The purpose of our gathering this June is to awaken us once again to the grandeur of the world about us. For this reason we have brought Brian Swimme, the scientist and cosmologist, and Thomas Berry, the historian and anthropologist, to speak with us and tell us the story of the Universe, the planet Earth, and the North American continent.

We live in a world of wonder. The human role in the Universe is to experience this wonder of existence and to give expression to the delight that it communicates in the dawn and sunset, in the stars in the heavens, in the forests and flowers, and all those living forms that roam over the Earth and fly through the air and swim through the sea.

As we hear the story of the Universe we can recognize ourselves and how we were shaped through the centuries in intimate relations with every other component of the Universe as a single integral community. This intimate presence of each reality with every other reality constitutes the great Covenant of the Universe.

For too long a time we have been alienated from this Covenant. We have lost the deep security that we possess within this intimate presence that we have with the natural world about us. We have also lost the entrancing experience that naturally comes to us when we see the various natural phenomena as manifestation of some more absolute loveliness and some more sublime meaning. We have reduced the value of the non-human world to the role of use by the human. The planet has become simply a resource base for relentless exploitation.

Because of our industrial plundering of these resources we have devastated the planet so extensively that coming generations will have a difficult time sustaining life at the level that we have reached in this century. By moving from an organic ever-renewing economy to a non-renewing economy we have brought the entire Earth venture into what could be a terminal phase for many of its life systems.

The Great Work now before us is to move the human venture from this destructive relation with the Earth to a mutually-enhancing relationship. Through our discussions we hope to recover some of that primordial experience that we have not had for some generations.

The peoples of the entire Earth, many only recently drawn into the industrial economy, must now renew their presence within the organic functioning of the bio-systems of the planet. In this work every public and private institution, every profession and activity is involved. Because we in America have been so prominent in bringing about the present devastation, we have a special responsibility.
**THE PROGRAM**

8:00 - 9:00  Registration

9:00 - 10:30  The Epic of Our Times Lecture & Discussion Brian Swimme

10:30 - 10:45  Break

10:45 - 12:00  The Present Situation How It Came About Lecture -Discussion Thomas Berry

12:00  Lunch

1:30 - 3:00  Where Do We Go From Here The Ecozoic Era Thomas Berry, Brian Swimme

3:00 - 3:15  Break

3:30 - 4:00  Society for the Ecozoic Era. Presentation by Herman Greene

4:00  Final Comments and Discussion

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**ABOUT THE SPEAKERS**

Thomas Berry, historian and anthropologist, has produced a substantial and widely acclaimed body of work on how humankind relates to the Earth. Thomas places the human, body and spirit, firmly within Earth's emergent sequence, integral with the entire Earth community. He has stimulated philosophers and theologians to examine their anthropocentrism and to broaden their understanding of cosmology to take in the startling discoveries over the past four centuries.

Brian Swimme earned his Ph.D. at the University of Oregon for his work on the Singularities of Gravitation. He is on the faculty of the California Institute of Integral Studies. His published writings and his video recording have given us a new understanding of the Universe and its deeper meaning for the human community. He is a master of the language, written and spoken, particularly as it pertains to the structure and function of cosmology.

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**SCHEDULE OF CHARGES**

$35 per person, $60 per Couple

Some scholarships available

The University of North Carolina and The Friday Center
CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

[Map of the area showing the location of The Friday Center]