Event Description: The Hope for Creation Conference is designed to share a vision of hope for creation; showcase local caretakers of land, water and air; and renew Spokane’s leadership on environmental care.

 Expo ’74 was the first world’s fair dedicated to the environment. It called attention to environmental issues and helped to shape the consciousness of the Spokane community. As we near the 50th anniversary of Expo ’74, now is the time to look back at where we’ve been, consider carefully what is being done, and develop a road map for the future. Spokane was a leader in creation care then, and that leadership should continue.

All are welcome at this event – civic leaders, nonprofit organizations, faith communities, business people and engaged citizens. All points of view are needed, and the dignity of each person will be respected.

Steering committee: Whitworth Associate Professor Elizabeth Abbey; city councilors Breean Beggs and Lori Kinnear; Spokesman Review columnist Pat Munts; Lands Council Executive Director Mike Petersen; Lenore Three Stars; Heather VanDeventer, Dean of St. John’s Cathedral; John Wallingford of St John’s Cathedral; and Senior Pastor of Life Center Church Joe Wittwer.
**Where:** St John’s Episcopal Cathedral, 127 E 12th Avenue, Spokane WA  
**When:** April 17, 3 p.m.-April 18, 5 p.m.  
**Who:** Organized by the Whitworth Office of Church Engagement and St John’s Episcopal Cathedral  
**Why:** Get ready for the 50th anniversary of EXPO ’74 by engaging faith communities in care of creation to partner with environmentalists  
**Register at [whitworth.edu/hopeforcreation](http://whitworth.edu/hopeforcreation) and onsite from 2-6 p.m. Friday and 7-9 a.m. Saturday

**Hope for Creation Schedule**

- **Friday, April 17, 3-9 p.m.**  
  - 3-5 p.m. Showcase of local organizations. This segment includes table displays by local groups active in environmental issues, e.g. Lands Council, Jeff Marle worm grower, Earth Ministries, 350 Spokane, Hutton Settlement, Riverkeepers, Friends of Manito, etc.  
  - 5-6 p.m. Evensong with St. John’s Choir  
  - 6-7 p.m. Welcome. Episcopal Dean Heather VanDeventer, Carol Evans, Spokane Tribe.  
  
  - Keynote Address: **Prof. J. William T. Youngs**, EWU; “Expo ’74: The Environment Then and Now”  
  
  Youngs is a professor of history at Eastern Washington University, where he teaches two environmentally-themed courses: “History of the American Wilderness” and “History of National Parks.” He is a lifetime member of the Sierra Club and author of *The Fair and the Falls: Spokane’s Expo ’74 – Transforming an American Environment*, winner of the Washington State Governor's Writer's Award.  
  - 7 p.m. dinner (optional with an upcharge of $15; limited seating)

- **Saturday, April 18, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
  - 8-9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer and Plenary: **Dr. Jonathan Moo**, Associate Professor, Whitworth University, Department of Theology; “Creation Care: Bridging Science & Faith”  
  
  Moo holds graduate degrees in both wildlife ecology and biblical studies and teaches and writes in the areas of New Testament, early Judaism, environmental ethics, and science and faith. He is the author of a number of essays and books, most recently the co-authored *Creation Care: A Biblical Theology of the Natural World* (Zondervan, 2018).
10 a.m.-noon Concurrent panel sessions: Hear from experts on care of Land, Water, Air.

