



Center for Earth Ethics

SPIRIT OF PLACE, SPIRIT OF EARTH An Eco-Justice Training

AGENDA

Friday, June 12 - Sunday, June 14, 2026

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

1:00–3:00 p.m. **Registration & Check-In**

Front Porch, Esopus Lodge

Upon arrival, follow signs to onsite parking. You will be directed to the Esopus Lodge for check-in. If you are staying onsite, you will be directed to your accommodations.

2:00–3:00 p.m. **Ashokan Center Campus Orientation Walk (optional)**

Meet at Front Porch, Esopus Lodge

3:30–4:30 p.m. **Welcome & Opening Ceremony**

Rec Field (Depart from Front Porch, Esopus Lodge)

Please bring an object or item from your home place, preferably water that can be poured into a communal vessel; a rock or stone; or a leaf, flower or small piece of wood. We will gather these together as part of the ceremony.

5:00–6:15 p.m. **Plenary: Spirit, Place, Earth and Eco-Justice**

Performance Hall, Esopus Lodge

Speakers: Susan Bodnar, Tiokasin Ghosthorse, Wes Gillingham, Derrick Weston.

Moderator: Karenn Gore.

This session will introduce some of the key themes and touchpoints of the whole gathering. We will explore the relationship between science and spirituality as well as the meaning of eco-justice. We will express understandings of the way that reciprocal relationship with a place can inform a sense of belonging to Earth as a whole, and what that implies for the role of faith and spiritual communities in our time.

6:30–7:30 p.m. **Buffet Dinner**

Dining Hall, Esopus Lodge

7:30–8:30 p.m. **Evening Activities (optional)**

Opportunities to gather around a fire, enjoy the sauna, or take a quiet evening walk.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

7:00–8:00 a.m. **Nature Walk** (optional)

Meet at Front Porch, Esopus Lodge

Leader: Del Orloske

7:00–8:15 a.m. **Buffet Breakfast**

Dining Hall, Esopus Lodge

8:30–9:30 a.m. **Plenary: Causes and Effects of Man-Made Climate Change and What We Can Do about Them**

Performance Hall, Esopus Lodge

Speakers: Tim Guinee, Respondents. Moderator: Karenni Gore.

Tim Guinee will draw on the work of the Climate Reality Project about the current state of the climate crisis—its causes and impacts, as well as calls to action.

9:30–10:00 a.m. **Call to Action**

Performance Hall, Esopus Lodge

Speakers: James Bhagwon, Billy Wetewea

10:15–
11:15 a.m. **Breakout Session 1: Voicing Truth: How and Where to Communicate Effectively through an Ethical Lens**

(Please see separate handout for breakout session descriptions.)

Global Prophetic Voices: Faith-Based Advocacy for Climate Justice in United Nations Processes

Performance Hall, Esopus Lodge

Facilitators: Steve Chiu, Samira Siddique

Advocating to Policymakers

Discovery Room, Esopus Lodge

Facilitators: Kathryn Beilke, Roger Downs, SD “Owl” Smith

Sacred Activism: Direct Action, Demonstrations, and Campaigns

Dining Hall, Esopus Lodge

Facilitator: Chelsea MacMillan

Exegeting the Earth: Eco-Justice Preaching for a Wounded World

Garden Room, Esopus Lodge

Facilitator: Timothy Adkins-Jones

Movement Songs for the Women’s Water Walk

Gazebo

Facilitator: Bethany Yarrow

SATURDAY, JUNE 13 (cont'd)

11:15 a.m.–
12:15 p.m. **Buffet Lunch**
Dining Hall, Esopus Lodge

11:45 a.m. –
12:15 p.m. **Liberation and Communion in the City of God: Pope Leo XIV's Teaching on AI and True Human Transcendence** (optional)
Discovery Room, Esopus Lodge (bring your lunch from Dining Hall)
Speaker: Erin Lothes

12:30–
1:15 p.m. **Plenary: Pastoral Care, Spiritual Support: Ritual, Ceremony, Sacred Teachings**
Performance Hall, Esopus Lodge
Speakers: Leonisa Ardizzone, Veronica Raya, Hakan Yesilova. Moderator: Roberto Múkaró Borrero.

The session will address the roles that faith and spiritual communities play in this time of ecological crisis and transition. This includes providing care for trauma, suffering, and loss, and providing support for emotions such as grief, anxiety, anger, shame and despair. We will discuss the various ways this happens, including through the touchstones of sacred teachings and the facilitation of ceremony and ritual. We will also keep in mind the ways in which these practices serve to cultivate a sense of belonging to Earth as a whole, and a consideration of justice across time, space, and species.

