

Back to the Future

2019 Northern Illinois Annual Conference

180th Northern Illinois Annual Conference goes 'Back to the Future'

By Rev. Alka Lyall, Annual Conference Chair and Rev. Katie Voigt, Daily Proceedings Chair

Change is an integral part of our living. In fact, they say change is the only unchanging part of our lives. We are ever evolving, ever learning how to be better humans and how to do things better.

Our Annual Conference is no different. We are always looking to do things in a way that is affordable, accessible, and manageable for all our members.

As we shared with you at the end of our last Annual Conference session, the 2019 Northern Illinois Annual Conference session is set for June 2-4, 2019 at our new location, the Schaumburg Convention Center. Please place the dates on your calendar, if you have not already done so.

Here are a few plans we can share as the AC committee continues to work on the details:

- Our theme for the 2019 session of the Annual Conference is "Back to the Future." No, we won't be time warping in a DeLorean like Marty McFly in the 1980s classic sci-fi flick who needs to make sure the past doesn't change so he will exist, but we will be remembering our history, reaffirming it and reclaiming it for a hopeful future. We will celebrate our 180th year as a conference together along with Global Ministries which is celebrating its bicentennial in 2019 and United Methodist Women which is observing their 150th anniversary.



Harriett Olson who has served as chief executive officer of the United Methodist Women's national administrative and policymaking arm since 2007. The Rev. Russell Pierce, Executive Director Mission Engagement and Director of the Advance for Global Ministries, will speak on 200 years of mission work together and the future of mission

- both in our local communities and around the world.
- Gary Rand will once again be our worship leader for a second year working with our worship team to develop our three main services. The Many Band will again bring us the music.
- The Conference will open on Sunday afternoon with the Ordination service. Watch for more information about clergy processional and all other related instructions.
- Clergy session will be held at an earlier date on May 21, 2019 at Faith UMC in Orland Park. The Bishop will make the official call at a later time.
- Among other business, we will celebrate all who are ending their ministry as appointed clergy in a Retirement Service and honor those who have transitioned into eternal life in a Memorial Service. Please remember to submit the names and photos of Lay Members to AC who have may have passed away since June 2018 to communications@umcnic.org.
- We will be offering the "New Member Orientation" on Sunday, June 2 at the Convention Center.

A few reminders:

- ALL historical documents and proposed legislation for the conference must be submitted by April 1, 2019 to Rev. Katie Voigt, ACdocuments@umcnic.org. Please note that there are no exceptions to this deadline. If you have any questions about how to format your documents, please feel free to contact Rev. Voigt at this same email address during your writing process. She is willing to help, however, the earlier you contact her, the better to avoid the time crunch (*see pg. 2 for submission guidelines).
- Please look for more information and updates in the Conference weekly eNews and the Reporter.

Remember to sign up for the eNews if you have not already at www.umcnic.org.

- All this information and more, will also be shared on the Annual Conference page of our Conference website at www.umcnic.org/AC2019. You will find many helpful tools on that page.

And also:

- Onsite childcare for children 12 years old and under will be available for parents/guardians attending Annual Conference.
- The registration form for display tables will be made available by February 15.
- Being in a new location we will have our onsite Accessibility Coordinator present to help with any needs (vision, movement, hearing, etc.), within our ability. Please be sure to indicate in your registration form, how we can extend welcome and hospitality to you during Annual Conference.
- If you are interested in ushering, greeting or volunteering during plenaries and worship services, please email Alka Lyall at pastoralkalyall@gmail.com

Your Annual Conference committee is always in need of your prayerful support and cooperation, but more so this year as we transition to a new facility, and as we continue to strive to make your experience at Annual Conference session informative and stimulating but also comfortable.

(continued on page 2, See Fron the Cover: Back to the Future 2019)

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of The United Methodist Church
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General/Jurisdictional Delegate Elections

At the 2019 Annual Conference, elections will take place for the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Delegations. We will elect three lay and three clergy General Conference delegates and three lay and clergy Jurisdictional Conference delegates, as well as two clergy and lay alternates.

One of the questions the General Conference Delegation received at the listening sessions was “How are delegates chosen?” For laity, there is an online nomination form that needs to be filled out which gives information on your service in your local church, conference, jurisdiction, and general church, as well as your strengths that you would bring to a delegation. All potential delegates must also be a member of Annual Conference.

Starting this year, the lay delegate nomination form will only be available online. Also this year, potential delegates will be asked to include a picture to make it easier to recognize candidates at Annual Conference. All active clergy are eligible candidates but do not need to fill out a form.

Once delegates are chosen, they will meet on a regular basis (usually monthly) for the year leading up to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences. A significant amount of communication from the conferences to delegates is electronic, and it is important to be able to receive communication, respond quickly, and be able to fill out online forms.

At Annual Conference, elections are electronic and a candidate is considered elected when they have received 50% + 1 of the votes. The first three laity and first three clergy elected are General Conference delegates, the next three are Jurisdictional Conference delegates.

If you feel called to be a candidate for General and/or Jurisdictional Conference, prayerfully consider filling out a nomination form. Watch the eNews and the conference website for a link to the form in the near future.

General Conference will be held May 5-15, 2020 in Minneapolis, MN and Jurisdictional Conference will be July 15-18 in Fort Wayne, IN.



BISHOP'S APPEAL
Giving Abundantly, Generosity Overflowing

Bishop Sally Dyck is pleased to announce this year's Bishop's Appeal will go toward the Northern Illinois Conference Outdoor & Retreat Ministries, which operates two camps and retreat centers in Dixon, Illinois and Williams Bay, Wisconsin. The money raised will help support two District summer week-long programs and provide opportunities to children and youth who otherwise financially may not be able to attend camp.

The goals include:

1. Growing Chicago Southern Camp into Chicago Metro Camp (Chicago Southern and Chicago Northwestern Districts) serving 100 youth per week.
2. Launching a new Rockford District Camp.
3. Developing two weekend "winter camps" for each of the above Summer Camp Districts that reinforce the summer time "mountain-top" experience with a mid-year rejuvenation.
4. Revisiting and expanding earlier efforts with weekend Restorative Justice and Social Justice Retreats.

Start thinking of fundraising ideas for your church before bringing your offering to Annual Conference in June. Look for more information and resources at www.umcnic.org/bishopsappeal.



Mission Challenge

This year's mission challenge at Annual Conference will be to collect bulk items for Dignity Kits for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center, our United Methodist disaster relief supply center just south of Springfield, Ill.

A list of assigned donations by district will be released soon. Some of the items needed are bath hand towels, combs, adult toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, and shampoo.

All items must be new and can be bought at Dollar Tree.

The trailer from the distribution center will be outside the Schaumburg Convention Center (exact location will be shared later) on Sunday afternoon and through Monday afternoon. Look for more details soon at www.umcnic.org/AC2019.



The Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center will be the new site for the 2019 Northern Illinois Annual Conference.

From the Cover: Back to the Future 2019



Gary Rand and The Many Band will return as the worship and music leaders.

We are confident that the facility will be a welcome change for us, we know that change is always hard to navigate, so we welcome your creative input and support. We will continue to share details with you on the website, in the Reporter and the weekly eNews.

**All legislative documents must be in the Action/Rationale format with a maximum of 500 words for the rationale, be submitted as a WORD document and editable. At-conference documents must be submitted to her BEFORE the start of the annual conference. The author must submit both a printed version and on a flash drive or similar USB storage device (the device may or may not be returned), and the author must bring 1000 copies to the annual conference session for distribution*



Panel clarifies options for special General Conference

By Sam Hodges*

Options for the looming special session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church became clearer with a key panel's ruling on which legislative petitions can be considered.

