

Rethinking Social Justice Issues Within an Eco-Justice Framework

Richard S. Gilbert with Kate Braestrup – SLD SJ Conference – October 30, 2010

- (1) We could pick up on one or more themes from your talk (if you have a copy you can send me, that would be helpful)
- (2) eco-justice, environmental racism and classism;
- (3) UU's are often motivated by green life-styles, but sometimes neglect the systemic social change work - it is not either/or but both/and;
- (4) population issues at home and abroad (the globe has an optimum carrying capacity - perhaps also the nation;
- (5) some of the hard trade-offs in eco-justice: eg., wind turbines which provide energy, but some object on aesthetic grounds (Cape Cod). Another example - New York State is in economic trouble and some see the Marcellus and Utica shale deposits of natural gas as a way to wealth and jobs. But what about the environmental costs of hydro-fracking;
- (6) the spiritual and theological issues undergirding and surrounding eco-justice.

These are some ideas floating around in my mind. We ought to zero in on one or a very few. My idea is to provoke discussion that will develop some real ethical/spiritual dilemmas and not be simply preaching to the choir. What do you think?

This conversation can be informal, but I think we ought to do some structuring - some conversation between us and then some open discussion. It ought to be fun!

See Clinton presidential order on environmental racism.

See environmental racism after Katrina

See Eco-justice file and sermons/talks/editorials