

## HOPE CSA, Inc.

*Hands-On Pastoral Education using Clergy Sustaining Agriculture*

Academic year 2024 (April 2024-October 2024)

**Course: *Soil and Soul: Tending the Given toward Holy Health***

**Instructor:** The Rev. Jeffrey L. Hawkins, M. Div

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**Location:** J.L. Hawkins Family Farm / 10373 N 300 E / North Manchester, Indiana 46962

**Cost:** \$495 for the academic year

### **Course Description:**

This course is aimed at pastoral leaders in congregations, though it is neither strictly limited to professional clergy nor to those who serve in congregations. The course is built upon the participant's direct experience of creation on, and the culture of, a small, diversified family farm. The farm serves as the context for practical and theological study of the nature of the church as *oikos* [household] within the *oikoi* of Creation and Kingdom. Attention is given to those understandings and practices that make for the *soteria* ["holy health"] of the individual and the household in its spiritual, emotional, intellectual, physical, interpersonal, vocational, and creational dimensions.

### **Adaptations:**

This syllabus shows an attempt to offer a safe on-farm experience that allows for precautionary measures such as remaining outdoors, social distancing, and mask-wearing as appropriate.

### **Objectives for the Student:**

1. To integrate an "organic/agrarian" paradigm versus an "industrial/mechanistic" paradigm in the student's understanding of church and practice of ministry.
2. To gain skill in thinking and functioning based on the biblical understanding of *soteria* as "holy health," specifically:
  - a. To establish rhythms of pastoral life that are less chronic and more kairotic;
  - b. To nurture qualities of pastoral life that are less reductive and more wholistic;
  - c. To cultivate habits of pastoral life that are less reactive and more responsive;
  - d. To foster practices of pastoral life that are less mechanistic (focused on technique and technology toward "the achieved life") and more organic (consistent with "the given life").

### **Objective for the Instructor:**

To guide participant activity and conversation toward increased insight and application of the "oiko-logical" understandings and habits that make for holy health, using the resources of nature and culture on a small, diversified, family farm, the resources of faith provided by the Church, and the resources of writers and thinkers from disciplines related to theology, agrarianism, nature, culture, and Bowen family and natural systems theory.

Methods:

1. Laboratory – participants spend regular hands-on quality time outdoors in creation at Hawkins Family Farm., chiefly by **group gathering** on the farm, typically the third Monday of the month during those seasons when likelihood of good weather is greater. Participants arrive **around 9:30am**, spend time helping with farm chores and other farm work. Around noon we enjoy a hearty meal. This is followed by 90 minutes or so of quiet time. After this, the group gathers for prayer and discussion until **departing at 4pm**.
2. Food – participants gather together around the table to share food and fellowship, as an extension of their labors to help produce the food they consume and as another appropriate setting for conversation.
3. Prayer – participants spend dedicated time in both solitary and communal prayer.
4. Discussion – participants discuss issues relevant to “holy health,” making use of learning from the day’s activities on the farm and the assigned reading.
5. Assigned reading – participants are assigned reading to complete each month. *The following are tentatively selected for 2024. (A firm decision will come in February)*
  - a. The Holy Bible
  - b. *Indigenous Theology and the Wester Worldview: A Decolonized Approach to Christian Doctrine*, by Randy S. Woodley, 2022.
  - c. *The Planet You Inherit: Letters to My Grandchildren When Uncertainty’s a Sure Thing*, by Larry Rasmussen, 2022.

Dates for 2023	Group 930am-4pm, usually <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Mon</b>	No group gathering on farm	Reading Assignment
January/ February/		x	
March 18, 12:15pm- 1:15pm		ZOOM CHECK- IN	Hour-long Zoom meeting to “check-in” and begin book discussion. Woodley, Preface, ix-xii + Opening Interview, pp.1-8 Rasmussen, Foreword + Author’s Note, pp.1-7
April 15	x		Woodley, Myths, pp.9-43 Rasmussen, Epoch + Tender + Home + Story, pp.9-40
May 20	x		Woodley, Myths Q&R, pp. 44-52 Rasmussen, Plague + Legs + Microbial, pp. 41-62
June 17	x		Woodley, Worldviews, pp. 53-74 Rasmussen, Score + We/They + Human, pp. 63-84
July 15	x		Woodley, Worldviews Q & R, pp.75-88 Rasmussen, Same + Name + Age, pp. 85-108
August 12 (one week earlier than usual)	x		Woodley, Decolonizing, pp.89-106 Rasmussen, Uncontained + Endangered + Enhanced, 109-138
September 16	x		Woodley, Decolonizing Q & R, pp. 107-118 Rasmussen, Aftertime + Elsewhere + Degrees, pp.139-162
October 21	x		Woodley, Closing Interview, 119-134 Rasmussen, Pronouns + Ancestors + Legacy, pp.163-192
November/ December		x	
Jan-Feb-Mar 2025		x	

