

2023

REPORT TO THE
COMMUNITY



Relationship

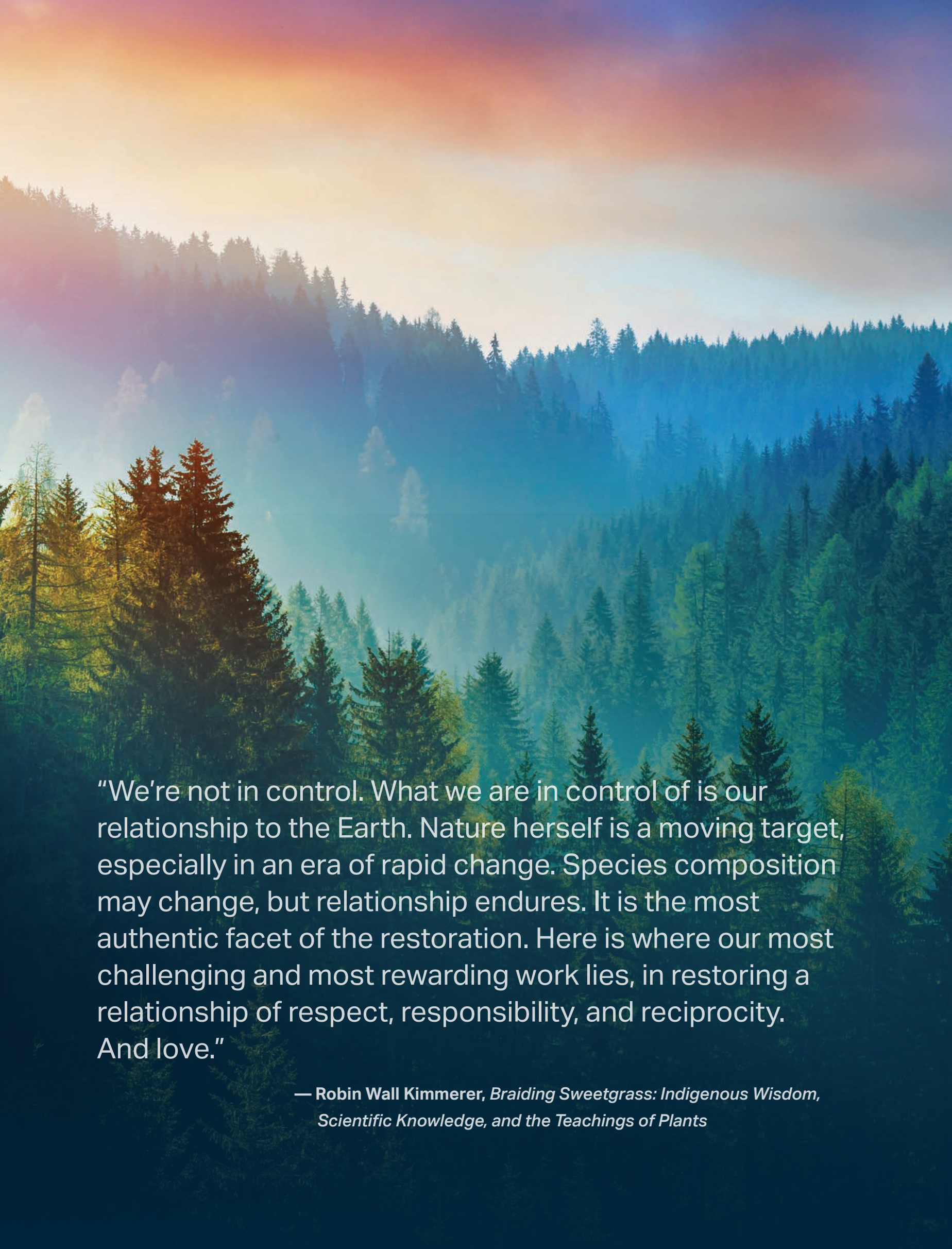
Respect

Responsibility

Reciprocity



THE **BTS**
CENTER



"We're not in control. What we are in control of is our relationship to the Earth. Nature herself is a moving target, especially in an era of rapid change. Species composition may change, but relationship endures. It is the most authentic facet of the restoration. Here is where our most challenging and most rewarding work lies, in restoring a relationship of respect, responsibility, and reciprocity. And love."

— Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*

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Helen Scalia

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Dear Friends,

With the ever-increasing impact climate change is having on our world, and especially on the most vulnerable communities, I'm incredibly proud of the work of The BTS Center. People of faith play a critical role in inspiring hearts to meet the challenges of our climate-changed world, and we are committed to supporting spiritual leadership in all its forms.