The Committee on Reference decided all 48 petitions in the Commission on a Way Forward report – including those of the One Church, Traditional and Connectional Conference Plans – are “in harmony” with the Council of Bishops' call for the Feb. 23-26 legislative gathering in St. Louis.

Another 30 petitions received the go-ahead, meaning 78 petitions total have been cleared for General Conference 2019, a gathering of the denomination's top legislative assembly aimed at helping The United Methodist Church stay unified despite deep conflict over homosexuality. Petitions outside the Way Forward report that deal with LGBTQ inclusion or exclusion in the church made the cut. So did petitions that would make it easier for local churches to exit the denomination.

Two very different legislative alternatives, the Simple Plan and Modified Traditional Plan, survived. But petitions that would change the episcopacy and Judicial Council did not. A petition that would allow for dissolution of the denomination also was ruled out of harmony. The reference committee, consisting of clergy and lay General Conference delegates from all jurisdictions and central conferences, met Jan. 11-12 at an airport hotel near Dallas.

Committee members arrived at criteria for their decisions but acknowledged they were feeling their way through an extraordinary screening process. “We don't have a template for what we're doing,” said the Rev. Chuck Savage, committee chair, as the session got underway.

Savage and 18 other committee members present decided to focus on relevance rather than the merits or constitutionality of petitions. “Everyone understood our task and went out of their way to ignore their own opinion about any piece of legislation and solely consider whether it was in harmony of the call,” said Lynn Caterson, a committee member from the Northeastern Jurisdiction.

Long tensions over the denomination's stance on homosexuality — including bans on same-sex unions and ordination of gay clergy — boiled over at the 2016 General Conference in Portland, causing open talk of schism. Delegates asked the Council of Bishops to lead the church through the crisis. The bishops appointed a Commission on a Way Forward. The commission's report last year included legislation for the One Church, Traditional and Connectional Conference Plans — three distinctly different options.

Bishops also called for the special General Conference. Under church law, only petitions deemed in harmony with the stated call or purpose of the gathering can be considered at such a conference — unless two-thirds of the delegates vote to take up something else.

The bishops issued a first call that was then revised to read: “The purpose of this special session of the General Conference shall be limited to receiving and acting upon a report from the Commission on a Way Forward based upon the recommendations of the Council of Bishops.”

The church's Judicial Council ruled last May that it was up to General Conference “to determine, in the first instance, through its committees, officers and presiders” whether a petition is in harmony with the call. That decision allowed petitions outside the Way Forward report to be considered

in St. Louis — if those petitions were deemed in harmony.

The Commission on General Conference designated the reference committee for the important screening. Before a more typical General Conference, that committee works obscurely, assigning petitions to legislative committees and consolidating similar petitions. Not this time.

“The history has been that the (response to) the Committee on Reference is, ‘Yeah, whatever.’ On this deal, folks are going to care deeply,” said the Rev. Morris Matthis, a committee member from the South Central Jurisdiction.

The committee quickly and unanimously decided that all petitions in the Way Forward report would go on to General Conference. And it agreed with the Rev. Gary Graves, General Conference secretary, that 34 petitions were invalid because of formatting, failure to address the Book of Discipline or other basic errors. Those petitions were not included in the Advance Daily Christian Advocate.

Most of the committee's time was spent arriving at and applying criteria for the remaining 51 petitions. One more was declared invalid, 30 more in harmony and 20 out of harmony. The committee took into account whether petitions dealt with the same paragraphs of church law as those “opened” or addressed by the Way Forward report plans.

Members also gave a green light to petitions directly concerned with LGBTQ inclusion or exclusion in the church and those seeking to correct or perfect petitions in the Way Forward report. “If it helps the plan, whichever plan, to perfect itself, then it should be considered,” said Rudolph Merab, a committee member from the West Africa Central Conference.

Both the Simple Plan, which removes restrictions against same-sex unions and ordination of gay clergy, and Modified Traditional Plan were found to be in harmony. The Modified Traditional Plan is a revision of the Traditional Plan, which the Judicial Council found had several petitions that would need to be changed to avoid violating the church constitution.

Those plans are backed by church groups that favor keeping the restrictions against same-sex unions and ordination of gay clergy, as well as boosting enforcement against violations.

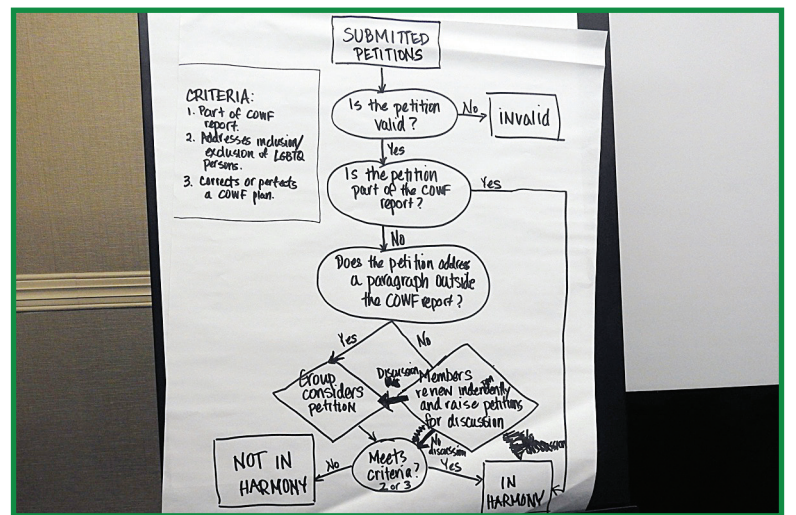
The reference committee also cleared for consideration in St. Louis petitions that would ease the way for churches to leave the denomination and retain their property. A petition that would allow for the dissolution of the denomination was found out of harmony, with reference committee members concluding that the Way Forward report and its plans were focused on continuing The United Methodist Church.

“I feel like dissolving the whole United Methodist Church is a million miles away from where we started,” Matthis said.

Petitions that sought reforms in the episcopacy were among those the committee found insufficiently related to the Commission on a Way Forward's work to be in



The Committee on Reference manages to retain a sense of humor while undertaking the challenge of deciding which petitions can be considered by the special session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church. The panel met Jan. 11-12 near Dallas. Photos by Sam Hodges.



A handwritten flow chart illustrates how the committee on reference made decisions on which petitions could be considered.

harmony, as were some dealing with restructuring the church.

“If they had wanted to address the election of bishops in the commission, they would have presented petitions dealing with the election of bishops,” Caterson said.

More than one committee member noted that a regularly scheduled General Conference, without the restricted focus of the special General Conference, is set for 2020. Any petitions rejected as not in harmony could be resubmitted for 2020.

The Commission on General Conference has already announced that delegates will operate as one legislative committee in St. Louis. The petitions that will be going to the special General Conference are required to get a vote in legislative committee, according to a 2016 provision in the Book of Discipline.

The reference committee voted unanimously on nearly every decision. Though discussions were intense, civility never flagged and there was tension-puncturing laughter along the way. Members celebrated communion and hugged at the end.

“It's amazing to me what happens when the Holy Spirit shows up,” said Savage, in concluding remarks as chair. “There are a lot of diverse opinions in this room, but I just want to say congratulations and thank you for the work that's been done.”

