

# Minnesota Conference will gather June 11-13, 2010

The Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ will gather June 11-13, 2010 at The College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN, for its 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. The theme for the celebration will be "Witnesses... to the Ends of the Earth."

"Globalism" will be the primary emphasis for the event as four staff members of the United Church of Christ Wider Church Ministries will lead us in affirming and celebrating our involvement in ministry and mission in Minnesota, in the United States and throughout God's world.

Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte (right), the Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries and Co-executive for Global Ministries, will lead us in the celebration of the beginning of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the first foreign mission sending agency in the United States. UCC Wider Church and Global Ministries (with the Disciples of Christ) continues that work. Cally will be a featured speakers and preacher.



Ms. Susan Sanders (left), Team Leader of Global Sharing of Resources Ministry, serves as the Administrator for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). This role involves making connections with global partners such as Church World Service, World Council of Churches, Action by Churches Together, World Student Christian Federation and World YWCA. Susan visits our global partners to secure first-hand knowledge of how our OGHS gifts are used in response to disasters, refugee crises and the long-term realization of empowering people in the areas of health, education and agriculture. She will help us understand our connection as the Minnesota Conference with the ministries made possible by the OGHS Special Mission Offering.

Rev. Xiaoling Zhu (right) serves as Wider Church Ministries Area Executive for East Asia and the Pacific. Xiaoling will be addressing the connection with the Philippines and the partnership with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, especially in regard to justice issues in respect to the killing of clergy and justice advocates. Rev. Zhu was raised in China during the "Cultural Revolution" and will also address the changes that are taking place today in China, its transformation and the amazing growth of the church in a nation that is an essential part of the globalization of God's world.



Rev. Mike Schuenemeyer (left), Executive and Minister for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns and HIV/AIDS of the Health and Wholeness Advocacy Ministry, has two vital ministries on behalf of the United Church of Christ. He is regarded as an expert in the global context of HIV-AIDS in respect to both education and prevention and in the realm of public policy. Mike has been very involved in the debates and campaigns regarding Marriage Equality at the state level.

A variety of music from around the globe, especially the Philippines, is expected to enhance both worship and the process of the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. We invite you to join us as we gather to celebrate the life, ministry and mission of the conference as we journey together to be "Witnesses... to the Ends of the Earth."

Dick Fylling, Annual Meeting Planning Work Group

**Please see reverse for bulletin inserts – also good for use in your newsletters!**

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**We Will Gather to Affirm and Celebrate  
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St. Joseph, Minnesota**

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