

DO NOT DELAY. DATED MATERIAL.



Chicago's St. Mark UMC's Gospel Choir joins worship leader Gary Rand and his band The Many for gathering music at the Commissioning and Ordination Service on June 3.



Rev. Tim Casey gives the message during the Memorial Service. Photo Courtesy Marc Dean.



Rev. Harlene Harden passes a map and stole to newly ordained Rev. Kyungsu Park to mark the passing of the mantle from one generation to the next.

179th Annual Conference Wrap-up

By Anne Marie Gerhardt, Dir. of Communications

"We can be a hope for the world," said Bishop Sally Dyck in her Episcopal Address to members of the 179th Northern Illinois Annual Conference session, which took place June 3-5 in St. Charles, Ill. The theme for this year's annual conference was "Navigating Uncharted Waters" with a focus on Romans 5:3b-4: "trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope."

Bishop Dyck said that in nearly every aspect of our lives these days we are navigating uncharted waters or territory but she says a focus on our mission of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" will continue to guide us.

"Our unity is based on Jesus Christ and Christ's mission for us," she said emphasizing that the church can be the hope for our communities and the world. "I believe that the UMC is better together rather than split apart, separated by a lack of agreement, and divided in its mission."

Service of Commissioning and Ordination

The three-day conference opened Sunday afternoon with the Service of Commissioning and Ordination. Bishop Sally Dyck ordained one deacon and four elders. She commissioned 10 persons for the work of an elder and two persons for the work of a deacon. She also consecrated two deaconesses.

A new, special addition to the service were two baptisms. Bishop Dyck and Assistant the Bishop Rev. Arlene Christopherson baptized two infants, Emmanuel Yura

Na Cho, daughter of Rev. Hyemin Na and Rev. Daniel Cho, and Alexander Michaelthomas Smith, son of Rev. Matthew and Lisa Smith.

Laity Address

One of the three NIC Co-Lay Leaders Mark Manzi delivered the Laity Address. "We are in a time of liminality. Many of the old ways we did church don't work as well today," said Manzi. "New people coming into your town aren't just looking for the cross and flame to figure out where they will be going to church if they will be going to church at all. The challenges we have are adaptive challenges."

Manzi also highlighted the February 2018 Laity Convocation with keynote speaker Junius Dotson, General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries. "Dotson focused on explaining the importance of knowing our "why" as he described "how" to develop an intentional discipleship system."

Retirement Service

During the retirement service, 18 retiring clergy and local pastors received recognition for their combined 456 years of service. The Rev. Harlene Holden passed a map and stole to newly ordained Rev. Kyungsu Park.

"Today we share these maps with you offering our wisdom as a foundation and knowing that you will continue to chart both the smooth seas and rough waters," said Holden. "As we offer you these gifts, we offer you the mantle from our generation to be carried forward by yours."

Memorial Service

During the Memorial Service on June 5, we celebrated and remembered 34 clergy, spouses and lay members who have died over the past year.

The Rev. Tim Casey delivered the service's message and shared how faith sustained him following a car accident in 1997 that left him paralyzed from the chest down. "Faith isn't magic. It's about confidence and certitude," said Casey. "Faith has its heights and its depths but it is what moves us along."

Bible Reflections

This year two speakers presented Bible reflections. The Rev. John McCullough, President and CEO of Church World Service raised awareness of the Global Migration Crisis.

"The world is experiencing the worst migration crisis in history, with more than 65 million people displaced, 24 million of them refugees," said McCullough who added that scripture and contemporary history details human migration in every year of existence. McCullough asked how do we as people of faith respond?

"I believe the Bible teaches that ours is a God of exquisite hospitality and inclusion. This makes it even more urgent that we as people of faith lift our voices, that we both protect and welcome," said McCullough.

The Rev. Fred Day, General Secretary of Archives and History, took us back in time 50 years to 1968 - the year The United Methodist Church officially formed with the unification of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical

(continued on page 6, see Navigating)

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #130
Homewood, IL

LOCAL Church News

Puppet Ministry Signs Off
Celebrating a Centenarian
... 2



Navigating Uncharted Waters
Annual Conference Coverage
... 3-10



Episcopal Address
... 4



Domestic Violence
Prevention... 6



Celebrating Our Retirees
... 8-10

Local Church News

Buffalo Grove church puppet ministry signs off after 24 years

Glory Fingers puppet ministry started in 1994 when the Holy Spirit tapped Sheri Brubeck on the shoulder and gave her the confidence to start the team. This quote from Henry T. Blackaby holds true for her ministry, “God never calls the qualified, He qualifies the called.”

Sheri is a nurse with no drama or musical experience, but a flyer mailed to the church advertising a creative ministry camp provided the training she needed to successfully lead the team. She now teaches at Regional and International Creative Ministry Festivals.

Sheri’s co-leaders were Jeff Johnson and Jill Turner and their focus has always been on the youth behind the stage. Glory Fingers’ mission was “to mentor our youth and share with the world God’s love and the Good News of Jesus Christ through creative arts ministry”. Our Motto: Philippians 4:13, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Every youth was welcomed on the team and nurtured to grow in their ministry and faith.

