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Release date: February 2, 2022

HOPE FOR CREATION CONFERENCE: PREPARING EXPO '74'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, in partnership with Whitworth University's Office of Church Engagement, Gonzaga University's Center for Climate, Society and the Environment, Terrain and Fig Tree, will host a Conference called "Hope for Creation" April 22-23, 2022. The Conference is designed to share a vision of hope for creation; showcase local caretakers of land, water, and air, with emphasis on land, and renew Spokane's leadership on environmental care, launched by Expo '74.

The conference will be held at the Cathedral (located at 12th and Grand Avenue) and starts at 9 a.m. Friday. Whitworth Professor Jonathan Moo will deliver a lecture titled "Creation Care: Bridging Science & Faith." Moo is followed by Gloria Flora speaking on biochar from fuel-rich forests; WSU's Aaron Esser on adaptations to dryland wheat agriculture; Kurtis Vaagen and Erik Makinson on ecologically sound forest management practices. Friday concludes with an Earth Day vigil, organized by Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience.

Saturday's program begins with Twa-le Abrahamson of the Spokane Tribe speaking on the cleanup of land despoiled by the midnight mine and is followed by Professor Tara Hudiburg of University of Idaho speaking on sustaining the 21st century forest carbon sink, two subsequent sessions by students on their concerns for the future environment. Midday Saturday features a street fair that is free to the public with exhibits by local faith and secular groups who actively care for the land (bee keepers, worm growers, etc), an art exhibit, live music and food trucks.

Saturday afternoon features talks by Kara Odegard on Spokane's Sustainability Action Plan and J. William T. Youngs, Professor of History at Eastern Washington University and author of *The Fair and the Falls*, titled "Expo '74, The Environment Then & Now." Also, on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning there will be 10 group discussions on a variety of topics including the Pope's encyclical *Laudato Si*, personal and corporate responsibility for environmental care, maintaining health under environmental stress, tree planting in Spokane and creation care as told in the Gospel of Mark and from a Native American perspective.

The conference concludes with participants recommending ways to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Spokane's Expo '74, the first World's Fair dedicated to the environment.