A Letter from the Editor

2 February 2005

Dear Friend,

I last wrote to you in June 2003, marking a transition for the journal and announcing a new subtitle. Since that date the journal has continued to grow, affirming the decision to broaden out the agenda in order to include articles in disciplines other than that traditionally associated with Ecotheology. This widening discourse is a challenge, but also an opportunity to bring together disparate discussions on religion and ecology that have more traditionally been associated with fields such as religious studies, cultural studies, geography, environmental science, history, philosophy and so on.

Of course, it is fair to say that not only are such discussions valuable for those more committed to constructive work from a particular theological, philosophical or ethical position, but also those who are engaged in such discussion can begin to weave in more multidisciplinary awareness into such debates. It also provides an opportunity for publication for those who are more interested in using, for example, the tools of social science in order to conduct careful fieldwork on the way different religious traditions have incorporated concern about the natural world. In addition, it is my hope that those who are interested in the debates and discussions surrounding natural science and religion will feel inspired to think about making a contribution to the journal as it continues to widen its scope. Of course, with a multiple and variegated discourse, such as this proposal envisages, there needs to be both greater opportunities to publish, and also a broadening out of the editorial board in order to reflect more accurately the widening scope of the journal.

With these changes in mind, it gives me great pleasure to announce that Professor Bron Taylor from the University of Florida will, from the first issue of 2005, be Consulting Editor, and I will be Editor in Chief. His contribution will help facilitate the transition phase for the journal. He has an established reputation in religious studies and has recently completed the authoritative Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature, which will be published in March 2005 and is described at <www.religionandnature.com>.
Beginning in 2006 we will appoint a new Executive Board, which will take an active part in helping to shape the direction and agenda of the journal and will likely be active in contributing to guest issues from 2007. These guest issues will be organized around a specific theme and calls for papers will be announced in due course. There will continue to be opportunities to publish unsolicited articles of academic high quality. The more precise scope of the journal will be announced shortly. The number of issues a year will increase in 2006 to four issues a year, published in March, June, September and December.

From the first issue in 2007 Professor Taylor will be Editor in Chief, and I will be Consulting Editor. There will also be a change in name from Ecotheology, in order to be more inclusive of other perspectives. Of course, quality articles traditionally attributed to the field of Ecotheology will continue to be considered, and it is my belief that widening the possible range of different areas that are available for consideration will enhance this quality. The actual title of the new journal is currently under consideration and we expect to have made a firm decision on the new title by the end of 2005.

In 2007 the editorial board will change in order to facilitate the review of articles that will be submitted from diverse fields. Over time, we will endeavour to include those voices from as many diverse communities as practicable, in other words, move as far as possible to an international journal that has adequate representation from academics working in different geographical contexts, as well as from different fields and academic disciplines. We are also intending to appoint two book review editors, one who is responsible for managing books published in Europe and the rest of the world, and one who is responsible for managing books published in North America. Although the language of publication will continue to be in English, we would encourage non-English speakers to have their books reviewed by those familiar with both languages.

I hope that you will continue to find Ecotheology a stimulating journal to read and recommend it to your colleagues and institutional libraries. Such an ambitious enterprise as this relies on your continued support.

Yours truly,

Professor Celia Deane-Drummond