## Evaluation

Participants are asked to self-evaluate, using the six outcomes described by Jackson Carroll in *God's Potters*:

1. Develop and sustain regular spiritual *disciplines*.
2. Develop and nurture a pastoral *imagination* through ongoing habits of reflection on their practice.
3. Be life-long *learners* who reflect regularly on their philosophy and practice of ministry.
4. Nurture “*holy friendships*.”
5. Maintain appropriate, though not rigid, *boundaries* between personal and family life and pastoral work.
6. Be diligent in *self-care* concerning their “*holy health*,” which is understood in seven dimensions: spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual, vocational, social/interpersonal, and creational.

## Bibliography

- **2004** - *The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry*, edited by Norman Wirzba; *Great Possessions: An Amish Farmer's Journal*, by David Kline.
- **2005** - *Life is a Miracle: An Essay Against Modern Superstition*, by Wendell Berry; *Food for Life: The Spirituality and Ethics of Eating*, by L. Shannon Jung.
- **2006** - *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation in Spiritual Theology*, by Eugene Peterson, 2005; *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold, 1949.
- **2007** - *Living the Sabbath: Discovering the Rhythms of Rest and Delight* by Norman Wirzba, 2006; *Eating Your Way Through Luke's Gospel* by Robert J Karris, 2006; *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*, by Michael Pollan.
- **2008** – *The Hidden Lives of Congregations: Discerning Church Dynamics* by Israel Galindo, 2004; *The One-Straw Revolution: An Introduction to Natural Farming* by Masanobu Fukuoka, 1978; *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*, by Barbara Kingsolver, 2008.
- **2009** – *Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible*, by Ellen F. Davis, 2009. *The Essential Agrarian Reader*, edited by Norman Wirzba, 2003. *Scratching the Woodchuck: Nature on an Amish Farm* by David Kline, 1997.
- **2010** – *Life Together*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, edited by Geoffrey B. Kelly, First Fortress Press paperback edition, 2005. *Bringing it to the Table: On Farming and Food*, by Wendell Berry, 2009.
- **2011** – *The Abundant Community*, by John McKnight and Peter Block, 2010. *Animals Make Us Human*, by Temple Grandin, 2009. *What Matters: Economics for a Renewed Commonwealth*, by Wendell Berry, 2010. *What I Eat: Around the World in 80 diets*, by Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio, 2010.
- **2012** – *The Pastor: A Memoir*, by Eugene Peterson, 2011. *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating*, by Norman Wirzba, 2011. *Nature and Altering It*, by Allen Verhey, 2010. *Animals in Translation*, by Temple Grandin, 2005.
- **2013** – *Cultivating an Ecological Conscience: Essays from a Farmer Philosopher*, by Fred Kirschenmann, 2010; *Living Into Focus: Choosing What Matters in an Age of Distraction*, by Arthur Boers, 2012; *The Naked Now: Learning to See as the Mystics See*, by Richard Rohr, 2009; *A Sanctuary of Trees*, by Gene Logsdon, 2012.
- **2014** - *Soil and Sacrament: A Spiritual Memoir of Food and Faith*, by Fred Bahnson, 2013; *Discovering the Other: Asset-based Approaches for Building Community Together*, by Cameron Harder, 2013; *Word and World: Theology for Christian Ministry (Journal): Bread*, Volume 33, Number 4, Fall 2013; *A Watered Garden: Christian Worship and Earth's Ecology*, by Benjamin M. Stewart, 2011; *The Gift of Good Land: Further Essays Cultural and Agricultural*, by Wendell Berry, 1981.
- **2015** – *The Unsettling of America: Culture and Agriculture (Third Edition)*, by Wendell Berry; *Eager to Love: The Alternative Way of Francis of Assisi*, by Richard Rohr O.F.M; *The Holy Earth*, by Liberty Hyde Bailey

