Spirituality & Ecology
6th Annual Spirituality Conference
Earlham School of Religion

Engaging the theme “Spirituality and Ecology,” ESR’s March 2006 Spirituality Gathering will feature two presentations by keynote speaker Keith Helmuth, as well as the opportunity to participate in small-group workshops on a wide variety of topics relating our faith to the stewardship of the earth. The day-long event will include worship, lunch, time to browse through our “bookshop” and art exhibit, and a closing reception hosted by The Joseph Moore Museum of Natural History of Earlham College.

For five years people interested in the field of spirituality have gathered at ESR to investigate new topics, share their wisdom, network and experience spiritual renewal. Come join us March 4, 2006, for another day of refreshment for the body, mind and spirit!

*Listening to the Spirit*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Farmer, writer, community development activist, and Quaker Keith Helmuth seeks to honor the integrity of creation while exploring the tensions between faith and fatalism, hope and despair. His presentation will examine Friends’ testimonies and an ecological worldview.

In a Canadian Friend essay Keith ponders, “Why do some persons have a sense of the integrity of Creation, while others are oblivious to this fundamental context of life? It is, I suggest, the experience of having formed a deep bond with some aspect of the natural world, or the lack of such experience, which accounts for this great divergence in worldviews and values. ...These experiences are the context - the nourishing soil - which enables us to remain open to the deep mystery of Presence in Creation.”

Keith currently lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A founding member of the New Brunswick Friends Monthly Meeting, he is active in regional and national Quaker programs and was a Quaker delegate to the World Council of Churches’ Convocation on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation in Seoul, Korea, in 1990. He has been writing for public presentation and journal publication for thirty-five years. Keith’s work has appeared in Quaker, Mennonite and ecumenical publications.
Passion of the Earth: New Story of Creation Led by Melanie Weintraub Experience “Passion of the Earth,” a fabric art/ narrative collaboration that is a deep expression of the creation story, celebrating the gift of the earth and universe, incorporating the new science and a challenge to engage with our human capacities for greed and creativity. The workshop will include a simple, powerful art activity for your response.


Workshops
Please choose one to attend in the morning and one for the afternoon.

**Passion of the Earth: New Story of Creation**

### ESR Center issues affecting our cities, participants will After considering an overview of environmental issues affecting our cities, participants will be introduced to the tools of the trade. Initial discussion will consider how Quaker social testimonies and social justice affect urban ecology. A problem solving exercise will produce a plan for engaging in the work of the ESR Center.

**Barbara Williamson** is active in environmental groups in her area, on the board of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy and the Virginia Environmental Justice Commission.

### Arbor: What's Faith Got to do with It?

Pisces, the Golden Ratio, and the Fibonacci Numbers. We will also look at how patterns of sacred geometry, such as the Vesica Piscis, can help us to see the true picture of the interconnectivity of all life.

**Krystin Schmidt** is a third-year M.Div. student and a challenge to engage with our human capacities for greed and creativity. The workshop will include a simple, powerful art activity for your response.


### Trees as Metaphors: Economics, Integrity, and the Earth

I would like a vegetarian meal Please indicate which meal(s) you will attend: B____ L____

Lisa Lundeen Nagel (first & second choice)

Sarah Kinsel

Workshop Two preference

Mary Gilbert

Mila White

Lunch

Saturday, March 4 (ESR Center)

8:00 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:45 a.m. Workshop 1

10:45 a.m. Opening Presentation: Keith Humphreys, Keynote Speaker

11:00 a.m. Workshop 2

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Workshop 3

3:00 p.m. Break

4:15 p.m. Closing Remarks: Keith Humphreys, Keynote Speaker

5:15 p.m. Closing Reception: Joseph Moore Museum of Natural History

TO REACH EARLHAM SCHOOL OF RELIGION:

Approach Richmond via Interstate 77, exit at Williamsburg Pike south, merging after about a mile into Northwestern 5th Street. Follow Northwestern 5th Street to U. S. 40 (National Road West). Turn right and corporate property; follow directions. Head left at College Avenue. Turn left (south) on College Avenue. The ESR Center (stone building) sits on the southwest corner. To reach the parking lot, continue south on College Avenue to the stop sign, turn right, and the parking lot is on your right after the next stop sign and take the next right into the large parking lot.

**An advocate for 25 years, Dustin Hayden is a senior at ESR and minister at El Dorado (Ohio) Universal Unitarian Church. From Caliban: Adaricia Gabriela has been an advocate for 20 years, is a graduate of the School of the Spirit and is a priori an ESR.**

**Walking in Harmony, A Shawnee Approach to Life**

Led by Fred “Neeake” Shaw

In this workshop we will look at beautiful photos from nature that demonstrate proper- ties of sacred geometry, such as the Vesica Piscis, the Golden Ratio, and the Fibonacci Numbers. We will also look at how patterns of sacred geometry, such as the Vesica Piscis, can help us to see the true picture of the interconnectivity of all life.**

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### Trees as Metaphors: Economics, Integrity, and the Earth

Ed Dreby, Ms. Hilly, NJ, a former social studies teacher/school administrator, is project leader of the Council for Environmental Education. She will discuss Trees as Metaphors in order to identify spiritual, ecological and industrial economies as well as the implications for our spiritual journeys.

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