**Hodges is a Dallas-based writer for United Methodist News Service.*



2019 General Conference Called Special Session Feb. 23-26



LOOKING AHEAD TO GC19

In a few weeks—February 23-26, 2019—the delegates to the General Conference of The United Methodist Church will meet in St. Louis, Missouri for a Special Session in order to discern a way forward in regards to the impasse and conflict within the church related to human sexuality.

Many of you have stayed abreast of what's transpired since General Conference 2016 but I'm going to give a very brief overview and provide a few links to resources and access to the proceedings for more detail.

In May 2016 the delegates to General Conference approved a request that the Council of Bishops delay a debate on homosexuality and provide "a way forward" for the denomination in our disagreement on human sexuality. Controversial statements at General Conference began in 1972 and since then the conflict has intensified, until, by 2016, it was difficult to focus on anything else—most of all, the mission of The United Methodist Church. Our witness and influence as a church was (and continues to be) hindered by this conflict.

By late summer 2016, the Council of Bishops established a Commission on A Way Forward, bringing together a very diverse group of United Methodists from around the world over the course of 18 months to design proposals that would be presented to a Special Session of the General Conference February 23-26, 2019.

Meeting several times with the Council of Bishops, the Commission worked primarily on two designs:

One Church Plan and Connectional Conference Plan. They abandoned work on the Traditionalist Plan after little work on it at the request of the Council of Bishops. In May 2018 the Commission brought their plans to the Council of Bishops and the Council of Bishops recommended the One Church Plan to the Special Session of the General Conference 2019.

The Council of Bishops, however, sent all three plans, including the Traditionalist Plan (which wasn't written by the Commission but was later written by a handful of people, including a few bishops) to the Judicial Council to determine ahead of time whether the plans were in keeping with the Constitution of The United Methodist Church. These plans have been described over the last 8 months and they all were scrutinized by the Judicial Council. You can find the Judicial Council decisions by visiting www.umc.org/judicialcouncil and search Decision NO. 1366.

I am in favor of the One Church Plan because it allows space for all God's people; those who think like me and others! I personally regret that the One Church Plan doesn't guarantee full inclusivity but it allows room for the Spirit to move in the future, not locking the church—the annual conferences, local churches or clergy—into binding commitments related to human sexuality or forcing anyone to do anything against their conscience. As I have said all along in Northern Illinois, if you're conservative or a conservative church, then make disciples and show fruit. If you're progressive or a progressive

church, demonstrate the same. The mission field is vast and needs all of us to share the gospel and God's love.

As we continue to prepare for the Special Session, I encourage you to inform yourselves and your church by utilizing the resources that have been made available to all of us at online (see sidebar below for links).

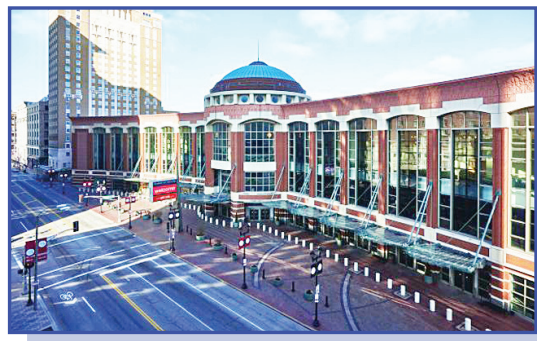
Most of all, I encourage you to pray for our six delegates from the Northern Illinois Annual Conference along with all the others from around the world. May all hearts and minds be open to God's Holy Spirit in this time of discernment.

After the Special Session, I invite you to join me, the cabinet and others in discerning just what happened at GC19 and its impact on the general church, our annual conference, your local church, and you as clergy at one of three debriefing sessions in March (the box below for dates and locations).

We don't know what will happen at the Special Session. We may change the structure of the United Methodist Church or totally come apart. We may adopt one of the plans (or a variation of it) or do nothing. What we know is that on February 27, 2019, God still expects, calls and sends us out to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

May it be so!

~Bishop Sally Dyck



The 2019 special session of the General Conference will be held in The Dome, part of the America's Center Convention Complex in St. Louis. Photo by Dan Donovan, courtesy of the St. Louis Convention and Visitors Commission. All rights reserved.

GC19 Links

- For resources visit: www.umcnic.org/wayforward.
- Special Session Livestream: www.umc.org/live.
- For updates and news from St. Louis visit: www.umcnic.org/GC19.
- United Methodist News Service follow www.umnews.org.
- NIC Delegation visit www.umcnic.org/NICdelegation and follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NICDelegation.

Special Session Debriefings

Come hear from Bishop Sally Dyck as she presents information on the actions taken at the General Conference Special Session.

Two dates - Three separate locations:

Saturday, March 30, 9:30 a.m.

Orland Park: Faith UMC, 15101 S 80th Ave, Orland Park, IL

Saturday, March 30, 2 p.m.

Barrington UMC, 98 Algonquin Rd., Algonquin, IL

Sunday, March 31, 3 p.m.

Oregon UMC, 200 S 4th St, Oregon, IL



Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church



Letter to the global LGBTQ community

To our Global LGBTQ Kin in Christ,

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church recognizes the ways in which the convening of the Special Session of General Conference creates a time and space of harm for you and members of your family. To be the focus of attention, discussion and debate is hurtful.

Demeaning and dehumanizing comments and attacks on LGBTQ persons in conversations related to the upcoming February Conference are a great tragedy and do violence to hearts, minds, and spirits. When you suffer, the whole body of Christ suffers. Together, we need to work to resist hate, violence, and oppression of persons. In these attitudes and actions, great harm is done throughout the community, to the offended and the offender.

As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12: We cannot say to a part of the body, "I have no need of you." We belong to each other. In our Baptism, we are incorporated into the Church, the body of Christ, and made one in Christ. The Church pledges to every baptized member: "Your joy, your pain, your gain, your loss, are ours, for you are one of us." (The UMC Book of Worship, pg. 83). Our Book of Discipline clearly states that all people are of sacred worth.

As leaders of the church, we are brokenhearted by conversations that dishonor, objectify and dehumanize. We confess, as Bishops of The United Methodist Church and as we attempt to honor our convictions, that our actions and words have not always been life-giving or honoring of the LGBTQ community. Amid our sorrow, we seek to

learn and grow in grace. To that end, we commit ourselves to helping people who disagree with each other to have conversations that include, honor, and respect people with different convictions. We are a diverse group of leaders—conservative, centrist, progressive—however, we are unified in our commitment to work together in ways that will give you and all God's children strength, comfort and hope for better and more merciful tomorrows.

As the Special Session of General Conference approaches, we pray that the Holy Spirit will draw us together. May we see the image of God in one another, treat one another with tenderness, and love one another fiercely. Bearing Christ's love in these ways, we pray to be God's faithful witnesses.

~The Council of Bishops, The United Methodist Church

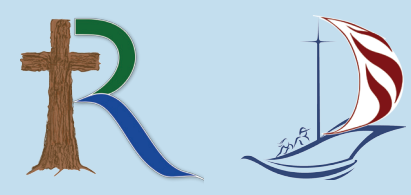


Walk in The LIGHT

God is light and in him there is no darkness.

If we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another.

~1 John 1:5, 7





Reynoldswood

J.O.Y. Camp - June 16-22, 2019 Grades 5-13 - \$419.00

This year we focus on the "Y" of JOY. J.O.Y. is for Jesus, Others, and You. We will have a combination of fun camp experiences as well as serious times to look at Jesus as Lord and Savior. J.O.Y. Camp is designed to be a challenge and encouragement for people in their faith journey. We use music, special worship, Scripture, and interaction as we work hard at providing and expecting a positive, accepting attitude of mutual respect.

