

2016 Presenters: Faith and the Environment

Meet our 2016 Chapman Dialogues presenters, and learn more about the topics they will cover. Many of our speakers will participate in the closing panel discussion on Tuesday, Nov. 15.

Keynote Speakers (*in order of appearance*)



The Rt. Rev. **Eugene Taylor Sutton**, elected bishop of the Diocese of Maryland in 2008, is nationally known for his commitment to non-violence, reconciliation, the environment, and the practice of Centering Prayer. Formerly the Canon Pastor of Washington National Cathedral and Director of the Center for Prayer and Pilgrimage, Bishop Sutton has also served as a college chaplain, parish priest and professor at Vanderbilt University Divinity School. [Read more.](#)

Everything is Connected. The 14th century saint Julian of Norwich once said, “The fullness of joy is to behold God in everything.” We see evidence of the presence of God in all of nature. This presentation provides a spiritual foundation for maintaining the health and well-being of God’s creation – air, water and land, wildlife and domestic animals, local ecosystems, and the great interconnected ecosystem that the whole earth shares.



Mr. **Bill McKibben** (via video) is a founder of the grassroots climate campaign [350.org](#) and the Schumann Distinguished Professor in Residence at Middlebury College in Vermont. He is a 2014 recipient of the Right Livelihood Prize, sometimes called the ‘alternative Nobel.’ He has written a dozen books about the environment, including his first, *The End of Nature*, published 25 years ago, and his most recent, *Oil and Honey*, in which he recounts the personal and global story of the fight to build and preserve a sustainable planet.

In his **video message**, Bill McKibben implores us to come up with action plans out of this conference because, “that is what we *really* need.” He goes on to say that “climate change is the most powerful reality on planet earth...that has caused astonishing changes in a very short time. Basically we are taking everything in Genesis and running it in reverse, a kind of ongoing de-creation.” The impact of climate change on society is far-reaching. To “win the race” against time and save the “beautiful world we were given by God,” it will take “the aggressive, deep loving commitment of the faith communities to be a part of this big, broad movement.”



The Rev. Canon **Sally Bingham**, an Episcopal priest and canon for the environment in the Diocese of California, has been active in the environmental community over 30 years. She is founder and president of the The Regeneration Project, which is focused on its Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) campaign, a religious response to climate change. The IPL campaign includes a national network of more than 18,000 congregations with affiliated programs in 40 states. [Read more.](#)

Monday night screening of the soon-to-be released film [Before the Flood](#), featuring Pope Francis, and produced by Leonardo DiCaprio, followed by Q&A with Sally Bingham.



Professor **Steve Van Matre**, is an American environmental activist, author and educator. He is the founder of the Earth Education movement and chair of the [Institute for Earth Education](#). He served as a professor of environmental education and interpretation at [George Williams College](#) (later Aurora University, Illinois). Professor Van Matre has published many books and articles, and is perhaps best known for *Sunship Earth*, published in 1979. A 1999 [Nancho](#) interview states, “He has fought to put the central fact and fate of the living Earth into modern curricula and consciousness, and has seeded Earth Education networks in over a dozen countries.”

No Way Home will summarize the basic elements of life (light, air, water, and soil) and address the role we all share as educators on this journey among the stars. Drawing upon personal experiences in over a half-century of professional work around the world, Professor Van Matre will suggest that we have lost the essence of the most important role of our lives, and what we must do to regain it.

Workshop Leaders

Our workshops are categorized by the four elements: Earth, Air, Water, Fire. Attendees will be able to attend each of the workshops, which will be offered three times each.

Earth

Rabbi **Nina Beth Cardin** is active at the intersection of faith and sustainability. Known around Baltimore as “the green rabbi,” Nina founded (2012) and led (2012-2016) the Baltimore Orchard Project, an organization dedicated to strengthening food access, justice and security, and to building healthier connections between neighbors, food, land and place. She most recently chaired the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake from 2012-2015, and served as the Sustainability Consultant for the Central Maryland Ecumenical Council (from 2013-2015).



Fertility and Famine: land, abundance and the ways we behave. In this workshop Rabbi Cardin will look at biblical texts that the land’s original fertility and abundance as a gift from God. She will discuss the covenant we undertake to keep it that way, and what happens when we violate the covenant.

Air

Mr. **Josh Tulkin** has been the director of the Maryland Sierra Club since 2011. He has worked to build support in the Jewish community for environmental protection, through public policy and through personal action. Josh helped organize the first Baltimore Jewish Environmental Conference, supported Jewish communities on college campuses in focusing more on sustainability, and organized Jewish community support for federal green jobs policies. As Advocacy Director for the Jewish Funds for Justice, Josh advocates for federal policies which create economic opportunity for low-income communities, build the clean energy economy, and increase public access to basic financial services.



The Ethics of Air Quality in Maryland. Not all air is equal. On a daily basis, many communities in Maryland breathe unhealthy air. These dangerous pollutants such as smog and fine particulate matter from diesel trucks and coal can cause serious illnesses, including asthma, heart disease, and emphysema. While Maryland has made some progress, there is much more to be done. Solutions such as clean energy, efficiency, and electric vehicles, are already here to today. But lack of education and policy barriers persist. This workshop will explore air pollution from a frame of equity and justice, and discuss what steps an individual can take, and what changes the state can make, to address this issue.

Water

Ms. **Kim Coble**, vice president, environmental protection and restoration, for Chesapeake Bay Foundation, where she is responsible for the policy, advocacy, and restoration programs of the foundation. Kim Coble joined CBF in 1992 as the Virginia Senior Scientist, where she provided scientific review on regulatory issues and lobbied for water quality legislation.



Let the river flow! It is often said that what happens on the land is mirrored in the water. Could the same be true for our souls? This workshop will explore actions to restore our waters are also expressions of faith, and how the gift of action can strengthen our resolve, our relationships, and illuminate the healing revelation of love at work in our world. We will discuss examples from communities and congregations across the region and practical steps that you can take as an individual or community of faith.

Fire

Professor **Steve Van Matre**.

His workshop, ***Pieces of the Sun***, will address the flame of sunlight energy within all living things, and its ability in humans to light and heat or consume and destroy the world we know. How did we arrive on a ray of sunlight at this point in time, and what will we do with the gifts we have been given?