I'm deeply grateful for our entire staff who make our mission real and tangible, and to each of you who are critical partners in our work. Thank you for your participation, your partnership, and your financial support.



Rev. Alex Shea Will, Chair, Board of Trustees



Dear Friends,

Ten years ago, in its 200th year, Bangor Theological Seminary ceased its operations as a degree-awarding institution of higher education, and The BTS Center was born. It was a moment of big and disruptive change — one that came with loss and uncertainty.

A decade later, we who lead The BTS Center claim with great pride the legacy that we have inherited. With a renewed sense of purpose and mission, inspired by the vision of human hearts renewed, justice established, and creation restored, we embrace the future, full of challenges and opportunities.

As we undertake this work, we are so grateful to be connected with imaginative congregational leaders, spiritual teachers, faith-rooted activists, academics, authors, poets, artists, music-makers, and dreamers. This work to which we are called requires all of us. Please join us.



Rev. Allen Ewing-Merrill, Executive Director

CLIMATE CHANGED PODCAST

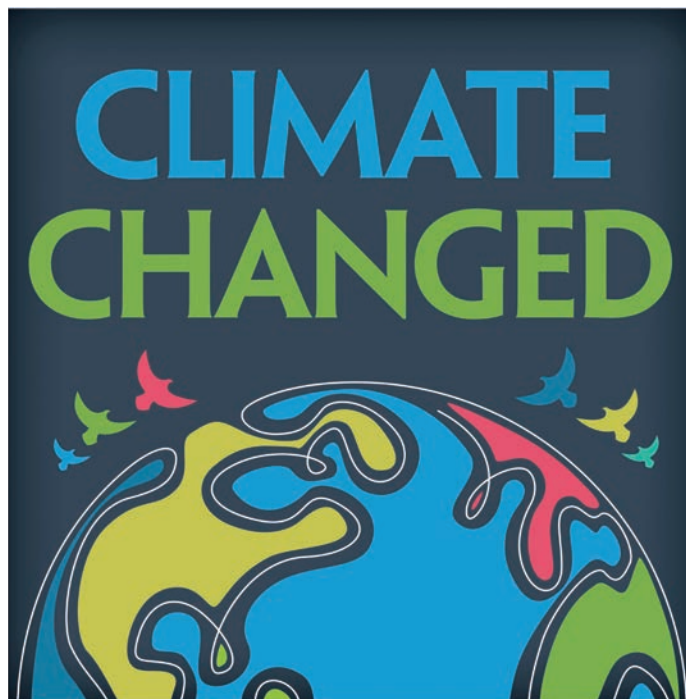
In the summer of 2022, The BTS Center was pleased to unveil a new project that had been in the making for quite a while — our podcast, *Climate Changed*, debuted its first episode in June, followed by a monthly release of the six episodes that comprise the first season.

Climate Changed offers intimate interviews and conversations around some of the most pressing questions about living, loving, and leading in a climate-changed world. Hosted by Ben Yosua-Davis, Director of Applied Research, and Nicole Diroff, Program Director, and produced by Peterson Toscano, the first season of the podcast featured acclaimed guests such as Corina Newsome, Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, poet Craig Santos Perez, and many more, all exploring what spiritual leadership looks and feels like in a climate-changed world.

As co-host, Ben Yosua-Davis notes: “The podcast is an amazing opportunity for us to share publicly the conversations that we have as a staff on a regular basis about faithful living in a climate-changed world, and to do so in dialogue with deeply wise practitioners across the globe.”

Ben further reflects on the personal resonance of the podcast: “In particular, I remember the moments in interviews where both our guest and I reach the ragged endings of our understanding. When I talked to Craig Santos Perez and he admitted that he hasn’t shared with his daughters about climate change yet, it was wonderfully liberating to realize that this prophetic poet was experiencing the exact same struggles I was as a parent of young children.”

Amidst the profound conversations were moments of laughter, as well as ample opportunities for reflection and recognition. We look forward to debuting the second season of *Climate Changed* and to continuing with these essential conversations in the coming year.



“With the...ethics that I grew up with, I tried to explore that through my poems by thinking about our relationship to the more-than-human world, thinking about how ideas of kinship can provide us with a new way of being with others that highlights our interconnections and interdependencies so that hopefully, we can treat other beings with the same respect that we would want to be treated to create more sustainable relationships.”