As the wise cat who narrated their 24th musical said: “We’re all made with a different mind, body, and heart, God created each of us to be works of art!” Works of art as puppeteers begin with our hands. Our name Glory Fingers was chosen because we are the body of Christ, and our hands are lifted to God’s Glory in all we do. Those hands have learned everything from how to correctly manipulate a puppet to sign language to praying



One of the longest running and original church puppet ministries in the Conference started by Sheri Brubeck (center front) held its final performance in May after 24 years of ministry.

together as a team every Tuesday. “We’ve given our hands and hearts to God as the Spirit led us to share God’s love through the Creative Arts,” said Brubeck.

Glory Fingers averaged 10 outreach presentations a year which meant sleeping on a lot of church floors, many thanks to those that were carpeted! Through their outreach they assisted in starting 12 new Puppet Teams and traveled from Arkansas to Pennsylvania and Sheri even taught Creative Ministry in South Africa. They participated in Regional and International Creative Ministry Festivals earning the team 1 Platinum, 17 Gold and 7 Silver medals. They helped bring their Northwest Suburban interfaith community together by participating in the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service for the past 20

years.

“It is a bittersweet farewell as we say goodbye to our menagerie of characters both human and foam!” said Brubeck. “When you open your heart to the Lord’s leading wonderful things can happen.”

Sheri, Jeff and Jill added they feel so blessed to have served in such a fun and creative way, and are thankful for the friendships, love and faith journey this ministry provided.

“We feel especially blessed for the 24 incredible teams over the years that have become our family!” said Brubeck.



Lois Palmer Huth, a lifelong Methodist, has her artwork displayed at Wesley UMC in Cicero.

Methodist Centenarian Shares Experiences By Linda Hendelman*

As The United Methodist Church celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, your church may be recognizing some lifelong Methodists; there are many among us. But Wesley United Methodist Church, 6011 W. 36th St., Cicero, has a Methodist Centenarian. Ms. Lois Palmer Huth who is 100 years old grew up in Cicero and still attends Wesley UMC. In

addition to being a lifetime Methodist, Lois is an artist, a nationally known ceramic sculptor.

Born in 1917, Ms. Huth has lived through the Depression, Cicero’s rocky civil rights era, and various splits, relocations, and merges of Methodist churches in Cicero, according to her oldest son Michael Huth. The former Lois Palmer married Kenneth Huth in June 1939, “in the smallest wedding you can imagine in my grandmother’s living room, with a Methodist minister officiating,” Ms. Huth said. (Mr. Huth passed in 2002.)

Church Membership

Church attendance has been a “force of habit,” Ms. Huth says, although she admits not attending church quite so regularly during a “kind of rebellion” when she was a student at the Art Institute in the 1930s. Baptized at First Methodist Church, which later merged into Wesley, Ms. Huth has served in various roles as a church member. She taught Sunday School many years ago and “attended all the meetings of the United Methodist Women, although I never held an office.” When asked what she especially

liked about the Methodist Church, she replied, “Well, I like the idea that you can be a free thinker; I think nobody is going to tell me I have to believe in certain things.” She especially enjoys the music in the Methodist Church too and said she once “filled a chair” in the choir.

She remembers fondly a favorite family group at First Methodist: “We had a very active group called the Christian Family Movement which is really a Catholic [group]. We had a man in our congregation whose wife was Catholic and they went to the Christian Family Movement at the Catholic Church. Then he came back with the news that we ought to start one in our church, so we did. It is still going (Laughing) and that was 40 years ago.”

Artist

Ms. Huth has made many church banners. “I am an artist,” Ms. Huth explains, and “I made them all by hand for the church.” She is nationally known for her ceramics work. Her ceramic tiles of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John “as I imagined them” were in the Worship Center at First Methodist Church. When the church was remodeled, an architect told her that he had done a lot of that kind of work but hers was the best he had ever seen. A picture of those ceramic tiles was featured on a cover of a Methodist magazine. The tiles were moved to another First Methodist Church location and finally to Wesley UMC by she and her husband in honor of her grandmother. Ms. Huth’s grandmother and her parents and aunts all attended First Methodist Church.

Depiction of children is a theme of Mrs. Huth’s ceramics. Her ceramic sculpture of Jesus and the Children can be seen at Wesley UMC. She says she has done many

murals of Jesus and the children for different churches all over the country. Her sculptures, many of children, have sold nationally and number over 6,000.

Ms. Huth says she gets her talent from her father who was an artist and encouraged her. Her grandmother was also an artist as are two of her children and two grandchildren. “Our family is a long line of artists,” she explains. “I graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1938, have been in many art fairs, and sculpted for over 50 years,” she said. She gave up sculpting at age 98 due to declining vision. When asked about her many sculptures featuring children, she says, “I enjoyed being a child and love children. My childhood was so happy.”

