

**From Todd Wynward, as Minister for Watershed Discipleship and as TiLT Founder in Taos, NM
Report to SEED and MSMC for August Assembly, 2016**

Since March, as your MSMC Minister for Watershed Discipleship, I've been active. A few highlights:

- In Taos, I convened an Interfaith Earth Day event about Spirituality and Climate Change, sharing my Anabaptist perspective with an interfaith crowd of about three dozen people, along with Franciscan Sister Joan Brown, interspiritual author Mirabai Starr and Navajo poet & activist Lyla June Johnston.
- Led an eight-week session entitled “Spiritual Grounding for Transformative Action” at the local Methodist church in Taos. About ten people, more than half non-Christian, were regular attenders.
- Visited Abq Mennonite to speak on “Reclaiming the Jesus Way as an Earth-Honoring Way.”
- For ten days, joined a national “Movement of Movements” coalition in Missouri. This is a new initiative spearheaded by New Community Project in Harrisonburg and others, attempting to organize spirit-led sustainable living centers across the country to be prophetic witnesses and powerful centers for life-change in the face of environmental and economic crisis.
- Traveled to DC to participate in the national Interfaith Power & Light annual meeting, joining leaders from 40 states. I represented as a Mennonite watershed discipleship minister and NMIPL's coordinator for northern New Mexico.
- Was appointed to the Advisory Council of the Mennonite Creation Care Network, and traveled to Goshen for their annual meeting.
- Over the Winter-Spring months, I traveled to visit with and speak at several CO Mennonite churches. Most recently, traveled to Boulder for a group of speaking engagements—while there, I a) gave an evening talk at BMC entitled “The Watershed Way: an Eco-Spirituality Even Christians Might Like” [attracting quite a few “outsiders” to the church; b) connected with a BMC small group who is currently reading my book, *Rewilding the Way*; and c) was invited to participate in a “Systems Science” conference at UC Boulder and engaged as the Christian representative in an interfaith panel about Spirituality & Climate Change.

TiLT—the Taos Initiative for Life Together—has also been busy. As a place-based demonstration site and training ground for earth-honoring, despair-erasing, life-changing Christianity responding to the issues of our time, we've put a number of things in motion. Here a few of the most significant:

- The first “Rewilding the Way” Family Sabbathical was held the month of June. John and Paula Stoltzfus, pastors from Franconia conference, brought their children to the TiLT house for most of June, combining outdoor adventure, cultural investigation, spiritual direction and life examination.
- The first “Rewilding the Way” wilderness trek happened in July, an eight-day nature immersion with an emphasis on adult spiritual formation. Very successful! Eight participants joined me for mountain backpacking, reading & reflection, deep conversations, whitewater adventure and wilderness solo.
- We are now affiliated with New Community Project—a small group of bioregional Anabaptist-inspired sustainable living centers following in the path of the NCP “mothership” in Harrisonburg. We are the newest member center, following a center in Vermont that affiliated last year. There are three of us now, and we are exploring what it means to be in a movement together....
- We have been rewilding and replacing and renovating our site—developing water catchment, living spaces, a greenhouse, meditation gardens, earthen structures, fruit forests, and nature garden pathways.
- Our first TiLT Program Coordinator has joined our team! Recent EMU graduate Tyler Eshleman from Harrisonburg moved into the TiLT house late June, with an intent to stay for at least three years. *His update from his first month with us is on the following page.*

Tyler Eshleman's TiLT Report – first month, July 2016

About Tyler: In late June 2016 Tyler Eshleman, a Peacebuilding & Development graduate of Eastern Mennonite University, joined Todd Wynward and company for continued development of the TiLT community. Tyler is from Harrisonburg, Virginia, and attended Eastern Mennonite School from 6-12th grade before attending EMU. He worked as the Head Track & Field Coach at EMS for four years, as well as at the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding as the Administrative Assistant for Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR). Tyler has also worked with multiple universities and elementary school systems to improve food sustainability -- writing gardening curriculums, continuing school garden maintenance, and performing food systems analyses. Tyler has a strong passion for being in the outdoors, particularly anything connected to water, and loves connecting with youth. For four years Tyler worked with a Haitian organization helping children transition out of child-slavery situations into safer environments, school communities, and getting connected to healthy resources.

Tyler's Update: Here are some of the things TiLT has been working on in the past month :

- Using found and purchased materials for the construction of a new greenhouse
- Acquiring a storage shed for outdoor trek equipment, freeing up space for a workshop and food preservation/storage area attached to the main house
- Continued garden maintenance and expansion
- Makeover of the front of the house to be a more welcoming space for our many guests—this includes improved landscaping and parking, a “TiLT” sign out front, planter boxes, and fresh paint
- Water catchment systems for garden irrigation
- Local food planning and connections
 - Working toward our bioregional food covenant: “By the year 2025, I will source 75% of my food from within 100 miles.”
 - We are aiming to build relationships with local producers to give them a consistent consumer base, and to contribute to building of local food capacities
- Laying new pathways around the house for gardening and meditation purposes
- Increasing capacity of our Guest Wing to better accommodating high turnover and larger groups
- Partnering with a local food pantry, The Shared Table, in service to the community and building relationships with those in our immediate surroundings
- Connecting with Roots and Wings Community School to build a new vegetable garden that will be ready for students to learn in and engage with when school resumes in late August
- Having an adobe workshop with a local practitioner to learn about adobe construction, as well as establish connections for facilitating future workshops with TiLT groups
- Engaging in non-petroleum cooking with solar oven and outdoor wood-fired kitchen
- Hosting several visitors from CO, CA, PA, and Ecuador who have been inspired by our eco-faith message and lifeway