

## TOGETHER AT THE TABLE

2009 Theme

For generations the table has been an important symbol for the gathered community. It is around the table that food is shared, discussions are held, decisions are made, crafts are created and board games are played.

As Christians, we are reminded of the significance of the table in Jesus' life and ministry. All along his journey, Jesus shared meals in the home of friends. In the temple, he overturned the tables of injustice. On the eve of his death, around the table with his disciples, he broke bread and set forth a means of grace for all who would believe.

Yet, when we gather at the table, there are contradictions. At the table, there is feast and there is famine. At the table, treaties are made and treaties are broken. At the table, hospitality is offered and hospitality is denied. At the table we gather to celebrate and we gather to grieve. At the table there is peace and there is conflict. At the table, there is hope and there is doubt.

Our human frailties and the realities of the world in which we live too often divide and exclude people at our tables. The Christ we follow calls us to a higher standard of living and loving as together we work for peace and justice for all of creation.

As the Psalmist says *"Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."* (Psalm 90:1-2)

Though we are many, we are bound by a living God who goes before us and embraces all. In the sacred circle of life, enfolding the world and all that dwells therein, all are together at the table of God's love.

### **Spiritual Growth Study: FOOD AND FAITH**

Learn how our faith is nurtured, strengthened, and enhanced, by food and all the ways food touches our lives. It is no accident that our most profound sacrament, Holy Communion, is food. We will explore how the bread and fruit of the vine illustrates the magnitude of God's love for us on multiple levels, and how God's presence is invoked and the divine and the ordinary connect in a mystery created by Christ and ordained by God.



**Leader: Rev. Daniel Hofmann**

Reverend Daniel Hofmann is no stranger to teaching at the West Michigan School of Christian Mission. He has taught classes on Europe and India, and led the studies on the Book of James and the letters to the Corinthian churches.

### **THE BEAUTY AND COURAGE OF SUDAN: Why A Dream Of Peace Is Possible**

For the past twenty years the country of Sudan has been plagued with severe drought. The shortages of food due to the drought have sometimes reached famine proportions. Then there are the wars of the Sudan. Join us as we explore an overview of the history of the Sudan that began in Bible times. We will explore the country's main ethnicities, religions and languages and the way Sudanese women are contributing to the peace process and to the culture as a whole.



#### **Leaders**

**Diane Allarding:** Executive Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, Diane has taught lay speaking classes and led numerous Bible studies. She led the Regional Study at School of Christian Mission in 2007.

**Joanne and Joe Perez:** Joanne, a former elementary school principal and an active UMW member, and her husband, former Missionary Personnel Support Coordinator of the World Division of the General Board of Global Ministries, have traveled extensively and are experienced leaders at Schools of Christian Mission

### **GIVING OUR HEARTS AWAY: Native American Survival**

Learn about the inter-relatedness between the indigenous peoples and their land. We will seek to identify selected key issues affecting the Native Americans in the United States. We will examine the root causes of these issues in order to understand and appreciate the "Give Away" culture of the Native Americans in the areas of spirituality, ecology, language, storytelling, and food. Participants will be encouraged to act as responsible US citizens and Christians in accompaniment and solidarity with Native Americans.



#### **Returning Leaders**

**Rev. Dr. Theresa Little Eagle Sayles  
and  
Rev. Dr. Jerry Devine**



Both of these pastors were well-received as very qualified leaders of the Native American Mission Study last year at Albion College. If you missed them last year, this is your opportunity.

## **Mission Opportunities for Children & Youth**

Kid's Mission School (Grades K-5) and Youth Mission School (Grades 6-12) are offered again this year at minimal cost. Bring your children with you to share this study, fellowship, and worship experience in classes designed especially for them. See separate flyer.

### **General Information**

- Cost:** Four-day School (with roommate), Meals included ..... \$225.00  
Four-Day School (without lodging) ..... \$160.00  
Drive-in Day (including lunch) ..... \$35.00  
Youth Class (Gr. 6-12) & Kids' School (K-5) per child... \$10.00
- Refunds:** **There will be no refunds without at least 7 days notice.**
- Housing:** HOUSING WILL BE IN COLLEGE DORMITORIES. Bring clothes hangers, fan and extension cord, and any other items you feel necessary for your comfort away from home. (No air conditioning. Internet access is available.)
- Special Needs:** **If you have any physical conditions that require consideration in room and class assignment, meals or transportation to classes,** please explain on registration form or on a separate sheet of paper stapled to your form.
- Roommates:** **Roommates must mail forms together.**
- Classes:** The study on *"Food and Faith"* will be offered for everyone. Please choose one of the other courses for more intensive study. Bring Bibles, pencils, paper, etc. Textbooks will be available from the Mission Resource Center in early spring or in the Resource Room during school.
- CEUs:** Continuing Education Units will be offered if requirements are met.
- Emergency:** Campus Safety 517-629-1234  
Friday's last class ends at 12:30. Lunch will be available from 12:30 to 1:30.

### **Logo**

*"Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." Psalm 90: 1-2*

Eighteen-year-old Audrianna Young, granddaughter of North Indiana Conference UMW president, Jeanie Park, created the logo found on the front cover. "Together At The Table" aptly depicts the role of United Methodists as demonstrated by women and men coming to the table -- to a common ground -- sharing Christ's redemptive love as we seek ways for peace and justice for the good of all God's Creation.

2009 Theme



Psalm 90:1-2

## **2009 School of Christian Mission**

**Albion College, Albion, MI**

*A study, fellowship and worship experience.*

**Four-Day School: Tuesday thru Friday, July 21-24**

Youth Class (Grades 6-12) Kids Mission School (K-5)  
Day Care (Preschool)

**Drive-in Day Saturday, July 25**

Day Care (Preschool & Grades K-5)

**Dean: John Williams Assistant Dean: Linda Darrow**  
**Registrar: Adele Paxson**

**Cosponsored by West Michigan Conference  
United Methodist Women  
and  
West Michigan Conference  
Board of Global Ministries of the  
United Methodist Church**