Woodland Camp - July 7-12, 2019 Grades 4-13 - \$419.00

"Woodland offers something for everyone--from sleeping in Tree Houses in the forests of Reynoldswood to canoeing, horseback riding, and archery. Evenings include campfires, foil pouch cooking, and Talent Show. Of course, daily crafts and Bible Studies encourage us to Walk in the Light!"

Chicago Metro August 4-9, 2019 Grades 8-13 - \$389.00 August 7-9, 2019 Grades 2-7 - \$184.00

This camp, exclusively for the Chicago Southern and the Chicago Northwestern Districts of the NIC, gives urban and suburban campers an opportunity to experience wooded forests, wide-open grass play spaces, river canoeing, swimming, archery, campfires, Bible studies and extensive moments to relax and bond with youth from different areas of Chicago Metro. Older campers will learn leadership skills and put those skills to use the second half of the week when the younger campers arrive.



Family Camp - July 28-August 2, 2019 Multigenerational - Price varies

Gather your family for a week on beautiful Geneva Lake, Wisconsin. In the mornings, youth and adults will split-up for Bible studies and activities with the Wesley Woods staff. Afternoons are full of family fun, with swimming, archery, scavenger hunts, and a family talent show at the end of the week.

Sailing Camp - July 28-August 2, 2019 Grades 8-13 - \$519.00

Wind, Water and Spirit. Discover God's presence on beautiful Geneva Lake while learning to use the elements of nature in an exciting new way. Beginners will learn terminology and rigging on Sunfish as they experience the wonder of sailing. Experienced campers will expand their experience through sloop-rigged boats with foresails, and enjoy an all day group sail. All "sailors" enjoy movies, discussion, Bible studies, campfire, and fellowship in diverse settings of learning and self-discovery. You must be able pass the swim test and tread water. Limit 12 campers.

Total Camp - August 4-9, 2019 Grades 2-13 - \$419.00

Total Camp offers Wesley Woods' most diverse camp experience. Total Camp combines the best of last year's CAPA and WaterSports camps so that all campers experience all of Wesley Woods' camp activities. Fun-filled days include archery, swimming, kayaking, campfires, foil pouch cooking, paddle boarding, Bible studies, crafts, and a Talent Show! Of course, Gaga Ball, Volleyball, 9-Square-In-The-Air, hiking trails, and slip-n-slide are available to all.



Deposits, Discounts, Monthly Payments

\$50 Deposit

We require all registrants to pay the \$50 deposit fee at the time they register. It is a non-refundable deposit because we use it for up-front purchases, such as craft supplies, t-shirts, tie-dye ink and other activity supplies.

\$20 EARLY BIRD Discount

The Early Bird Discount is intended to reward families for registering early--it helps us to better plan purchases and staffing.

\$20 SIBLING Discount

We add the \$20 Sibling Discount to the \$20 Early Bird Discount for registered campers from the same family for a total discount of \$40 per camper.

\$20 Work Day Discount

Campers can earn an additional \$20 discount by participating in one of the pre-scheduled, multi-congregation Work Days listed below (limit one per camper):

Reynoldswood, Sat., May 4

Wesley Woods, Sat., May 18

\$40 GROUP Discount

The Group Discount is intended to help those churches who register multiple children, but cannot always make the Early Bird Deadline. To qualify a church representative must enter all of their youth registrations into our online group registration system.

Discount RESTRICTIONS

The \$40 GROUP Discount may NOT be combined with Early Bird, nor Sibling Discounts.

The maximum discount per camper is \$60.

Camperships (Camp Scholarships)

We stopped offering Camperships in 2014--we now connect families to local UMC Congregations; thus, building connections and growing relationships.

Fundraising Ideas

For simple fundraising ideas visit niccamp.org/fundraisers

Monthly Payments

Registering online enables you to select an automatic-monthly payment through our PayPal account--the earlier you register, the smaller the payment.

niccamp.org/summercamps



Camper Contact

E-MAIL

Campers may receive emails through each site's office. E-mail will be printed out by a staff member and handed to the camper. Attachments and pictures are NOT printed. Include Camper & Program Names in subject line.

Reynoldswood

RWcamper@niccamp.org

Wesley Woods

WWcamper@niccamp.org

PHONE CALLS

Campers do not call home unless prearranged by the Program/Event Director. In an emergency, call the after hours #s below:

Reynoldswood 815-494-9118 Wesley Woods 815-494-5970

LETTERS & CARDS

Campers will have opportunities to write letters home and to receive mail. If you wish to write to your camper, please send letters **three days before** you want them to arrive.

Camp Reynoldswood

Your Camper's Name
The Camp Program Name
621 Reynoldswood Rd
Dixon, IL 61021

Wesley Woods Retreat Center

Your Camper's Name
The Camp Program Name
250 Stam St
Williams Bay, WI 53191



Camp Essentials

- Bible
 - Flashlight
 - Insect Repellent
 - Laundry Bag
 - Pen & Notebook/ Notepad
 - Pillow (and pillow case)
 - Sleeping Bag, or twin sheets
 - Sun Block
 - Sunglasses
- TOILETRIES
- Soap, shampoo, etc.
 - Toothbrush & toothpaste
 - Towel
- CLOTHING
- Jacket
 - Pants & Shorts
 - Shoes (sturdy for hiking, old for wading, comfy for lounging)
 - Socks
 - Swim Suit - (modest one-piece, NO bikinis, NO swim briefs [a.k.a. speedos])
 - T-shirts (we provide one themed T-shirt)
 - Underwear
 - Rain Gear (poncho or jacket)

CAMP STORE/MONEY/CASH

If you send cash with your camper, we record the total and lock it in our safe--we then keep a running tab which we deduct from their balance. Remaining balances on the last day that are less than \$1 will be recorded as donations, greater balances will be refunded.

2019 Camp Registration 1

Check ONE only per form, and mail to the respective camp.

Reynoldswood: J.O.Y. Camp Woodland Camp Chicago Metro Camp
621 Reynoldswood Rd, Dixon, IL 61021. Checks payable to Reynoldswood.
Questions: 815-284-6979 OR register@niccamp.org

Wesley Woods: Family Camp Sailing Camp Total Camp
250 Stam Street, Williams Bay, WI 53191. Checks payable to Wesley Woods.
Questions: 262-245-6631 OR register@niccamp.org

Camper Information

FIRST NAME _____ MIDDLE NAME _____ LAST NAME _____
NICKNAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____ / _____ / _____ Male Female

Grade Entering in the Fall

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 Adult Vol

T- Shirt Size

Youth M Adult S Adult M Adult L
 Adult XL Adult 2XL Adult 3XL

Home Church _____ Church Town _____

Request up to 2 cabin-mates

CM1 _____ CM2 _____

Parent/Guardian Information

FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____ RELATIONSHIP _____
PHONE 1 _____ PHONE 2 _____
TEXT # _____ EMAIL _____

MAIL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Debit/Credit card payment information

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD _____ EXPIRATION (MONTH/YEAR) _____ / _____
CARD NUMBER _____ SECURITY CODE _____

BILLING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

SIGNATURE _____

\$ _____ FOR CAMP STORE
\$ _____ + DEPOSIT OR CAMP FEE
\$ _____
= TOTAL AMOUNT TO CHARGE

By my signature above, I am instructing Outdoor & Retreat Ministries to charge the amount indicated on the "Total Amount To Charge" line, to my above-specified debit/credit card.