- CRAIG SANTOS PEREZ, GUEST ON EPISODE 3: WHAT DO WE TELL THE CHILDREN?

“Everything is connected. And I’ve been told that my whole entire life. Indigenous values are cyclical. And our practices are done with intention to aid in that process. So if we catch a fish, we use every single part of that fish. The carcass of the fish that we don’t eat is then put into the ground and used as fertilizer in the spring for, say, corn to grow. That is an example of it coming full cycle, it’s benefiting us. And then we’re also benefiting the Earth.”

- KEYANA PARDILLA, GUEST ON EPISODE 4: WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME?



SPOTLIGHT: Meet Helen Scalia

About a decade ago, after hearing about The BTS Center from our staff accountant, Rachel Grivois, Helen Scalia found her curiosity piqued. Coming from her work as a consultant to community development financial institutions (CDFIs), Helen “couldn’t resist getting involved with a nonprofit in the thick of transformational change — the exceptional kind of change where you don’t know the outcome.” Helen joined the Board of Trustees in 2014 and recently completed a fourth term as Board Chair.



Of the connection between her work with CDFIs and with The BTS Center, Helen notes: “Many of the early investors in the CDFI movement were faith-based institutions; they were among the first ‘impact investors,’ who helped start and sustain CDFIs in redlined urban centers, the rural Deep South, and Indian Country, as well as other places neglected by conventional capital markets. This knowledge gave me a sense of the potential for The BTS Center to leverage its resources creatively and make a significant difference in a new way.”

As someone with deep concerns about climate change and its effects, Helen embraces The BTS Center’s focus on spiritual leadership for a climate-changed world and finds that the shift into this area has brought new energy to her work as a trustee. She believes in the power of our programming: “I love coming to events and seeing all kinds of new people showing up. The numbers and diversity of our audience have been growing, and it’s invigorating to watch and be part of. From Convocation to in-person retreats, I hear participants share their appreciation for a place to share their profound concerns with like-minded people, and gain fresh, often hope-inducing, perspectives.” She is particularly fond of the Committed to Listen reading that The BTS Center co-hosts each January on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — an event which she finds profoundly moving.

Helen works with her fellow trustees to maintain The BTS Center’s connections to its past while the organization evolves in new and creative ways. As for the future of The BTS Center, she says: “I hope we’ll keep stretching ourselves while staying true to our roots as a scrappy seminary on the edge of the country.”

This June, Helen will conclude nine years of service to our Board of Trustees. We are deeply grateful for her long and faithful commitment to The BTS Center and for her visionary leadership of the Board of Trustees during a season of significant transition and growth.



Convocation 2022

In October, we hosted our annual Convocation — an inspiring, challenging, energizing time of learning, community, and respite.

Beginning Thursday afternoon and continuing through Friday afternoon, we led seven different sessions — worship, preaching, communal song, speakers, workshops, affinity groups, and even a live recording of a podcast session — with 164 people registered and around 100 people engaging with each session. From start to finish, Convocation 2022 included profound sharing from scholars and activists and artists and authors and musicians and organizers and spiritual leaders.

As a program that began more than a hundred years ago with Bangor Theological Seminary, Convocation's roots run deep, and we are pleased that it still holds deep resonance and continues to evolve. As one participant said: "I attended the last Convocation in Bangor years ago. I remember the promise that Bangor would continue and not to despair. I am so impressed with what you have all accomplished. I have been out of ministry for nine years, and I now feel inspired to re-engage my calling again."

This year's Convocation included a phenomenal lineup of speakers, presenters, and musicians — Cole Arthur Riley, Rev. Dr. Veronice Miles, Reggie Harris, Ched Myers, Rob Hopkins, Dr. Keisha McKenzie, Dr. Shanon Shah — as well as artists, poets, and a group of amazing participants who brought their whole hearts to our gathering. We are deeply grateful for such an energizing gathering, and we look forward to another brilliant Convocation in the fall of 2023.



