

MCUSA Kansas City:

Activities Related to CREATION CARE

Below are the events we noticed related to creation care, environmental justice, the doctrine of discovery, simple living, and so forth. Many of them are led by MCCN members. Unless indicated otherwise after the presenter's name, these are 1-hour workshops intended for adults.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

CREATIVELY DEFYING THE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 9:45 A.M. - 10:45 A.M.

Todd Wynward and Anita Amstutz 2203

How can modern society change its habits of indigenous land grabbing and exploitive resource extraction? Our historical cycle of colonizing attitudes sometimes seems impossible to break. How does our society create new policies, laws, relationships and practices to encourage God's vision of justice and restoration? Come ready to listen, envision, strategize and roll up your sleeves.

NOT IN ANYONE'S BACKYARD: THE ETHICS AND POLITICS OF WHERE OUR GARBAGE GOES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2-3 P.M.

Malinda Berry 2104A (Intergenerational Seminar)

Our commitment to creation care blossoms like God's reign when we expand our vision to include environmental justice. This workshop introduces participants to the environmental justice movement and provides them with resources for connecting with activists in their home communities.

CLIMATE AND COMMUNITY: INVESTING WHERE DONORS CAN'T

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1 | 3:20 P.M. - 4:20 P.M.

Mark Regier; Benjamin Bailey, community development investment partner, Heike Reichelt, World Bank Treasury Office staff (via webcam) 2204

Do you care about helping people around the world? Discover how carefully targeted investments and creative financial products are helping create sustainable solutions for people and planet not possible through charitable giving alone. Hear the stories of impact and opportunity from Pasadena to Peru that you can support.

ON THE WAY TO RADICAL CREATION DISCIPLESHIP IN THE 21ST CENTURY: TECHNOLOGY, RESOURCE EXTRACTION, INDIGENOUS LAND, AND THE SACRED INTEGRITY OF CREATED LIFE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1 | 3:20 P.M. - 4:20 P.M.

Sarah Augustine, Pastor Meg Lumsdaine, Peter Lumsdaine 2204

Christians face urgent challenges to apply gospel values in global techno-consumer society. Let's examine together why indigenous people must defend their lands from strategic mineral extraction, why technology tempts our children with seductive synthetic reality, why nano-robotics is revolutionizing warfare and the very definition of what is "alive". After briefly reporting from recent visits to indigenous movements in Latin America, we will focus on innovative strategic actions that can

be taken at this pivotal time in human history, before it is too late.

**THE CHURCH & CLIMATE CHANGE; A CALL TO ACTION OR THE MYTH OF GLOBAL WARMING?
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1 | 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.**

Luke Gascho 2201

The frequent news headlines pertaining to climate change are daunting and frequently hopeless. We are faced with several responses; choosing denial, falling into despair, or seeking change. Rather than falling into a polarized political response to this issue, the church can bring a biblically based message of hope. The seminar will explore the meanings of “For God so loved the world” and the Good Samaritan story as frameworks for responding to climate change in the global context. Our Christian way of living as passionate stewards of the earth brings an action-filled message of peace and hope.

Thursday, JULY 2

DIVESTMENT: SILVER BULLET OR SOCIAL DISTRACTION?

Thursday, JULY 2, 9:45-10:45 A.M.

Mark Regier and interfaith investment partner (via webinar) 2204

Following the successful South Africa divestment and Arab Spring, “just-say-no” campaigns promise solutions to some of our planet’s biggest problems. Divestment efforts targeting climate change, the Israel-Palestine conflict, the obesity epidemic, and more seek to leverage investor power. Discover how divestment can help—and hurt—our efforts toward a better world.

SLOW VIOLENCE AND THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

Thursday, JULY 2, 9:45-10:45 A.M.

Jennifer Halteman Schrock 2202

While Mennonites have a rich heritage as people of peace, we have not always connected the dots between our peace convictions and the Shalom that God intends for all of creation. In this century, one of the most critical forms of violence we face is violence against the land. What are the questions a peace people should be asking at this juncture in history? Beginning with Jesus’ tears wept over Jerusalem, the city that “did not recognize the things that make for peace,” the

GREEN BUILDINGS ARE ENERGIZING!

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 4:40-5:40 P.M.

Judy Martin Godshalk, Luke Gascho and Jim Smith 2104A

Learn creative building ideas to make church buildings or homes a little greener. Learn stewardship ideas for creation care friendliness and using energy more efficiently. See samples of what’s been done in presenters’ buildings and homes. This seminar explores stewardship practices to begin adding greener features to your buildings.

SITTING UNDER THEIR OWN VINES: AN ANABAPTIST BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL RESPONSE TO THE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY (Intergenerational Seminar)
THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2-3 P.M.