If I neglect to specify an amount, I understand that it will be charged the non-refundable \$50 deposit.

If paying by check, print your Camper's Last Name, First Name and camp name in the Memo Field.

Register Online at niccamp.org/summercamps

THANK YOU!

2019 Camp Registration 2

Check ONE only per form, and mail to the respective camp.

Reynoldswood: J.O.Y. Camp Woodland Camp Chicago Metro Camp
621 Reynoldswood Rd, Dixon, IL 61021. Checks payable to Reynoldswood.
Questions: 815-284-6979 OR register@niccamp.org

Wesley Woods: Family Camp Sailing Camp Total Camp
250 Stam Street, Williams Bay, WI 53191. Checks payable to Wesley Woods.
Questions: 262-245-6631 OR register@niccamp.org

Camper Information

FIRST NAME _____ MIDDLE NAME _____ LAST NAME _____
NICKNAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____ / _____ / _____ Male Female

Grade Entering in the Fall

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 Adult Vol

T- Shirt Size

Youth M Adult S Adult M Adult L
 Adult XL Adult 2XL Adult 3XL

Home Church _____ Church Town _____

Request up to 2 cabin-mates

CM1 _____ CM2 _____

Parent/Guardian Information

FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____ RELATIONSHIP _____
PHONE 1 _____ PHONE 2 _____
TEXT # _____ EMAIL _____

MAIL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Debit/Credit card payment information

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD _____ EXPIRATION (MONTH/YEAR) _____ / _____
CARD NUMBER _____ SECURITY CODE _____

BILLING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

SIGNATURE _____

\$ _____ FOR CAMP STORE
\$ _____ + DEPOSIT OR CAMP FEE
\$ _____
= TOTAL AMOUNT TO CHARGE

By my signature above, I am instructing Outdoor & Retreat Ministries to charge the amount indicated on the "Total Amount To Charge" line, to my above-specified debit/credit card.

If I neglect to specify an amount, I understand that it will be charged the non-refundable \$50 deposit.

If paying by check, print your Camper's Last Name, First Name and camp name in the Memo Field.

Register Online at niccamp.org/summercamps

THANK YOU!

Town and Rural Grants help fund church outreach programs By Linda Hendelman*

First United Methodist Church of Elizabeth, Ill., seems to have taken on John Wesley's oft-quoted "Rule of Life" to "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can . . . in all the places you can. . . to all the people you can. . ." First UMC's Backpack Food Program and Messy Church concept both reach out to the community to fulfill the church's overall ministry and missions. The Backpack Food Program supplements much-needed nourishment for area families in need, and Messy Church is an opportunity for people of all ages to worship together in a fun and creative way.

Backpack Food Program

The Backpack Food Program is an ecumenical initiative supported by eight churches in Elizabeth and Hanover, Illinois. Every weekend and holidays students at River Ridge High School drop off their backpacks, which are packed with food from the River Bend Food Bank of Davenport, Iowa. Currently, the program supplements 24 families with much-needed nourishment. The guidance counselors at River Ridge Unit School District 210 provide an anonymous list of children and families in need, and the food is provided confidentially at the end of each school week and prior to vacations and/or holidays.

Pastor Tiffany Garcea of First UMC says, "One of the biggest advantages of working with other churches and denominations [on the Backpack Food Program] is that through teamwork, we embody what it looks like to make a difference in the world in spite of our differences." She added, "All too often in today's culture, we let differences divide us instead of unite us for the common good."

The backpacks also include a letter with information on each of the churches and each church's contact information so families can seek additional help if needed. This strategy provides a means of feedback for the families and an opportunity for distributing additional church and church school information. A joint ministry of First UMC; churches in Elizabeth and Hanover, Illinois; the guidance counselors of River Ridge School District; and the River Bend Food pantry, the program also has received the support of a P.A.C.K. Grant.

"The cooperative program offers a chance for people in the Hanover and Elizabeth communities to be a part of the program through donations, prayer support, and pastoral care," according to Rev. Garcea, "and creates additional awareness of the problem of food scarcity in the community and provides us with a practical way to combat it."

According to Susan Popp of First UMC who helped write the grant, the Backpack Food Program fits into the overall ministry and mission of the church "to share in Christian love and engage in community outreach." In addition to meeting John Wesley's directive, it reflects First UMC's mission statement: "We are a caring family of Disciples of Jesus Christ Who, through our example, provide spiritual growth, Christian love, community outreach, worship and fellowship to all God's people."

Messy Church

First UMC's Messy Church, which is in the planning stages, is intended to provide an opportunity for people of all ages to worship together in a fun and creative way using lessons, games, song, worship, and food (of course). Pastor Garcea says the program is called "Messy Church" to acknowledge that we live in a messy world and it was into this messy world that Jesus Christ was born.

"Participants are encouraged to come as they are. . . no matter who they are, what their age may be, where they've come from, or what they may be struggling with," Pastor Garcea explains. She adds, "Messy Church strives to be a place where people of all ages and stages can engage in creative activities, service projects, worship, and a meal where they will encounter Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior."

Both ecclesiastic and missional, Messy Church will be fully a church where the congregation is nurtured and taught in the faith but also an outreach program to the community and beyond with the compassion of God and the Good News of Jesus Christ. Social action will be a part of Messy Church through the Bible themes that are explored, the regular inclusion of a social action activity, prayer and giving in celebration worship, and the generosity of a shared potluck-style meal. "The program is intended to be a safe place where people can experience



creativity, worship, mission, and fellowship," Pastor Garcea explains, "and will be a comfortable setting for people to experience the love and grace of God."

A worship-filled monthly gathering, Messy Church will provide worship at an alternative time which may be helpful to people who are otherwise unable to attend regular services due to scheduling conflicts. The intergenerational program will target the significant population of Vacation Bible School children and their families who are not regular worshippers. First UMC is looking to the families of children who attended last summer's VBS for ideas for Messy Church and will call on its recent Confirmation Class to help generate ideas and topics of interest to the community's "Tweens and Teens."

First UMC has received a generous Keagy Grant from the conference for Messy Church and is seeking the support of the ecumenical and community organizations for the program. Volunteers are needed to help promote Messy Church, to learn about it, to volunteer, or to be a dedicated person to pray for the exciting new ministry. It was recently decided that Messy Church will launch a few weeks prior to Easter.

First UMC is located at 309 S Main St., Elizabeth, IL. Children's Sunday School is at 8:15 a.m. and Sunday Morning Worship is at 9 a.m. For more information follow their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fumcelizabeth.

*Linda Hendelman is a freelance writer and editor, a lifelong United Methodist and Lay Servant in the Chicago Northwestern District.

Operation Paperbacks

Campton Hills resident Steven Lockwald is among Army soldiers stationed in Kuwait who are reading books provided by Wesley United Methodist Church in Aurora.

Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Lockwald, 41, graduated from St. Charles High School and College of DuPage. He is a nutrition care specialist with the 452nd Combat Support Hospital at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait.

Lockwald's unit received about 200 books from Wesley UMC members and friends in the church's initial "Operation Paperback" shipment in October.

Jenny Pawlowski, Lockwald's sister and church administrative coordinator, collects and ships books monthly. Pawlowski sweetened the November shipment of books with Halloween candy.

