

Rooted & Grounded

A Conference on Land and Christian Discipleship

CALL FOR PAPERS and WORKSHOPS

September 27-29, 2018 (begins at noon Thursday and ends at noon Saturday)

Hosted by Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana

As God's people, the church is called to imagine and embody alternative ways of relating to the land that cultivate shalom between human beings, the rest of creation, and God. To do this, we must be deeply rooted in the biblical text and engaged with present-day movements to protect the land and its resources. AMBS is pleased to announce the fourth Rooted and Grounded Conference, building on the conversations held in September 2014, October 2015, and April 2017. This year's conference will have a special focus on climate change and its effects.

We invite paper and workshop proposals for biblical and/or theological reflections on themes such as but not limited to the following:

- Climate change
- Watershed discipleship (a bioregional focus for faith)
- Place-based ecclesiology (mission, worship, community, etc.)
- Agriculture and care for the land
- Ecological regeneration and land restoration
- Revitalizing rural community
- Place and contemporary life (could include themes of migration, exile, technology, etc.)
- Race and land/place

SUBMISSIONS

Abstracts for conference papers and workshops should be between 100 and 200 words. They will be accepted until July 1, 2018, and should be emailed to rootedandgrounded@ambs.edu. Proposals should include the title of the paper or workshop, the presenter's name/s, and institutional or organizational affiliation (please indicate if you are a student). Paper presenters will have 20 minutes for their presentations, followed by 10 minutes for questions and answers. For workshop proposals, which must include an interactive component, please indicate if you prefer 30 minutes or 60 minutes.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION (including keynote speakers) is on the second page.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration opens June 1. To register, please visit www.ambs.edu/rootedandgrounded.

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46517 • 574.295.3726 • www.ambs.edu

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Thursday evening: Karena Gore, founder of the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary, will present a moral framework for concern about climate and related environmental issues. What do the world's faith traditions have to offer to a new value system based on the long-term well-being of the whole rather than short-term, inequitable monetary gains?

Friday evening: Valerie Bridgeman, Associate Professor of Homiletics and Hebrew Bible at Methodist Theological School in Ohio, will speak on "Creation as Teacher," focusing on wisdom from the wisdom literature of the Bible.

Saturday morning: Randy Woodley, Distinguished Professor of Faith and Culture at Portland (OR) Seminary, will speak on "Resurrecting Ancient Wisdom and Worldview," looking at how scriptural worldviews can help us take serious action concerning reconciling with the community of creation.

OTHER FEATURED PRESENTERS (Thursday afternoon choices)

Ben Brabson, Emeritus Professor of Physics and Climate Scientist, Indiana University Bloomington, will offer a scientific perspective on climate change.

Vurayayi Pugeni, Humanitarian Relief & Disaster Response Coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee Canada, will present on how climate change is contributing to food insecurity, migration, and conflict, especially in the Global South.

Ken Quiring, Pastor of Brandon (MB) Mennonite Church and member of the Network of Biblical Storytellers, International, will present a concert of biblical creation stories.

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Thursday, September 27: lunch presentation, afternoon papers and workshops, late afternoon networking time, evening worship and keynote by Karena Gore

Friday, September 28: morning papers and workshops, chapel, afternoon immersion experiences (exploring regional efforts), evening worship and keynote by Valerie Bridgeman

Saturday, September 29: keynote by Randy Woodley, workshops, closing conversations, ending at noon

COST

Standard conference registration rate is \$110 (including lunches), \$40 for Thursday or Friday only (including lunch), \$30 for Saturday only.

Student cost (including lunches) is \$35 for the whole conference, \$15 for Thursday or Friday only, \$5 for Saturday only. If three or more undergraduate students register from the same school, their registration is waived (they will only pay for evening meals). Free housing and transportation will be provided for up to 10 undergraduate students at Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College.

Thursday and Friday suppers are an additional \$10 each.

Scholarships may be requested by any registrant.

CONTACT

Please send questions to the conference committee at rootedandgrounded@ambs.edu

Additional information will be made available at www.ambs.edu/rootedandgrounded

For ongoing discussions, search for the Rooted and Grounded Conference on Facebook.