Cole Arthur Riley



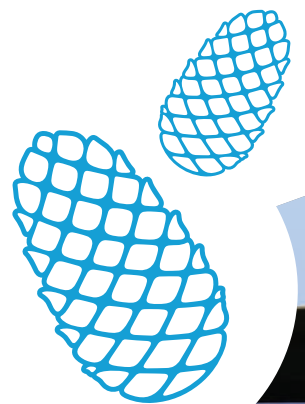
Rev. Dr. Veronice Miles



Reggie Harris



Ched Myers



Rob Hopkins



Dr. Keisha McKenzie



Dr. Shanon Shah



SPOTLIGHT: Meet Ophelia Hu Kinney

Over the past couple of years, Ophelia Hu Kinney has brought her unique talents and energy to a variety of programs at The BTS Center. Ophelia, who serves as the Director of Communications for Reconciling Ministries Network, first became connected with The BTS Center when she heard about it from fellow congregants at her church — HopeGateWay in Portland, Maine. Drawn to the “robust programming and visionary ideas” of The BTS Center, Ophelia has participated in Convocation, the Spiritual Ecology for Spiritual Leaders retreat in June 2022, our Committed to Listen events on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and other programs. She currently serves as one of our Leadership Commons Curators.



Ophelia has found the connections she has made through The BTS Center particularly rewarding. As she says, “I now belong to a network of new friends from a variety of religious traditions. We’re on different paths but headed in a similar direction toward an intersectional ecological justice. It’s from this community that I’ve learned and grown so much and become a better-equipped spiritual leader.” Ophelia also notes that her work with and participation in programs at The BTS Center has influenced her life and work in invaluable ways: “It’s because of The BTS Center that I can participate with more open-mindedness and curiosity in everyday acts of ecological solidarity.”

As she considers this organization’s future, Ophelia says, “I hope that The BTS Center continues to nurture curious and open-hearted spiritual leadership, especially in New England. I hope that it will deepen intergenerational involvement because there are a lot of spiritually curious young people out there!”

We have been grateful for Ophelia’s rich contributions to our community, and we look forward to more opportunities to collaborate in the future.

SPOTLIGHT: Meet Dr. Sarosh Koshy

Dr. Sarosh Koshy was first introduced to the work of The BTS Center by Dr. Laurel Kearns, who facilitated an introduction with Ben Yosua-Davis, our Director of Applied Research. Sarosh soon became involved in our work as a Consultant Advisor to the Research Collaborative, and he has offered invaluable guidance to The BTS Center’s research initiatives over the past couple of years. Sarosh is also part of our Cohort for the Adaptive Mind training throughout 2022-2023.



Coming from a background of extensive research work with global faith communities, Sarosh notes that the most rewarding aspect of his work with The BTS Center thus far has been “partaking in the collective contemplation on re-imagining organizational structures, rhythms, and postures” as it pertains to our evolving understanding of ecological imagination. He is particularly glad for the focus on an open-ended, collaborative research model.

His work with the Research Collaborative has held resonances for Sarosh, which have continued beyond the context of The BTS Center. As he says, “The groups and people brought together by the Research Collaborative of The BTS Center were already doing influential work and had been reflecting on continuing to be creative in a climate-changed world. Their creativity, courage, and hopefulness have renewed my spirits and sharpened my resolve to continue working for the many causes of social and eco-justice issues.”

As we continue to imagine and envision the central role of research at The BTS Center, we are grateful for Sarosh’s many contributions to this work and for the thoughtful perspective he brings from many years of involvement with international church communities.

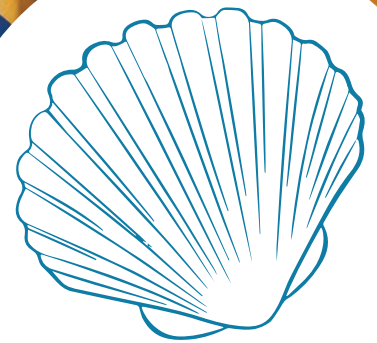


West Parish Congregational Church, a United Church of Christ congregation in Bethel, Maine, was one of the participating churches in the 2022 Small Church Leadership Community.



In August, members of St. John's Episcopal Church of Gloucester, Massachusetts, gathered for "Sunset Prayers for Peace" at Niles Beach in Gloucester. Each congregational team participating in the six-month Small Church Leadership Community conducted a series of experiments designed to spark collective imagination within their churches.

Small Church Leadership Community



Beginning in spring 2022, and continuing through the fall, The BTS Center convened a six-month Small Church Leadership Community that called together teams from small churches in Northern New England, with the intention of exploring practices that nurture spiritual and ecological imagination within congregational life.

In times of dramatic change, such as these past several years and even before, small congregations can respond in two ways: they can become more rigid, holding tight to the status quo — a path that often leads to burnout, decline, and death — or they can step into the changing realities with curiosity and faith, adopt practices that nurture resilience, and embrace imaginative possibilities.

Both pathways are possible, but choosing the way of imagination requires intentionality, because in times of anxiety, stress, and fear, our imaginative capacity can be diminished and difficult to access.

