

Paul Belanger

Subject: March 14th EEE Forum on Fear, Hope, and Climate Change: Perspectives from Psychology, Neuroscience, and Theology

Attachments: 2016 Iliff Parking Lot C Location.png; 2013 REDEEMING FEAR Intro Jason Whitehead.pdf; 2016.02.19 Eco-Justice Climate Fear and Anxiety.docx

From: David Carlson [mailto:davidcarlson824@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 3:27 PM

Subject: March 14th EEE Forum on Fear, Hope, and Climate Change: Perspectives from Psychology, Neuroscience, and Theology

Dear Friends of the Ethics and Ecological Economics Forum,

The theme of the Monday, March 14th EEE Forum is **Fear, Hope, and Climate Change: Perspectives from Psychology, Neuroscience, and Theology**. We will again meet in the new large meeting space area reserved for us in the Library at the Iliff School of Theology (2323 E. Iliff Avenue), 2:00 – 4:15pm.

Two important reminders: First, please sign in at the desk in the Iliff lobby when you arrive. Second, do not park in the visitors' parking lot near the corner of S. University Blvd and E. Iliff Avenue. Instead, Iliff is providing complimentary parking in the C Lot, which is located on the east side of Gaylord Street, halfway between Iliff Avenue and Warren Court. A map for the correct parking lot is attached.

Our two highly-qualified presenters and discussion leaders are **Jason Whitehead** and **Peter Sawtell**.

The Rev. Dr. Whitehead is the Director of Consultation and Formation at Iliff and the John Wesley Iliff Senior Adjunct Lecturer in Pastoral Care. Jason has served congregations in South Carolina, Virginia, and Colorado. A licensed clinical social worker and a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA), he received his M.Div. from Union Presbyterian Seminary, his M.S.W. from Virginia Commonwealth University, and his Ph.D. in religion and psychological studies at Iliff School of Theology and the University of Denver.

In addition to his extensive practical experience, Dr. Whitehead will be drawing upon his recently published paperback book, *Redeeming Fear: A Constructive Theology for Living Into Hope* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013). (A copy of the 9-page Introduction is attached.) This book is one of the fruits of his Ph.D. dissertation, *Constructing A Neuroscientific Pastoral Theology of Fear and Hope* (2010). An excerpt:

... if fear is adaptive, if it arises in the service of the continuation of life, if it is inescapable, then there may be more to understanding its role than just survival and coping with a sometimes hostile and unpredictable world. Fear may also serve some purpose in reconnecting us with what is life-giving. (p. 142)

The Rev. Peter Sawtell is the Founder and Executive Director of **Eco-Justice Ministries**, based in Denver. From its website (www.eco-justice.org), "Eco-Justice Ministries is an independent, ecumenical agency that helps churches answer the call to care for all of God's creation, and develop ministries that are faithful, relevant and effective in working toward social justice and environmental sustainability."

In addition to serving as a prominent presenter and workshop leader at local, state, national, and international gatherings of faith-based groups, Peter has written and distributed a free weekly e-newsletter, **Eco-Justice Notes**, since February 2nd, 2001. A copy of his latest commentary, "Climate Fear and Anxiety," is attached. (Those who wish to sign up for Notes can do so most easily at <http://www.eco-justice.org/E-about.asp>.) An excerpt:

Anxiety is an unpleasant emotion, and it does take a physical toll. . . . Being anxious, being intensely concerned about real dangers [however], is a motivator that can push us toward action that is appropriate in the face of the looming climate crisis.

Approximately 20 persons attended our February 15th EEE Forum on the theme, "Geoengineering and Pricing Carbon: Two Responses to Climate Change." Thanks to **Paul Belanger**, materials distributed at this Forum, plus archived Forum meetings and associated attachments, are available on the EEE web page at http://denverclimatestudygroup.com/?page_id=683.

As always, your RSVP is requested but not required. Feel free to forward this invitation to others who may be interested.

David Carlson, EEE Forum Convener

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