

WELCOME TO LAITY CONVOCATION 2023

“THINKING OUTSIDE THE CHURCH” Making Community Ministry Happen

The Conference Board of Laity is thrilled to present this learning event annually (by our count this is year 19!). This year we are trying something new: A hybrid event that combines virtual and in-person opportunities. In addition to online participation, we are also being hosted by three local churches, east, central, and west.

We are hopeful that this year's event will be both stimulating and informative. In addition to our keynote presentation, “Think Outside of the Church - Making Community Ministry Happen,” we will worship together, learn how local congregations are thinking outside their churches and will share what we have learned about community ministry. Two scripture passages, Matthew 9:35 - 36 and Luke 10:1-9, have guided us in planning this event.

Our annual conference's vision is making and supporting Christians in vital congregations who engage with their communities and the world for peace, justice and mercy. The NIC Board of Laity supports this vision. Our **WHY** is to provide support and direction for the ministry of the Laity at the local, district, and conference levels. Our **HOW** is building relationships and connections with local church leaders and clergy to equip and empower them for ministry. As Laity Convocation 2023 ends, we hope you'll be inspired by what you've learned and you'll be empowered to implement this information in your local churches and communities.

Please visit our webpage at [/www.umcnic.org/laity](http://www.umcnic.org/laity) for more information and resources

LAITY CONVOCTION 2023

February 11, 2023

SCHEDULE

THE VISION OF OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Making and supporting Christians in vital congregations that engage with their communities and the world for peace, justice, and mercy

8:00 - 8:45 am	Registration for in-person
8:45 - 9:00 am	Gathering for Praise Music (online sign-in)
9:00 - 9:15 am	Welcome, Introductions, Opening Worship
9:15 - 9:30 am	Welcome and Greeting from Bishop Schwerin
9:30 - 10:00	Keynote - David Teel
10:15 - 10:45 am	Break Out Sessions
10:45 - 11:00 am	Break
11:00 - 11:15 am	Final words from David Teel
11:15 - 12:15 pm	Videos from four churches putting our theme of into action
12:15- 12:30 p.m.	Worship and sending forth

CORE VALUES

- Mission focused • Culture of adaptation • Transparency • Honesty and graciousness with each other
- Ministries of Peace, Justice and Mercy • Safe spaces for conversation • Relationship-building • Resources/ services provided closer to the local church • Living faithfully within diversity (as a conference, in our community)

LAITY CONVOCATION 2023

OPENING WORSHIP

Opening Prayer: Connie Augsburger

Litany: Connie Augsburger

Leader: Because your faith, like ours, is one of action

People: *We are charge to engage*

Leader: Because your own freedom and liberation is bound up in that of the broader community

People: *We are charge to engage*

Leader: Because there is much to learn by walking with the people of the Northern Illinois Conference.

People: *We are charge to engage*

Leader: Because to ensure that all life is valued, we must take a stand for those lives that are dismissed and marginalized today.

People: *We are charge to engage*

Leader: Because we live in cities of immigrants

People: *We are charge to engage*

Leader: Because you are blessed with many resources – this building, your talents, your money, your love.

People: *We are charge to engage*

Leader: Because this beautiful world is aching, and we know you do not wish to stand silently on the sidelines.

People: *We are charge to engage*



Northern Illinois Conference

OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Members of the Board of Laity

Co-Conference Lay Leaders

Connie Augsburgur

Mark Manzi

Eugene Williams

District Lay Leaders

Lisa Butler, Dawn Shires

Ellen Feliciano, Chester Lacey, Bonnie Lill

Leonard Jones

Karen Bonnell, Tom Weber

Scott Stich

Lake South District

Lake North District

Prairie Central District

Prairie South District

Prairie North District

At Large Members of the Board of Laity Members by Virtue of Office

Peggy Hanson

George Groves

Jim Loeppert

Marilyn Steenwyk

Barb Farley

Rev. Dr. Char Hoffmann

Rev. Arlene Christopherson

Director of Lay Servant Ministries

UMM Conference President

UMM Scouting Coordinator

UWF Conference President

UWF Representative

Clergy Representative

Assistant to the Bishop/

Director of Connectional Ministries

HIGHLIGHTED LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

Berry UMC
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Chicago, Il 60025
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www.berryumc.org

Rev. Matthew Krings
Anne Coffman
Cheryl Dykstra
Jeanne Mervine
Jim Motzer
Joy Thorbjornsen-Coates
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Susan Geil
Martha Lundgren

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Pastor Roberto Moreno
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Carlos Alarcóny

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Bonnie Mueller
Jean Suneson
Grant Afflerbaugh

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Rev. John Bell
Michelle Curiel, Dir. of Cont.
Worship & Children & Family
Kathy Braezeale
Lin Waid
Delia Akyea
Wesley Akyea
Thew Elliot

SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO

Randy Lawrence, Webinar Director

Ed Green, Video Editor

Bri Waddlington,
Events Administrator

Lisa Smith,
Communications Specialist

IDEAS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS

"Six Mission Projects Any Church Can Adopt in 2023"

By Ken Sloane

www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/six-mission-projects-any-church-can-adopt-in-2023

"Equipping Lay People in Engaging People in Community with Jesus' Love"

By Bener Agtarap

www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/equipping-lay-people-in-engaging-people-in-community-with-jesus-love

"Energize Your Church Through Listening"

By Bryan Tener

www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/june-7-2022-energize-your-church-through-listening

"Engaging Your Community: A Guide to Seeing All the People"

By Junius B. Dotson

www.umcdiscipleship.org/about/press-center/discipleship-ministries-releases-second-guidebook-for-see-all-the-people

"Resource for Engaging Your Community"

www.umcdiscipleship.org/annual-conference-virtual-presence/resources-for-engaging-your-community

The Northern Illinois Conference works towards racial justice, equity, and inclusion through the...

