

Spring 2021

3 Credit Hours

**(CL-620) Faith in Place:
Organizing for Environmental Justice**
Garret-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Instructors

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Additional Faith in Place Staff Organizers
Church and Community Organizers

Office Hours: By Appointment

Prerequisites: None

Course Format: Online Synchronous via Zoom

Office Hours: by Email Appointment

Class Time: Fridays, 9:00am-Noon with two 15-minute breaks, first class is February 5, 2021

Tech Requirements: To participate in the course, you will need to have consistent, reliable highspeed internet access and a reasonably up-to-date computer with webcam, microphone, and operation system.

Netiquette: Please join the Zoom classroom from a *private, quiet location* to eliminate all potential background noise or visual disruptions. You will want to test your microphone and video settings beforehand to ensure that all technical aspects are working properly, you are set up correctly, and you are fully prepared to participate in class. We will take two 15-minute breaks, but otherwise, you are expected to be as present and engaged as you would for a traditional residential course.

A few helpful tips on online presence:

- elevate your camera so that you are looking straight into rather than down upon the camera
- center yourself on the screen, neither too close nor too far
- set up a light source in front of instead of behind you
- mute your microphone when not speaking – and unmute to speak
- reduce distractions to you and others (e.g. ringing cell phone, barking dog, checking email/social media/browsing)
- when technical difficulties occur, be patient and gracious with others and yourself

Course Description: This course introduces students to basic principles and practices of working with interfaith communities for environmental justice through non-profit organizational leadership. Taught by staff leaders at Faith in Place, a leading faith-based environmental justice

nonprofit organization in Chicago, IL, in collaboration with area church and community organizers, this course provides students with practical tools and information to understand, work at, and potentially launch new nonprofit organizations committed to the realization of public justice. A primary focus of class time is spent critically engaging case studies drawn from staff and practitioner experiences working to achieve environmental justice through education, organizing, and advocacy. Particular attention is given to case studies that highlight the challenges and promises of multi-cultural, multi-regional (rural, semi-urban, urban), interfaith, and antiracist commitments in a non-profit context.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who graduate from this course will be able to:

1. *Understand* and *articulate* an environmental justice perspective by drawing connections between ecological degradation, white racism, economic oppression, and related forms of social inequity.
2. *Apply* an intersectional environmental justice perspective to diverse contexts of traditional and emergent forms of ministry.
3. *Evaluate* the possibilities and challenges of leading multi-cultural, multi-regional, interfaith, and antiracist interfaith nonprofit organizations to create social change in the public sphere.
4. *Assess* the strengths and weaknesses of any given nonprofit organization by *interpreting* their vision, mission, theory of change, principals, outreach methodology, organizational structure, strategic plan, balance sheet, and budget.
5. *Imagine* and *create* a strategic plan to launch a new nonprofit organization.

Required Texts and Web Pages (all assigned sections of texts will be provided electronically as PDF)

www.faithinplace.org

www.faithinplaceaction.org

www.guidestar.org

www.charitynavigator.org

Financial Statements of Faith in Place and Faith in Place Action Fund – to be provided

B. Holly Schadler. The Connection: Strategies for Creating and Operating 5013s, 501c4s, and Political Organizations. The Alliance for Justice: 1998.

Cone, James H. "Whose Earth Is It, Anyway?" *Earth Habitat: Eco-Injustice and the Church's Response*, ed. Dieter Hessel and Larry Rasmussen. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2001.

To Love the Wind and the Rain: African Americans and Environmental History; edited by Dianne Glave and Mark Stoll, University Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, Pa 15260. 2006

Farming While Black: Soul Fire Farm's Practical Guide to Liberation of the Land; Leah Penniman, Chelsea Green Publishing, White River Junction, Vermont. 2018

Grassroot to Global; Broader Impact of Civic Ecology, Edited by Marianne E Krasny, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, Ny, 2018

All We Save; Truth, Courage and Solutions for the Climate Crisis, Edited by Ayanna Elizabeth Johnson and Katherine K. Wilkinson, One World, Random House , 2020

Lobbying IL: How you can make a difference in Public Policy; Christopher Z Mooney and Barbara van Dyke-Brown; University of IL at Springfield, Springfield, Illinois, 2007.

Other materials published by Faith in Place, denominational sources, government agencies, etc.

Course Requirements

A. Class Participation – 25%

Class participation involves the following expectations (5% each):

1. You attend every class period and are on time
2. You demonstrate familiarity with the assigned readings and topics for the day
3. You listen carefully to the instructors, staff, site visit hosts, and your classmates
4. You are an active participant in the class discussions and site visits
5. You participate in at least one virtual lobby day or other Faith in Place virtual event as you choose (more information will be given in class)

B. 11 Weekly Reflection Papers (2 page single-spaced, Times Roman 12-point font, 1 inch margins) – 25%

Reflections involve the following categories:

1. Summarize key ideas and concepts - 5%
2. Reflect critically on the content learned and explore possible applications for your future ministry – 10%
3. Identify and explore what questions remain for you - 10%

C. Written Nonprofit Strategic Plan 35%

Draft a strategic plan for launching a new nonprofit that includes the following components (grading includes addressing each of these areas 25% and 10% for overall creativity and imagination in applying course concepts):

- Vision
- Mission
- Theory of Change
- Guiding Principals
- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis
- Long Term Goals
- Short Term Goals
- Strategies and Tactics: Funding, Personnel, Operation Structure, Program, Advocacy, Outreach, Development, and Action Plans

D. Final Class Presentation on Outreach Projects – 15%

PowerPoint Pitch Deck Presented to Class for New Nonprofit highlighting components of Strategic Plan – 10% on overall presentation and 5% on Slide Deck covering content

Grading scale

97-100	A+	73-76	C
93-96	A	70-72	C-
90-92	A-	67-69	D+
87-89	B+	63-66	D
83-86	B	60-62	D-
80-82	B-	<60	F
77-79	C+		

Course Schedule

Week 1 - February 5th (Week 1): Review of Case Studies Format; Introduction to Faith in Place and Not-For-Profit Management; Vision, Mission, Theory of Change; Principals; Organizing Method

February 12th (Week 2): Opening Up the Faith in Place Books as Case Study for Nonprofit Budget and Fundraising

February 19th (Week 3): Introduction to various types of nonprofits: C3, C4, Political Action Committee (PAC), and Social Enterprises with Faith in Place, Faith in Place Action Fund as Case Study

February 26th (Week 4): Strategic Planning and Capacity Building for Nonprofits: Faith in Place Case Study

March 5th (Week 5): Environmental Racism in Environmental Movement: Faith in Place Team Dynamics Case Study

March 12th (Week 6): Program and Outreach Development and Implementation

March 19th (Week 7): Present Case Study on Advocacy

March 26th (Week 8): Present Case Study on Energy & Climate Change

April 2nd (Week 9): Present Case Study on Sustainable Food & Land Use

April 9th (Week 10): Present Case Study on Water Preservation

April 16th (Week 11): Present Case Study on Youth Empowerment

April 23rd (Week 12): Final Presentations

April 30 (Week 13): Final Presentations