

Food Systems, Food Justice, Food and Faith

Brent Laytham presentation summary

Food is a gift. Appropriate responses are

1. Delight and gratitude.
consider p. 2 of Sutterfield and Laytham, *The Taste of Discipleship: Cultivating the Flavor of Faithfulness*
<http://www.ekklesiaproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/The-Taste-of-Discipleship1.pdf>
2. Don't waste. Explore <http://www.thinkeatsave.org/>



3. Working responsibly somewhere in the food chain: plant, or harvest, or cook, or serve.
If you say "I'm a brown thumb who cannot cook," then consider volunteering with the Baltimore Orchard Project <http://baltimoreorchardproject.civicworks.com/about-us/>

Food means life. Appropriate responses are

1. Acknowledge dependence by eating locally and sustainably (which for many of us means significant reductions in meat, dairy, and out of season fruits and vegetables).
2. Resist the food industry's distortion of desire by "Giving thanks for ugly fruit"
<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bs-ed-ugly-fruit-20141129-story.html>
3. Secede from the extractive straight line food economy premised on endless growth (=death) and return to the agrarian food cycle. Mark that turning (which Christians call repentance) by composting. The Baltimore Food and Faith project of the Hopkins Center for a Livable Future offers [Composting for Congregations](#).

Food is for community, which requires justice. Respond by

1. Feeding the hungry good food, perhaps by planting a [faith community garden](#).
See also Stefko, et al, [Embodying Care: The Works of Mercy and Care of Creation](#)
2. Doing justice to food workers. Consider buying direct through farmers markets and, ideally, an [organic CSA](#).
Work to avoid food that is harvested, processed or sold at the expense of [food workers](#).
3. Extending justice to animals and ecosystems, by avoiding food originating in CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations), making sustainable choices about [seafood](#), etc.