- **Land:** soil remediation, gardening and agriculture
  - **Gloria Flora,** Colville, Founder of Sustainable Obtainable Solutions, an organization dedicated to the sustainability of public lands and of the plants, animals and communities that depend on them. Biochar is a fine-grained charcoal made by pyrolysis in a specially designed furnace that captures all emissions, gasses and oils for reuse as energy. Biochar has been used in agriculture as a safe, sustainable soil amendment for more than 2,500 years.
  - **Jon Wyss,** executive director of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Washington State. FSA operates in the areas of Conservation, Disaster Assistance, Price Support, Farm Loans, and Energy Programs. Jon speaks on adapting agriculture to changing climate.
  - **Beth Robinette,** Lazy R Beef Ranch, regenerative ranching; Planned grassland grazing builds topsoil and invigorates grass growth, which sequesters carbon. We have tripled our organic soil carbon since 1996. Beth also is the co-founder of Local Inland Northwest Cooperative (LINC) foods, a worker and farmer owned food hub based in Spokane.
  - **Sophia Ressler,** Washington State Leader, Center for Biological Diversity, a nonprofit membership organization known for its work protecting endangered species through legal action, scientific petitions, creative media and grassroots activism. Sophia specializes in carnivores.

- **Water:** the health of the Spokane River watershed
  - **Mike Rule,** Wildlife Biologist, Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, protecting waterfowl habitats will speak on Waterfowl and Wetlands of the Channeled Scablands - Past, Present and Future.
  - **Bruce Howard,** Environmental Affairs Director, Avista. He has extensive experience in the private and public sectors of environmental management, business development, and communications management. Bruce will speak on Avista and the Spokane River: Past, Present and Future.
• Kalispel Tribe member, TBD
  Possibly on water passage for restoration of salmon. Other water quality issues.

- Air: emissions, fires, air quality
  • Twa-Le Abrahamson, Spokane Tribe, Sovereignty, Health, Air, Water and Land Society and the Midnight Mine clean up.
    Twa-Le has been the Air Quality Specialist for the Tribe.
  • Mark Swanson, PhD, WSU, Compositional, structural, and function attributes of early succession on forest sites in the Pacific Northwest. Forest disturbance processes, including fire and volcanic eruption.
    Sustainable NW forests and wild fire management.

Noon-1 p.m. Networking lunch (provided)

- 1-1:50 p.m. Kara Odegard, Policy Analyst with Spokane City Council focusing on climate and environmental sustainability. She works with local and regional stakeholders to develop policy recommendations that address the impacts of climate change and promote environmental sustainability & conservation. Kara will report on the “Spokane Community Adaptation Project.” This study was produced by local stakeholders under the guidance of scientists at NOAA and Oregon State University, and by using tools developed by climate scientists at University of Washington and University of Idaho to understand the impact of climate change on our region.

- 2-2:50 p.m. Concurrent panel sessions:
  - Technology
    • Larry Luton, EWU Public Administration (retired). Spokane 350 Board. Speaking about the technologies outlined by Project Drawdown. Describes the 100 technologies available today that could reduce CO2 to sustainable levels.
    • Scott Simmons (tentative) Director Public Works and Utilities. Circular economy. Spokane business development.
- Social action
  - Anna Humphreys, UW graduate student studying the psychological stress of living in the era of climate change.
  - Sunrise, TBD, Climate strikes, why we care, why you should.
  - Ali Groza, LC Generation Global Club. The global concerns, our priorities.
  - Episcopal Youth group. Concerns, recommendations and actions to confront climate change.

3-4 p.m. Response from communities of faith- David Milliken from Hutton Settlement moderates.

- Melanie Mullen (tentative) Director, Racial Reconciliation, Justice & Creation Care, National Episcopal Church, NY. How the church has acted to safeguard the integrity of Creation and to sustain and renew the life of the Earth.
- DR Michel, Executive Director, UCUT, a five inter-tribal organization with membership including the Colville Confederated Tribes, Coeur d’ Alene Tribe, Kalispel Tribe, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and Spokane Tribe. DR Represents the UCUT in regional fish and wildlife processes and forums.
- Mamdouh Elaarag, Spokane Islamic Center, the Earth as a garden, images from the Koran. Every living thing is in a state of worship.
- Dr. Patrick McCormick, Professor of religious studies, Gonzaga University, teaches courses in Christian Ethics, Medical Ethics, and Catholic Social Teachings. Board Member Spokane 350.
  - 4:15-5 p.m. Next Steps Workshop: feedback to local leaders on creation care priorities