

Ecology and Liturgy

Convener: Samuel Torvend, OblSB, (torvensa@plu.edu) is Faculty Fellow in Humanities, Professor of Religion Emeritus, and the Director of External Relations in the Center for Vocation at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. He is a priest of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia and former professor of liturgy at the University of St. Thomas and Aquinas Institute of the Theology.

Members in Attendance: Timothy Brunk, Joseph Bush, Lisa Dahill, Kristen Daley-Mosier, Christopher Grundy, Mary McGann RSCJ, Lawrence Mick, Ellen Oak, Susan Smith, Benjamin Stewart, Samuel Torvend OblSB, Nancy Wright

Visitors: Martin Marklin

Description of Work: Seminar members gathered in person and online for the discussion of members' papers that had been sent in late Fall: an exercise in embodied gesture and sound, reports on ecological projects with Terra Divina and Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Mission, watching a visitor's video on care for bees in the United States and Kenya, and discussion with the director of Earth Ministry in Seattle.

Papers and Presentations:

- Lisa Dahill: "What Can We Confess? Climate Emotions and Costly Grace."
- Ben Stewart: "A Fragile Tree of Life: A Metaphor Touching Heaven and Earth, Death and Life."
- Ellen Oak: "Liturgy as Biomimicry."
- Larry Mick: "Sermon Collection on Laudato Si'."
- Samuel Torvend: "Early Christian Resistance to Imperial Domination of the Earth." Portions of this paper will form a chapter in his forthcoming work, *The Christ of Creation: An Ecological Christology*.

Other Work and Plans for the Future: The seminar will continue its practice of discussing papers submitted by members, considering a visit to a church or synagogue known for its commitment to environmental sustainability, meeting with religious leaders who are promoting environmental sustainability, and receiving reports on advocacy and education from denominational representatives. We have not employed a theme or topic for a particular meeting: the majority of our time is spent in discussing papers submitted by members for seminar review.

Depending on the annual meeting forum—online or at Valparaiso University—the seminar will meet to welcome visitors and new members, discuss papers, hear reports, and, if possible, welcome a representative of a religious community whose work focuses on environmental sustainability.