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GLOBAL INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY (GIT) CHICAGO & GRAND RAPIDS 04-29 JUNE 2010 GENERAL INFORMATION

The Theology Office of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches will organise a Global Institute of Theology (GIT) in 2010. This GIT will take place in the USA from 4-29 June spread over two venues. The first, from 04-18 June will be in Chicago and the second will take place in conjunction with the Uniting General Council in Grand Rapids (MI) where the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the Reformed Ecumenical Council will come together from 19-26 June, to form a new body, the World Communion of Reformed Churches.

The GIT is an event where a global community of theological students comes together for courses at academic level. It will be a place for theological reflection on the themes important to the Uniting General Council and the work of the World Communion of Reformed Churches in the years thereafter. The GIT is a place of training for future global ecumenical leadership and has as its objective to participate in the formation of reformed theologians, working from a global ecumenical perspective.

For the GIT there will be an international faculty of renowned academic theologians. The core course will be on the theme of the Uniting General Council: “Unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”. And there will be the following four *elective* courses:

- Intercultural Theology
- New Directions in Mission for the 21st century
- Reading the Bible in Context
- Theology and Mission of the Church in the Americas

70 Students, carefully selected on the basis of academic level and ecumenical interest, will participate in the GIT. Of these, 60% will come from the Global South and 40% from the Global North. Depending on their financial situation, students will pay for their travel costs and accommodation in whole or in part, or be fully subsidised. The total cost (including tuition fees, board and lodging, but excluding travel expenses) for a non-sponsored participant is 2,850 US\$.

The GIT will not only provide classroom teaching. Students will have an opportunity to experience the local context of church and society life. This exposure will be fundamental for mission empowerment, bearing in mind that GIT students are future church leaders and as such will be part of the mission outreach of their church.

The GIT preparatory meeting held in September 2008 made the decision to have the GIT event spread over two venues in the USA - from 4-18 June in Chicago and from 19-29 June in Grand Rapids. Our academic partners will be McCormick Seminary in Chicago and Calvin Seminary in Grand Rapids. The GIT is, however, also looking for countrywide participation from US theological seminaries that may give a variety of high level academic input.