Through shared reading and exploration, twice-monthly Zoom gatherings, participation in The BTS Center's

Convocation in early October, and engagement with intentional practices designed to encourage creative experimentation, congregational teams in the Small Church Leadership Community gained practical experience stretching their imagination muscles, and hopefully completed the program a bit more prepared to step into the future with imaginative abundance and deeper resilience.

One participant writes, "I have gotten to know my congregation better and worked with amazing people from other congregations facing similar challenges. I have explored the idea of imagination as it relates to my faith and faith community. It has been a spiritually uplifting process for me personally."



SPOTLIGHT: Meet Tyler Mark Nelson

As a student at Yale Divinity School, Tyler Mark Nelson was seeking organizations that addressed climate grief from a theological perspective when he first came across The BTS Center in early 2022. Energized by the eco-grief programs that The BTS Center was offering, Tyler reached out with a desire to engage more deeply, and he came on board as Summer Intern for 2022. While working with The BTS Center, Tyler played an active role in co-leading a Wonder and Wander retreat, assisting with the Summer Arts Series, and participating in the Spiritual Ecology for Spiritual Leaders retreat.



Tyler says that one of the most rewarding parts of working with The BTS Center was “getting to witness people entering into a deeper understanding of their relationships to the nonhuman world,” noting that after the Wonder and Wander retreat in July, several people commented that the practices had allowed the world to become “more vibrant and alive,” a powerful experience for Tyler. He was also deeply moved by participating in the Summer Arts Series, particularly by his role in narrating during the concert event with Halcyon String Quartet.

Although Tyler wrapped up his internship with The BTS Center in August and has returned to Yale for his studies, he continues to be influenced by his time with us. He co-leads an eco-spiritual collective at Yale Divinity School, and notes that he often thinks about “how to embody and articulate the trifold of wonder-lament-action in more consistent ways.” He explains, “Action, in the sense I’m talking about, is hope-filled and seeks restorative justice to the world. I think The BTS Center strongly demonstrates unique and lovely ways to develop this wonder-lament-action.”

Tyler will continue his work with The BTS Center in the coming months, offering support to the research component of our EcoPreacher Cohort and helping to lead the next Spiritual Ecology for Spiritual Leaders retreat this summer. We are grateful for all the ways Tyler has contributed to The BTS Center’s work, and we look forward to these future collaborations.

Spiritual Ecology for Spiritual Leaders Retreat

In early June, The BTS Center partnered with Auburn Seminary to host “Spiritual Ecology for Spiritual Leaders,” a four-day retreat on-site in Portland, Maine, for a diverse group of early-career faith leaders and others who are working for justice in communal contexts. The retreat offered a time of deliberate engagement with each other, with the Earth, and with stories of our collective spiritual ecology.

From time spent with elders and learning together to sea kayaking in Casco Bay, from yoga on the Eastern Prom to wanders in the woods and picnicking at Fort Williams Park, participants took full advantage of Portland and its surrounds while making deep, lasting connections with one another and with the work of The BTS Center. As participant Ryun Anderson reflected: “For me, this retreat was a practice ground for care, connection, and inquiry. I’m deeply appreciative of the facilitators, presenters, and co-participants who nurtured opportunities to approach and work with our growing edges, and space to discover new questions that are still working in me today.”

Each of the participants was also eligible to apply for a micro-grant to support their ongoing work. We are excited about the web of connections established and nurtured at this retreat and about what may grow from that network in the future.





Participants circle around a collection of sacred objects contributed by the group at the November session of the Adaptive Mind.

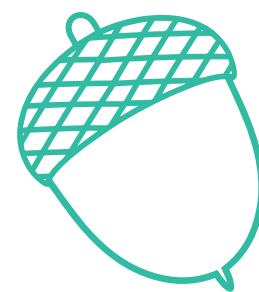


Dr. Susi Moser leads participants in an outdoor circle.

Rev. Allen Ewing-Merrill and Ben Yosua-Davis work on collages, along with other Adaptive Mind participants.



An altar of sacred collected objects.



Adaptive Mind Fellows

In September 2022, The BTS Center convened a cohort of twenty leaders from around New England to participate in the first of four training sessions in the Adaptive Mind. Developed by Dr. Susanne Moser, a researcher and social scientist with a deep well of experience studying climate change, the Adaptive Mind trainings are intended to foster resilience and creativity in leaders who will be at the forefront of shaping our spiritual, emotional, and physical responses to climate crises.

