



# **12th Annual Stinner Summit**

**Oct. 12, 2018**

**Methodist Theological School in Ohio**

**SPONSORED BY**

**THE BEN STINNER ENDOWMENT & THE  
AGROECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAM OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

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The 2018 Stinner Summit was held on October 12, 2018 at The Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Attendees arrived to the Summit on a crisp fall morning, greeted by old friends, new participants, and Deb Stinner's famous cinnamon rolls. Morning reception was abuzz with conversations on agriculture, sustainability, community and collaboration- the same common interests Ben Stinner used to bring together diverse groups eager to improve agriculture.

The 12th Stinner Summit was held at MTSO in Delaware, OH. This location beautifully reflected the event's theme:

***The Roles of Faith and Ecology in Sustaining Agriculture.*** MTSO produces most of their fresh vegetables and eggs on their Seminary Hill Farm, just steps from the dining hall. They source from local vendors, and generate renewable energy on their campus. Inspired by both theme and setting, close to 40 researchers, farmers, faith leaders, and sustainability advocates set to work on developing ideas that would advance sustainable agriculture agroecosystems and rural communities.

WK Kellogg Chair Casey Hoy led group reflection to begin the day. Aided by Keith Smith, Director Emeritus of Ohio State University Extension, and Yvonne Zimmerman, Associate Professor at MTSO, he compared the life and work of Ben Stinner with that of kindred spirit Patrick Kaufman. Patrick is another passionate advocate and tireless worker for food system sustainability and social justice who passed away recently, far too young.

Participants shared what the Stinner Summit, as well as its namesake and Patrick, meant to them. After brainstorming ideas and goals for how those in attendance could work together in ways that honor Ben and Patrick, two ideas emerged for further exploration. The first centered on engaging faith communities in supporting conversations within their communities, sometimes difficult conversations, that would bring the widely diverse Ohio farm population closer together.



The second idea focused on support for the residents of South Linden, OH to put agroecology to work right in their own neighborhoods.

Everyone took a well-deserved break with a delicious, sustainably-produced lunch, much of which was grown and prepared right on campus. They also celebrated Deb Stinner's birthday and enjoyed some tasty carrot cake! After lunch, groups went back to finalize work on the two ideas, highlighting the overall goals, as well as the resources needed to bring the proposals to life.

At the end of the day, the Stinner Endowment committee chose to support both of the ideas that had been developed with overlap in their goals and the energy and creativity of the attendees well represented. The two threads were “Religion and Ecology: Catalytic Resources and Conversations,” a project to lift up faith and agriculture connections, and MTSO-OSU collaborations, in the name of sustainable agriculture and healthy agroecosystems; and “Hosting Community Conversations for Food Security in Linden”, a project that will offer opportunities for interfaith and within-neighborhood conversations about improving the food system in ways that work for the residents.

**This year's poster** was created by Suranga Basnagala, Research Associate with the Agroecosystems Management Program of OARDC-OSU, and a very talented artist. We're very grateful to Suranga for sharing his talent with the 2018 Stinner Summit, and presenting the original painting as a birthday gift to Deb Stinner!







**Ben Stinner Endowment Advisory Committee**

Casey Hoy  
Deb Stinner  
Larry Phelan

**Venue and Caterer**

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**See you next year!**