

Article

# THE ACCRA CONFSSION AS DANGEROUS MEMORY: Reformed Ecclesiology, the Ecological Crisis, and the Problem of Catholicity

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**Abstract:** This study presents the Accra Confession as a theological response to the ecological crisis from a Reformed perspective while also addressing its critical weakness, namely the problem of universality in both Reformed ecclesiology and global approaches to ecological destruction. Because of a fragile universality, both Reformed churches and global institutions find it difficult to agree on a concrete plan to address climate change. Theologically, this difficulty arrives not primarily from disagreement with the existence or causes of climate change but how Christian theological values translate concretely to acts of justice. This study proposes a way to ground these discussions on the concept of dangerous memory by resourcing the theology of Johann Baptist Metz. Dangerous memories allow stories of the suffering vanquished to be constitutive to the construction of *caritas*, which in turn serves as a suitable theological foundation for addressing differing approaches to engaging climate issues. Reading the Accra Confession as dangerous memory, then, provides a valuable resource to the Reformed community by allowing the testimonies of those affected adversely by climate change to substantially inform theological discourses on climate justice.

**Keywords:** Reformed theology; ecclesiology; climate change; critical theory; Johann Baptist Metz; Accra Confession; religion and the environment; dangerous memory; catholicity; ecotheology

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