In her essay in the collection *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*, Dr. Moser writes, "The adaptive mind comprises a set of propensities, capacities, and skills that allow an individual — embedded in social networks and institutions, as we all are — to respond with agility, creativity, resolve, and resilience" in times of accelerating, stressful change.

Both the September session, held at The BTS Center office and in the garden of the Maine Jewish Museum, and the November session, held at Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church, offered a chance for participants to connect and ground in both grief and imagination. Led by Dr. Moser and Lily Swanbrow Becker, these first sessions will be followed by an online session in February and an in-person capstone retreat in early May.

"We have assembled an incredibly wise, thoughtful group of leaders, whom we're calling the Adaptive Mind Fellows," says Rev. Allen Ewing-Merrill, The BTS Center's Executive Director. "It's truly an honor to share this journey with this particular group of people, and I know the ripple effects of our work together will extend far and wide as we continue to cultivate and nurture spiritual leadership for a climate-changed world."

EcoPreacher Cohort 2022 - 2023

Following the successful EcoPreacher workshop offered in May 2022, The BTS Center, in partnership with Creation Justice Ministries, has embarked on a year-long EcoPreacher Cohort intended to equip preachers in a variety of contexts with tools and processes to incorporate climate consciousness, eco-justice, and ecological themes into their sermons.

The Cohort is being led by Rev. Nicole Diroff, Program Director at The BTS Center, and Avery Davis Lamb, Co-Executive Director of Creation Justice Ministries. With support from Rev. Dr. Leah Schade and Dr. Rebecca Kneale Gould, the Cohort is off to a thoughtful and dynamic start.

The EcoPreacher Cohort has emerged from a desire to offer tools to clergy for their ministry while also recognizing the profound need for spaces of connection and reflection around climate change. As co-facilitator Rev. Nicole Diroff says: "When we asked participants what they were hoping for as they signed up for the

EcoPreacher Cohort, the most common response was 'feeling companioned in the work.' I find this longing across our BTS Center programming as I consistently encounter a sense of individual isolation from clergy who fear being labeled as negative, lacking hope or even unfaithful when they try to talk about climate change."

The EcoPreacher Cohort has drawn more than 100 participants from many different paths and ministries, a sure sign of the interest in this type of program. As one of The BTS Center's core missional intentions is equipping faith leaders for transformative leadership, we are committed to offering programming that allows faith leaders to respond to the realities of climate change in their work, while also fostering the kind of deep, life-giving connections which are so needed in this time.

We are delighted by the interest in this EcoPreacher Cohort, and we look forward to seeing the many ways in which this program will enrich the preaching of the participants.



Upcoming Events & Programs

The past year has been a time of expansion and imagination, as we have leaned into offering more in-person programs while remaining committed to our online community. We look forward to more creative offerings in the year to come. Some of our projects-in-process for 2023 include:

- **A Day-Long, Online Refugia Faith Lenten Retreat for Clergy** led by Rev. Doug Clark and Rev. Eileen Gebbie, following on from our public conversation with Debra Rienstra, author of *Refugia Faith: Seeking Hidden Shelters, Ordinary Wonders, and the Healing of the Earth* • Thursday, March 23, 2023 • 10am - 3pm (Eastern) • Online
- **Lament with Earth**, a continuation of the series begun in 2021 with The Many, a creative collective of musicians and liturgists • Next Lament with Earth events: Thursday, April 20, 2023 and Thursday, June 22, 2023 • 7:30pm - 8:30pm (Eastern) • Online
- **EcoSpiritual Leaders: Encounters with Wholeness** • An 8-week online course facilitated by Kimberly Knight, beginning in April 2023
- **An In-Person Wonder and Wander Retreat at Tir na nOg Farm** in Pownal, Maine, facilitated by Madeline Bugeau-Heartt and Rev. Holly Morrison • Friday, April 28, 2023
- **Another Small Church Leadership Community** • Starting June 2023
- **Group Spiritual Direction for Clergy and Activists** seeking honest conversation in uncertain times
- **Workshops and Gatherings for Chaplains** in a climate-changed world
- **The Second Season of *Climate Changed, Our Podcast*** • Hosted by Nicole Diroff and Ben Yosua-Davis and produced by Peterson Toscano
- **More Editions of *Upwelling***, our print newsletter



COMING THIS FALL Convocation 2023

This Year in Person!

- Thursday and Friday, September 28-29, 2023
- In person at Maple Hill Farm Inn and Conference Center, Hallowell, Maine
- Keynote Speaker: Victoria Loorz, author of *Church of the Wild: How Nature Invites Us Into the Sacred* and co-founder of the Wild Church Network
- Hotel lodging options available nearby
- More information coming soon!

