



THE BTS CENTER

Climate Changed Podcast Discussion Guide **Season 3, Episode 4**

Guests: Terry LePage and Rev. Alison Cornish

Title: The Possibilities of Climate Conscious Chaplaincy

Welcoming Activity

First, reflect on when you felt spiritually or emotionally connected to nature. Terry LePage encourages us to see environmental crises as challenges and opportunities for compassion and connection. Take a few moments to write about or discuss with the group an experience when nature provided solace, inspiration, or healing. Consider how this moment influences your sense of responsibility toward creation.

Introduction to Episode

In this episode, hosts Ben Yosua-Davis and Nicole Diroff discuss the emerging role of chaplains in a climate-changed world with guests Terry LePage, author of *Eye of the Storm: Facing Climate and Social Chaos with Calm and Courage*, and Rev. Alison Cornish, coordinator of The BTS Center's Climate Conscious Chaplaincy Initiative. Together, they explore how chaplains provide spiritual and emotional care amidst ecological crises, foster resilience, address grief, and create spaces for healing.

Discussion Topics

Rituals and Presence

Start and End Time: 5.00 – 6.25

Summary: Alison shares a story about honoring a tree that had to be removed near her home. Through rituals and ceremonies, she emphasizes the importance of bearing witness and offering presence in moments of ecological grief.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever experienced or created a ritual that helped you process grief or connect more deeply with the natural world?
2. How can faith communities use rituals to address ecological loss and climate change?
3. Alison emphasizes presence and witness. How might these practices help individuals and communities navigate environmental crises?

Climate Grief and Connection

Summary: Terry discusses her work facilitating grief circles and introduces the idea of “Islands of Compassion,” where communities provide support and understanding during times of crisis. She highlights the importance of accepting the “predicament” of climate change and responding with courage and care.

Discussion Questions:

1. Terry talks about the difference between “problems” and “predicaments.” How does this perspective shift the way you think about climate action?
2. What does the concept of “Islands of Compassion” mean to you? How could your community embody this idea?
3. How can grief circles or other community practices help individuals process ecological grief and take action?

Chaplaincy Skills for a Climate-Changed World

Summary: Alison and Terry highlight the key skills chaplains bring to environmental crises, including trauma-informed care, meaning-making, and fostering resilience in the face of uncertainty.

Discussion Questions:

1. What skills are most important for providing care during environmental crises?

2. How can chaplaincy practices like deep listening and meaning-making be applied to your community's climate work?
3. Alison and Terry both emphasize resilience. What does resilience mean to you, and how can it be cultivated in times of ecological challenge?

Deep Adaptation and Beyond

Summary: Terry draws on the work of the [Deep Adaptation Forum](#) and Margaret Wheatley's "Islands of Sanity" to discuss how individuals and communities can prepare emotionally and spiritually for climate disruption.

Discussion Questions:

1. How might adopting a mindset of "deep adaptation" change how you approach climate crises?
2. What practical steps could your community take to prepare for climate-related challenges while fostering hope and compassion?
3. How does your faith or values guide your response to the idea of societal adaptation to climate disruption?

Next Steps

- **Host a Grief Circle:** Organize a grief circle using tools from Terry's book, *Eye of the Storm*, to help your community process ecological loss and find courage.
- **Learn More About Deep Adaptation:** Visit the [Deep Adaptation Forum](#) for resources on navigating societal and environmental challenges.
- **Create Rituals for Healing:** Collaborate with your community to develop rituals that address ecological grief and loss. Consider including these in services or events focused on creation care.
- **Engage in Climate Conscious Chaplaincy:** Explore the Climate Conscious Chaplaincy Initiative for resources and opportunities to learn about chaplaincy in a climate-changed world.

Closing Activity

Take a moment to reflect on the discussion and identify one step you can take to support climate-conscious chaplaincy in your context. Share your ideas with the group and discuss ways to collaborate on collective action.