A Long Life

Ms. Huth is currently in assisted living at Cantata Adult Life Services in Brookfield and relies on her son Michael and his wife Pat to pick her up on Sunday mornings to attend worship at Wesley UMC. She is also the mother of two other sons, Jonathon and Lindsay; grandmother of six and great grandmother of four. Lindsay lives in the family home, one of the oldest in Cicero, which sits kitty-corner across from what was once Cicero Methodist Church. Her son Jonathon lives in Brookfield.

When queried about her secrets to a long life, Ms. Huth says she takes care of herself by going to an exercise class every day. She also goes to the fitness center to use the machines three times a week. “I am the oldest one that does that; exercise, I believe, is very important.” When I asked what others should do to become centenarians, she replied with a laugh, “I always say ‘keep breathing.’”

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



179th Annual Conference

Navigating Uncharted Waters
Navigating Uncharted Waters





Bishop's Episcopal Address

Navigating Uncharted Waters

In almost every aspect of our lives these days, we find ourselves navigating uncharted waters or territory. Things that worked in the past don't work anymore. Frustration at not having the answers or solutions, grief at the losses we experience in our communities and churches, and fear at what will happen next can overwhelm us.

What makes this such a rough ride? No longer do we live in a convergent culture. Our nation, communities and churches have become so divergent. A convergent situation is one where the questions are the same for everyone and so are the answers.

But we don't live in a convergent culture anymore! We live in a divergent culture. A divergent culture is where the question or concern is the same for everyone but the answers are different.

For instance, we're all concerned about stopping gun violence! But we don't have one answer or solution as to how to do that. Or, we are concerned about the declining number of people in our churches. But we don't have one answer or solution that works for everyone. Or, pretty much everyone is weary of the impasse on human sexuality in the UMC. The question or concern is the same, but there are definitely different ideas about the solution or answer.

What we've learned about our impasse on human sexuality is that we all hold very divergent values or positions that lead us to our understandings of the solution.

So for some, this impasse is

- A position on scriptural understanding
- A matter of social justice
- An issue of identity (LGBTQ)
- A pastoral matter that makes people feel that some or all of the services of the church/denomination should be offered to all people or withheld from some people in their community

Each one of these positions is deeply grounded in each one of our systems of beliefs and values so trying to change each other's minds (and hearts) hasn't really moved us much; just made us mad at each other.

Convergence works for uniform: we all agree on one answer or solution for everyone. Divergence recognizes

that we're not (ever) going to agree or be convergent (again) and so seeks unity based on something greater than agreement. If unity isn't based on agreement or uniformity, what is it based on?

Our unity is based on Jesus Christ and Christ's mission for us. And learning how to live with that kind of unity instead of agreement or uniformity is probably the biggest uncharted territory we face. But it's a skill we need to learn if we're going to live in love with our families, communities, churches, nation and world in the future.

A Way Forward

The mission of the Commission on a Way Forward is "that matters of human sexuality and unity are the presenting issues for a deeper conversation that surfaces different ways of interpreting scripture and theological tradition."

In May the Council of Bishops heard, studied and discerned the Commission's report and recommended the "One Church Plan" to the General Conference Special Session which will be held Feb. 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis.

Some highlights of the One Church Plan:

- Removes restrictive/prohibitive language about homosexuality but doesn't insure acceptance of LGBTQ persons across the church.
- Provides a "generous unity" that gives conferences, churches, and clergy flexibility.
- Voting is kept to a minimum except where helpful.
- Ends the threat/division/expense of complaints and church trials.
- Clergy independently decide if they want to do same-gender weddings or not.
- Local churches establish wedding policies which may or may not include same-gender weddings.
- No annual conference, bishop, congregation or clergy is compelled to act contrary to their convictions — protections provided for all.
- Doesn't impact central conferences.
- No need for constitutional amendments.
- Each jurisdiction provides episcopal support for its own bishops and offices.
- Doesn't change the restriction on use of

apportionment dollars "to promote the acceptance of homosexuality" or violate the commitment "not to reject or condemn" LGBTQ (Par. 806.9)

- Each BOOM, in discernment with bishop and cabinet, can or not recommend LGBTQ persons for ministry.
- Few financial or pension implications unless significant numbers of clergy and local churches leave the annual conference
- Clergy or local churches can leave annual conference for another if desire to do so.

As the UMC, we continue to "pray our way forward." This whole journey was a "pause for prayers," and I encourage you to pray. Some will be praying from 2:23 to 2:26 each day, reflecting the dates of the special GC. A weekly prayer post has just been put up: UMCPrays.org.

What's your hope for the church?

The ordination class at our May retreat repeatedly referenced the theologian Jürgen Moltmann. One quote was: "the church is the hope of the world!" If we become resigned to the way things are in our world, what hope is there?

And part of persisting, insisting and resisting is that we come together to be the hope for our communities and the world. That's why I believe that the UMC is better together than split apart, separated by a lack of agreement, and divided in its mission. We need to be the hope for the world and for Illinois.

