

# McCormick

## CERTIFICATE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP

McCormick is offering a [Certificate in Environmental Ministry and Leadership](#) in 2011 – 2012. This timely new program will provide clergy and lay leaders alike the opportunity to think deeply and broadly about the growing challenge of environmental ministry in their communities and work. Combining the contexts of science with biblical studies, theology and ethics, and incorporating the language and practices of the church, participants in this program should expect to come away equipped to serve as a strong resource person and advocate in their own places of ministry.

Churches, agencies and judicatories committed to working together on behalf of a group of churches may find it beneficial to send a person or even a team to this program; Selected McCormick and adjunct faculty will provide leadership for the program, which will be offered on the McCormick campus in Chicago. The Certificate will be offered in two parts, Session 1, September 21-24, 2011 and Session 2, February 29 – March 3, 2012. Applications will be accepted until August 15, 2011 or until the class is filled. Registration is discounted for applications received before August 1, 2012.

### **What the faculty has to say about why this program is important:**

“Our current ecological crisis makes it imperative that we find new ways of living within the world of nature. There are some very practical steps we know we should take, yet finding sufficient courage and motivation to make the needed changes is sometimes difficult. It has been said that this will require a "conversion"--a conversion to the earth. There are spiritual and theological dimensions to the challenge before us. What we believe about God and the world and about the place of the human being within nature affects how we live--theology matters. This course will resource religious leaders in both the practical and the theological work we need to do.” Anna Case Winters, Professor of Theology.

“I think the course is important because it helps religious leaders rediscover the importance of the entire creation in their Scriptures. We've forgotten about this because of such a strong spiritualizing tendency in our tradition. My contribution is to help us retrieve the ways in which the world of nature is foundational for our faith and to help us connect biblical values with contemporary challenges.” Ted Hiebert, Francis A. McGaw Professor of Old Testament.

“I think the course is important because it helps religious leaders be where their laity is already. People come to church with concerns about the planet. This certification program is designed to help their clergy help them to integrate those concerns, and practical responses to them, into the life of the church. My contribution is in the realm of practical and impactful things that congregations can do.” Clare Butterfield, Executive Director of Faith in Place.

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McCormick Theological Seminary is committed to an expanding educational program to serve the needs of local churches, church-related organizations and judicatories. These are three examples; you'll be hearing about more offerings in the months to come. Is there a crucial area of ministry you'd like to see McCormick address? [Let us know](#) — we'd love to talk that through with you!