

Sustainability: Sustainability is the capacity to endure in a relatively ongoing way across various domains of life. In the 21st century, it refers generally to the capacity for Earth's biosphere and human civilization to co-exist.

Session 4

Carbon offset: a carbon offset is a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases made in order to compensate for emissions made elsewhere...e.g., one ton of carbon offset represents the reduction of one ton of greenhouse gases.

Season of Creation: the period between September 1st and October 4th (the feast of St. Francis of Assisi) a period of liturgical and critical reflection on the Christian call to practice Care of Creation, with a special emphasis on the Christian response to the climate change crisis.

Session 5

Advocacy: public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy

Carbon pricing: Carbon pricing is a market-based strategy for lowering global warming emissions. The aim is to put a price on carbon emissions- an actual monetary value- so that the costs of climate impacts and the opportunities for low-carbon energy options are better reflected in our production and consumption choices.

EPPN – Episcopal Public Policy Network: A grassroots network of Episcopalians across the country dedicated to carrying out the Baptismal Covenant call to “strive for justice and peace” through the active ministry of public policy advocacy.

EVP – Environmental Voter Process (environmentalvoter.org): The Environmental Voter Project aims to significantly increase voter demand for environmental leadership by identifying inactive environmentalists and then turning them into consistent activists and voters.

CCL – Citizens Climate Lobby (citizensclimatelobby.org): Citizens' Climate Lobby is a non-profit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy climate change organization focused on national policies to address climate change.

IPL – Interfaith Power and Light (interfaithpowerandlight.org): Interfaith Power and Light inspires and mobilizes people of faith and conscience to take bold and just action on climate change with the goal of creating a stable climate where humans live in right and just relationship, interconnected with a healthy, thriving, natural world.

Earth Day (earthday.org): Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22nd. Earth Day, the organization, provides a specific program for every Earth Day and sponsors and coordinates year-round advocacy around the subject of climate change on a global scale.



Session 1

Arctic tundra: Tundra comes from the Finnish word *tunturi*, meaning treeless plain. It is noted for its frost-molded landscapes, extremely low temperatures, little precipitation, poor nutrients, and short growing seasons. Dead organic material functions as a nutrient pool.

Babylonian exile: the forced detention of Jews in Babylonia following the latter's conquest of the kingdom of Judah in 598/7 and 587/6 BCE. Ezekiel was one of several prophets who kept alive the hope of returning to the Jewish homeland.

Biodiversity: biodiversity is the biological variety and variability of life on Earth. Biodiversity is a measure of variation at the genetic, species, and ecosystem level.

Covenant: a covenant is a formal, solemn, and binding agreement. The Bible records several specific covenants between God and the people of Israel.

Environmental justice: environmental justice refers to the objective of fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies, with an emphasis on economic fairness to all.

Geoengineering: geoengineering is the deliberate large-scale intervention in the Earth's natural systems in order to counteract the effects of climate change. E.g., spraying seawater thousands of meters into the air to seed the formation of clouds that will deflect sunlight; installing sun-shields or mirrors in space to reflect the sun; or injecting sun-blocking particulates into space.

Greenhouse gases: greenhouse gases are gases that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere and warm the planet. The main gases responsible for the greenhouse effect include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and water vapor (which all occur naturally), and fluorinated gases which are produced by human industry.

Habitat: habitat denotes the natural home or environment of an animal, plant or other organism. It implies the ideal living conditions for the creature's full development.

Jet stream: a narrow variable band of very strong predominantly westerly air currents encircling the globe several miles above the Earth. There are typically two or three jet streams in each of the northern and southern hemispheres.

Session Two

Creation care: the perspective that views Nature as originating in God's creative act, with the resulting responsibility for those who believe in God to treat Nature as God's gift.

de Chardin, Teilhard S.J. (b. May 1, 1881- d. April 10, 1955) was a French Jesuit priest, scientist, paleontologist, theologian, philosopher and teacher. Notable books included *The Phenomenon of Man* (1955) and *The Divine Milieu* (1957). Jesuit authorities prohibited publication of his works until after his death.

Climate change: a change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of carbon dioxide produced by human use of fossil fuels in society and industry.

Cosmic Christ: The Cosmic Christ emphasizes Christ's ongoing presence in time and space- beyond the resurrection- and underscores Christ's presence- in some way- within the Creation (Nature) itself. The term also stresses that Christ's redemptive action is not limited to "saving the souls" of individuals believers, but extends in some sense to all created beings. Cf. Ephesians 3:1-11.

Descartes, Rene (b. March 31, 1596- d. February 11, 1650) was a French philosopher, scientist, and mathematician. He is famous for his philosophical premise: "I think, therefore I am..." Among his philosophical tenets is that there is no spirit or soul in Nature, except that found in human beings (therefore "man" can treat any natural forms- including animals- as essentially soulless objects, viz., available for human exploitation).

Immanence: the state of being contained within; to be totally defined as being inside an entity or a system. The opposite of *transcendence*.

Logos: (Greek: "word," "reason," or "plan") in ancient Greek philosophy and early Christian theology, the divine reason implicit in the cosmos, ordering it and giving it form and meaning. In the New Testament, the phrase "Word (Logos) of God," found in John 1:1 and elsewhere, shows God's desire and ability to "speak" to the human.

Moltmann, Jurgen: (b. April 8, 1926) is a German Reformed theologian who is Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology at the University of Tübingen. His two most notable works are *The Theology of Hope* (1967) and *God in Creation* (1985).

Panentheism: the belief that God is present in or to all things in some way, and yet God's existence is not limited to His presence in all things, viz., the belief that God is both *immanent* in Nature and yet also *transcendent* to Nature.

Pantheism: (Greek: *pan*...all; *theos*...god). The belief in many or all gods, or the belief that God exists in, and is the same as, all things, animals, and people within the universe.

Paris Conference: the Paris Conference- or Paris Agreement- is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 parties at COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2- preferably to 1.5- degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.

Regenerative agriculture: Regenerative agriculture describes farming and grazing practices that reverse climate change by rebuilding soil organic matter and restoring degraded soil biodiversity- resulting in both carbon drawdown and improving the water cycle.

Sacramental: a sacramental is an object or action that is seen as connecting with the sacred in some symbolic way, e.g., blessing oneself with holy water. In ordinary life, any ordinary thing- since everything is created by God- can potentially be seen in its connectedness with God, viz., as a sacramental.

Transcendence: (Latin: *trans*...beyond, plus *scandere*...to climb) the act of rising above something to a superior state. Transcendence therefore means to go beyond ordinary limitations, as in moving from the purely psychological to the spiritual, or from the purely natural to the supernatural. The opposite of *immanence*.

Wisdom literature: The biblical books of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Wisdom of Solomon, and Ecclesiasticus collectively. Or...similar works, especially from the ancient Near East, containing proverbial sayings and practical maxims

Session 3

Climate justice: Climate justice is a term used to frame climate change as an ethical and political issue, rather than one that is purely environmental or physical in nature. This is done by relating the causes and effects of climate change to concepts of justice, particularly environmental justice and social justice.

Climate footprint: a climate or carbon footprint is a measure of the total greenhouse gas emissions caused by an individual, event, organization, service, place, or product, expressed as carbon dioxide equivalent.

Ethics: moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity

Eschatological: referring to the final events of history, or the ultimate destiny of humanity; a final ending or judgment...end times.

Regenerative agriculture: describes farming and grazing practices that, among other benefits, reverse climate change by rebuilding soil organic matter and restoring degraded soil biodiversity - resulting in both carbon drawdown and improving the water cycle.