Friends, we can't be inwardly focused from now until GC19! We have work to do! A calling to fulfill! People still need to know Jesus! We need to continue to grow in our faith through worship, Bible study, and prayer! The world needs us to put our faith into action; to be hope for the world!

What is it that we're going to do on February 27, 2019, the day after the special General Conference? We're going to...make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

~Bishop Sally Dyck

(this is an adapted version of the Bishop's 2018 Episcopal address – find the full text at www.umcnic.org/AC2018)

The NIC General/Jurisdictional Delegation will be holding listening and conversation sessions this fall leading up to the General Conference Special Session February 23-26, 2019. You can choose to attend any one of the locations.

October 6
9:00 am Rockford District
(Freeport: First)
1:00 pm Dekalb District
(Sterling: Wesley)

October 20
9:00 am Chicago NW District
(Park Ridge)
1:00 pm Chicago Southern
District (Chicago: St. Mark)

November 10
9:00 am Elgin District
(Barrington)
1:00 pm Aurora District
(Bethany Fox Valley)



Bishop's Appeal raises more than \$70,000

The final totals are in for this year's Bishop's Appeal special offering. Thank you to the Northern Illinois Conference congregations for donating an incredible \$74,645 which includes some pre-conference donations. Elgin District takes home the coveted traveling trophy for the highest giving per capita!

Seventy-five percent of the funds will go toward the Global Migration Advance #3022144 for international assistance and 25% will assist churches and organizations like World Relief and Refugee One working with local refugees and immigrants.

"I am greatly appreciative and proud of the generous response that the Northern Illinois Annual Conference gave to the Bishop's Appeal this year for global migration," said Bishop Dyck. "Thank you for providing hope for countless persons who are in vulnerable and even violent situations. Together we have made a difference. Thank you!"

The Global Migration Crisis doesn't get much press, but the needs are incredible and overwhelming. Presently, over 65 million people are displaced from their homes due to a variety of man-made and natural causes. Every five seconds a person is displaced or forced to leave their home. Half of these refugees and migrants are children under the age of 18.

What can get lost in these staggering numbers are the real people, with real faces and families, who simply aspire to live normal lives safe from danger and harm. We can't help them all, but we do for one what we wish we could do for all!

While the offering is an amazing start, let's continue raising awareness and advocating for refugees and migrants. Resources and videos are available at www.umcnic.org/bishopsappeal. You can also contact our Conference Refugee Coordinators, Rev. Jonathan and Rhodalyne Crail at jcrail@firstumc.net.





Youth from Faith UMC in Downers Grove helped sort and load the trailer with the more than 5,000 pounds of donations for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

Churches rise above mission challenge

The mission trailer was filled to capacity at Annual Conference! Every district met or exceeded their goals when cash donations to UMCOR and the Midwest Mission Distribution Center were included. The total weight of all items donated was 5,081 pounds!

A special thanks to all the volunteers who helped check-in, sort and load the trailer from Baker UMC, Downers Grove Faith UMC's youth group, and Redeemer of Calvary UMC.

The NIC Board of Global Ministries wants to give special recognition to two districts for going well beyond their original goals. In addition to meeting their goals, the Chicago Southern District brought 30 complete cleaning kits and made a cash donation of almost \$600 for the Mission Challenge.

This year's District winner for five years in a row is . . . DeKalb which exceeded all expectations by 50% for one goal, 100% for a second goal and 200% for a third goal as well as cash contributions. For the curious, these are the DeKalb District's final numbers - 900 air fresheners, 4,300 sponges, and 25,250 clothespins.

"It's been amazing," said mission challenge coordinator Larry Dunlap-Berg. "These are cleaning kits going to locations like Puerto Rico. The Midwest Mission Distribution Center has cleaned out the supply after last year's hurricane season, so this will be replenishing the supply for the next time someone needs it."

Special shout-out to two small churches, Harmon and Tampico, which for the second consecutive year donated 25% of the district's original goal, even though one of the churches only has eight members. That's mission in action!



Two Northern Illinois Deaconesses Consecrated

"Called to Be What for God's World?" was the theme of the deaconess consecration service May 18 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus,

Ohio, part of the United Methodist Women's Assembly 2018. Twenty-four women from 19 conferences, including two from Northern Illinois, were consecrated for a lifetime of lay servant ministry in relationship with The United Methodist Church.

Catherine Inserra and Amy Reimer were consecrated at the UMW Assembly and commissioned by Bishop Sally Dyck at the Northern Illinois Annual Conference during the Commissioning and Ordination Service June 3. They join two other active deaconesses in the Conference.

Deaconesses are laywomen who have responded to the call of God to full-time ministries of love, justice and service. Their life-giving work provides support and dignity to those in need and helps individuals and communities reach their full potential.

Answering a call

Individuals consecrated and commissioned to the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner in The United Methodist Church form a covenant community in service as a lay order. After discerning a call to lay ministry, deaconesses and home missionaries (laymen) finish a course of study to ensure biblical, theological and sociological grounding in their ministries. They are consecrated and commissioned full-time mission-oriented service as part of the lay diaconate.

