

***Dreaming of a Vetter World* Small Group Discussion Guide**

What surprised you or moved you in this film?

What did you learn about contemporary “conventional” agriculture? What did you learn about organic farming?

Don Vetter says we would have more organic farms “if people had nerve enough to change.” How does this relate to your experience? When in your experience has change required courage?

Storms bring up conversations about climate change on the farm - both as changing weather patterns bring storms that cause unprecedented damage, and as the healthy soil on the Grain Place farm shows resilience in absorbing unusual rainfall and in surviving drought. Healthy soil also sequesters carbon, which can help reverse climate change. Where do you see hopeful possibilities in this story for the challenge of confronting our climate crisis?

At several points in the film, the diverse plants and animals — other than the crops grown and the livestock raised for market — are featured. What relations did you see between the work of the farm and the other plants and animals on it?

How would you define what the filmmaker means by a “Vetter world”? Are there ways you can choose to practice parts of that set of values?

For faith communities:

Fred Kirschenmann describes Dave Vetter’s vision for “ministry to the soil” in his seminary application in the 1970s. What do you think this means? How does this change your understanding of ministry? Of soil?

Dave Vetter tells of his call to missionary work, and his later conclusion that there was “as much if not more” work to be done in his home community. How does thinking about your own context as a “missionary assignment” change your ideas about service?