

Ecology of Awakening: Earth Immersion for Clergy and Spiritual Leaders



June 15 - 19, 2020

Occidental (Western Sonoma), California

CEU's offered by Pacific School of Religion

With Kerry Brady, Rev. Patricia de Jong, Gopal Dayaneni and Brock Dolman

Apply by April 15.

Description: Spiritual leaders emerging in this time of disruption, injustice and uncertainty face a great challenge- a challenge that requires a renewed sense of our callings as individuals and as communities. *Ecology of Awakening: Earth Immersion* is rooted in the call to create a resilient and thriving Earth community in support of a regenerative future. In this intensive, we will explore what it is to embody a faith based activism in defense of that which is life affirming for the whole. Together, we will live into the invitation before us: to open to the wonder of being part of a creative, living universe and to rediscover our deepest belonging.

A core intention of the immersion is to 're-awaken' to ourselves, to each other, to the land and to our inherent place within the larger unfolding web as well as to the impulse that calls each of us to be a regenerative presence to all of Life. In doing so, we support what cultural historian and 'geologist' Thomas Berry called a 'functional cosmology', one that invites a practical, engaged and reverential relationship with a unifying origin story. We will open to what arises within our collective, including the ever-present grief of these times, in order to renew and revitalize the unique offering that is each of ours to bring to the world. As we become more adept at listening and responding to the creative

intelligence of Life, within and without, we allow ourselves to be transformed and bolster our ability to transform larger systems, including the communities we serve.

In our initial online meeting, we'll be joined by Gopal Dayenani, who will guide us through an honest and deep look at the impact of living within a modern industrial, extractive and exploitive system and the work of imagining what it is to create an ecologically and socially just framework – where all beings co-exist peacefully and freely in balance with a thriving Earth. We will then live, for five days, in the rolling coastal hills of Occidental, CA in a spectacular endemic ecosystem marked by abundant wildlife, active waterfalls, coastal prairie meadows, old-growth fir and oak woodlands that dwell in serpentine soils. Here we will engage in ceremony and practices that will allow us to, as theologian Ched Myers says, “animate and nurture church renewal” in support of faith-based movements that encourage spiritual growth, societal transformation and care for the living Earth.

As a community, we will live and learn from the land, drawing from the new sciences, solo time on the land, nature-based processes, listening meditation, dream-work, somatic resiliency work, council practices, ceremony and other time-tested spiritual practices that usher us towards dissolving our borders and embodying our deepest belonging. In this mysterious and fertile ground, we will become courageously curious about our roles in ministry, community care, and how we might spiritually guide our faith groups into a place of similar awakening, connection, and action. Joining us is master biologist and naturalist, Brock Dolman, who will support us in deepening our connection with and our understanding of nature's brilliance. Our fabulous chef, Nora, will nourish us with local, organic meals and her beaming presence!

Who is this for: *Ecology of Awakening: Earth Immersion* is for leaders of all faiths and traditions who have active ministries (widely defined), as well as those in seminary who are interested in re-imagining creative, regenerative religious leadership. The immersion is for those awakening from the predominant cultural story of separation who are, in their unique way, working towards a resilient, thriving Earth community for future generations. It is designed for those who have the capacity to move fluidly between inner/personal and outer/collective experience rather than for those who may, at this moment, be primarily focused on their own personal/trauma healing. While it is not designed primarily to promote personal healing or resolve issues, healing, personal clarity and deep connection can be natural outcomes of the process.

This program is grounded in our commitment to counter oppression and create just and sustainable communities. We especially welcome people of color, indigenous people and people with other identities who have historically been excluded from or invisibilized within environmental movements and communities focused on the land.

Cost: Thanks to a generous grant from the **RiverStyx Foundation**, we are able to offer this program far below our actual cost. We offer a sliding scale fee of \$950 - \$500; *with additional scholarship support available.*

For more information, or to apply, please visit:
www.ecologyofawakening.org/clergy