Ministry and Service

Deaconess Catherine Inserra is the Director of Christian Formation & Student Ministry at Trinity UMC in Wilmette since 2011. She holds a Certificate of Spiritual Formation from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. She is consecrated as a Deaconess as of May 18, 2018. Her call is to serve the United Methodist church in love, service, and justice through Christian formation and student ministry in the parish setting working closely with the pastor. Her passion for faith formation in the classroom, in worship, through service, and in daily life brings creative twists to the lifelong journey of discipleship.

Catherine believes that "growing in body and wisdom like Jesus" invites all persons into an exciting and challenging faith journey that is grounded in rich Biblical traditions and meaningful relationships for living in Christian community and the world today.

Deaconess Amy Reimer has been serving as Financial Administrator at Trinity United Methodist Church in Wilmette since September 2012. Amy felt called to use her training as a CPA to serve God and the church after many years of working as a teacher. While at her first Annual Conference Amy received a distinct call from God to deepen her connection in ministry. After a period of discernment Amy entered the Candidacy process to become a Deaconess. Having been Consecrated at UMW Assembly this past May Amy will be appointed to her ministry of Holy Stewardship at Trinity UMC. Trinity UMC: Wilmette is a missional church serving the local and global community. Proper and faithful Stewardship of the churches finances and the congregation's gifts is an essential part of this ministry. Amy puts her whole heart into this role and is excited to see what God has in store for Trinity.



Melissa Brice representing the Eco-Sustainability Task Force, Stephanie Uhl, representing CCFA and Rev. Chris Walters, President of the United Methodist Foundation read together the joint statement on fossil-fuel divestment during the Foundation's business meeting at Annual Conference.

UM Foundation seeks fossil fuel free investments

petroleum, natural gas, or coal . . ." from the investments of the (NIC). The matter was referred to the authors of the divestment resolution (i.e. the Task Force) and to the United Methodist Foundation of the Northern Illinois Conference, Inc. (Foundation) for "reconsideration in 2018."

Since last year's annual conference, members of the Task Force met with Foundation board members and had several discussions. Both groups have made presentations to the NIC's Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA). It is the position of the Task Force, in alignment with the worldwide fossil-fuel divestment movement known as 350.org, that no NIC-held investments be made in companies appearing on the Carbon Underground 200™ (CU200), a list of the "top global 200 publicly-owned coal, oil, and gas reserve owners by the carbon emissions embedded in their reserves."

The Foundation has for many years followed an investment strategy that adheres closely to ¶ 717 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016 that calls upon UM investors to "make a conscious effort to invest in institutions, companies, corporations, or funds . . . that are socially responsible, consistent with the goals outlined in the Social Principles." The Foundation has

followed the so-called "clean hands" approach by screening "out" objectionable companies as recommended by ¶ 717. The UMC amended ¶ 717 at the 2016 General Conference to call upon UM investors "to give careful consideration to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors when making investment decisions . . ."

Going beyond the "clean hands" approach starting in 2018, the Foundation began using the services of Sustainalytics, a leading company research provider, to identify companies having high ESG ratings to screen in these "good" companies, in addition to screening out the "bad" companies. As a result, the Foundation's portfolios are virtually free of the companies with the largest proven fossil fuel reserves.

However, some investors seek full CU200 compliance with their investments. Therefore, starting January 1, 2019, the Foundation will make portfolios available to the NIC and to local churches that are identical to the current ESG approach and that will add the CU200 screen. The Foundation has chosen to invest some of its own funds in these new CU200 compliant portfolios to monitor their performance in advance of offering them to clients, which is a sound fiduciary management practice. CCFA pledges to seriously consider each year increasing the allocation of

(continued on page 6, see Fuel)



At his presentation at Annual Conference, George Groves, the NIC United Methodist Men's President, invited churches to participate in an eight-week program designed to change a culture, which permits violence against women.

The General Commission on United Methodist Men worked with the YWCA of Middle Tennessee to create *Amending through Faith*, a book guiding participants through eight training sessions.

The 90-minute sessions are designed to help men understand how common statements and actions result in one in four women in the U.S.

becoming victims of domestic violence and 5 million children in the U.S., or one in fifteen witnessing abuse in their homes each year. Each session is biblically based.

Tested in churches

The curriculum was tested in 15 congregations prior to making it available to all churches.

"This study helped me realize the way I was talking to my wife was hurting her and destroying our marriage," said a participant.

Another member of an early test group said, "It was as if scales fell from my eyes and ears. I saw things and heard things that I had seen

and heard before, but now realize how they degrade women."

A man's issue

"While there are rare cases of violence against men," said Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the men's commission, "nearly all the cases of domestic violence stem from action by men. This is a men's issue and we have to stand up and say, 'This is not acceptable. This is just wrong.'"

For additional information about the study and place orders, please visit www.gcumm.org/gender-based-violence.

