion, where she also chaired the Religion and Ecology Steering Committee. In addition to EcoSpirit: Religions and Philosophies for the Earth, co-edited with Catherine Keller, she has contributed chapters to volumes such as the Blackwell Companion to Modern Theology; Religion, Globalization, and Culture; Earth and Word, and the forthcoming Oxford Handbook on Climate Change and Society, as well as articles in the Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature; The Encyclopedia of Women and World Religion; The Spirit of Sustainability; and journals such as Sociology of Religion and the Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion.

Donald B. Lehr is President of The Nolan/Lehr Group, a media communications consultancy based in New York City, with more than 25 years of experience guiding media relations and public affairs campaigns for foundations, associations, academic institutions, and corporations in diverse disciplines such as science, the environment, religion, ethics, publishing and sports. Lehr has worked with a variety of non-governmental organizations engaged in the United Nations climate change negotiations since 2005, including managing international media strategy for the Ecosystems Climate Alliance since its founding in 2008. His expertise includes a particular emphasis on REDD+ (Reducing Deforestation and forest Degradation in developing countries) and on forestry and land-use change in developed countries, within the context of broader climate change issues and developments. In 1988, Lehr began working with Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim on the Harvard Project on Religion and Ecology, managing communications strategy for the project’s three culminating conferences at Harvard University, the United Nations, and the American Museum of Natural History. His affiliation with the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale University has continued through the Religions of the World and Ecology book series, the Forum’s 2001 conference at AAAS in Cambridge, its updated website, and various ongoing meetings and conferences. Lehr has also developed and implemented environmental communications strategies for the Collaborative Program on the Ethical Dimensions of Climate Change, based at the Rock Ethics Institute at Pennsylvania State University, and the Australian Koala Foundation, based in Brisbane. He has directed international media relations and public affairs for the Templeton Prize since 1991 and for numerous John Templeton Foundation symposiums including “Amazing Light” at the University of California, Berkeley, honoring physicist Charles Townes; “Horizons of Truth” at the University of Vienna, honoring mathematician Kurt Gödel; and “Living in von Neumann’s World” at Princeton University, honoring scientist John von Neumann. He holds a B.A. from Haverford College and lives in Manhattan.

Beth Norcross speaks and teaches on the Scriptural and ecological imperatives to protect the earth and as an amateur naturalist has led several workshops on nature and spirituality. Beth has developed a number of educational resources, including a five-session religious study guide to the new Ken Burns film -- The National Parks: America’s Best Idea -- for WETA, the film’s sponsor. She has developed two resources for the National Council of Churches -- “Sacred Waters,” an adult education curriculum, and “Building a Firm Foundation,” an eco-friendly building guide for churches. She co-authored an article in Sally Bingham’s new book, Love God, Heal Earth. After receiving a B.A. in mathematics from Duke University as well as a Master of Forestry degree, Beth enjoyed a long career in the environmental field. She worked as professional staff for the U.S. Senate National Parks and Forests subcommittee, as well as Vice-President for Conservation for American Rivers. She holds a Master of Theological Studies degree from Wesley Seminary in Washington, D.C., with a concentration in eco-theology and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley. Her dissertation focused on “The National Parks as Sacred Ground.” She is the founder of a Washington, D.C. based women’s bicycling organization with a membership of approximately 300 women. She has three grown children and lives with her husband in Arlington, VA.
Janet Parker is an ordained United Church of Christ minister as well as a Christian ethicist. She currently serves as the Pastor for Parish Life at the Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ in Arlington, VA. She received her Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, and her Ph.D. in Christian Ethics from Union Theological Seminary in New York in 2001. Following the September 11th attacks, Janet served the Presbytery of New York City as Coordinator for Disaster Relief. From 2002-2004, Janet taught Religion and Society at Chicago Theological Seminary. During the 2004-2005 academic year, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Princeton University’s Center for the Study of Religion. She served on the theological advisory team to the World Council of Churches Decade to Overcome Violence Initiative from 2002-2006, and she has spoken at ecumenical gatherings in Tanzania, Rwanda, Geneva and Brazil. Janet is the winner of three sermon awards. She won the first environmental sermon award given by the National Council of Churches in 2007 for the sermon, “From Apocalypse to Genesis.” Also in 2007, she won the Pride sermon award for her sermon, “The Ties that Bind,” from the Religious Institute. In 2008, she won the Earth Day sermon contest sponsored by Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light for the sermon, “Noah’s Promise.” Janet is the author of numerous articles and can often be found speaking, teaching, or engaging in advocacy in various venues on issues relating to faith and the environment. She is currently working on a book project begun during a recent sabbatical that is tentatively titled, Becoming Human Again.

