



ST. ANDREW'S-WESLEY
UNITED CHURCH

13 May 2016

Dear Friend:

I'm writing to invite you and the members of your community to a July Conference, "Re-Imagining God and the World," -- the kick-off event that launches The West Coast Centre for (r)Evolutionary Theology.

An ad hoc group has been discussing starting up such a Centre for several months, with some inspiration coming from those who attended a Process Theology conference in Claremont last June; for others, it has been the work of Sally McFague at VST; and still others bring different theological directions such as evolutionary theology, panentheism, creation spirituality, Caputo's "weak theology," liberation theology and ecofeminism.

Originally, we had thought to use the term "Progressive" theology, but felt that phrase has become too tangled up in debates about Gretta Vosper. We are planning for an ongoing forum for conversation that keeps pushing the edges of God-talk, and how theology makes a difference in our lives, and in the world. Many of us don't believe in supernatural theism, but also don't believe the only alternative is atheism. Rather, we are excited about engaging in theological discussion that opens up new ways of understanding and talking about God.

Hence the Conference, stretching over the week of July 11th to the 16th, a cooperative venture of St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church, Vancouver School of Theology and Canadian Memorial United Church.

- A morning summer school course at VST, with Jay McDaniel on Ecotheology;
- An Wednesday evening lecture by Jay;
- a Thursday evening with John Cobb, on Process Theology, Jesus and his Abba;
- a Friday evening Podcast Celebration with Tripp Fuller (Home-Brewed Christianity) interviewing Sally McFague and John Cobb (our elders) and others (younger voices);
- a Saturday "theology boot camp for nerds," with Tripp, Cobb and McDaniel.

Come to any event; come to everything. It's going to be exciting. And it's not that expensive (VST course is \$240; the Podcast Celebration is \$20 (with only 100 tickets); the Theology Boot Camp is \$40, or \$10 if under/unemployed; the evenings are free).

Please let other people know about this Conference, "Re-Imagining God and the World." Please post the enclosed poster.

Register at <http://goo.gl/forms/W1IEy61U2y> or call St. Andrew's-Wesley at 604-683-4575.

And if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours truly,

Gary Paterson