Iris Spekmann (the Netherlands); Katerina Friesen 2201

An international panel of young theologians will respond to the Doctrine of Discovery, known as the "Law of Christendom." They will share various Biblical and theological approaches from their points of view as Mennonite pastors, scholars and activists. They will also invite participants to join them in theological reflection, solidarity and work for justice to dismantle the Doctrine and its continued impacts today.

FRIDAY, JULY 3

THE RURAL CHURCH: REVITALIZING AGRARIAN CULTURES
FRIDAY, JULY 3, 9:45-10:45 A.M.

Roy Kauffman 2209

Agrarian cultures are local cultures shaped by ethnic heritage and natural environment. They grow out of agriculture, shaping the natural environment and being shaped by the constraints and opportunities of that environment. Agrarian cultures also have an ethnic heritage--a long multi-generational human experience of living on the land. Rural churches are local agrarian cultures and have the unique opportunity of shaping and revitalizing the agriculture of their place as they care for the land, plants and animals of their place.

THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD
FRIDAY, JULY 3, 9:45-10:45 A.M.

Vada Snider, Karen Loucks, Duane Graham 2501A

A short program to fill the senses and rejuvenate the soul. Flute and piano music based on nature themes, both sacred and secular. Beautiful photos of natural wonders from Kansas to Morocco. Also featuring humorous drawings by Jesse Graber and art by Bob Regier

PEOPLE OF THE LAND: MENNONITES AND THE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY
FRIDAY, JULY 3, 9:45-10:45 A.M.

Michelle Armster, Karin Kaufman Wall, Erica Littlewolf 2102B

Presenters will discuss the Doctrine of Discovery, the European philosophy and set of policies that justified the conquest of Native American peoples and lands. The presentation will highlight the impact this history has on the Mennonite church, its programs and Anabaptist theologies. The presentation will conclude with a time for reflection and processing.

WATERSHED DISCIPLESHIP IN KANSAS CITY: FLOATING THE KANSAS RIVER

FRIDAY, July 3, 1:30-6 p.m. (Learning Experience)

Friends of the Kaw Off-site What does Watershed Discipleship look like in a city where two rivers — the Kaw (Kansas River) and the Missouri — meet? This half-day (4.5 hour) active learning opportunity

provides a way to get outside and explore Kansas City by canoe or kayak. Along the way connect with local grassroots organizations and conservation groups working with issues related to water in the city. Learn more about what it means to care for God's creation in the Kansas River watershed, the largest prairie watershed in the world. A \$50 fee applies, and includes transportation shuttle from convention center, program fees and boat rental. All ages are welcome; children must be accompanied by an adult.

ENVIRONMENTAL SPIRITUALITY

FRIDAY, July 3, 3:45-5:30 p.m. (Learning Experience)

Sarah Augustine 2201

Native American spirituality and creation care — the story of the dancing Tewa girl.

FAIR FOOD AND FARM WORKER JUSTICE (Learning Experience)

FRIDAY, July 3, 3:45-5:30 p.m.

John Wierwille, Kimberly Hunter, Andrew Toney, Coalition of Immokalee Workers 2103C

Southeast Mennonite Conference Task Force on Farm Worker Justice along with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers will share with interactive skits and discussion about the efforts of farm workers and their allies in pursuit of justice in the fields. We will learn how we as a church can work alongside farmworkers to ensure dignity and respect for every person who makes the food on our plates possible. July 3, 3:45-5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

SUSTAINABLE LIVING IS JOY-FILLED LIVING

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 9:45-10:45

Luke Gascho 2205

Simple living has been a common theme in our church's history. As we live in a consumer driven society, we are enticed to leave the commitment to living simply and joyfully. This seminar will examine options and practices that honor the call to live within the bounds of enough. The discussion will help form a new definition of sustainable living for the church today that is energizing and filled with life-giving actions.

REWILDING THE WAY

SATURDAY, JULY 4 | 3:20 P.M. - 4:20 P.M.

Todd Wynward, Peg Bartlett, Nico Wynward-Bartlett 2502AB (Intergenerational Seminar)

How do we free ourselves from the American Way—of overconsumption, status-seeking, and fossil-fuel addiction—to join the Jesus Way? Come hear two wilderness educators and their teenage son share experiences of rewilding public education, high desert homesteading, watershed discipleship, creative co-housing, and reinventing the American Way, starting with their own lives.

ON BRINGING A MAP TO CHURCH: TOOLS FOR WATERSHED DISCIPLESHIP

SATURDAY, JULY 4 | 4:40 P.M. - 5:40 P.M. Jennifer Halteman Schrock 2204

Mennonite Creation Care Network's Every Creature Singing curriculum provides tools to help congregations learn how to care for their own neighborhoods and watersheds. Using a radius circle on an electronic map, users are guided through a series of interdisciplinary questions that are common to environmental professionals but not commonly asked in church. This interactive workshop will introduce attendees to the Circle Questions portion of the Every Creature Singing curriculum.