

DISCOVERING A SENSE OF PLACE

A EIGHT SESSION COURSE FOR THE WORKPLACE, FAITH CENTER OR HOME

PURPOSE

- To understand the meaning of a bioregional perspective, and what it would mean to develop one.

- To consider the benefits of consciously developing an intimate relationship with your place.

- To explore what it might mean to protect the place we live.

"I am amazed at the connections – internal and external – I am making as a result of taking this course... connecting with the land, with people and with myself."

- participant,
Columbus, Ohio



Simply Living — Creating a compassionate and sustainable world through personal, community and cultural transformation.

SESSION THEMES:

A Sense of Place: Wendell Berry, America's best-known bioregionalist, says if you don't know where you are, you don't know who you are. With a sense of place, your identity is defined- to a significant extent- by the natural features of the place you live. Without a sense of place, what will fill the void?

Responsibility to Place: There is a difference between living on the land and dwelling in it-understanding its rhythms, its potential, and its limits. Those who develop intimacy with a place over time tend to accept responsibility for it.

Knowing Your Bioregion: Your bioregion is a unique place with its own watershed, soils, climate, plants, animals, and history. How much do you know about it?

Living in Place: Living in place means consciously trying to satisfy your needs and find your pleasures in your local bioregion and working to assure the long-term health of the bioregion.

Mapping Your Place: Mapping can be learned by local groups and individuals to give a new sense of place. A typical map shows political subdivisions and transportation routes. A bioregional map delineates regions based on watersheds, climate, and plant types- and helps people relate to their natural surroundings.

Building Local Community: A bioregionalist assumes responsibility for the health and continuity of a place, not only its natural features, but also the social bonds of its people.

Empowerment: Knowing a place can inspire and empower one to take action to preserve it or take part in its restoration. How important is individual and group action in modern society?

Simply Living

2929 N. High St. Suite A

Columbus Ohio 43202

(614)447-0296, www.simplyliving.org