From the Cover: Navigating

United Brethren Church, along with the dissolution of the Central Jurisdiction.

"During the first 50 years, the UMC has lived with and through the push and pull a number of cultural currents flowing throughout its life. Living in the midst of these created swirls of agreement and disagreement," said Day.

The Rev. Albert Outler's sermon preached at the 1968 Uniting Conference is not only one of the seminal documents in all Methodist History, but it still speaks an "aura of hope" for the UMC today said Day.

Many features, resources and videos are available on the UMC's 50th anniversary at www.umc.org/umc50.

Worship

This year's worship leader, Gary Rand and his band The Many, brought us together with both contemporary and traditional music.

The Gospel Choir from St. Mark UMC in Chicago inspired and moved those gathered at the Ordination Service.

The Rev. Kyungsu Park's beautiful artwork hung from the backdrop near the stage. His four paintings were titled, Water, Stars, Map, and Spirit. "All the paintings have a sacramental element to them, and they all relate to concepts of navigation, adventure, and risk," said Park.

In recognition of The United Methodist's 50th anniversary and heritage, clergy and laity with Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist traditions offered prayers weaved throughout our time together at annual conference. We thank each of them for sharing their insights and blessings: EUB Layperson - Phyllis Tholin, Methodist Clergy - Rev. Nick Mitrovich Jr., EUB Clergy - Rev. Bob Burkhart, Methodist Clergy - Rev. Martin Deppe, EUB Layperson - Mary Wolf, and Methodist Layperson - Jean Wood.

Our ecumenical guest was Bishop Jeffery D. Lee, who leads 35,000 Episcopalians in 125 congregations across northern Illinois.

Annual Conference Shepherding Team

Co-Chairs Layperson Liz Gracie and Clergy Rev. Myron McCoy outlined the first six months of work by the Annual Conference Shepherding Team (ACST), which was formed out of the restructuring legislation passed at the 2017

Annual Conference. The 20-member diverse team of clergy and laity from across the conference first met in November 2017 and adopted a covenant, reviewed the teams 12 responsibilities and identified a priority to create a 5-year vision plan.

The team has met five teams and had an adaptive training with members of the six District Shepherding teams in March. They've made a commitment to meet in all areas of the conference and have invited members of the host/church/ cluster/ district to share more about their ministries. The ACST is working on a strategic plan and hopes to have a completed draft planning document by the end of the year. Listening sessions will be scheduled to present the draft and obtain feedback. The goal is to present a 5-year vision/strategic plan at Annual Conference next year.

"A strategic plan, by its nature, aims for growth," said ACST Co-Chair Liz Gracie. "We are defining "growth" as the long-term sustainability and spiritual vitality necessary for the NIC to thrive in an uncertain future."

Legislation

The Annual Conference Members debated and voted on a number of pieces of legislation including a document encouraging churches to conduct energy audits and to become styrofoam free, a call to end gun violence, and incorporation of the Annual Conference Shepherding Team and District Shepherding Teams into the standing rules.

The annual conference also passed a non-binding document which affirms the Council of Bishop's recommendation of the "One Church Plan" to the General Conference and urges the NIC delegation to support this way forward. The Annual Conference also approved a document in support of the General Conference two failed constitutional amendments relating to women's equality and a revote was taken on Amendment #1.

The 2019 budget of \$6.7 million dollars, about the same as 2018, passed.

Special Offerings

The 2018 Bishop's Appeal special offering raised a record \$74,645 for the Global Migration Advance #3022144 fund.

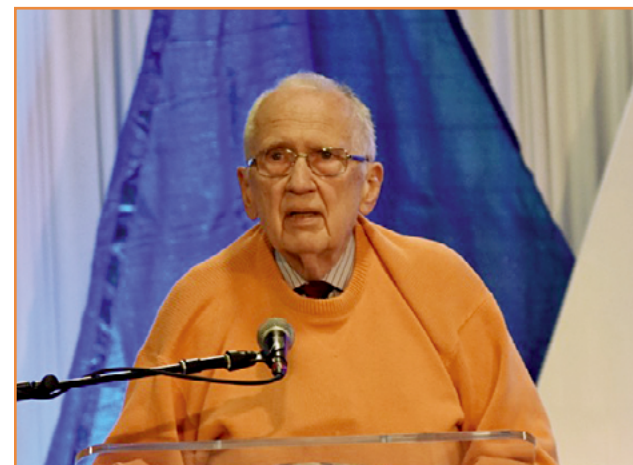
Twenty-five percent of the money will stay in the Northern Illinois Conference to assist churches and organizations like World Relief and Refugee One working with local refugees and immigrants. Congratulations to the Elgin District which took home the Bishop's Appeal traveling trophy for raising the most funds per capita.

An offering for the Ministerial Education Fund which financially assists students preparing for ordination in the Northern Illinois Conference totaled \$4,341.

