

September 21st, 2009

Dear Everyone,

We send this letter to invite racial/ethnic women and Aboriginal women in The United Church of Canada—**Sounding the Bamboo—will take place from May 13-16, 2010**. This national conference will be held at **Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, MB**, and it will gather diverse women from across the country for an exciting and dynamic event.

The theme for the national gathering of racial/ethnic minority women and Aboriginal women is *“Eve, Mary, White Feather and US...”*. There is a dynamic program designed, with opportunities for worship, conversations, learning, networking, storytelling, and much more. Please pass this invitation to the women who might be interested in joining. If you are the person, please send us the registration form.

The early registration fee for Sounding the Bamboo 2010 is **\$225 per person, including accommodations and meals**. We encourage you to apply to your Conference office for financial assistance in helping defer the costs for attending the event. Intercultural and Diverse Communities in Ministry have grants for the individual who needs support. Because of the limit, we encourage everyone to apply soon. If you have any questions about funding, or about applying to your Conference office, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We attached a registration form for the Sounding the Bamboo. At your earliest convenience, please return the form to us by mail or fax. Please feel free to forward this invitation letter and registration form to other racial/ethnic minority women and Aboriginal women within the United Church across the country. We are keenly aware that often people in our community hear news through others in community, so we would like to invite you to spread the word about this event to other women. Note that the **early registration deadline is March 31, 2010**, and that your full payment should accompany your registration form.

If you have any questions about this program, please feel free to contact **Maki Fushii, Program coordinator**, at [<mfushii@united-church.ca>](mailto:mfushii@united-church.ca), or by phone at Toll Free:1-800-268-3781 ext. 4129 or Tel. 416-231-7680 ext. 4129. If you have

any questions for the registration, the accommodation, payment, etc. please contact **Leila De Castro, Program Assistant** at <ldecastr@united-church.ca> ext.4152. If you wanted to explore more about Sounding the Bamboo, please visit: **<http://www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/events/sounding-the-bamboo-2010>**; you can also download a registration form, schedule and flyer there.

Goals for Sounding the Bamboo

1. To provide meaningful time and a sacred space for intercultural, interracial, and intergenerational dialogue for “racialized”* women.
2. To educate ourselves about racial justice and gender justice in order to deepen our analysis of our experiences as “racialized” women, and feel empowered to faithfully minister.
3. To explore our unique identities as “racialized” women with different experiences.
4. To experience inspirational and culturally diverse worship to enrich our spiritual journeys as “racialized” women.
5. To develop proactive strategies to strengthen networks of “racialized” women in The United Church of Canada who can intentionally support one another in between Sounding the Bamboo national events.

* “Racialized” is a more inclusive term than racial/ethnic minority peoples, and racialized is a term which includes both people of colour and Aboriginal peoples.
(Goals revised May 2006)

Blessings,

The Sounding the Bamboo VIII Planning Team:

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