



## Logo Information

### 38th General Council (2003)

There is Hope

When searching for a logo that would symbolize the theme of the 38th General Council, members of the Agenda & Planning Committee were intrigued by the contribution of Rev. Hiraku Iwai of Saskatoon. He explained that the Japanese word "hope" written in Chinese characters consists of three components. The bottom figure means **to stretch your whole body** so that you can gain perspective from higher ground and see further into the distance. The top right figure shows the moon, which we are invited **to watch** as it grows from new moon to full moon. As the moon swells and reflects the sun's light, Christians are encouraged to grow in God's love and to reflect Christ's light in the world, even in the darkness. The top left figure means **to listen**, and offers an invitation to God's faithful people to listen for God's voice at all times. Thus, the central image of the logo and the Japanese word "hope" means to stretch, to watch, and to listen.

The 38th General Council will meet at Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, within the Maritime Conference of The United Church. As this Conference is surrounded by the blue Atlantic ocean, artist and church secretary Paula Williams has surrounded the characters with a blue border. The border includes the image of a boat confidently sailing through the waves, under the direction of the fresh breeze of the Spirit.

Through five theme presentations; through discussion, storytelling, drama, Bible study, and theological reflection, the Council will focus on practices that are part of the qualities of hope. The five presentations are entitled: There is Hope, The Practice of Walking with Others, The Practice of Persistence, The Practice of Bearing Costs, and The Practice of Celebration. It is hoped that the theme of the Council will extend into the life of the wider United Church.