

What are the Benefits to Participants?

Through completion of the certificate, you will be able to:

- Practice and lead sustained biblical, theological, and ethical reflection on the role of faith communities in our ecological context;
- Present basic scientific knowledge regarding the ecological crisis, and identify reliable sources for current data on the crisis;
- Analyze the challenges of social location (race, class and gender) both in their experiences of the environmental crisis and in patterns of inclusion and participation in the environmental movement;
- Identify, evaluate, and lead a variety of religious practices – from worship to political engagement – that express and shape our vocation as caretakers of creation;
- Explore models of sustainable building and practice that broaden the landscape of sustainability and provide inspiring examples for congregations; and
- Build collegial, collaborative, and mutually supportive relationships to sustain environmental ministry into the future.



Certificate Cohort in the Field

What are the Admissions Requirements?

- A bachelor's degree is highly recommended; an M.Div. or other advanced degree is not required.
- Current or future leadership responsibility at a place of ministry or work is preferred.
- What will be most beneficial is a curious mind and a commitment to collegial learning and practice.

The Certificate is completed by attendance at two 4-day sessions (March 13 – 16, 2013 and October 9 – 12, 2013); completion of pre and post- class reading and writing assignments; active participation in class discussions and the production of a final Capstone Project and Paper.

Sessions will be held on the Hyde Park campus of McCormick Theological Seminary, 5460 South University Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

On-site housing is available at McCormick at an additional cost.

Tuition: \$900.00 for applications received on or before January 15, 2013; \$975.00 for applications received thereafter. Group discounts are available.

Contact Martha Brown at (mbrown@mccormick.edu) or 773-947-6361 for more information.

Application deadline: February 15, 2013.



Certificate in Environmental Ministry and Leadership Coming Again in 2013



Original Artwork by Shawna Bowman

The McCormick Certificate in Environmental Ministry and Leadership is designed for...

- those who are passionate about ecological questions, and those who desire to learn more...
- those who seek a deepened understanding of the state of the world, and those who seek to shape policy in the interest of healing of the world...
- those who are looking for deeper biblical and theological foundations for their practices in their own places of ministry...
- ...and those who would like to pursue all of these questions in a sustained way with a group of committed peers and colleagues!

McCormick Theological Seminary, in partnership with Faith in Place (www.faithinplace.org), offers the Certificate in Environmental Ministry and Leadership for 2013.

The program is an interactive, cross-disciplinary approach to the faith-and-environment conversation. With a proven commitment to leadership development and in the urban context of Chicago, where we enjoy relationships with many innovative and renowned ecological initiatives, McCormick Seminary and Faith in Place provide a unique partnership and setting for environmental study and practice. Our goal is to equip religious leaders with the tools that will make our impact on the earth more sustainable and more just in their own settings.

Who Will Benefit?

- Pastors and religious educators in local congregations
- People of faith seeking their role in the environmental movement
- Directors of mission, outreach, and creation care for congregations or non-profit institutions
- Congregational and community leaders committed to responding faithfully to our ecological context from a faith perspective.

What are the Topics? Who are the Instructors?

The program will focus on four major instructional themes and include times of presentation, discussion, and off-site learning.

State of the Earth, State of Creation: A Scientific and Religious Overview

The Reverend Dr. Clare Butterfield, *Executive Director, Faith in Place, Chicago, IL*

Subject matter will include a basic and nontechnical scientific description of the ecological state of the world, including up-to-date data on climate change, habitat loss, farm issues, water supply and accumulation of toxins, and a panel discussion with all the instructors about why the environment is a religious issue, from their different points of view.

Biblical Foundations: Recovering Creation

Dr. Theodore Hiebert, *Francis A. McGaw Professor of Old Testament, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL*

Subject matter will include a fundamental reexamination of the place of nature in the Scriptural roots of our faith. This will involve not just finding green texts in the Bible but cultivating a way of reading biblical texts to recover the core role of nature in biblical thought; also included will be resources for using the Bible in study, reflection, preaching, and worship.

Theological Foundations: A Down to Earth Approach to Eco-justice

The Reverend Dr. Anna Case-Winters, *Professor of Theology, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL*

Subject matter will include exploration of theological themes and foundations for the work of eco-justice. How do we think about God in relation to the natural world? How may human beings "know our place" with and within nature? Fundamental convictions on these theological questions shape our care for creation. The class will continue work on issues of energy, food, and water. Special attention to worship life (spaces, practices, and resources).

Practicing Green Faith: Christian Environmental Ethics and Action

The Reverend Dr. Jennifer R. Ayres, former *Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL, currently on faculty at Candler School of Theology.*

Subject matter will include themes in Christian environmental ethics such as sustainability, justice, and stewardship. We will pay particular attention to the intersections of ecological questions with cross-cultural, urban, and economic realities. And how do biblical and theological resources frame our interpretation of and responses to these issues? We will examine concrete religious practices of political advocacy and "greening churches."

