

“Seeds for an Eco-Reformation”

Grants available to ELCA Congregations in Oregon

APPLICATION DUE SEPTEMBER 13th

Introduction:

Faith communities of many denominations are marking the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in 2017. To commemorate the Reformation merely through historical reminiscence and worship events, however, falls far short of honoring the Reformation’s life-giving dynamism that shook the foundations of the church and transformed culture, politics and the economy. Only a dynamic resurgence of thought and action to change the church for the sake of the world will truly honor the Reformers’ passion.

We join prominent theologians who are calling upon the church to participate in an **Eco-Reformation**. Such a bold and creative reformation of faith, culture, economy and politics is crucial for determining the fate of the church and the world. It is not enough to recall what our spiritual ancestors did long ago. We must take action to transform every aspect of society so that people of faith and good will can nurture wholesome diversity, resilience, integrity, and beauty within God’s commonwealth of creation. Churches of all denominations are invited to participate in this **Eco-Reformation**.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Bishop’s Discretionary Fund of the Oregon Synod, ELCA, **EcoFaith Recovery will offer LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING** to equip four ELCA congregations in Oregon to become engaged in the **Eco-Reformation Initiative**. *The Practices for Awakening Leadership*¹ will serve as an ongoing resource for leadership development while a weekend institute and 10 customized coaching sessions will enable each team to act on the ideas they generate for participation in the **Eco-Reformation**.

What will congregations receive from EcoFaith Recovery if awarded this grant?

- Opportunity for up to six members of your team to attend a weekend-long EcoFaith Institute (Nov 3-5, 2017). Participating team members will join members of other congregational teams in experiencing the depth of EcoFaith’s *Practices for Awakening Leadership*. (Additional team members will be welcomed to attend on a

¹ To learn more about the *Practices*, see attached resource page or go to www.ecofaithrecovery.org.

space-available basis.) More Institute information available at www.ecofaithrecovery.org.

- The generous grant from the Oregon Synod ELCA bishop allows four ELCA Lutheran congregations who apply to have their \$2500 congregational registration fee **completely covered**. This means each team participant need only pay **\$128** to cover their own retreat center lodging and meals or request that their congregation cover that cost;
- Ten customized Coaching sessions of 90 minutes in length for each team, free of charge (\$125+ value per session),
 - Coaching sessions may begin prior to or following the Nov Institute and will take place entirely (or primarily) online using Zoom.us meetings. Each team will determine scheduling with their Coach, including whether any in-person meetings are possible.
 - The EcoFaith Institute and Coaching sessions will ground each congregational team in EcoFaith Recovery's *Practices for Awakening Leadership* as a means of supporting you in your Eco-Reformation effort. Teams may be comprised exclusively of congregation members or can include members from community partners.
- Opportunity to review some teaching and leadership development components via online videos following each online meeting;
- Free publicity supporting each congregation's **Eco-Reformation** ideas and actions,
- Engagement with the *Practices for Awakening Leadership* to aid your team in imagining, designing and implementing your Eco-Reformation ideas and actions;
- Access to and training in how to use the online meeting service (Zoom.us) and the online project management service (Basecamp.com) to facilitate engagement in Eco-Reformation.
- Opportunity to be added to the EcoFaith Recovery Leaders listserve to collaborate with over 225 other leaders from across congregations and denominations in Oregon and Washington.

What commitments will congregational teams make to this effort?

- Learn and use the *Practices for Awakening Leadership* to engage in the Eco-Reformation Initiative. Share information with EcoFaith Recovery so your team's work can be publicized on the EcoFaith Recovery website;
- Send at least two team members and as many as six to the EcoFaith Institute Nov 3-5, 2017 at YMCA Camp Collins, Gresham, Oregon at a cost of \$128 per person. Sleeping accommodations are small dormitory style.
- Permit the EcoFaith Coach to videotape portions of the Coach's work with your congregational team using the *Practices for Awakening Leadership* so that those models can be shared with the larger EcoFaith community. Occasionally welcome

other EcoFaith leaders to join your team's online meetings for the purpose of leadership development;

- Fill out and submit the mid-project and final project evaluation form. Make one or more team members available for a final face-to-face evaluation regarding the impact this Initiative had on your team and congregation to help us strengthen this Initiative for the future;
- Submit one or more blog post(s) to EcoFaith Recovery to share the impact of your experience;
- Invite individuals on the team to consider a one-time financial gift to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund of the ELCA and/or becoming monthly contributors to EcoFaith Recovery to make more opportunities of this nature possible for other congregations in the future.

To apply, fill out the attached application and return it to office@ecofaithrecovery.org no later than September 13th. Applications will be reviewed and four teams selected.

Can congregation teams participate in the Seeds for an Eco-Reformation Program if not awarded the grant?

