



Climate Change – Cultural Change Religious Responses and Responsibilities

One Day Symposium – Saturday 29 October 2011, 8.50am to 5.00pm

Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Crescent, 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.

The symposium includes papers, panels and workshops, from scholarly, community and grass roots presenters, for example

- Climate change, development and equity: The scientific context
- Between Cassandra and Jonah: believing prophetic voices in climate change science
- Education for Cultural Change in Religious Communities in Response to Climate Change
- The Goodness of Creation and The Darkening World of Extinctions
- The Interfaith Ecology Movement
- Post-secular Spirituality, Science, Atheism and Climate Change
- Relationship between Climate Change and Cultural Change in Religious Communities (panel)
- Bridging the ‘policy-praxis disjuncture’ – a workshop to discuss the challenges and potential remedies (workshop)
- Addressing Change through the Two Books of God: Education for Cultural Change in Religious Communities (workshop)

For further details and to register visit: <http://www.trinity.unimelb.edu.au/about/news--media/events/cultural-change-symposium.html>; please register by Friday 21 October 2011.

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

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