HEFFNER AND WARNERS

CHAPTER 3

Reconciliation Ecology: A Christian Pedagogy of Place

Gail Gunst Heffner, Ph.D. and David P. Warners, Ph.D.
Calvin College

INTRODUCTION

Calvin College is a comprehensive liberal arts college within

HEFFNER AND WARNERS

These biblical concepts resonate with two bodies of scholarly literature-the pedagogy of place and reconciliation ecology-in which
this paper is situated. The pedagogy of place argues for "a fundamental reimagining of the ethical, economic, political, and spiritual foundations upon which society is based, and this process needs to occur within the context of a deep knowledge of place."x

HEFFNER AND WARNERS

If in piety the church says, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof" (Psalm 24:1), and in fact is no different in thought and action from the general community, who will be drawn to her word and worship to "come and see" that her work or salvation has any meaning? Witness in saying is irony and bitterness if there be no witness in doing. 11
The overall goal of this project is to bring the good news of the gospel
to the Plaster Creek Watershed and its occupants (Mark 16:15). Through this work we hope to begin the long process of reconciliation between people and their place and in so doing help to regain some of the former glory of a beloved portion of God's creation. Throughout Scripture, healthy streams give indication of God's provision for all he has made (Gen. 2:6), and they provide a hopeful vision for the coming kingdom (Ps. 46:4; Ez. 47:1-12, Rev. 22:1).

HEFFNER AND WARNERS

Notes
1 "An Expanded Statement of the Mission of Calvin College: Vision, Purpose, Commitment." Calvin College Provost's Office, 1992.

2 Sobel, David. Place-Based Education: Connecting Classrooms and Communities. (Great Barrington, MA: The Orion Society, 2005).

3 Scully, Malcolm. "Making Peace with Biodiversity." Chronicle of Higher Education, March 28, 2003.

4 David Orr, Ecological Literacy: Education and the transition to a postmodern world (Albany, NY: SUNY, 1992), 130.

5 Sobel, David, Place-Based Education: Connecting Classrooms and Communities. (Great Barrington, MA: The Orion Society, 2005).

6 See also C.A. Bowers, Educating for Eco-Justice and Community (2001); B.Braid and A. Long, Place as Text: Approaches to Active Learning (2000); G. Smith and D. Williams, Ecological Education in Action: On Weaving Education, Culture, and the Environment (1999), G. G.
Heffner and C. Beversluis, Strengthening Liberal Arts Education by Embracing Place and Particularity (2007).

7 See D.A. Gruenewald, "The Best of Both Worlds: A Critical Pedagogy of Place," Educational Researcher 2003, 32(4).

8 Zencey, E. "The Rootless Professors." In W. Vitek and W. Jackson (Eds.). Rooted in the Land:
Essays on Community and Place (pp. 15-19). (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996.)

9 Scully, Malcolm. "Making Peace with Biodiversity." Chronicle of Higher Education, March 28,
2003.

10 Berry, Wendell. "Manifesto: Mad Farmer Liberation Front." In Context. (30) Fall/Winter 1991, 2.

11 Sitler, Joseph. "Evangelism and the Ca ghTz (g) Tj 4 Tj 1.92 0 Td 107 Tz 4 (a) Tj 4.32 0 Td r e wl/ W13