

MINDFUL *LIVING*: HEALTHY CHURCHES, HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY PLANET

Learning about the unfolding world of toxins in our life

Thursday, October 9, to Saturday, October 11, 2008:
Alexandria, Minnesota • Lake Geneva Christian Center

Join this ecumenical gathering of denominational staff, clergy, lay leaders, and Christians for a 3-day conference on the elusive world of toxics. This conference will feature speakers from diverse backgrounds including the scientific field, public health, and the clergy. The conference will also feature hands-on workshops and information sessions.



Pete Myers is founder, CEO and Chief Scientist of Environmental Health Sciences, a not-for-profit organization that promotes public understanding of the links between the environment and human health. Along with co-authors Dr. Theo Colborn and Dianne Dumanoski, Myers wrote *Our Stolen Future* (1996), a book that explores the scientific basis of concern for how contamination threatens fetal development. He will be speaking to us on the topic “A Revolution in the Environmental Health Sciences.”

The **Rev. Dr. Jim Antal** is the president and general minister of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ. He pursued a Ph.D. at Yale in the yet to be born field of environmental ethics. While serving as a subject of and a spokesman for Massachusetts in a national *Is It In Us?* project, he discovered that being a vegetarian since 1971 did not keep his body from absorbing an undue amount of chemicals. Rev. Antal will lead our discussion on Theology and Environmental Health.



The conference will be held at the beautiful Lake Geneva Christian Center in Alexandria Minnesota. Registration fees include lodging for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, conference registration as well as meals. For information on the conference program, accommodations, and registration forms and fees, contact info@nccecojustice.org or visit: www.nccecojustice.org/mnconf.htm

“Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.”

2 Corinthians 7:1 (NIV)

SATURDAY PLENARY- STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Hear three inspiring speakers discuss how they were personally impacted by toxins, what they are doing to educate their communities, and provide solutions. This casual hour-long session is intended to be informative, uplifting and transformative.



Dr. Mark Mitchell is the founding president of the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ) and has served on both local networks' steering committees since their inception. Dr. Mitchell received his Master's in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University where he was trained in environmental health and health policy. Dr. Mitchell has spent nearly twenty years working in the public health sector; he has spent the past five years educating the community on the effects of the environment on health. Working primarily with communities of color and low-income communities, he teaches people what can be done to prevent and reduce the disproportionately higher rates

of disease in their communities. Dr. Mitchell serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Lung Association of Connecticut and the Hispanic Health Council.

Gretchen Musicant is the Minneapolis Health Commissioner. She has both a BS in Nursing and a Masters in Public Health from the University of Minnesota. She is the 2007 recipient of the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Public Health Achievement Award given by the Minnesota Public Health Association. She is an ordained Elder and Deacon in the Presbyterian Church. She attends Westminster Presbyterian Church. She was one of five Minnesotans and 30 other volunteers from 7 different states who donated blood and urine samples to be tested for 20 toxic chemicals as part of the *Is It in Us?* study. The chemicals are common ingredients in products most people use every day in the home, workplace and school.



Nancy Dawson Firestone, an ordained pastor in the Central Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church, is currently working on a PhD in Ministry through Wesley Theological Seminary in the Faith and the Health of Communities track. Nancy's journey awakened her to hear the cries that God is hearing and to see the hope for transformation, as we become stewards of our health, our children, and our planet. Nancy is president and consultant for Health Education and Resources, Inc. Her home is Pennsylvania's first American Lung Association "Health House." She serves on the CPC-UMC Child Advocacy

Commission. Firestone was the expert speaker on Environmental Disability. Nancy is a board member and officer of the Center for Independent Living of Central Pennsylvania, a member of Collaborative on Health and the Environment, Collaborative on Health and Environment—Pennsylvania, and Women's Health and Environment Initiative.