Christiana Z. Peppard is Assistant Professor of Theology & Science in the Department of Theology at Fordham University, Lincoln Center campus. Her current research and book projects focus on (1) valuing fresh water in an era of economic globalization; (2) the value of water and the Catholic imagination; and (3) points of divergence and convergence in the concept of nature through scientific, theological, environmental, and ethical lenses. Dr. Peppard received her Ph.D. from Yale University (2011, with distinction), an M.A.R. in Ethics from Yale Divinity School (2005), and a B.A. in Human Biology from Stanford University (2001). Her dissertation, “Valuing Water,” explores the ascription of value to fresh water in an era of economic globalization and charts a fresh water ethic from resources in moral anthropology and Catholic social teaching. With Andrea Vicini, S.J., she is co-editor of a volume in preparation, entitled Just Sustainability: Technology, Ecology, and Resource Extraction (under contract with Orbis Books). Dr. Peppard serves as a lay member of the Board of Directors of America magazine, the weekly publication of the Jesuit Conference of the United States. Prior to joining the faculty at Fordham, Dr. Peppard was Cathedral Scholar in Residence at St. John the Divine in New York City and Visiting Scholar at the Center for Ethics Education at Fordham. She is the author of several peer-reviewed articles and chapters in books on fresh water, theology and science, and ethical methodology. With the late Arthur Galston, she co-edited Expanding Horizons in Bioethics (Springer, 2005), which argued for an expansion of bioethical discourse towards the horizon of the relationship between science and society. She has trained as a hospital chaplain and participated in a National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar on Ethics at the End of Life (2003). She loves poetry, intellectual biographies, and mornings, and she lives with her spouse and their exuberant daughter in New York City.

Russell Powell recently graduated from the Yale Divinity School, earning a Master of Divinity degree. During his time at Yale he concentrated upon the intersection of Christian thought and ecological/environmental studies. He was also a "sustainability co-ordinator" at Yale Divinity School and Yale’s Office of Sustainability. This fall Russell will begin work as a PhD candidate at Princeton Theological Seminary. Additionally, Russell recently became a candidate for ordination within the Presbyterian Church (USA).

**Matthew T. Riley** is a graduate of Yale Divinity School and is a doctoral student at Drew University. Currently, he is engaged as a research assistant at the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology and he serves as a Steering Committee Member for the Religion and Ecology Group at the American Academy of Religion (AAR). In the past he has worked for the Green Seminary Initiative. Matt’s research interests include religion and ecology, the sociology of religion, and animals and religion. He is presently engaged in researching and writing a dissertation on Lynn White.

**Barbara R. Rossing** is Professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where she also directs the seminary’s Environmental Ministry Emphasis and co-teaches ecological courses in the seminary’s Zygon Center for Religion and Science. She is the author of The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation and Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today, as well as articles, preaching commentaries and book chapters on the Bible and ecology. She has participated in international World Council of Churches consultations on theology and climate change and headed the Lutheran World Federation delegations to the United Nations Climate Change COP summits in Copenhagen (2009) and Cancun (2010). She is a frequent speaker and Bible study leader at ecumenical gatherings as well as in the public media. An ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, she has served as a parish pastor and as chaplain to Harvard Divinity School. Rossing received the bachelor of arts degree from Carleton College, Northfield, Minn., the master of divinity degree from Yale University Divinity School and the doctor of theology degree from Harvard University.

**Oswald Schmitz** is the Oastler Professor of Population and Community Ecology, in the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. He studies the linkage between two important components of natural systems: biodiversity and ecosystem services. These issues are examined using field experimentation guided by formal mathematical theory of species interactions. Both theory development and field research is aimed at identifying functionally unique groupings of predators and herbivores. These insights are used to explain how predator and herbivore species determine the species composition and productivity of plants in ecosystems, and ensuing ecosystem processes such as nutrient and carbon cycling. Research also focuses on elucidating how important environmental disturbances, such as global climate change and natural resource exploitation, alter the nature and strength of species interactions in ecosystems and ensuing ecosystem services. The scientific insights aid efforts to conserve vital services that species in ecosystems provide to humankind. His research evaluates how to rethink conservation strategies by considering species as part of a natural portfolio. This portfolio represents a wealth of potential alternatives to contemporary technologically intensive and expensive approaches in environmental management. His book “Ecology and Ecosystem Conservation” encapsulates much of his thinking about biodiversity and ecosystems and was heavily inspired by the writings of Aldo Leopold. More recently, his book “Resolving Ecosystem Complexity” lays out a blueprint for conducting empirical research to provide predictive understanding of how an ecosystem’s complexity develops from the vast numbers of species interacting within it.

**Michael Schut** serves as the Economic and Environmental Affairs Officer of The Episcopal Church, following 11 years on the staff of Earth Ministry. He has edited and partially authored three books/study guides: Money and Faith: The Search for Enough; Food and Faith: Justice, Joy and Daily
Bread; and Simpler Living, Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective (which won the second best spiritual book award by the Catholic Press Association in 2000). He coordinates and provides resources for various eco-justice programs in the church and speaks and leads workshops/retreats connecting faith, justice, economics and ecology. He represented the Episcopal Church on a Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships White House Task Force on Environment and Climate Change. Michael has worked with homeless men, served as a Park Ranger, and led wilderness backpacking trips. He received his M.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of Oregon in 1993 and his B.S. in Biology in 1987 from Wheaton College in Illinois. He likes to backpack, climb, sing, read, and spend time with his nephew, Carter. He lives in Seattle.

