

Canadian Named Leader for International Rural Church Association

Past chair of CRCN now chairs IRCA ...

Rev. Catherine Christie, who has served pastoral charges in Southern Alberta and Southern Saskatchewan, has been named the chair person of the *International Rural Church Association*.

The work of the IRCA, which meets every four years, encourages its members around the world to share stories of the joys and struggles of rural people, examine these struggles in the light of the Christian Gospel, and to be a support network to each other between conferences.

This year the Eastern European Churches, helping to host the gathering in Germany, told how they were trying to rebuild their lives in spite of their difficult history.

The conference theme, "Hunger – A Global Challenge", focused around the need for food, water and land security. While food production can bring a good livelihood to humanity, corrupt government systems, corporations who exist only to satisfy their shareholders, and the narrow belief that science will always find solutions, have to constantly be named for the injustices they deliver.

The IRCA sees itself being a voice for voiceless people. But it reminds itself that the road to the Promised Land often leads us through the desert. Nevertheless, signs of hope and new life are witness to God's Spirit brooding over the land.

(notes by Joyce Sasse, 2010)

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