- Absolutely! The cost for the program is \$2500 plus team participants pay \$128 to cover their own retreat center lodging and meals or request that their congregation cover that cost. *Applications are still due September 13th.*
- Your team will have access to all the benefits listed above, which includes participation in the Weekend Institute, 10 coaching sessions, online resources, free publicity, training and use of our online meeting and project management platforms, and opportunity to connect with the wider EcoFaith community of leaders.

Can teams participate in just the Weekend Institute without the added support of the "Seeds for an Eco-Reformation" program?

- Yes. Congregation teams of at least three are welcome to join us for just the Weekend Institute experience. Your team can either come from within your faith community, a leadership group you are associate with, or involve anyone else who would be excited to join and helpful in your team's engagement with what is learned at the Institute after it is completed.
- The cost for participating in the Weekend Institute on its own is \$288 per person. **Be one of the first ten to register and only pay \$128.** Visit the website to register now.

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Application for ELCA Teams

Please respond to all questions and submit this application to Office@EcoFaithRecovery.org.

Basic Information

- Sponsoring Lutheran Congregation of the Oregon Synod, ELCA

- Name of Primary Contact who is a member of the sponsoring congregation and who will serve on the Eco-Reformation Project Team (required)

Email: _____ Phone: _____
- Name of Secondary Contact who will serve on the Eco-Reformation Project Team and may either be a member of the congregation or a community partner (required)

Email: _____ Phone: _____
- Besides the two names listed above, how many others have already agreed to participate on the team? ____ (Please indicate their names, if possible.)
- This application has been discussed with or reviewed by a pastor of the congregation and has the pastor’s support (yes response is required):
_____ Yes _____ No
- Name of Pastor _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
- This application has been discussed with or reviewed by the Council president of the congregation and has that person’s support (yes response is preferred but not required):
_____ Yes _____ No
- Name of Council President _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
- Name of Person Submitting this Application:

- Phone and Email Address if not already provided above

- If awarded the grant, will your team commit to the six congregational commitments identified in the overview materials? _____ yes _____ no
- If not awarded the grant, will your congregation and team consider funding your participation in the Seeds for an Eco-Reformation program? _____ yes _____ no

- What other information would be important for us to know? _____
- List the names of those from your team who will attend the EcoFaith Institute. **At least two team members are required**; as many as six are welcome. (Final registration deadline Oct 16th.)

Information about your Congregation and Team: To help you engage with the Eco-Reformation Initiative and help prospective EcoFaith Coaches get to know your team, please respond below.

- 1) Why are you interested in applying for this “Seeds of an Eco-Reformation” Initiative?
- 2) What is your congregation most excited or concerned about, both within your congregation and your community setting? (i.e. children, music, liturgy, homelessness, education, , affordable health care, climate change, immigration, public policy, keeping the building from falling down, etc.) Why?
- 3) How do (or might) these interests/concerns connect with taking public action towards more sustainable ways of life and/or addressing climate change?
- 4) Does your team already have one or more ideas for a possible Eco-Reformation project (or other means of engaging the Eco-Reformation)? _____ yes _____ no If so, please explain below.
- 5) Are there community members with whom you are interested in partnering in this initiative? If so, who are they or with what community or public organization are they affiliated?
- 6) What do you hope will result from your participation in the Eco-Reformation Initiative and how might you measure whether your goal(s) has been achieved.
- 7) As you review EcoFaith Recovery’s *Practices for Awakening Leadership* at <http://www.ecofaithrecovery.org/home/practices>, how do you imagine these *Practices* could benefit your congregation as you seek to develop leadership, take action, and engage in Eco-Reformation?
- 8) Project Expected Time Span, if known (such as "November 2017 - May 2018")
- 9) Congregations awarded this grant will each receive 10 Coaching sessions in how to use the *Practices for Awakening Leadership* to develop leadership, explore your team’s interests/passions, and take action around your Eco-Reformation theme. Unless a different arrangement is made, Coaches will meet with teams using an easy online webcam meeting platform called Zoom.us. (Training is available.) This will require each member of the team to have a computer, iPad or smart phone to use for logging into the meeting from home. Will this be workable for your team?
 _____ yes _____ no (If no, please explain.)

10) If particular characteristics in a coach would be helpful to your team, please describe them. (If you hope to work with a particular EcoFaith Coach, please include her/his name and your interest.)

11) Congregational support of your team's engagement in this project is strongly encouraged. Please indicate any kinds of support your team intends to request of your congregational leadership:

- ____ council blessing or vote of support,
- ____ funding for team members to attend the EcoFaith Institute,
- ____ funding for any Eco-Reformation project we might decide to do,
- ____ ongoing publicity of our Eco-Reformation effort
- ____ Other: _____