Communications:

Email
Thursday eNewsletters • sympathy notices • appointment announcements • Bishop’s announcements • events • Sign up at umcnic.org “Sign up for Newsletter”

Reporter
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Episcopal Office Information:
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Phone: (312) 346-9766 – Fax: (312) 346-9730

Bishop Sally Dyck
(312) 346-9766 ext. 702
bishop.dyck@umcnic.org

Marva Andrews - Administrative Assistant
(312) 346-9766 ext. 702
mandrews@umcnic.org

Rev. Arlene Christopherson - Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Connectional Ministries
(312) 345-9766 ext. 713 • achristo@umcnic.org

Arlene works closely with the bishop, cabinet and leadership of the conference to ensure alignment of conference resources. Her work centers on support for the visioning bodies of the conference as we promote our mission and sharpen our priorities and values, which grew out of the Landscape process. In addition, Arlene supports standing committees in their ongoing efforts. This conference year the special focus is on structure as the Organizational Task Force further redefines our organizational structure for the future.
Woody Bedell
Director of Human Resources and Benefits
(312) 346-9766 ext. 707 • wbedell@umcnic.org

Woody’s main responsibilities are to manage the benefits and human resources needs of the Annual Conference, which includes design and implementation of the medical programs and working with pastors to navigate Wespath’s pension and disability programs. As the Human Resource manager, he’s responsible for staff development and accountability to the annual conference to resource congregations and members.

Jeff Casey
Director of Outdoor and Retreat Ministries.
(800) NIC-CAMP • jeffcasey@niccamp.org

Jeff provides professional staff leadership to Outdoor & Retreat Ministries as the Executive Director. Jeff is the lead steward for both NIC Retreat Centers–giving centralized administration for hospitality, food service, facilities, marketing, finances, and personnel. He is also liaison to UM Jurisdictional and National camp ministry organizations. Visit niccamp.org for more info on both NIC camps.

Lonnie Chafin
Conference Treasurer
(312) 346-9766 ext. 722 • lchafin@umcnic.org

Lonnie’s main responsibility is to keep the integrity and oversee the conference financial management system, to care for the business concerns, and to support groups in making sensible financial strategies in the service of the annual conference’s mission.

District Superintendents

Aurora Dist. Supt.
Rev. Jeffry Bross
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Elgin Dist. Supt.
Rev. Darneather Murph-Heath
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Rev. Jacques Conway
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Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer
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Rev. Brian Gilbert
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Regional Administrators

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ngardner@umcnic.org

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Chicago NW/Southern
Debbie Rogers
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drogers@umcnic.org

Anne Marie Gerhardt - Director of Communications
(847) 644-9844 • agerhardt@umcnic.org

Anne Marie is responsible for sharing the many stories of transformation, mission and ministry of the annual conference. She is the editor for the monthly print Reporter, the weekly eNewsletter and Webmaster for www.umcnic.org, which includes calendar submissions. She is the Conference photographer and videographer and coordinates promotion of events. She works closely with the Episcopal office to clearly communicate the bishop’s messages and to cover her various appearances. She also handle media requests and crisis communications strategies for the conference and local churches.

Administrative Staff

Athena Staveris
Accounting Director
(312) 346-9766 ext. 730
astaveris@umcnic.org

Nicole Minter
Accounts Payable/Bookkeeping
(312) 346-9766 ext. 726
nminter@umcnic.org

Office Coordinator/
Staff Support/Receptionist
(312) 346-9766 ext. 735

Rev. J. Martin Lee - Director Congregational Development & Redevelopment
(312) 346-9766 ext. 708 • mlee@umcnic.org

Martin works to equip church leaders to reach new people through the development of new faith communities and the redevelopment of existing congregations. Martin can provide local congregations with demographic information, an architectural consultation, guidance in creating a Ministry Action Plan, ministry assessment tools, training through the School of Congregational Development and the Institute for Congregational Development and the Conference [Hispanic] Academy for Faith Community Development, tools to promote healthy discipleship systems, and more.
Diane Strzelecki  
Administrative Assistant/Communications Specialist  
312-346-9766 ext. 764 • dstrzelecki@umcnic.org

Diane works closely with the Directors of Communications and Connectional Ministries on web and media and oversees tech work for annual conference. She helps assist in publications, flyers, website content, graphics, and social media.

Laura Lopez  
Administrative Assistant Event Planner  
312-346-9766 ext. 724 • llopez@umcnic.org

Laura provides general administrative duties and support to Connectional Ministries and the Office of Congregational Development and Redevelopment. She is the registrar for Annual Conference and organizes many of the details and planning for conference-wide events.

Jill Stone  
Director of the United Media Resource Center  
(217) 529-2744 • umrc@igrcc.org

The NIC collaborates with the United Methodist Resource (UMRC) center located in Springfield, Ill., and provides print and video resources to individuals and churches to facilitate their growth and education in discipleship, biblical understanding, outreach, social justice, stewardship, and leadership. Materials are free to borrow with the only cost being return shipping. For more information visit www.umcnic.org/mediaresources.

Finance and Administration Office  
(312) 346-9766 • Fax: 312-346-7160

Dwayne Jackson  
Director of Risk Management and Ministry Protection  
(312) 783.5945 • djackson@umcnic.org

Dwayne is the manager of the Conference’s Property and Casualty program which includes; providing claim advocacy for Property, Liability and Workers’ Compensation losses, calculation of the annual insurance allocation/premium and development of a safe environment for Conference churches, volunteers and guests.

LaMeise Turner  
Benefits Administrator  
312-346-9766 ext. 720 • lturner@umcnic.org

LaMeise is responsible for the administration of the Conference’s pension, health, and disability and life programs. This includes monthly billing and reconciliation, reporting compensation and clergy appointments to Wespath, and fielding and responding to participants benefit request and concerns. Included in this administrative work is the development of arrearage reports, authorizing Medicare B participation, creation of retirement packages and the filing of death and disability claims with Wespath.

David Quinn  
Apportionments Administrator  
312-346-9766 ext. 741 • dquinn@umcnic.org

David collects and reports church statistics, apportionments, and second mile giving donations to the conference and general church. In addition to this, he compiles appeals and payment reports to the District Superintendents and the Conference Committee on Finance and Administration (CCFA).