

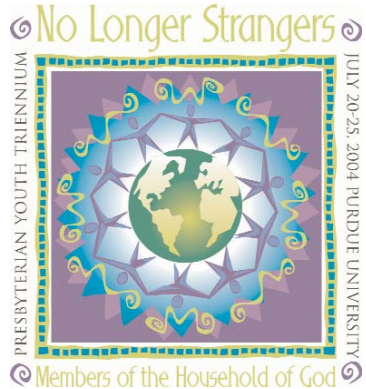


## MINUTE FOR MISSION

July 1, 2004

### Japanese Youth to Attend Triennium and Visit Detroit Presbytery

In July 2004, fifteen young people from the United Church of Christ in Japan, the Korean Christian Church in Japan, and the Reformed Church in Japan will join more than seven thousand youth from around the world for the 9th Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Through dynamic worship, Bible study, and fellowship, the Japanese students as well as other Global Partners and thousands of North American youth will manifest the theme "No Longer Strangers: Members of the Household of God." At Purdue, the Japanese students will live in a dormitory with 120 youth from Detroit Presbytery. Following the Triennium, the Detroit youth will return to Michigan with their new friends for a much anticipated homestay program. First Presbyterian Church in Ypsilanti, Michigan, will welcome the hosts and their Japanese guests for an opening worship before the visits begin in homes and congregations throughout the presbytery. The Rev. Christian Zebly, a PC(USA) mission co-worker who accompanied the students from Tokyo to Purdue and Detroit, said, "The powerful witness of Triennium followed by the love and hospitality of Detroit Presbytery encourages these young leaders to envision their own ministry possibilities back in Japan. I currently work with several Global Partners delegates of former Trienniums who are now in full-time ministry in churches and schools throughout Japan."



2004 Youth Triennium

This growing relationship between Detroit Presbytery and youth from Japanese partner churches originated in 2001 when First Presbyterian Church (FPC) of Ypsilanti and Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC) of Ann Arbor, Michigan, hosted fifteen Japanese Global Partners before the 8th Presbyterian Youth Triennium. In 2002, Christian and Kay Zebley shared the joy and hope of this cross-cultural experience with more than twenty congregations of Detroit Presbytery during its annual October mission month as part of their mission interpretation assignment. The following year three women from the United Church of Christ in Japan enjoyed the hospitality of Mrs. Motoko Huthwaite of Detroit Presbytery following the 2003 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Louisville, Kentucky. Then, in October 2003, the Rev. Keith Geiselman, pastor of FPC of Ypsilanti, and seven members of WPC in Ann Arbor traveled to Japan for a "friendship visit" to partner churches and a reunion with their former homestay guests. Mrs. Louise Woodruff, born and raised in Japan for five years during her parents' mission service before World War II, commented on the experience, saying, "We were motivated by the commitment of fifteen Japanese Christian students who visited us two years ago and our journey reinforced what we already know, that our Lord has made us one family in Christ."

Reflecting on the 2005 Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study theme of "Sing to the Lord a new song," the gradual awakening of Presbyterians in Detroit and youth of Japanese partner churches to their common identity in Christ is a wonderful reason to praise and sing to the Lord. Given the intense competition between Detroit and Japan during the auto wars of the late twentieth century, this growing partnership is just another visible sign of the Holy Spirit leading believers around the world into reconciliation and unity in Christ.

*Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: [www.pcusa.org/witness](http://www.pcusa.org/witness). New minutes for mission are posted every two weeks.*

*For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-228-7228, ext. 5689, or [Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org).*