- Anti-Racism Task Force
- Ethnic & Racial Fellowships & Ministries

- Learning Path
- Conference Commission on Religion & Race



ARTF

The Anti-Racism Task Force creates and supports programs and initiatives at the request of the Conference. So far it has created and oversees the following...

- **Becoming the Beloved Community: How to Talk About Race in America**—A workshop
- **Justice Generation**—Empowering youth to become racial justice leaders
- **The Ephesus Project: Churches Together**—Churches of color and predominantly white churches building partnerships
- **The Champion Team**—A large group made up of volunteers across the conference working on ARTF committees and/or spreading the work of the ARTF to their local churches.
- **CPRES: Clergy Peer Reflection and Engagement Series**—Clergy learning and supporting each other for racial justice & equity
- **Southside Cultural Tour**—Visiting our racial heritage
- **Speakers Series**—Quarterly gatherings to learn from experts.

Ethnic & Racial Fellowships & Ministries

Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Asian-American Fellowship (plus specific fellowships for groups such as Korean, Filipino, East Indian, etc.), Committee on Native American Ministries, Latino/Hispanic/Latinx Ministry Team...and more.



The Learning Path provides abundant resources to deepen knowledge on race and anti-racism, plus plans of guided study for individuals and groups.

The Conference Commission on Religion & Race's central concern is with the connective aspects of the United Methodist Church. As such it is the conference's direct link to the vision, programs, and resources of the United Methodist Church's General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) headquartered in Washington, D.C. It tracks the racial "health" of the Northern Illinois Conference, the way churches and initiatives work together for racial justice and equity within the conference, and actions to bring justice, healing and compliance when harm is done. It forms connections to other groups working on issues related to anti-racism and its intersections.



Conference Commission on
RELIGION & RACE
The United Methodist Church

www.umcnic.org/antiracism

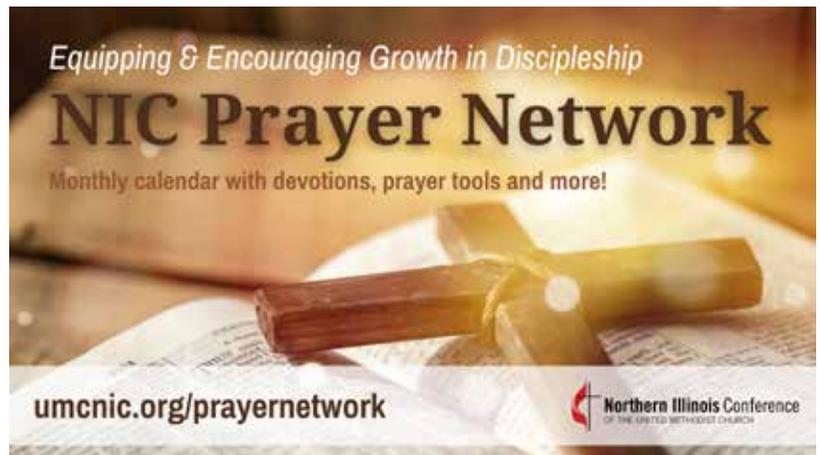


“Make Disciples...Baptize them...Teach them...”
Jesus, just before he ascended into heaven

DISCIPLESHIP

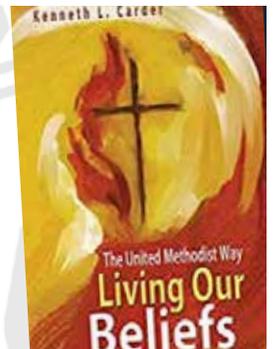
Task Force of the Northern Illinois Conference
of the United Methodist Church

- **Intentional Discipleship Systems**
- **NIC Prayer Network**
- **NIC Prayer Team**
NIC Prayer Team Meetings on Zoom
2nd Friday of the Month, 10:00 am
- **Youth Discipleship**
- **NIC Book Club**
- **Youth Leader Support**
- **Conference Worship**



NIC Book Club

www.umcnic.org/discipleship/NICbookclub



umcnic.org/discipleship DiscipleshipTF@umcnic.org

Co-Chairs - Karen Bonnell and Rev Caleb Hong,
Rev. Seamus Enright, Rev. Sharon Rice, Ellen Feliciano, Rev. Ayla Sampson, Pastor G Morris Jarkloh,
and Connie Schweitzer