Membership in the Northern Illinois Conference stands at 82,003, down 3,347 from the previous year. Worship attendance stands at 28,466, down 1654. Sunday school attendance stands at 6,874, down 962. Professions or reaffirmations of faith for 2017 was 1539, up 184 from 2016. The number of adults and young adults in small groups for 2017 was 16,031, down 805 from 2016. The number of worshippers engaged in mission for 2017 was 13,098, down 7,304 from 2016.

The 2019 Annual Conference will be held in a new location from June 2-4 at the Schaumburg Convention Center.

For more info and photos from this year's conference visit www.umcnic.org/AC2018.



Several clergy and laypersons representing our heritage between Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Church offer prayers at Annual Conference. Former Methodist Clergy Rev. Nick Mitrovich changed into an orange sweater prior to his prayer in support of the "wear orange" campaign to end gun violence.

Fuel (continued from page 5)

the investments under its care to the Foundation's CU200 compliant portfolios.

The Task Force strongly encourages CCFA, the Foundation, and all local UM churches to invest as much of their invested assets as they can in these new CU200 compliant portfolios offered by the Foundation. According to 350.org, founded by United Methodist Bill McKibben, "Divesting from [the CU200] has been the default demand

for fossil fuel divestment campaigners across the globe ... 'CU200's potential embedded emissions are now 608.8% more than their allocated carbon budget.' This means, these companies now claim a business plan of burning six times more fossil fuels than can be burned for the world to have an 80% chance of limiting global temperature rise to 2°C," the limit set by the Paris Agreement.

All three groups—the Task Force, CCFA, and the

Foundation—unite to declare that we must ultimately end the burning of fossil fuels, and we need, in the words of 350.org, to "build 100% clean energy solutions that work for all," which is consonant with the clarion call of the "Investment Ethics" of Resolution 4071 of the UMC, to "seek to increase energy efficiency and mitigate and/or adapt to climate change.

For more information and resources visit umfnic.org.

2018 Awards



Award recipient Karen Klaus holds the Katherine B. Greene Child Worker award for developing the Nathaniel's Hope Buddy Break program at First UMC in Crystal Lake. Buddy Break is an enrichment time for special needs children to make friends, play games, enjoy crafts, stories, music, and activities while providing a rare respite for their families.



Rev. Adonna Reid of South Shore UMC in Chicago accepts a One Matters Award from Bishop Sally Dyck and Cynthia Wilson, Associate General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries.



Team from Bethany Methodist Communities with OAM Co-chair James Barry.

United Voices for Children

United Voices for Children presented their three awards for outstanding advocacy and service for children and youth in Northern Illinois to four recipients at their annual breakfast at the 2018 Northern Illinois Annual Conference.

The Katherine B. Greene Child Worker Award went to two recipients: Karen Klaus of First UMC Crystal Lake for instituting the Nathaniel's Hope Buddy Break program for special needs children and their families; and to Chana UMC for its recreational, education and social service ministries with rural children and youth in its community.

The Bishop Jesse R. Dewitt Award was given to Deacon Wes Dorr of United Church of Rogers Park (Chicago) for his dedicated advocacy for and ministry with urban children and youth.

The Rev. Margaret Ann Williams Service Award was given to Licia Knight of St. Mark UMC (Chicago) for her lifelong service of establishing a Children's Church and directing a dance ministry, among other ministries with children and youth.

Any United Methodist member or congregation in Northern Illinois can nominate someone to receive one of these awards. Nominations are received in the winter and early spring and the awards are given at the Northern Illinois Annual Conference in June.

United Voices for Children is a coalition of congregations and individuals in Northern Illinois dedicated to speak and act on behalf of needy children, youth and their families as well as to support ministries in the Conference serving these children and youth. To read more on the awards and the recipients ministries visit unitedvoicesforchildren.org/programs/awards.

One Matters: Discipleship Ministries Award

The One Matters Discipleship Award was created by Discipleship Ministries in 2015 with the purpose of lifting up churches who have in recent years moved from 0 baptisms and 0 professions of faith into positive numbers as they redirected their focus toward intentional discipleship. In addition to the One Matters Discipleship plaque, each church received a \$1,000 check to encourage the continuation of their work in discipleship.

The Northern Illinois Conference is one of the most diverse conferences in The United Methodist Church, so instead of recognizing one congregation, we have the opportunity to offer six awards, with the help of the Office of Connectional Ministries. Most importantly, as we celebrate these churches and hear their stories, we are invited to ask "What are they doing differently that is helping them to turn things around, by God's grace?" And when we discern an answer to that question, we can ask ourselves, "What can we do to make a difference?" Each person matters to God! This we celebrate!

2018 awards presented to:

Aurora District

Naperville: Grace UMC (Rev. Cindy Marino)

Chicago Northwestern District

Chicago: Indo-Pak UMC (Rev. Ernest Singh)

Chicago Southern District: Chicago

South Shore UMC (Rev. Adonna Davis Reid)

DeKalb District

Reynolds UMC (Rev. Seamus Enright)

Elgin District

Crystal Lake: First UMC (Rev. Scott Field)

Rockford District

Belvidere: Emerge Hispanic NFC
(Pastor Cris Ramirez)

To read more about the achievements on each recipient visit www.umcnic.org/onematters.