In July, the U.S. Army Reserve's 452nd Combat Support Hospital hosted a farewell ceremony for Lockwald and nearly 200 soldiers who were deployed for a nine-month rotation to the Central Command area of responsibility in support of Operation Spartan Shield. The ceremony was held at the Harley-Davidson Museum in Milwaukee.

Operation Paperback is a national, non-profit whose volunteers collect gently-used books and send them to American troops overseas and veterans and military families here at home.

Rev. John Bell, WUMC pastor, said the public is invited to contribute books to continue the ministry. Donations may be left in the church office at 14 N. May St. in Aurora.

Popular books requested are bestsellers, action and spy thrillers, murder mysteries, fantasy and science fiction.

Additionally, requests are also received for classics, history (especially military history) and current event-oriented non-fiction. Romance novels or children's and young adult books are not accepted.

Rev. Bell said, "Our service members and their families make sacrifices every day for our country. It takes so little to let them know that they are appreciated."

"When you donate to Operation Paperback, you will let America's military community know that you appreciate their service and their sacrifices."

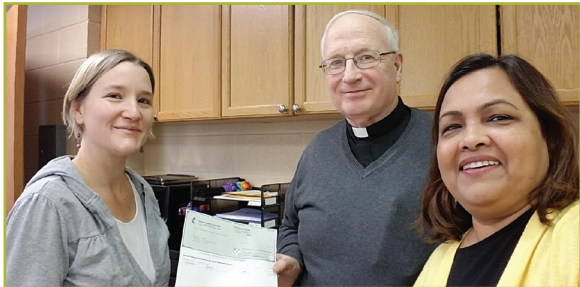


Campton Hills resident Steven Lockwald is among Army Reserve soldiers in Kuwait reading books provided by Wesley United Methodist Church in Aurora. Lockwald, 41, graduated from St. Charles High School and College of DuPage. (Army photo)

Local Church News con't Conference Grants awarded



Waterman UMC is using Conference grant money to bolster their art and dance program offered to middle school students in the community.



NIC Chair of Accessibility Terry McDorman delivers a check to Alexia Rivera and Rev. Alka Lyall at Broadway UMC in Chicago on Jan. 16 to go towards their project to equip their church with A/V equipment for the hearing and visually challenged.

The first round of the new Conference grant process is complete with six churches receiving a total of \$14,445. Two Social Reform Grants were awarded to Chicago: Olivet UMC in the Chicago Northwestern District and Northern Illinois University Wesley Foundation in the DeKalb District.

Four Creative Ministries Grants were awarded to Chicago: Holy Covenant in the Chicago Northwestern District, Princeton: First in the DeKalb District, Waterman in the DeKalb District and West Ridge in the Chicago Northwestern District. The funds will be used in a variety of ways from reaching out to those in need in the West Garfield Park community to launching a multi-cultural after-school program. No applications were submitted for the third grant area focusing on Congregational Redevelopment.

A small portion of the program budget from your apportionment dollars has been allocated to these three newly designed grants and is offered to churches who are dreaming of new ways to engage the community, give witness to the transformation of society, and experiment with new ways of being the church.

Waterman United Methodist Church received a Creative Ministries Grant for their Art with God and Dance With God ministries for middle school students in the small rural community.

“We’ve sensed the need for a quality program and meeting with the youth in town,” said Waterman UMC’s Rev. Paul Lee.

The church opens its door to the youth to participate in the two programs focusing on art and dance once a month. “I’d like to express my gratitude for the fund that our church received,” said Rev. Lee who appreciates the Conference’s support and prayer. “In our last art class, we had 12 kids and they really enjoyed the program. We will continue to offer it every month.”

The second round for the Spring Grant process is open. Applications are due March 15, 2019. To find descriptions of the three grants and the application form go to the conference website at www.umcnic.org/congregationalgrants. Churches are encouraged to apply and choose one of the three grant types available. Spring Awards will be announced May 6, 2019.

Several additional grant options are offered to Northern Illinois Conference churches through the NIC United Methodist Foundation and Keagy Town and Rural Ministries. The Conference Committee on Accessibility issues grants to churches for projects and enhancements to make their services and facilities more accessible. For a snapshot of all these grants click on the FAQ which is also provided on the conference website.

Youth group helps Midwest Mission by the numbers

The Midwest Mission Distribution Center wants to send a big thanks to the Church of Good Shepherd Youth Group from Oswego, Ill., for their hard work and dedication to their ministry.

On January 3, this group of 13 Youth and 4 Adults rolled 214 rolls of trash bags for the UMCOR Cleaning Kit. Then on January 4, they assembled 207 of the UMCOR Cleaning Kits. They also counted 1,054 bars of soap, 872 toothbrushes, 860 combs, 1,026 hand towels/wash cloth sets, 985 one-gal Ziploc bags, and 243 rolls of trash bags (that comes out to 5,484 individual trash bags in ten hours over two days).

These Cleaning Kits will be used in the United States in the

event of a natural disaster. At Midwest Mission, they strive to have over 5,000 cleaning kits ready on site for when a disaster hits.

“It is extremely important to have Missionaries like those from the Oswego Youth Group to allow Midwest Mission to be prepared for when that disaster occurs in the United States,” said Ashley Earles, Midwest Mission Communications Manager. “The cleaning kits prepared helped replenish those that Midwest Mission sent to UMCOR Sager Brown to help them to replenish what they distributed for those affected by the California fires.”

Thanks again Church of Good Shepherd!



Author connects Emmett Till to Chicago then and now By Anne Marie Gerhardt



Author Tim Tyson shares more on his research for his most recent book, *The Blood of Emmet Till*, and how Chicago connections furthered the Civil Rights movement. Photo by Ed Kawczynski

It was a time of reflecting and rejoicing at the Northern Illinois Conference’s annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. service on Jan. 20 at Faith United Methodist Church in Orland Park, Ill. The service was filled with prayers, music and honoring the life and legacy of Dr. King who would have turned 90 this year.

The theme of the event was “Emmett Till: The Chicago Connection Then and Now” with guest speaker award-winning author Timothy Tyson. Emmett Till, the 14-year-old boy from Chicago who was kidnapped,

tortured, killed and thrown in the Tallahatchie River in the summer of 1955 after an exchange with a white woman at a country store, links our community to the events that took place in Mississippi and shaped the work of Dr. Martin Luther King.

“For most of his life, King would use the Till murder as an example of the ‘evil of racial injustice’ preaching about the ‘crying voice of little Emmett Till screaming from the rushing waters’ in Mississippi,” said the Rev. Myron McCoy who served as the service’s master of ceremonies. “King

called it one of the most brutal and inhumane crimes of the 20th century.”

Tyson shared stories of his family’s long line of preachers, including his Methodist father and uncle who fought against racial injustice in North Carolina in the 1950s. Tyson is a Duke University scholar, University of North Carolina adjunct professor, and historian who specializes in the issues of culture, religion, and race associated with the Civil Rights Movement.

His most recent book *The Blood of Emmett Till* reexamines the murder of Till and prompted the FBI to reopen its investigation into the case. Tyson said when his book was released, the media focused on his interview with the white woman, Carolyn Bryant Donham, who he said admitted after decades of silence that her testimony Till grabbed her and made sexual advances at her wasn’t true. She told Tyson that nothing Till did ‘could ever justify what happened to him’. But Tyson said more important than Donham’s admission is the book’s reporting on how Till’s mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, helped galvanize the Civil Rights Movement out of Chicago.