Our Donors

We are grateful for the financial support of the following individuals and organizations. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please email info@thebtscenter.org with any errors or omissions.

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We are also grateful to the hundreds of people who have supported the work of The BTS Center through program registration fees, and to those who have made contributions to Wabanaki Alliance, Faithful America, and the Outdoor Equity Fund at the time that they registered for our programs.

Our Partners

Our work and vision rely deeply on collaborations with individuals and organizations. Over the past year, we have been fortunate to work with the following partners:

350 Maine • All We Can Save Project • Atlantic Black Box • Auburn Seminary • Blessed Tomorrow • Chaplaincy Institute of Maine (ChiME) • Creation Care Alliance of Western North Carolina • Creation Justice Ministries • Episcopal Diocese of Maine • Episcopal Diocese of Maine Climate Justice Council • Episcopal Diocese of Western MA • Faiths4Future • First Congregational Church, UCC, South Portland, ME • Good Grief Network • GreenFaith • HopeGateWay • Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development • Justice in Our Time Fund: The United Methodist Foundation of New England • Maine Conference, United Church of Christ • Maine Conservation Voters • Maine Council of Churches • Maine Environmental Changemakers • Maine Environmental Education Association • Maine Initiatives • Maine School of Ministry • MICAH (Minnesota Institute of Contemplation and Healing) • Montreal City Mission • New England Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America • New Hampshire Council of Churches • Portland Public Library • Print: A Bookstore • Radical Joy for Hard Times • Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative • Southern New England Conference, UCC • St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Cape Elizabeth, ME • St. Luke's Episcopal Cathedral, Portland, ME • The Academy for Spiritual Formation • The Center for Spirituality in Nature • The Haney-Leighton Fund • The Many — Plural Guild LLC • The School of Global Citizenry — Tumbuh Global • Upstander Project • Waterspirit • Wells Reserve at Laudholm • Woodfords Congregational Church, UCC, Portland, ME • Young Evangelicals for Climate Action



You are invited.

Yes — you! As we continue to focus on spiritual leadership for a climate-changed world — as we aim to catalyze spiritual imagination with enduring wisdom for transformative faith leadership — we are grateful for our many friends, program participants, partners, and donors, and we extend a warm invitation to join in this work. Here are a few suggestions:

- Visit thebtscenter.org and explore Upcoming Programs.
- Check out our Leadership Commons, Video Library, and Earthbound Practices — all at thebtscenter.org — for resources you can use within your faith community or for your own personal growth.
- Support the work of The BTS Center with a financial gift. We are grateful for your support.
- Share our website or this report with a friend or colleague who may be interested in the work of The BTS Center.

The Great Re-Imagining

by Lilace Mellin Guignard

A poem composed for The BTS Center's Convocation 2022

"As you enter positions of trust and power, dream a little before you think." ~Toni Morrison

"Perhaps we are very much worth saving." ~Cole Arthur Riley

I want to know how it felt
to be the first knitter to imagine
the loops yarn could make
to cup a heel without a seam.

Each time I work the sock pattern
I cast a spell that transforms
a long, spun strand into
three dimensions of warmth.

And who was the brave
stone whisperer wedging
the keystone above their head
in the first dry-laid arch?

Crazy, right? I mean
there were arched stone vaults
hefted hundreds of years before
power tools or Vermont.

To what risky craftsman can I
apprentice myself?

To learn to see in my mind
what has never been seen,
never achieved, and work backwards
so that somehow the missing pieces

fill themselves in without mortar,
without falling on my head.
To learn the physics of imagination,
the equation that reduces fear
to less than constructive curiosity.
We know an object in terror stays immobile.
We know horror films get made
every day because it's so easy

to imagine bad things happening to
good planets.

After all, the ice sheets come,
the ice sheets go.... But now
we have our finger on the remote
pushing fast forward, as if the ending

has been written, as if pushing these buttons
wasn't actually writing that ending.
Stop. Breathe. Make Believe.
Teach our children this was not ordained.

We must remember we are better than this.

Back when the Great Dreamer
imagined us, there was nothing
to go by. Then there we were,
in all our swimming, crawling, flying,

slithering, climbing, walking glory.
Each a piece of creation, each a fragment
of the Almighty They's fantasy,
roaming the hills, swinging in trees,

willed into free will. Yet now we act
like prisoners of creation, forgetting
the gift, the risk, forgetting we're each
a piece of the greatest imagination.

