



GLOBAL
MINISTRIES
COUNCIL OF
THEOLOGICAL
STUDENTS

CLASS OF 2008-9

Introducing

The Program

The People

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Global Ministries Council of Theological Students

Newsletter 2008-9

Global Ministries

United Church of Christ/Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

August, 2008

Welcome!

This first newsletter of the class year introduces the members of the Global Ministries Council of Theological Students of 2008-9. Many thanks to the seminaries and divinity schools related to the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for nominating these representatives from your schools. We look forward to a great year of building on the experiences each student brings, networking together, and becoming a face of Global Ministries on each campus for continued mutual involvement in God's mission in the world. I look forward to this global faith journey with you.

Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss, Ph.D.
Staff Coordinator

Global Ministries Council of Theological Students

Our Year Together

Gather— November 5-9, 2008 .

The first meeting of the Council of Theological Students which will take place alongside the Wider Church Ministries (UCC) and Common Global Ministries boards of directors meetings in Cleveland, OH. Information on making your travel arrangements will be coming in the fall. The staff and boards are eager to meet you.

Network — With each other and Global Ministries staff—throughout the year & beyond. Learn about global mission involvement of other theological schools and become part of group called upon by Global Ministries at various points for special events, projects, and collaborative input.

Interpret- Plan and host a Global Ministries interpretation event on your campus with the help of Global Ministries staff. You will be trained as Ministries and Mission Interpreters (MMIs) at the November meeting with acquaintance to lots of resources and ideas for interpretation.

Explore Missiology - Members work in groups of 3-4 to plan and create a newsletter on a theme of mission.

Newsletters due to Coordinator:

Group 1— January 15
Group 2 — February 15
Group 3 — March 15
Group 4 — April 15

Ruth Richards – Andover Newton Theological School

I am coming towards the end of my Master of Divinity degree at Andover Newton Theological School, am married with two sons who are now both in college and am enjoying being an “empty nester.”

My main experience and interest in Global ministry comes from being British by birth and having lived in the UK for the first thirty-five years of my life. I grew up in a secular household with no religious upbringing, which is fairly typical of Northern Europeans. I have been a member of several Church of England churches and one Baptist church since becoming a

Christian at university when I was eighteen. I have been a member of a UCC church since immigrating to the USA with my husband and children in 1993. I am consequently in a good position to note similarities and differences between the UK and America in their views of religion in general and Christianity in particular. I see a considerable divergence since the middle of the 20th century but a re-convergence as the USA becomes an increasingly secular society, but also an increasingly multi-religious society. I look forward to working with Christian students from other nations, both where Christianity is

growing and also where it is a minority religion. I also view Christ’s radical and non-violent inclusiveness and spirituality as a powerful and hopeful way of identifying and overcoming oppressions, helping us to work with and respect people of all religions and no religion to reduce poverty, promote peace and prevent further environmental degradation.

Karen Fischer — Hartford Seminary

My name is Karen Fischer and I am a student at Hartford Seminary and relatively new to the UCC. A long time Lutheran and newly transplanted to New England from Virginia, I was drawn to the faith based commitment to social justice and the inclusive nature of the UCC. My first experience in ministry to the global community came through an opportunity to work with congregations in the former Soviet republics of Latvia and Estonia as they sought to rebuild their churches both physically and spiritually. The experience left me with a deep appreciation for the ease and safety of the worship experience in our country and a commitment to work for tolerance, understanding and increased awareness of the dignity of all human beings.

Hartford Seminary's strong focus on interfaith dialogue has been instrumental in broadening my context for understanding humankind's relationship with God. Relationships built with fellow classmates from Syria, Indonesia, Nigeria and Myanmar have expanded my understanding of the challenges faced by those living in these countries particularly with regard to health care, education, economics, the environment and the role of women. This has provided an invaluable background for fostering dialog within my church community and my community at large and has given me pause to consider global missions as a greater part of my ministry.



South Africa



Egypt

Madelaine Perez-Quiros—Christian Theological Seminary

My name is Madelaine Perez-Quiros. I come from San Juan, Puerto Rico. I'm a seminary student from Christian Theological Seminary.

It's a challenge for me to be part of Global Ministries Council of Theological Students, United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ.

Since very young I've felt a passion for missions, and so many people that haven't heard the good news of Jesus Christ yet. There is a lot to do and I feel this opportunity will help expand my concept

of missions in a global perspective. My experience with missions has been more one on one contact, but it is my hope to learn more to be a facilitator between my local congregation with the global church.



