

## Supporting the Moderator at Copenhagen Climate Change Talks

During Advent we remember the arduous journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Having no choice but to travel, they persevere and receive God's gift of beauty, wonder, and awe. We have the same opportunity to embrace this journey of change with hope rather than despair, with step-by-step changes to our ways of life.

Moderator Mardi Tindal and a small United Church delegation are going to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen on our behalf from Dec. 12 to 18. A number of former Moderators are taking prayerful action in support, including the Very Rev. Dr. Bill Phipps, who is fasting for a week ([www.billphipps.ca](http://www.billphipps.ca)).

We are invited to join with them in prayerful support, ring bells, or make noise at 3 p.m. on December 13 (along with people of faith around the world doing the same), and to consider how we will be part of healing creation and seeking an eco-sustainable and eco-just future.

In an open letter posted on The United Church of Canada website ([www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca)), the Moderator and former MP and United Church minister David MacDonald say, "We believe the United Nations Climate Change Conference is a place where faith and science must intersect."

"Science tells us what is and, given certain parameters, what will come to be. Spiritual values teach us what ought to be. Only the two, working together, can see us safely through this perilous time," says Moderator Mardi Tindal.

Adds MacDonald, "As people of faith, we believe climate change requires not a quick technological fix but rather a transformation in how we live our lives on this fragile planet."



The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada

## MINUTES FOR MISSION From the Heart

Gary MacDonald is a teacher from the United Church who works in China teaching English. He is paid for his work with our gifts to the Mission and Service Fund. Here is an Advent story from Gary about giving.



Every year Gary's school puts on a concert. Students practise all kinds of acts for this important event. Four young men were going to dance in the concert and on the first day of rehearsals they came on the stage ready to work. Three of them wore shiny new "city shoes" bought just for the occasion. The fourth stood shyly in his cloth village slippers. He had no other shoes to wear.

Rehearsals went well and soon all four knew their steps. On the big night—the night of the concert—they stood in front of Gary behind the curtains with huge smiles. As they walked onto the stage he knew why they were grinning. All four were wearing "city shoes" and they were ready to dance!

Weeks later, Gary was marking English compositions after class and read one called "City Shoes" written by the boy with the village slippers. All the students in the concert had put their money together to buy the fourth pair of shoes.

When they put their money together, they gave a gift from the heart that brought hope, joy, and love. When we put our money together in the Mission and Service Fund right across the whole church, we can do more than any of us can do alone. Our M&S gifts can bring hope, joy, and love and huge smiles to many faces!