Could we, do you think, spin back into
pure possibility?

Could we dream a little before we think,
make a leap forward trusting physics
to fill the steps in behind us? Maybe
if we believe that even we are worth saving

we can stop unraveling and hook our loop
to the loops around us. It's time to turn
the heel. To hold with our hands in the air above us
the rock we lift from our neighbor's chest,

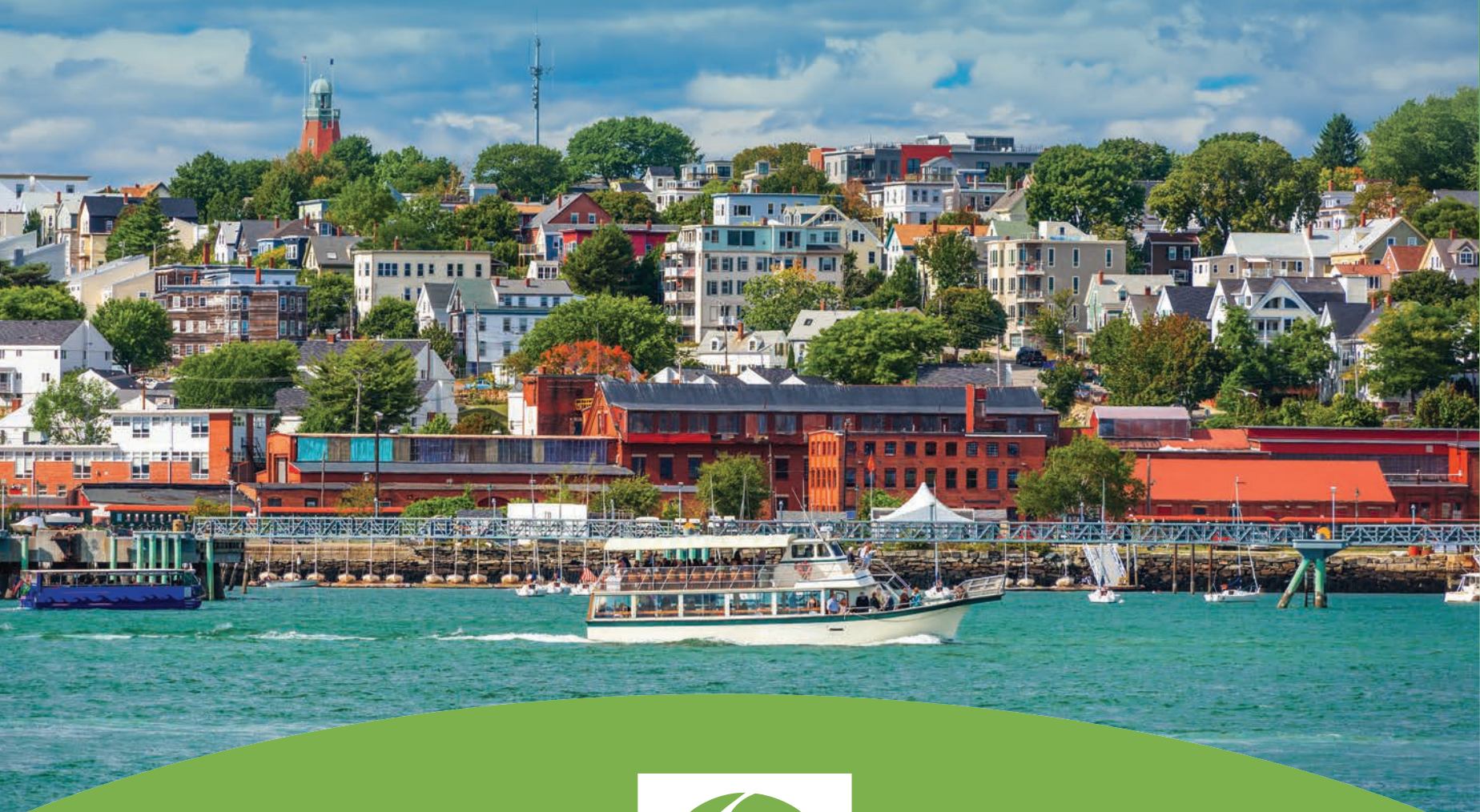
even as hands we don't know lift the rock
from our own.

OUR MISSION:

To catalyze **spiritual** imagination with **enduring** wisdom for **transformative faith** leadership

OUR VISION:

Human hearts **renewed**,
justice **established**, and creation **restored**



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