Guatemala



India

Jack Lewis — Eden Theological Seminary

Hello. My name is Jack Lewis and I am a UCC student at Eden Theological Seminary in Saint Louis. I am currently serving as a Student Minister for the summer in Dunedin, New Zealand at Knox Presbyterian Church. Having always had a passion for international affairs and a love of travelling (some of my favourite destinations include Vietnam, Egypt, and Morocco), I am working to better integrate my international passions with my sense of call to congregational ministry. I also have a strong

commitment to the Ecumenical and Interfaith movements, and believe that the next several decades hold great promise for stronger cross-cultural and cross-denominational cooperation. I am looking forward to being on the Council for Theological Students and getting to know you all at our gathering in November.

Rebekah Cypert — Brite Divinity School

Hello! My name is Rebekah Cypert, and I am entering my second year at Brite Divinity School as a M.Div. student. It is hard for me to exactly trace back to when I first became involved in global concerns. However, global concerns were heightened for me during my peace internship with Disciples Peace Fellowship. As a peace intern, I discovered the significant need to think in terms of a global perspective by concentrating on water concerns. More recently, I have had the opportunity to travel to Gambia with a local Amnesty International chapter, Brazil with Transformational Journeys, and Bosnia with Week of Compassion's Seminarian Delegation. From my travel experience, I have gained appreciation for having global concern commitments of solidarity, accompaniment, development and sustainability. Peace, Bekah

Meghan Young — Yale Divinity School

My name is Meghan Young and I am a third year M.Div student at Yale Divinity School, pursuing ordination in the United Church of Christ. What draws me to Global Ministries is the belief that we are called as individuals and as a church to be in service to and solidarity with our neighbors. I hope in the future to utilize social entrepreneurship in low-income communities to foster community change and engagement while building relationships between communities. I think that sustainable learning relationships and partnerships with neighbors both near and far can create true transformation. I look forward to a wonderful year of engagement and learning.



Egypt



China

Megan Malick—Lancaster Theological Seminary

My name is Megan Malick. I am most interested in justice issues around women, children, and violence. Prior to seminary, I taught seventh and eighth grade English. Through reading students' writing, working on the students' assistance team, and taking graduate course work, I began to explore domestic violence issues and its effects on teens. This work led to

my volunteering with both the YWCA and The Family Violence Resource Network. In seminary I have continued my interest and activity around justice issues pertaining to women and children. I am the head of the Social Justice and Action Committee at Lancaster Theological Seminary and lead our initiative to raise awareness and funds for the crisis in Darfur. In addition,

after visiting India this January, I have become interested in learning more about women's issues within the Indian culture especially in relation to caste/class.

Monica Joy Cross — Pacific School of Theology

My name is Ms. Monica Joy Cross and I serve as a minister at City of Refuge, United Church of Christ and attend Pacific School of Religion where I am working on a Masters of Divinity Degree with interests in Global Justice, Theology and Ethics. I have served on several dynamic staffs of exciting churches and have been able to hone my skills in many areas of church life including education, mission, spirituality, and leadership development to serve and minister to God's people.

Traveling extensively for 22 years in the military throughout Southern Europe, North Africa, Southwest Asia and the Caribbean have given me

a unique view on social justice and the common ground of liberty in the West and in Southwest Asia (Middle East), especially the Islamic community and the Caribbean Islands where I worked at an orphanage. Currently I am working cross culturally between the United Church of Christ and Lutherans

Concerned for America as a transgender and multicultural representative. My most recent endeavor in making a difference is a website titled The New Progressive Christian Transwoman. It is a blog dedicated to looking at Church and society from a transgender perspective.



Mozambique

Tim Hall — Bangor Theological Seminary

Tim Hall is a Master of Divinity student at Bangor Theological Seminary in Bangor, Maine. He holds degrees in music education and public administration, and is now completing a 30+ year career as a state park administrator with the Maine Department of Conservation. He hopes for one more career in pastoral ministry.

For many years Tim and his family have worked actively to develop and maintain awareness and compassion in the face of the global HIV/AIDS crisis. In October of 1996, they participated in the last display of the entire AIDS Memorial Quilt on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Since then, Tim and his family have worked to assist local families affected by the disease while reminding the community that HIV/AIDS still has an enormous global impact, especially in the developing world, which is home to more than 95 percent of the estimated 40 million people infected with the disease (source: www.care.org). For Tim, this is "real Matthew 25 stuff," full of opportunities for compassion, caring, and service to others both locally and throughout the world.



Chile

Kathy Weaver—Phillips Theological Seminary

I am a third-year seminarian who hopes to finish and be ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 2009. I have little congregational experience in global ministries and look forward to introducing a more inclusive world view in the congregations in my home area.

I feel that the world-wide issues faced at this time will require world-wide, ecumenical dialog which can be moderated by global faith communities. I am excited to be a part such dialog and hope to effectively contribute my gifts in whatever capacity they are needed.

