



Climate Change – Cultural Change Religious Responses and Responsibilities

One Day Symposium – Saturday 29 October 2011, 9.30am to 4.30pm

Centre for Theology and Ministry, 1 Morrison Close, Parkville, Victoria, 3052

Keynote address: Professor Norman Habel

“Eco-wisdom and Climate Change”

Dr. Norman Habel hails from Yulecart, near Hamilton in Victoria, Australia and is a pastor of The Lutheran Church. He was professor of Biblical Studies in the USA from 1955-1973. In 1974 he returned to Australia and established the first Religion Studies Department in Australia. From 1984-1987 he was Principal of Kodaikanal International School in South India. During his time in India, he and his wife Janice Orrell established the Grihini programme, a school for empowering oppressed uneducated Tribal and Dalit women in the remote hills around Kodaikanal.

Norman Habel is currently Professorial Fellow at Flinders University.

He has long been involved in issues of biblical interpretation and social justice. His research includes *The Earth Bible*, a five volume international project with other scholars reading the Bible from the perspective of justice for Earth. He is concerned that we, as human beings, re-connect with Earth as a sanctuary and a living planet. As part of this concern he has led the move to include *The Season of Creation* as part of the church year.

Recently, he has published two volumes relating to ecological hermeneutics, namely, *Exploring Ecological Hermeneutics* published by Society of Biblical Literature and a more popular work *An Inconvenient Text: Is a Green Reading of the Bible Possible?* In 2011 he will publish the first volume in the new Earth Bible Commentary series.

Registration (includes tea/coffee and lunch): \$55 full; \$45 concession.

Email: aelvey@trinity.unimelb.edu.au for further details.

Call for papers

Proposals are sought for papers, panels and/or workshops on the theme of climate change – cultural change. Papers should be based on sound scholarly research but appeal to a lay audience. Papers, panels or workshops should address one of the following areas:

- the relationship between climate change and cultural change in religious communities
- education for cultural change in religious communities in response to climate change
- close readings of the texts and traditions of religious communities in relation to the theme of climate change – cultural change; reference to ecological hermeneutics and/or the interpretive keys of ecological kinship as a worldview; way of life (e.g. asceticism; hedonism); climate and habitat, is encouraged

Please send abstracts of 250 words and a bio of 50 words to Dr Anne Elvey, aelvey@trinity.unimelb.edu.au or Dr David Gormley O'Brien dobrien@trinity.unimelb.edu.au by Friday 29 July 2011.