



Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Oregon Interfaith Power & Light present the eighth

CREATION JUSTICE SUMMIT

Our Kinship with Oregon's Sacred Waters

PANELISTS & WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

Cherice Bock (she/her) is the Creation Justice advocate at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL). With degrees in environmental studies and divinity, and after teaching for the last seven years in the creation care program at Portland Seminary, Cherice has academic and practical knowledge about faith-based environmental care. At EMO/OIPL, she works to organize people of faith for individual and congregational action. She also helps faith communities advocate for climate and environmental justice at the local, state and national levels. Cherice is a recorded minister in the Quaker tradition.

Sr. Joan Brown is executive director of New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light (NMIPL). She is a Catholic Franciscan sister from the Rochester, Minn., community. Her farm background, passion for the Sacred Earth Community and many years of experience in the nonprofit and social justice sector inform her work. In her work with NMIPL, she works to educate and inspire faith communities and individuals; engage them in energy efficiency, renewable energy and local food; and works with people of faith to enhance the moral implications within various public policy concerns at the local, state and federal levels. She has organized activism against natural gas fracking and other environmental justice issues in her region. Sister Joan has worked for decades in the areas of justice, peace and integrity of creation in the Southwest.

Patty Hine is the president and lead organizer of 350 Eugene. She retired from the US Navy in 1998 and settled in Eugene. Patty lives on five acres in rural Lane County with her partner Deb McGee. Seeing the effects of ever hotter, drier summers on the forests and in her gardens, she began to study global warming and became increasingly alarmed. As an active member at First United Methodist Church in Eugene, Patty became a leader in the congregation and local interfaith groups organizing around social justice and climate change. Patty and Deb volunteered to be one of Eugene's KXL Action Leads to train citizens for civil disobedience actions if the pipeline was approved; it was a perfect place to apply both military and teaching skills. In 2013, Patty and Deb started a local 350.org chapter to build community support to confront the climate emergency, which has grown and expanded its work through local, state and regional climate justice efforts. During this critical moment for our planet and life on it, Patty is dedicating the rest of her life to protecting biodiversity and advancing justice.

Dr. Steven A. Kolmes is professor of environmental studies and occupant of the Rev. John A. Molter, C.S.C., Chair in Science at the University of Portland. His interests are in the areas of salmon recovery planning (combining ethical and scientific analyses in environmental policy discussions) and water and air quality issues. He has served on federal, state and local government scientific advisory panels and on the Steering Committee for the Columbia River Watershed Pastoral Letter ("The Columbia River Watershed: Caring for Creation and the Common Good").

Fr. Chuck Lienert is a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Portland. Ordained in 1968, he has served as a parish priest in Grants Pass and in three inner city Portland parishes and worked for the Archdiocese as the vicar for clergy and the vicar for pastoral planning. For many years he has been involved in community organizing, action for worker rights, and support for issues of social justice. He is a native Oregonian and his love of the outdoors and his hobby of photography has led him to explore much of the Columbia River watershed. He served as a member of the advisory committee for the Columbia River Watershed Pastoral Letter.

Cozacuauhtli Itzpapaloatl Tracy Molina is an Indigenous activist from the Nahua people in Mexico, and she is married and adopted by the Siletz and Yakama Nations. Her children are enrolled in the Siletz Tribe. She has been a water protector at Standing Rock, working on NoDAPL in North Dakota, as well as NoLNG253 in Tacoma, Wash., with the Puyallup tribes, NoTMX pipeline in British Columbia with the Squamish Nation, Tsleil-Waututh, and she was involved in the Wet'suwet'en Nations' anti-pipeline actions in British Columbia. She has also been involved in the No Jordan Cove pipeline activism with Siletz tribal members.

The Rev. Solveig Nilsen-Goodin is a spiritual director, coach, leader in EcoFaith Recovery, and interim pastor of Salt and Light Lutheran/Leaven Community in Portland, the traditional homeland of the Cowlitz and Clackamas people. From 2006-2017, Solveig founded and pastored the Wilderness Way Community.

The Rev. John Pitney, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church for 40 years, has served congregations in Idaho, Alaska and Oregon alongside his wife, Debbie. He has organized green teams and multi-congregational groups to work toward environmental care in Eugene, McMinnville and Salem. He launched "That's My Farmer," an innovative regional food systems venture that brought together over 300 families from 20 different faith communities to support 15 small, sustainable farms from the Eugene area, and he created Eugene Interfaith Earthkeepers. In McMinnville, John established the group Congregations for Climate Justice; in Salem, he organized faith communities to purchase solar panels together.

Aaron Salzman (he/him/his) is the Climate Advocacy associate for EMO's Public Policy Advocacy. Aaron graduated from Boston College in May, where he was involved in the fossil fuel divestment movement, and he joins EMO through Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, a Catholic volunteer program. In his role at EMO, Aaron tracks implementation of Executive Order 20-04 (Oregon Climate Action Plan, or OCAP) and collaborates on climate and environmental legislation for the 2021 Session. In his free time, he enjoys biking around Portland and exploring its many Little Free Libraries.

Wilbur Slockish, Jr., a Klickitat tribal elder, was one of several men arrested along with David Sohapp for "illegally" fishing and selling their fish in a case known as "Salmon Scam." He was born in 1944 in Wapato, Wash., and is a member of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. As a boy, he fished at Celilo Falls on the Columbia River. After Wilbur was released from prison, he concentrated his efforts on water quality and health issues related to the Hanford Nuclear Power Plant. Wilbur was part of the Bi-State Water Quality Commission for the Lower Columbia for three years and was appointed as a member of the Hanford Health Effect Subcommittee (HHES) in 1997. Through his work with HHES, Wilbur has educated Tribal members about Hanford pollution and disposal of nuclear waste. In 1994, he fought and successfully banned the storage of Hanford nuclear waste on the Yakama Reservation. Wilbur served on the advisory committee for the Columbia River Watershed Pastoral Letter.

Don Steinke taught science and math for 38 years in public schools and five years at North Clackamas Christian School. **Alona Steinke** is a retired registered nurse; her career spanned 43 years, mostly as a pediatric nurse. Don and Alona led the grassroots effort to stop the largest oil-train terminal in North America. The Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, including the Yakama Indian Nation, were adamantly opposed to oil trains in the Columbia River Gorge because of the threat of oil train spills in N'Chi Wana, also known as the Big River, the Columbia. The Steinkes worked as allies with the Quinault Indian Nation to defeat oil train terminals in Grays Harbor. The Steinkes' strongest partners were, and still are, Columbia Riverkeeper, Sierra Club and Friends of the Columbia Gorge. Now the Steinkes are working to help pass climate legislation in Olympia and advocating to the Vancouver City Council to adopt a climate action plan. That council recently committed to reducing emissions 55 percent by 2035. That was the result of five years of advocacy. Nothing happens without an organized and persistent campaign.