

Derrick Weston

Theological Educator and
Training Coordinator



Derrick Weston is a writer, filmmaker, podcaster, speaker, and educator whose most recent work has focused on the intersection of food and faith. He is the co-host of the Food and Faith podcast and producer of Spoon, Spade, and Soul, a podcast highlighting food and land-based ministries in the Episcopal church. Additionally, he is the producer of the short film series "A Wilderness Like Eden" highlighting the work of churches engaged in food justice work. After two decades of being a pastor and community organizer, Derrick is a strong believer in the potential of local congregations to enact change in their communities. Derrick received his B.A. in film studies from the University of Pittsburgh and his Masters of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He also has a certification in health ministry from Wesleyan Theological Seminary and was a part of the Re:Generate fellowship on food, faith, and ecology through Wake Forest Divinity School. Derrick is the co-author of the book *The Just Kitchen: Invitations to Sustainability, Cooking, Connection, and Celebration* and has written numerous articles for several publications. He and his wife Shannon have four children and live outside of Baltimore, Maryland.

SAMPLE SPEAKING TOPICS

THEOLOGY OF CREATION

- The Bible was written in an agrarian world to people whose lives were deeply intertwined with the natural world. In some ways, we can't understand the Bible without understanding the themes of land, water, and creation that move throughout both testaments. But seeing the themes of creation in scripture is not enough. We must also recognize that within those themes is a call to serve and protect the created world and that the command to love our neighbor extends to our non-human neighbors as well. I will give an overview of creation's role in the biblical narrative and ask us to consider what our role as Christians might be in tending to the world that God made.

FOOD JUSTICE AND THEOLOGY

- Food is our most intimate connection to the natural world. We relate to the other species on this planet largely by what we do and do not eat. Food can be comforting and nostalgic and often very personal, but beyond connecting us to the natural world, it also connects us to each other, sometimes in life affirming ways, but also in ways that highlight the inequalities in our society. We will explore the ways that food shows up in scripture and discuss the ways that food intersects with a range of justice issues from race to environmentalism.

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

- The effects of climate change disproportionately impact black and brown communities. African Americans in this country are more likely to live near industrial waste facilities regardless of their socioeconomic status. And while deeply affected, people of color often feel left out of the conversations about environmental issues. I will discuss the racial dimensions of our current climate crisis, encouraging communities of color to advocate more deeply around ecological issues while encouraging predominantly white communities to both acknowledge the inequalities and to form partnerships across dividing lines to create community change.



Please feel free to reach out for any questions.

Get in Touch!

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