“She had an open casket funeral for the bloated and battered body of her son because she wanted the world to see what they did to her boy,” said Tyson. “She is often described as brave and courageous but that misses one thing about her. She was very politically savvy, she was tough and she wanted to make it count.”

“What they (media) didn’t seize upon, which was what I thought was the most important thing I discovered, was the protests against the Till lynching and the acquittal of two of the accused murderers had enabled Black Chicago to organize a movement so powerful that it shook the nation and it’s because of Mamie Till-Mobley.”

Tyson said Mobley’s connections to growing Black community organizers and a national network including the NAACP, United Steelworkers, and Jet magazine, which published photos from Till’s funeral, contributed to telling the story of what happened to Emmett Till and the rise of Dr. King.

“It helped raise the consciousness of people who could no longer say we can’t just say something we have to do something,” said Tyson.

Several clergy led prayers for anti-racism, an end to gun violence, and those who have given their lives for justice. Cook County Public Defender Amy Campanelli, who was raised Catholic, spoke about her efforts and support of smart, fair and non-discriminatory criminal justice reform.

Caleb Bunton, a youth from St. Mark UMC in Chicago, ended the service with a prayer for the future. “We thank you, God, for surely coming days when no person will fear another because we know that God created all people in the diversity of God’s image and every life matters.” Words Rev. King lived by.

FEBRUARY/MARCH CALENDAR NEWS

Laity Convocation 2019

February 9



Sue Nilson Kibbey

Location: New Lenox UMC, 339 New Lenox Rd, New Lenox, IL

"Knowing Our Way: Turning the Tide"

Cost: \$15 per person or \$50 per church.

Come join laity and clergy from across our conference on Saturday, February 9 at New Lenox UMC for Laity Convocation 2019. Our keynote speaker will be the Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey, Director of

the Missional Church Consultation Initiative for the West Ohio Conference. She will lead us in a discussion about her Breakthrough Prayer Initiative from her most recent book *Flood Gates: Holy Momentum for a Fearless Church*. Our small group breakouts will be all about learning and discussing *The Way Forward* and the special session of General Conference.

Our day will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 12:45 p.m. Stay afterwards and enjoy conversation with friends to discuss the day's events or with whom you don't get a chance to see very often. Lunch will be available for a small extra charge.

For registration info visit

www.umcnic.org/calendar/laity-convocation-1.

NIC Order of Elders Gathering

February 19

Location: Barrington UMC, 98 Algonquin Rd, Barrington, IL

Time: 8:30 am- 4 pm

A.M. - Annual "Order of Elders" Gathering

P.M. - UM Foundation Clergy Tax Seminar (see info below)

Plan to join us for food, fellowship and (2) engaging and informative programs.

Clergy Tax Seminar

Date: February 19, 1:00 p.m.

Location: Barrington UMC, 98 Algonquin Rd, Barrington, IL

Cost: \$10

Our seminar instructor will be Ellen Feliciano, an Enrolled Agent and a Master Tax Advisor with H&R Block. Ellen has been preparing taxes professionally for 9 years. Her areas of expertise include clergy taxes, sole proprietor taxes, investment income, healthcare expenses, and retirement income. She worked as a Project Manager in the insurance industry for many years before preparing taxes.

Ellen is a member of Urban Village Church and serves as co-District Lay Leader in the Chicago Northwestern District. She will present important and timely information, including:

- Changes from the Tax Cut and Jobs Act
- Planning your compensation package
- Reporting income
- Deductions
- Clergy housing allowance exclusion
- Professional expenses
- Tax planning
- The importance of UMPIP and other pension issues

The event begins at 1:00 p.m. following the Elders Gathering and lunch. You may pay by check or credit card. Please register and pay before arrival by visiting <https://umfnic.org/clergy-tax-seminar>.

Call the Foundation office with any questions: 312-334-0704, email ccook@umfnic.org.

2019 NIC United Methodist

Men Annual Meeting

Saturday, February 23

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Location: St Matthew UMC, 1000 N. Orleans St, Chicago IL

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Dr. Norval I. Brown, Pastor of Christ UMC, Deerfield, IL

Hosted by the Chicago Northwest District UMM

Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. followed by the NIC UM Men Annual Meeting, the Message and Communion.

Please RSVP to Leon DeLoney at leon.deloney@gmail.com or 312-961-3086 by 2/21/19 to let them know how many men from your church will be there for breakfast.

John Wesley Theological Institute

March 17-18

Location: Sycamore UMC, 160 Johnson Ave., Sycamore, IL

Cost: \$150.00 (\$100 for students), includes Sunday evening dinner and Monday lunch.

The church seeks to create a community of faith in a society that is increasingly divided along lines of identity, interest, and polarized politics. The loss of a shared language of commitment and purpose challenges the church in both its pastoral ministry and its social mission. A church which cares about human goods and human needs must seek new ways to talk with our neighbors, as well as new programs to serve them. Wesleyan theology, which once enlivened and deepened the language of charity with a spark of divine love, must breathe new life into the public language of social responsibility, lest we end up in a world where we are talking only to ourselves.

Dr. Robin W. Lovin will give four presentations on "Communities of Faith in a Divided Society" for the 2019 John Wesley Theological Institute. Lovin is Professor of Ethics emeritus, Southern Methodist University. Two respondents, Dr. Cynthia G. Lindner and Dr. Darryl W. Stephens, will follow up with further conversation with participants.

Participants are responsible for arranging their own accommodations. One CEU credit is available for continuing education.

Event Contact: Rev. Fernando Siaba, Registrar 630-414-2429 or fsiaba48@yahoo.com.

Day of Call

February 17

The NIC Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM) is promoting another option on Feb. 17 to participate in the "Day of Call."

The "Day of Call" is an opportunity to celebrate God's call in the Church – for clergy and laity. It's also part of our ongoing effort to nurture a culture of call in our Northern Illinois Conference.

BOOM hopes you will choose this special Sunday to share your personal call to ministry with your congregation. You could invite others (clergy or laity) to share their call stories. Another possibility is to preach on God's calling on all of our lives and utilize one of the Call stories we've posted on our NIC website at www.umcnic.org/ordainedministry.

The purpose of this Day is to encourage each other to listen and respond to God's call on our lives. We hope you'll join us as we celebrate and cultivate God's call on our lives.

Please share your questions and testimonies (written or video) with Jim Bell at srpastor@fumcbevidere.com or Eun Young Ko pdkoey@mail.com.

Local Pastors Meeting

March 30

Location: LaMoille Community United Methodist Church, 71 N Main St, La Moille, IL

Who: Local Pastors, Associate Members, and District Supply Pastors Spring Meeting

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Join us for two discussions including "Ministry in Our Churches after February 28th" and "The Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion". There will be lunch, communion and fellowship. To register and for more information contact Rev. Sharon Engert, 630-553-7568 safe331@comcast.net.

2019 UMCOR Sunday

March 31

This offering is taken on the fourth Sunday in Lent and provides major support for immediate assistance in the wake of natural and human-caused disasters. Donations help support ongoing ministries of food, shelter, health and peace. UMCOR Sunday giving allows 100 percent of designated gifts to be used for the specified disaster response or other ministry.

For a Pastor's Kit and resources visit umcsgiving.org/umcor. If you would like to order offering envelopes, leadership products and other materials, visit the new online store at UMCGiving.Outreach.com. Orders will no longer be fulfilled from the former online store: shop.umc.org.

