



Claremont Institute for Process Studies

Serving the Common Good in Our Community

Dear Friend,

One chapter is ending in the history of process thought in Claremont. We have had an institution here that, over recent decades, has become the center of a global movement in the development of an organic and ecological worldview. It is called the Center for Process Studies, and, after a long period of uncertainty, it has become clear that CPS is moving, with the Claremont School of Theology, to Salem, Oregon, to become part of Willamette University.

While CPS will continue to serve as the center of this global movement—supporting process people and organizations around the world—its departure from Claremont has raised importance challenges. A number of local process-related activities may end for lack of support, but this is not inevitable. Indeed, a crisis is also an opportunity. When there is no institutional leadership, it may be that there will be more volunteers to carry on existing programs and even undertake some new ventures. A group that has been meeting weekly, ever since the conference on ecological civilization in 2015, is taking the initiative to organize a volunteer-based new 501c3 called the Claremont Institute for Process Studies. It has no office and no money and not enough participants to handle the many needs and possibilities. But it hopes that, with your help, process activities will continue to flourish in Claremont and the Pomona Valley.

Those who are going to Salem to reestablish the Center for Process Studies as part of Willamette University have a difficult but potentially rewarding task. Please join us in continuing support of their work, as they will continue to support ours. They share our concern for what happens in Claremont. Andrew Schwartz, the Executive Director of CPS, has been key to organizing the new Claremont Institute for Process Studies, and he assures us that he will continue to help us from Salem.

We have a very promising relation with the University of LaVerne. We expect this to be formalized next month, and it makes our ambitious goals real possibilities. Instruction in Whitehead's philosophy which, in the past, has depended on the School of Theology, will continue with Prof. Elaine Padilla in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at ULV. The department chair, Richard Rose, has extended our relation to ULV much further. Because of it, we approach you, not just as beggars, but also with something significant to offer.

The next step, a crucial one, is to invite you to join with us. We hope that many of you will participate in one or more of the fourteen tasks or projects identified on the enclosed. Half of them are to keep something alive, but some are about new things that we believe we are in position to do if others will join us.

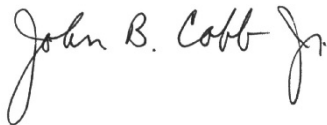
To find out whether there is significant interest in keeping process activities alive in Claremont, we are inviting everyone to a meeting in the Napier Common Room (Pilgrim Place) at 7P.M. on Tuesday, March 19. If few come, we will get the message and cut way back on our ambitions. But if we do have support, the event will be an occasion for explaining who and what we are and what we hope for. We will have fourteen tables at which you can learn much more about the projects, and, we hope, express your interest in at least one of them. Even two or three volunteers will make the difference in many cases between a significant future and collapse.

Our volunteer organization will be a membership organization. Even if you have no time to give to working on any of the projects, you can join by giving us your contact information and contributing \$20. If you can't afford that, just give us a statement to that effect along with your contact information.

If you would like to make a major commitment to our inclusive effort, you are welcome to join the weekly gathering at 10 on Tuesday mornings. This group will have overall responsibility and will also host guests and sponsor seminars, etc. If you would like to work on a project or two, the March 19 meeting will enable you to test the waters. We will all be very pleased, and we will try to keep you informed about what is happening in other projects.

We hope you care and can show that care by coming. There are people all over the world who look to Claremont as the center of a movement that is important to them. We hope Claremont can become a foretaste of ecological civilization. Your presence will give us the courage to keep trying.

Hopefully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John B. Cobb Jr." The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'J' and a distinct 'r' at the end.

John B. Cobb, Jr.
Chair of the Board
Claremont Institute for Process Studies