

Important Notice about Future Directions for the Eco-Reformation Website and Blog

Pastor Dave Saude, consultant and catalyst for the Eco-Reformation Project, has moved to Alberta. The MNO Synod still supports the research, development and congregational initiatives that have grown out of this almost three-year project. The Alberta Synod is seeking ways to build upon this foundation and take new directions with the resources, organizations and opportunities unique to its territory.

The website will continue to describe the original project and its findings; and to promote and expand the evolving resources list.

The website will continue to publish time-sensitive announcements about meetings and opportunities, now with a “Manitoba Noticeboard,” and an “Alberta Noticeboard.” Announcements will be clearly dated for ease of reference and will continue to be archived for their historical connections to people and organizations.

Pastor Dave’s Blog will continue with reflections on important books, articles and resources. These too will be archived and eventually catalogued around subject and theme for easy reference. The blog will continue to suggest directions for theological reflection.

The need for Eco-Reformation is not going away. The urgency for congregational, community, and individual action is intensifying. There are social, economic, and political components to this work, but fundamentally, this is a spiritual matter, a call from God for just and faithful stewardship; a plea from the environment itself for consolation and healing; an urgent invitation to community building, solidarity and cooperation between peoples, religions, and nations. This may be some of the most important work of our lifetime!

If there are opportunities for expanded work, involving our other synods, representatives of other Christian denominations, and partners with Indigenous leaders and representatives of other faith communities, notice will be given here.

If you would like to help with facets of this project, please contact your Synod office.

Pastor Dave Saude, retired

June 17, 2019

GreenPeace has an animated video narrated by famed actress Emma Thompson

GreenPeace has an animated video narrated by famed actress Emma Thompson. Called “Rangtan”, it’s found at the following link.

https://secure.greenpeace.org.uk/page/s/rang-tan-video?source=BM&subsource=FOIDPOPEBM01RA&utm_source=gpeace&utm_medium=BM&utm_campaign=FOIDPOPEBM01RA

The video is about a little girl who finds a young orangutan in her bedroom. “There’s a ‘rangtan’ in my bedroom, and I don’t know what to do.” Before chasing away the tiny, mischievous animal, the little girl asks why did the “rangtan” come to her bedroom? The answer follows: “There’s a human in my forest,

and I don't know what to do..." Listen closely to the last line of the film. This film is part of a campaign to stop the destruction for forests for palm oil which is found in countless products worldwide. This is a justice issue, contributing to the destruction of forests and the extermination of a species... 25 orangutans die every day for the sake of food products and shampoo. Greenpeace also has a petition to sign, if you wish. But this is a touching, poignant, frightening story worthy of viewing and discussion.

How do we talk effectively about climate change in Alberta?

"The Alberta Narratives Project is an intensive community-based initiative seeking ways of talking about climate and energy that reflect the shared values and identities of Albertans and provide a more open and constructive basis for conversation."

"The Alberta Narratives Project is part of the Global Narratives Project, a collaborative initiative to train national partners to test and develop climate change communications that speak to their shared values and cultural identity. The project methodology was piloted in India and will begin in Lebanon in 2019."

Two reports have been released. The first, "Communicating Climate Change and Energy in Alberta," released in September, 2018, describes the project's scope, key findings and methodology. Themes include:

- What people say about Alberta identity;
- What people say about climate change in Alberta;
- What Albertans say about oil and gas;
- What Albertans say about renewables and transition.

This is an excellent overview. A more detailed report is in the second volume, "Communicating Climate Change and Energy with Different Audiences in Alberta." Interested in what specific groups might be saying? Consider these: Oil sands workers and energy professionals; c'onservatives; environmentalists, rural Albertans; business leaders, youth, new Canadians, people of faith. The report concludes with recommendations for applying the findings.

Some have said we cannot discuss energy and climate change in Alberta because of the economic and personal investments. Too much is at stake for families, businesses and small communities. Others say that Albertans and other Canadians absolutely must discuss the climate crisis, the causes, realities, and possibilities for response. But we must do so respectfully, compassionately, without blame and ridicule, and without provocative or defensive language.

These two reports are available as PDF documents free on-line and are recommended for use in communities, certainly in Alberta and beyond.

Report 1- The Narrative Overview... <https://www.abcee.org/sites/default/files/Alberta-Narratives-Project-Final-Report.pdf>

Report 2 – Communicating with Different Audiences... <http://albertanarrativesproject.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/ANP-Report-II-final-online.pdf>

Important Manitoba Community Resource Requires Immediate Financial Support

Time Sensitive Announcement

The Manitoba Climate Change Connection has served as an outstanding hub for sharing information about events, challenges and opportunities. The financial support base is changing and a call went out in June for donations. The response was excellent and life-giving, at least until mid July.

See the latest announcement at the following link. <https://mailchi.mp/366e5dd6544e/climate-update-306-climate-reality-training-and-more?e=363f359b05>. There is information about timely events remaining in June. And if readers can contribute financially, please do so.

Are You Familiar with *Laudato Si'*? Time Sensitive Announcement

Laudato Si' is the encyclical of Pope Francis that was instrumental in stimulating the MNO Eco-Reformation Project. You may purchase copies at most book stores but it is also accessible on-line at <https://laudatosi.com/watch>.

The Global Catholic Climate Movement is developing Laudato Si Circles, local communities for prayer, study and action based on the encyclical. A training webinar is scheduled for **June 26 at 10 AM Eastern Time**.

More information about the Climate Circles may be found at <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/circles/> Resources for training circle participants, a handbook and a guide for prayer are available through that same site.

Additional information about how to live Laudato Si, including a pledge you might consider to make, may be found at <http://livelaudatosi.org/gccm/>

A Commentary on Laudato Si, by Kevin W. Irwin, is on the website resource list. The book provides interesting background on the initiatives of previous popes. There is a summary of Pope Francis's specific contributions, as well as a guide for implementing action suggested by the encyclical.