Robert Shore-Goss
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Education:
Th. D. in Comparative Religion: Indo-Tibetan Buddhism and Christian Theology, Harvard Divinity School
M. Div. Jesuit Weston School of Theology (now Boston College School of Theology and Ministry)
B.A. Classics/Theology Holy Cross College

Bio:
Bob is a retired clergy of the UCC, theologian, and professor. He serves on the United Church of Christ’s denominational Environmental Justice Council, certified as an Environmental Justice Trainer, and teaches online at Chicago Theological Seminary; Greening the Church: Theological and Practical Foundations. He is leading the UCC Environmental Justice Council Affinity Group on the Rights of Nature.

Robert is married to Rev. Dr. Joseph Shore-Goss, settled Pastor of The Federated Church, Marlborough, NH. Bob leads the Green Team of the Federated Church.

He was Senior Pastor/Theologian of MCC United Church of Christ in the Valley (2004-2017). The Church made the Earth a member of the Church, and each Earth Day it renews its covenant. It became the First Creation Justice Church of the UCC. (http://www.ucc.org/the_ucc_s_first_creation_justice_church) The Church was awarded a Green Oscar for Advocacy from California Interfaith Power & Light.

His book—God is Green: An Eco-Spirituality of Incarnate Compassion—has been endorsed:

An author known for his Queer Theology expands his horizons to find what spirituality can do to entice people of faith to Green the Earth. God Is Green traces the roots of human contact with the sacred all the way to our mythological roots from the soil, and fashioned by God’s all-purposing hands, we
embody the sacred’s commitment to a life connected with all living things. Ignoring this rootedness, this connectedness, is a dangerous game played by industrial cultures. Robert calls us all back to the Earth and our inter-relatedness to all living things as essential to a healthy, whole, and full life.

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, President of the United Church of Christ

Bob is a Buddhist-Christian. His spirituality is grounded in the bodhisattva practice of Mahayana Buddhism (compassion in action) and the contemplative Franciscan and Jesuit spiritualities (a contemplative in liberation). He is queer and green.

He is currently working on a book: The Insurgency of the Spirit: An Animist Christianity in an Ecological Age.

Types of Presentations:
- Lead worship and preach, power-point presentations and group processing, workshops

Workshops:

Environmental Spirituality Areas:

**Becoming a Creation Justice Church in the UCC**
This workshop looks at the six steps of how to become a UCC Creation Justice Church. This is a method proposed by the UCC Environmental Justice Ministry for how congregations might discern our Christian call to care for creation and how churches might develop sustainable communities for Earthcare and eco-justice. How do we transform ourselves and our churches to live as faithful disciples of Jesus’ creation-centered ministry and practice of God’s Green kin-dom (not kingdom)? This includes steps we might take to reduce our carbon footprint of campus and ourselves.

**Ecology is at the Heart of Our Faith**
The central point of this workshop is eco-spirituality. How do we retrieve the sources of the creation-centered traditions in the Bible, worship and sacraments, and incarnational traditional Christianity to transform ourselves and our faith communities to become responsive to earthcare and eco-justice. Christian eco-spirituality is grounded in God’s creation as “good” and that the Spirit is immanent in creation while Christ is incarnated and connected to all life. These are foundational for our creation-centered spirituality and the transformation of ourselves and our faith community providing Earthcare. Christian faith affirms the sacredness of embodied life and locates humanity with the web of life on Earth. This workshop will provide a kinship model that realizes the green inclusiveness of Jesus’ praxis and message of God’s kin-dom.

**Reading the Bible from Creation-Centered Perspective:**
Explores the Earth Bible Project and six principles of eco-justice for reading the
Bible from a green or creation-justice experience.

**Animist Liberation Christianity**
This workshop focuses on Jesus as a Spirit-led prophet who practices a wilderness spirituality that results in Jesus and his practice of God’s Green Kin-dom. This is the framework of his forth-coming book: *The Insurgency of the Spirit: Reading the Historical Jesus from Indigenous Wilderness Perspective in a time of Climate Change.*

**Nature as a Spiritual Practice**
This is a workshop on how to incorporate nature into spiritual practice from centering prayer or Buddhist mindfulness. This will be attention to compassionate engagement with Nature to overcome Nature Deficit Order. It is oriented to a practice and mentor folks how to fall in love with God’s creation and work for repair and restoration of the land.

**Queer Theology:**

**Queering the Bible: A Practicum in Intersectional, Liberative Readings:**
This workshop intends to build skills in reading the scriptures from liberative queer, intersectional context for reading for those preparing a sermon, facilitating Bible study, or queer affinity group. (This is a workshop that I will facilitate in 2019 ONA Gathering in Milwaukee)

Check out on website the anthologies: *Take Back the Word: A Queer Reading of the Bible* (The Pilgrim Press) and *The Queer Bible Commentary* (editor and contributor for the New Testament). This book was named the number one theological work published by SCM Press in fifty years.

**The History of Queer Theology:**
This workshop is based on a course I taught several times at Claremont School of Theology for LGBTQI students and allies that covered theological and pastoral issues.

**Buddhist-Christanity**

**Being a Contemplative in Liberation**
This covers what it means to be a Buddhist-Christian (or what is described as multiple religious participation in the 21st century, Christian-Buddhist dialogue, Christian Centering Prayer and Buddhist Mindfulness for Social Justice.)