If you wish to order calendars, please call the Cokesbury Christian Bookstore at 1-800-672-1789 or visit Cokesbury.com.



2019 Confirmation Retreats

Confirmation Retreats are excellent team-building experiences for participating Confirmants.

Through Bible studies, group activities, team building and worship, we explore who we are as individuals, as a community of faith, and as Christians in an ever-changing world.

We work with local pastors to ensure that the weekend experience complements and enhances your home curriculum.

Cost: \$75 per person includes Friday night snack and lodging, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and materials.

Spring Dates:

Wesley Woods, May 3-4

Reynoldswood, May 17-18

Fall Dates:

Wesley Woods, November 1-2

Reynoldswood, November 15-16

Visit www.niccamp.org for more information and a registration form.

DYK???

Did You Know? Covenant is Key

By Rev. Arlene Christopherson, Assistant to the Bishop/Dir. Connectional Ministries



The first time I heard the Wesleyan Covenant prayer in a United Methodist

New Year Service I was struck by the simplicity and power of the words.

"I am no longer my own, but thine."

I was just beginning to learn about the United Methodist Church and the ministry of John Wesley that gave way to a denomination. I liked the balance of social holiness and personal piety that sprang up from worship and I was smitten by the power of Wesley's words.

"Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt."

I'm not a fan of New Year's resolutions, if something is worth doing it is worth doing any time of the year. However, I do like revisiting this covenant prayer annually, as we begin another year. Within its poetic words are a powerful reminder of what it means to live out our faith in Christ.

"Put me to doing, put me to suffering."

When we turned the calendar to 2019, last month, there was a reality check for many United Methodists. In United Methodist circles, we have been talking about 2019 for several years now. In anticipation. In dread. In bewilderment. With hope. Now that 2019 is here, we wait, as if we were in Advent, anticipating, marching toward the denominational special session in St. Louis at the end of February wondering who we will be March 1st.

"Let me be employed by thee or laid aside by thee. Exalted for thee or brought low for thee."

In a world where we are taught to be more "selfish" than "selfless", in an era when contentiousness and blame shifting abound, John Wesley's invitation to live for Christ, offers a sense of centering for our lives and our relationships.

"Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing."

Who will we be on March 1st? A denomination that has conquered fear and stands in hope for all God's creation? A people who cannot bridge our divide? A church that chooses sides?

A denomination that holds onto Christ and the hand of our LGBTQ brothers and sisters?

"I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal."

On the heels of this prayer and the events of the United Methodist Special Session, we begin our Lenten disciplines with Ash Wednesday the very next week on March 6. The ashes of repentance we share that day may have deeper meaning than ever before. The journey we take in our Lenten disciplines will be influenced by the words and actions of the general conference.

To call us together in remembering our humanity, our faith and our hope the Northern Illinois Conference will be sharing a Lenten Study this year. Focused on the image of shepherding, the study will take us on a journey with shepherds in the scriptures and remind us of what it means to be shepherding today.

The six sessions, written by Bishop Sally Dyck and Co-Chair of the Annual Conference Shepherding Team, Reverend Myron McCoy, Senior Pastor at the Chicago: Temple, we will reflect on biblical images of sheep and shepherding and our call to be people of Wesley's covenant prayer.

Titled: *A "Sheepish" Lenten Guide to Sheep, Shepherding, and Staying on the Path*, this Lenten devotional has been edited by Jane Rubietta and gives us an opportunity to remember our covenant with one another and through a common study of the scriptures. Provided online, the study will be downloadable and will offer opportunities for small groups to study together, join a Facebook chat, and engage in prayer.

Please watch for more on this opportunity in an upcoming NIC eNews. If you are not signed up to receive the eNews you can do so by visiting our homepage at: www.umcnic.org.

"And now, O glorious and blessed God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, Let it be ratified in Heaven. Amen"

Scholarship funds available for United Methodist students

The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation (UMHEF) is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2019-2020 school year. A variety of scholarships are available for United Methodist students who need help with tuition expenses at United Methodist-related colleges, universities, and seminaries.

Last year, gifts to UMHEF helped award over \$2.3 million in scholarships to 1,035 United Methodist students. Applications and all additional required materials must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2019.

For applications and details visit www.umhef.org/scholarship-search.



Youth Night of Music



Resurgence Worship Night 2019 Saturday, March 16, 2019, 5 p.m.

The NIC Youth Ministry Council is hosting this special concert featuring the Christian contemporary worship band Iron Bell Music.

Location: North Central College, Pfeiffer Hall, 310 East Benton, Naperville, IL

Doors open at 4 p.m. for a youth meet and greet with the band. General Admission tickets are available for \$10 at www.umcnic.org/calendar/youth-ministry-concert.

Appointments and Retirements: January Announcements

Bishop Sally Dyck announces the following clergy appointments for the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church, effective July 1, 2019 (unless otherwise noted).

Scott Field (Elder) to retirement from Crystal Lake: First (Elgin District). Scott became a probationary member of the conference in 1978 and full member in 1982. During his ministry, he served at Wheatland Salem and Crystal Lake: First.

Kye Ile Hong (Elder) to retirement from Franklin Park: First and Melrose Park: Cosmopolitan (Chicago Northwestern District). Kye Ile transferred from Western New York Conference to Northern Illinois in 1999. During his ministry, he served Schaumburg: Salem Korean, Prospect Heights: Central Korean, Melrose Park: Cosmopolitan, Franklin Park: First and Elmwood Park.

Mario Mayer (Elder) to retirement from Rockford: Beth Eden (Rockford District). Mario transferred to Northern Illinois in 2013 and served Carpentersville: Trinity, Elgin: El Mesias as well as Rockford: Beth Eden.

J. Steven Mindrup (Elder) to retirement from United Church of Sandwich (Aurora District). Steven became a probationary member of the Northern Illinois Conference in 1970 and full member in 1974. During his ministry, he served at Freeport: Embury, Rockford: Christ the Carpenter, Rockford: Grace, Wesley Willows Retirement Center, Cherry Valley, Dundee: First and United Church of Sandwich.

Soong In (Steve) Moon (Elder) to retirement from Northbrook: North Northfield (Chicago Northwestern District). Soong In became a probationary member of the conference in 1986 and a full member in 1988. During his ministry, he served Shin-Il Korean, Chicago: Bethany (Riverview Park West), Arlington Heights: Hallelujah Korean, Hebron, Arlington Heights: Church of the Incarnation and Northbrook: North Northfield.

Kirk Scott (Local Pastor) to retirement from Millington (Aurora District). Kirk has served at Millington since 2005.

Rachel Birkhahn-Rommelfanger (Elder) to the Connectional Table as Assistant Connectional Ministry Officer from Leave of Absence. Effective January 14.

Pamela Pirtle (Provisional Elder) to The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women as Director of Leadership Development and Accountability from Chicago: Gorham. Effective February 1, 2019.

Thomas Bourke (Elder) to Sandwich: United (Aurora District) from Bolingbrook: Crossroads of Faith (Aurora District). Tom follows Steve Mindrup who will retire.

Stay Connected

Sign up for the weekly NIC eNews & Appointment Announcements and Sympathy notices.

Visit www.umcnic.org and scroll down to enter your email and name under "Sign up for our eNewsletter".

Job Openings

For the latest NIC job openings, visit www.umcnic.org/jobs

Submit News

Please submit items at least two weeks prior to publication date. Include your name, address, email, phone number and name of local church. Space is limited. Electronic submissions are preferred with high-resolution attached jpegs.

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