Fred Simmons: Professor Simmons’ research and teaching examine the moral implications of Christian theological commitments and the relationships between philosophical and theological ethics. He is completing a book on the ethical and potential soteriological significance of ecology for contemporary Christians, and is co-editing a volume on love and Christian ethics.

Thomas H. Troeger, J. Edward and Ruth Cox Lantz Professor of Christian Communication at Yale Divinity School, Yale University
Professor Troeger has written twenty books in the fields of preaching, poetry, hymnody and worship, is a frequent contributor to journals dedicated to these topics, and is a monthly columnist for Lectionary Homiletics and The American Organist. He has addressed issues of ecology and the relationship between faith and science in several of his hymns, including a number of poetic texts in his 2002 collection, Above the Moon Earth Rises (Oxford University Press). His creative and scholarly publications have given special attention to the place of the imagination in the life of faith. He has led conferences and lectureships in worship and preaching throughout North America, as well as in Denmark, Holland, Australia, Japan, and Africa. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church in 1970 and in the Episcopal Church in 1999, he is dually aligned with both traditions.

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. Her concern for the growing environmental crisis, especially in Asia, led her to organize with John Grim a series of ten conferences on World Religions and Ecology at the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard (1995-1998). Together they are series editors for the ten volumes from the conferences distributed by Harvard University Press. After the conference series she and Grim 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 in a joint master's program in religion and ecology. To help shape this new interdisciplinary field they edited Worldviews and Ecology (Orbis, 1994) and a Daedalus volume titled Religion and Ecology: Can the Climate Change? (2001). Tucker also wrote: Worldly Wonder: Religions Enter Their Ecological Phase (Open Court Press, 2003). Together they are writing an introductory text which will be published by Island Press. Tucker and Grim studied world religions with Thomas Berry in graduate school and worked closely with him for some 30 years. They are the managing trustees of the Berry Foundation. Tucker edited several of Berry's books: The Great Work (Random House, 1999), Evening Thoughts (Sierra Club Books and University of California Press, 2006), The Sacred Universe (Columbia University Press, 2009), and with Grim, The Christian Future and the Fate of Earth (Orbis, 2009). Together with evolutionary philosopher, Brian Swimme, she has created a multimedia project called Journey of the Universe which consists of an HD film, a DVD series of interviews, a
book (Yale University Press, 2011), and a website. Tucker has been involved with the Earth Charter since its inception. She served on the International Earth Charter Drafting Committee from 1997-2000 and is a member of the Earth Charter International Council. She also serves on the Advisory Boards of Orion Magazine, the Garrison Institute, and Climate Central.

Nadine Unger is Assistant Professor of Climate Science in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University. Dr. Unger’s group applies numerical modeling and integrated studies to advance understanding of the dynamic role of atmospheric chemistry in the climate system. Current research interests include reactive carbon compounds from vegetation in biogeochemical-climate feedbacks, anthropogenic land cover change impacts on the short-lived climate forcers, and the effects of commercial air transport on climate and air quality. The goal is to support effective decision-making and the development of smart climate policy. Dr. Unger holds a Ph.D. from the University of Leeds (UK) and was Research Scientist at NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies between 2004-2010.


John Wargo is a Professor of Risk Analysis, Environmental Policy, and Political Science, and Chair of the Yale College Environmental Studies Major and Program. B.A., University of Pennsylvania; M.L.A. University of Massachusetts, and Ph.D., Yale University. He holds appointments in the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and the Department of Political Science. He has lectured extensively on the limits and potential of environmental law, with a focus on human health. He has just written Green Intelligence Creating Environments that Protect Human Health published by Yale Press. The book won the Independent Publishers Award of Gold Medal in the field of “environment, ecology, and nature” for 2010. It also won the 2010 Connecticut Book Award in non-fiction. It was chosen as one of Scientific American’s favorite books for 2009. Professor Wargo also wrote Our Children’s Toxic Legacy: How Science and Law Fail to Protect Us from Pesticides, published by Yale University Press in 1998 and co-author of Ecosystems: Science and Management published by Springer-Verlag. Professor Wargo participated in several National Academy of Sciences committees, analyzing children’s exposure to toxic substances. He also has testified before both Senate and House Committees, and been an advisor to the White House, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture organization, the EPA, USDA, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on environmental threats to children’s health. He has participated in the design of federal and state laws and regulations intended to reduce human exposures to air pollution, pesticides, plastics, mercury, and endocrine-disrupting chemicals.