Fay Barnes — Lexington Theological Seminary



I am Fay Barnes and I beginning my third year of seminary this fall at Lexington Theological Seminary. While in school I have become active in making myself more aware of global concerns that our church ought to respond to. It is my belief that ministers are teachers and it is our responsibility to teach a consistent theology and ethic of faith. This includes following up words of inclusion and global brother/sisterhood

with actions that represent such thought.

I have been blessed to attend an immersion course in the U.S./Mexico borderlands focusing on the issues of immigration, the role of the church and related socio-economic issues. Also I attended the Seminarian Delegation to Bosnia-Herzegovina through Week of Compassion this June.

Through these experiences I have a greater appreciation for the complexities of humanity and the role of faith in our lives. I hope to continue this growth and understanding through this experience with the Global Ministries Council. Thank you for this opportunity.

Swaziland

Trey Flowers — Disciples Divinity House at Vanderbilt

Trey Flowers (Disciples Divinity House at Vanderbilt Divinity School) is from Memphis, Tennessee and is a recent graduate of Texas Christian University. For six years, Trey has worked at Lindenwood Christian Church's Summer Camp, and he served as the Director of the camp for three years. It was during this time that Trey accepted his call to ministry and began to experience the joy that comes from working in a church. Trey currently serves as the Children's Minister at Woodmont Christian Church in Nashville, TN.

Majoring at TCU in both Religion and Political Science, Trey also has a deep interest in political issues and will concurrently pursue an M.Div. and a Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.) through Vanderbilt's Peabody College. One of his highlights in college was to work in the U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C. as an intern with Senator Lamar Alexander, and he hopes to return to Washington one day. Last summer, Trey returned to the nation's capital on a bicycle after completing a 4,200 mile cross-country ride known as the "Journey of Hope." This 64 day trip began in

San Francisco, CA and ended on the other side of the continent in an effort to raise money for people with disabilities through the national charity *Push America*. Trey raised \$17,500 for the cause and joined with 70 other cyclists in raising more than \$500,000 last year.



East Timor

Emily Mitchell — Chicago Theological Seminary

My name is Emily Mitchell. I am a second-year MDiv. student at Chicago Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois. I became aware of the problems that many indigenous peoples face when I started work for a non-profit organization on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. This experience, and the people I met in Pine Ridge, have greatly affected my ministry and what I believe

ministry is about. I have since become committed to justice issues for indigenous people of both North and South Americas, and seek ways to find a space for these justice issues in parish ministry.

Gage Church — United Theological Seminary

My name is Gage Church, and I am a senior M.Div. student at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. I learned a great deal about the plight of oppressed peoples in my twenty years as a newspaper editor, but because I rarely worked directly with those people, they seemed distant and almost unreal. As I prepare for my next career, I am intentionally putting faces to those situations in which the

afflicted need comforting (and the comfortable need afflicting!). I am particularly interested in the indigenous Mayan people of Central America and southern Mexico; I spent two weeks visiting Guatemala in January 2007 as part of my seminary's Global Justice program and was able to see firsthand the crushing systems of power that keep people oppressed. These systems are found all over

the world, including in our own country, and they will become even more blatant as we enter a food crisis (in the short term) and a clean-water crisis (in the long term). As a local church pastor, I hope to lead a congregation that works for social justice for all people.



Bosnia

Holly Adams—Yale Divinity School

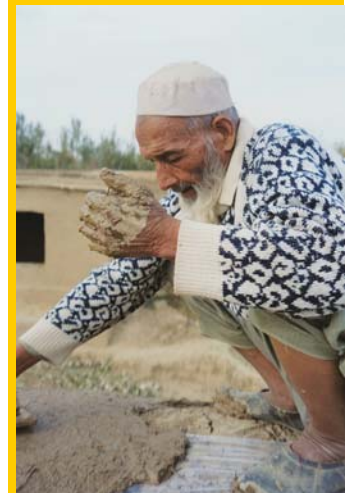
I have lived in Europe and Southeast Asia, but it was when I lived in Hong Kong in the late 1970's that I experienced a true global ministry of ministering to political refugees from Vietnam and mainland China who were sheltered in HK. I traveled widely through that part of the world, to countries that were predominantly Muslim, Buddhist, Shinto and Hindu, and experienced the mostly-successful integration of faith, culture, society and politics first hand.

My current interest in Global Ministries was stimulated by attending the world's

fourth Parliament of World Religions in Barcelona in 2004. I, just one among over 8,000 pilgrims from all faiths of all countries of the world, gathered to explore options for using religion as a pathway to peace, not war. This transforming experience shaped what interests me now: exploring how we, as God's faithful, can find measured and creative uses of our faith to meet the faithfulness around the world barring none, and establish as our goal the achievement of a peace – a living peace for all peoples, under one God.



Laos



Afghanistan

Global Ministries Council of Theological Students Roster – 2008-9

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