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Dear Colleagues:

The 2011 annual meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics will be held at the Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana, January 6-9th. The program committee has done a fine job, and the convention promises to be stimulating.

Christian ethics is a theological undertaking and, this year our plenary sessions will reflect on the question "How are theological ethics theological?" Charles E. Curran, Elizabeth Scurlock University Professor of Human Values at Southern Methodist University, will deliver the first plenary address. Susan Frank Parsons, Editor of Studies in Christian Ethics and past president of the Society for the Study of Christian Ethics (UK), will deliver the second. During a concurrent session on Saturday afternoon, panelists representing the SCE, the SJE, and the SSME will discuss the same question from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim perspectives.

On Friday, the Society will present its first Lifetime Achievement Award. The recipient will be James M. Gustafson, whose teaching and writing at Yale, Chicago, and Emory, has done so much to shape our field. I hope you will join us for this significant opportunity to honor and celebrate Jim's exceptional contributions.

The Latino(a) Working Group will sponsor a session on Friday evening featuring Enrique Dussel, the noted philosopher whose work has been seminal for the development of Liberation theology. Panelists will respond to Prof. Dussel in a second session on Saturday evening.

In addition, there will be opportunities to explore New Orleans and reflect on some of the challenges it faces. Thursday afternoon, the Environmental Ethics and Theology Group will sponsor a tour of the City focused on post-Hurricane Katrina and Gulf Oil Spill efforts, followed by a panel on "Disrupting Environmental Degradation." Saturday evening and Sunday morning, the Fieldwork in Christian Ethics Group and the African-American Approaches to Christian Ethics Group will co-sponsor sessions on "Revisiting Katrina." I count at least four additional sessions that address Katrina, Deepwater Horizon, and disaster relief related issues.

I remind you that the Society's Global Research in Ethics Committee is up and running. One of its purposes is to inform SCE members of impending visits by international scholars and scholars in other countries of visits by SCE members. Stay tuned for further news about how this committee may help your own efforts to develop international contacts.

Writing this letter reminds me that none of these things will happen without the considerable, faithful, and effective work of our Executive Director, Stewart Herman, and our Associate Executive Director, Linda Schreiber. We are in their debt.

I hope that your fall is off to a good start, and that in January we shall gather safely and cheerfully in a great city.

Sincerely,



Douglas Ottati
President