



The World Council of Churches Comes to Rochester!

*** An Opportunity for Ecumenical Worship and Dialog ***

Overcoming Violence: Creating a Culture of Peace

November 13-15, 2006

Rochester's Christian community will welcome an outstanding leader of the World Council of Churches at a series of events over two days, November 13 and 14. The Rev. Hansulrich Gerber, Coordinator of the WCC's "Decade to Overcome Violence," will describe and interpret the current ministries of the WCC, preach in a worship celebration, and lead a seminar and workshop focused on understanding violence and how faith communities can respond.

The Rev. Gerber is a Mennonite pastor from Geneva, Switzerland. Formerly he was a farmer and teacher. Before assuming his current position, he directed the International Mennonite Peace Committee and the European relief work of the Mennonite Central Committee. His assignment with the WCC is to coordinate its decade-long program responding to the growing threat of violence within families and communities, and among nations. His ministry entails networking churches and movements worldwide.

The WCC Visitation is sponsored by GRCC, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, and the Rochester Friends of the WCC. The public is invited to all activities. Details follow:

**Monday, Nov. 13, 12 Noon Lunch, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School
1100 S. Goodman Street**

"Transformed by Grace:

Ninth Assembly Priorities for the World Council of Churches"

Co-presenters: The Rev. Hansuli Gerber

Ms. Caroline Hennessey, Fund Developer, Officer for WCC/USA

A multimedia journey to the February, 2006 WCC Assembly in Porto Alegre, Brazil, and, an update on emerging WCC program priorities. A buffet luncheon will be served at a cost of \$12.00. For luncheon reservations, please use the tear-off Registration Form in this newsletter, or call (585)254-2570 by November 8.

**Monday, Nov. 13, 7:00 PM, Baber AME Church, 550 Meigs Street, Rochester
An Ecumenical Worship Celebration**

Rochester area Christians are invited to "taste" something of the wonderful Spirit that filled the WCC's Ninth Assembly in Brazil. The liturgy will include prayers, litanies, and readings from the Assembly. Special music will reflect the Church in its great diversity. The sermon, entitled "*Unity in Spirit in the Bond of Peace: The Changing face of the Global Church*" will be brought by Pastor Gerber.

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Tuesday, Nov. 14, 8:30 - 11:45 AM, CRCDS, 1100 South Goodman Street

“Seeking Spiritual Dimensions Underlying the Crisis in Violence”

A seminar probing for root causes and deeper understanding. Rev. Gerber will share insights from the “Decade to Overcome Violence” and a panel of diverse, local faith community leaders will respond. Panelists will include: Muhammad Shafiq (Muslim), V.V. Raman (Hindu), Frank Howard (Buddhist), Gail Ferraioli (Judaism), and Peter Peters (Christian).

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 1:45 - 4:00 PM, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

“What Can We Do in Rochester to respond to Violence in Its Many Faces?”

A workshop, led by Rev. Gerber, will entail sharing information about ways communities can respond to violence, sharing stories of hope from Rochester and around the world. We also will hear from local governmental and social agencies, and from faith-based groups, who have devised creative ways to prevent and respond to violence.

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 10 AM-Noon, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 141 Adams St.

“Raise Up the Foundations of Many Generations: Churches Respond to Violence”

Christian leaders will gather to **Listen, Learn, and Launch** new initiatives. The Rev. Karyn Carter, formerly Executive Director of Families and Friends of Murdered Children & Victims of Violence, Inc., will share her experience of losing a sister to violence. A panel of church leaders will respond, and a series of forums will be launched to rediscover the spiritual/moral foundations of community. Panelists will include: Reverend Dr. John Walker, Ms. Donna Ecker, Reverend Alan Newton, Judge Roy King, Minister Franklin Florence and Father Larry Tracy. (Free to all – no RSVP necessary) Sponsored by Faith Community Alliance and GRCC.

Fill out the registration form below and send to GRCC – 2 Riverside St. Rochester, NY 14613

Or Email your registration to: grcc1@frontiernet.net

**Unity in Spirit in the Bond of Peace / Churches Respond to Violence
REGISTRATION FORM**

To attend the luncheon, seminar or workshop, your advance registration is requested.

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City/Town _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Your Church/Faith Community _____

___ Reserve lunch on Monday, November 13; Number in party ____
(Enclose your check payable to GRCC/WCC Luncheon; Cost for lunch: \$12 per person)

___ Register me/us in the **SEMINAR** on Tuesday morning, November 14

___ Register me/us in the **WORKSHOP** on Tuesday afternoon, November 14

Please complete and return by **November 8** to: Greater Rochester Community of Churches
2 Riverside Street, Rochester, NY 14613