1:30–
2:30 p.m. **Breakout Session 2: Spiritual Support through Communion with Nature**
(Please see separate handout for breakout session descriptions.)

Ceremonial Songs with Water, Fire, Land and Sky
Mill Pond (Meet at Front Porch, Esopus Lodge)
Facilitator: Kaila Paulino

Integrating the Wisdom of the Land into Rituals and Traditions
Gazebo
Facilitator: Miriam Rubin

Plant Walk
Meet at Front Porch, Esopus Lodge
Facilitators: Tory Field, Poppy Jones

Circular Time Workshop
Discovery Room, Esopus Lodge
Facilitators: Kristine Hill, Sara Wolcott

Ceremonial Storying with Our More-than-Human Relatives across Territories, Time and Lineages
Garden Room, Esopus Lodge
Facilitator: Teresa Mateus

SATURDAY, JUNE 13 (cont'd)

2:45–3:30 p.m. **Plenary: Practical Action Through Community: Nurturing the Power to Provide Shelter, Transition Energy Systems, Grow Food, Co-Create Culture, and More**
Performance Hall, Esopus Lodge

Speakers: Joshua Devincenzo, Shannon Roback, Tim Van Meter. Moderator: Gregory Simpson.

For much of human history, hands-on participation in the necessities of daily living put most people in attentive relationship with the land: growing and gathering food, accessing and caring for water, crafting clothes and household necessities, and creating art and beauty. With aspects of modernity, such as outsourcing and globalization, much of that has been lost. With the advent of pollution, depletion, climate impacts, new needs also have arisen. Religious and spiritual communities are well positioned to reimagine and engage their buildings, land, and volunteer networks to address this—revitalizing and extending their purpose and reach. This session will explore various aspects of that work including disaster preparedness and relief, energy transition, watershed care, foodways, and co-creating hubs of community science and local culture.

3:45–4:30 p.m. **Breakout Session 3: Practical Action through Community**
(Please see separate handout for breakout descriptions.)

Making the Change—The Rapid Transition to Renewables
Discovery Room, Esopus Lodge
Facilitators: Samrat Pathania, Michael Richardson

Reclaiming Relationship to Land through Our Food
Kitchen Garden (Meet at Front Porch, Esopus Lodge)
Facilitators: Amy Gillingham, Ryan Cagle

Trees: The Classroom between Heaven and Earth
Dining Hall Tent, Esopus Lodge
Facilitators: Joanna Dickey, Ketti North, Laurie Seeman

The Role of Faith Communities in Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery
Performance Hall, Esopus Lodge
Facilitators: Joshua Devincenzo, Zachary Anasazi Desrosiers-Victorin, Anna Comstock

Creating Music in Community
Meet at Front Porch, Esopus Lodge
Facilitator: TBD

4:45–5:45 p.m. **Closing Session**
Performance Hall, Esopus Lodge

6:00–6:45 p.m. **Closing Ceremony**
Rec Field (Guests will walk down from Performance Hall)

SATURDAY, JUNE 13 (cont'd)

- 7:00–8:00 p.m. **Buffet Dinner**
Dining Hall, Esopus Lodge
- 7:30–8:30 p.m. **Evening Yoga** (optional)
Killian Pavilion (conditions permitting)
Facilitator: Erin Dudley
- 8:00–10 p.m. **Evening Activities** (optional)
Opportunities to gather around a fire, enjoy the sauna, or take a quiet evening walk.
- 9:30–
10:30 p.m. **Exploring the Universe from the Ashokan Center** (optional)
Hoot Hill (weather permitting)
Speaker: Bob Berman

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

- 8:30–9:30 a.m. **Buffet Breakfast**
Dining Hall, Esopus Lodge
- 9:00–9:30 a.m. **IPEJI Fellowship Ceremony** (optional)
Performance Hall, Esopus Lodge
Everyone is welcome to join the Innovative Preaching and Eco-Justice Initiative Fellows, seminarians who are celebrating the completion of their fellowship year.
- 10:00–
11:30 a.m. **Nature Hike** (optional)
Meet at Front Porch, Esopus Lodge
Leader: Del Orloske
- 12 p.m. **Check-Out**
Guests must check-out of Ashokan Center lodging by noon.