

Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker

Class of 1971, and

Dr. John Grim

“The visionary reimagines the world.”
- Malcolm Gladwell

Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker and Dr. John Grim are visionaries who have reimagined how we think about the future of planet earth by bringing together religion, science and the humanities into a coherent movement to repair our deteriorating environment. Scholars of History and Religion, Drs. Tucker and Grim organized the 10-conference Harvard Conference Series on World Religions and Ecology, the first major convening of religious and scientific scholars focusing on the ethical challenges of the planet’s growing environmental crisis.

From that initiative, they created the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology, with joint appointments at the Yale School of the Environment and Yale Divinity School. With the intellectual influence of their mentor Thomas Berry, they created *Journey of the Universe*, an award-winning documentary and multi-media educational project about the relationship of humanity to the environment.

Mary Evelyn Tucker’s remarkable academic journey started at Trinity where she earned

her B.A. in English and History in 1971, and membership in Phi Beta Kappa. She then taught English in Japan at Trinity’s sister college, Notre Dame Seishin University, where she developed a keen interest in East Asian religions, especially Confucianism. Subsequently, she earned her M.A. in the History of Religions at Fordham, and her Ph.D. at Columbia.

John Grim earned his B.A. in Theology and History at St. John’s University in Minnesota, and then entered the master’s program in the History of Religions at Fordham where he also earned his Ph.D. with a special interest in indigenous traditions, particularly Native American religions.

Mary Evelyn and John met at Fordham, and studied under the renowned cultural historian Thomas Berry. Soon they married, forming an amazing partnership across the last four decades.

In their work we find warning and challenge. They have written, “...we have a staggering ‘great work’ now before us...to renew the face of planet Earth...To renew our wetlands and restore our woodlands. To regenerate fisheries and restore mangroves. To reinhabit cities and countryside in a sustaining way...” Their work has galvanized others to advocacy and action for environmental justice, and they have encouraged and supported the development of Trinity’s Environmental Studies Program.

For their visionary intellectual leadership in reimagining the ethical and moral challenges of environmental sustainability, Trinity is pleased to bestow upon Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker and Dr. John Grim the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*.