- **2016** – *Earth-Honoring Faith: Religious Ethics in a New Key*, by Larry Rasmussen, 2013; *The Third Plate* by Dan Barber, 2014.
- **2017** – *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard, 1974; *Keeping the Feast: Metaphors for the Meal* by Milton Brasher-Cunningham, 2012; *From Tablet to Table: where community is formed and identity is found* by Leonard Sweet, 2014; *The Lean Farm* by Ben Hartman, 2015
- **2018** – *The Cultivated Life: From Ceaseless Striving to Receiving Joy* by Susan S. Phillips; *The Songs of Trees: Stories from Nature's Great Connectors* by David George Haskell.
- **2019** – *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr; *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.
- **2020** – *The Great Conversation: Nature and the Care of the Soul* by Belden Lane; *The Overstory (A Novel)* by Richard Powers
- **2021** -- *Uproar: Calm Leadership in Anxious Times*, by Peter L. Steinke; *My Grandmother's Hands: Realized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending our Hearts and Bodies*, by Resmaa Menakem, 2017
- **2022** -- *Jesus for Farmers and Fishers*, by Gary Paul Nabhan, 2021
- **2023** -- *Grounded: Finding God in the World, A Spiritual Revolution*, by Diana Butler Bass, 2015; *Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call for Unforgetting the Past and Reimagining Our Future*, by Patty Krawec, 2022.
- *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Ceasing, Resting, Embracing, Feasting*, by Marva Dawn, 1989
- *Making Sundays Special*, by Karen Burton Mains, 1987.
- *The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man* by Abraham Heschel, reprint 2003.
- *What Are People For?* by Wendell Berry, 1990.
- *The Spell of the Sensuous* by David Abram, 1996.
- *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv, 2005.
- *The Paradise of God: Renewing Religion in an Ecological Age*, by Norman Wirzba, 2003
- *Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration in Vocational Holiness*, by Eugene Peterson
- *Moving Beyond Church Growth: An Alternative Vision for Congregations* by Mark A. Olson, 2002
- *A Failure of Nerve: Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix*, by Edwin H. Friedman, published by the Edwin Friedman Estate, 6 Wynkoop Court, Bethesda, MD, 20817, 1999.
- *Leadership and the New Science: Learning about Organization from an Orderly Universe* by Margaret J. Wheatley, 1992.
- *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: The Prayers of Walter Brueggemann*, 2003
- *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography* by Kathleen Norris, 1993
- *The Web of Life: A New Scientific Understanding of Living Systems* by Fritjof Capra, 1996
- *Like a Garden: A Biblical Spirituality of Growth*, by Sara Covin Juengst, 1996
- *Breaking Bread: The Spiritual Significance of Food*, by Sara Covin Juengst, 1992
- *The Green Earth: Poems of Creation* by Luci Shaw, 2002
- *Home from the Field: Collected Poems*, by Leo Dangel, 1997.
- *Grass Roots: The Universe of Home* by Paul Gruchow, 1995.
- *Practicing Our Faith*, by Dorothy C. Bass, 1997.
- *Nature Reborn* by H. Paul Santmire, 2000
- *Gilead: A Novel*, by Marilynne Robinson, 2004
- *Home: A Novel* by Marilynne Robinson, 2008
- *The Man Who Planted Trees, A Story* by Jean Giono, 1985
- *Being There*, by Jerzy Kosinski
- *Evocations of Grace: Writings on Ecology, Theology, and Ethics*, by Joseph Sittler, 2000
- *Dirt: The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth*, by William Bryant Logan, 1996
- *Eat Here: Reclaiming Homegrown Pleasures in a Global Supermarket* by Brian Halweil 2004
- *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*, by Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio, 2005
- *Making Peace with the Land: God's Call to Reconcile with Creation*, by Fred Bahnson and Norman Wirzba, 2012
- *Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature*, by Janine Benyus, 1997
- *The Machine in the Garden*, by Leo Marx, 1964
- *The Tipping Point*, by Malcolm Gladwell, 2000
- *Food Rules: An Eater's Manual*, by Michael Pollan, 2009
- *Truth, Prayer, Identity, and the Spiritual Journey*, by James P. Danaher, 2019
- *The Body: A Guide for Occupants* by Bill Bryson, 2019
- *The Body of God: An Ecological Theology*, by Sallie McFague, 1993
- *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest*, by Suzanne Simard, 2021
- *This Sacred Life: Humanity's Place in a Wounded World*, by Norman Wirzba, 2021