



Jessie Cunningham, Elisa Gatz,
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Co - Conference Lay Leaders

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Dear Family of Christ,

We don't know about you, but we have noticed that change is difficult. We ask, "Why can't things just stay the same?" But, we all know that nothing stays the same and life is filled with change and challenge. If everything stayed the same we would not be learning and growing. Thomas Aquinas said, "If the highest aim of a captain were to preserve his ship, he would keep it in port forever." So, our conference is setting our ship out into new waters - uncharted waters. The journey will be challenging and we may go off course at times, but we will trust in our clergy, lay leaders, laity of our churches, and our Lord most of all as we move into these new waters together. We are reminded in Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

"Navigating Uncharted Waters" is the theme of the 2018 Northern Illinois Annual Conference. We invite you to attend the 2018 Annual Conference June 3 to June 5 at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL. Together we will hear of the challenges ahead for our conference, how we have already begun to find new ways to collaborate and work together and what part you can play in the future of our conference.

We ask that you register for Annual Conference via the NIC website beginning April 2nd and download all reading materials as part of your preparation. Check-in for Annual Conference begins at 1:00 pm on Sunday, June 3rd. The Ordination Service is a highlight of Annual Conference and we encourage you to attend beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday in the Mega Center. Being at Pheasant Run on Sunday will allow you time to complete your on-site check-in, fellowship with other attendees, be present at the Ordination Service and meet with the ordinands and their families both before and after the service.

We are excited by what is happening in our conference and look forward to seeing familiar faces, along with a host of new faces, coming to Annual Conference for the first time. May God bless you in your journey to Annual Conference.

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