The 2012 Robert and Barbara Tollefson Reformed Lecture Series will be hosting a professor from Matanzas Seminary in Cuba, Dr. Ofelia Ortega Suarez. Ofelia was the first Presbyterian woman to be ordained in Cuba. Her specialties include theology, with a long-standing focus on women, theology and the multi-faceted ministries of social service and community. She has served extensively as a volunteer during the national literacy campaign in Cuba as well as for the Ministry of Public Health.

1- "Discerning the signs of the time"

We discern the fatal intertwining of the global financial, socio-economic, climate, and ecological crisis accompanied in many places of the world by the suffering of people and their struggle for life. Various aspects of climate, ecological, financial and debt crisis are mutually dependent and reinforce each other. They cannot be treated separately any more. Nevertheless, our hope springs from Christ resurrection and promise of life for all. We see evidence of that resurrection hope in the churches and movements committed to making a better world. An increasing number of churches from all continents are stepping up their efforts and expressing their belief that transformation is possible.

2- "Towards a Culture of Peace".

Our present stark global reality is so fraught with death and destruction that we will not have a future to speak of unless the prevailing development paradigm is radically transformed and justice and sustainability become the driving force for the economy, society and the Earth. Time is running out. The challenges that are posed are not first and foremost technological and financial, but ethical and spiritual. Churches in partnership with civil society are engaged in discussing of a new international financial and economic architecture, promoting live-giving agriculture and building economies of solidarity with a focus on faith commitments that could provide justice and peace for all.