



Global Peace Initiative of Women

The Global Peace Initiative of Women (GPIW) has been working for the past year to organize a strong gathering of spiritual leaders from across the world in support of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change COP15 that will take place in Copenhagen in December of 2009.

Dena Merriam, Rev. Joan Brown Campbell and Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister will lead a delegation of 35 spiritual leaders and thinkers, environmentalists and scientists to participate in the numerous events taking place in Copenhagen around this UN Summit. The delegation will include strong representation from the Eastern traditions and include faith leaders from countries strongly affected by climate change. Included in the delegation are representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Croatia, Denmark, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Norway, Pakistan, Senegal, Thailand, UK, Uganda, the United States, and Vietnam.

Climate change poses an unprecedented challenge and opportunity for the human community. Much will depend on how we respond over the next few years. What is perhaps most greatly needed is the guidance of our spiritual traditions, the wisdom and the love that comes from deep prayer and contemplative practice. Climate change, more than any other issue, has the potential to unite us as a human community. It also has the potential to divide us. We will succeed only if we are able to tap that which unifies so that we can know more deeply our Oneness, the underlying source from which all life is drawn.

While GPIW has received official observer status with the United Nations for this program, much will be happening outside of the official talks for the tens of thousands of individuals and NGO's who will be present. We have organized private sessions as well as public panels and programs around the city during the one week program entitled "Addressing Climate Change by Awakening to Oneness".