Rainbow Covenant Giving

In the Northern Illinois Conference, our local churches make a commitment to support local, regional and international mission projects and ministries through the Rainbow Covenant. In 2017, NIC churches gave \$866,117 to Rainbow Covenant projects helping so many help of our neighbors across this conference and across the globe. This is up 23% from \$699,708 given in 2016.

In response to an active and devastating hurricane season, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) received the most donations with \$267,850 going towards U.S. Disaster Relief, \$90,140 going to UMCOR undesignated, and \$18,848 going towards International Disaster Relief.

We congratulate Barrington UMC for receiving both the The Philip Otterbein Award, "Highest Amount Given", and the The John Wesley Award, "Highest Per Capita Giving."

Golden Cross Sunday Grant Awards

Three deserving workers in NIC-related senior care institutions received a grant from the Golden Cross Sunday Offering Fund during the annual conference luncheon sponsored by the Council for Older Adult Ministries.

One of the conference-wide special offerings, the fund was created to provide scholarship for the workers to be able to pursue or advance their career in senior care service. The workers must have demonstrated that sincere desire and love for the elderly in the workplace. They are nominated by their respective agency.

The following received grants:

Olatunde Balogun has worked for Chicago Methodist Senior Services for over 10 years as a CNA. Ola, as he is fondly called, is loved by residents, a warm and compassionate caregiver. To his colleagues, he is greatly admired, a reliable team player.

Ernesto Ejanda has received high praises from his supervisors at Bethany Methodist Communities as his recent work performance review reveals. Ernesto does not treat his caregiving as "just a job" or "just a means of living." To Ernesto, his is a vocation to serve God and neighbors. He is there to provide emotional as well as physical support as demonstrated more than once in caring for clients who are going through very difficult times transitioning to a new community. Ernesto's enthusiastic spirit, skills, and personality are truly assets to Partners in Healthcare at the institution.

Amanda Gray has served seniors in Wesley Willows and Peterson Meadows campuses with kindness and grace. A professional, she establishes relationships with residents and their families as first-line resource for anything that they might need. Knowing residents and families so well allows her to coordinate interest groups. A renowned local artist, she teaches art class gaining a reputation that got her selected for several years as artist in Unforgettable Art which benefits the Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter. In the event, Amanda paints live in around 2-1/2 hours, long enough for the paint to dry, and gets her piece auctioned for the benefit of the organization.

Retirees

We celebrate the NIC's 18 retiring pastors with a combined 456 years of service.

Cathryn Caliendo - 15 years



I served Cicero, Wesley UMC for 15 years and River Forest UMC part-time for the last three. In those years, I have had so many powerful moments it's difficult to choose. However, one of the most memorable was in my second month of ministry.

While a student at Garrett, I found a name on the list of 50th year

graduates. My mother and I were able to reconnect with our former student local pastor at the Church of the Redeemer, the Italian Methodist church supported by (as Granny M used to say) "Those good women of Evingstone."

Two months later, the second time I officiated at Wesley's communion service, my mother, several of her sisters,

Bob and Alice came to worship. I served communion to the man who baptized me at three months old, more than 50 years ago. There wasn't a dry eye in the sanctuary.

In the future I will be living in a beautiful little Episcopal church building, built in 1892, in a quiet little town just a few blocks up the hill from Lake Superior. I

plan on filling my days with gardening, spinning, weaving and doing other hand work. I'll also be shoveling snow and enjoying my wood stove. My home is in a peaceful small town - nowhere near planes, trains and traffic.

Linda Deming - 20 years



I began my ministry as student pastor at Alden Community Church. Following graduation from Garrett-Evangelical and then ordination in 1998, I served Chicago: Mt. Greenwood, Galena, Leland, Wood Dale: Wood Dale Community Church, and Ottawa: Evangelical.

These congregations were all relatively small and struggled with finances - a situation faced by most

congregations. Expenses involved with maintaining older buildings, paying pastoral compensation elements, and meeting conference obligations present a daunting challenge. When the financial situation becomes critical, the congregation must consider becoming a less than full-time appointment. Newspapers write about these issues and denominations bemoan them, but they were the reality in one way or

another for each of my appointments. As pastor, this situation was a bitter pill.

There were joy and excitement in sharing ministry with the parishioners in each charge. Their heart for the Gospel was full and deep. The real high point of my ministry was having the privilege of baptizing the children, performing weddings, and officiating at funerals. Funerals fast became my favorite. While talking with each family, I saw new

aspects of the deceased: hobbies, former careers and achievements, travels, etc. A meaningful funeral was the least that I could do in response and in respect. Funerals are what I have missed the most.

Four years ago, I went on medical leave, and am now officially retiring. I will continue to live here in the Phoenix area sharing a home with my 92-year-old mother.

Rodney B. Dye - 22 years



I began as appointed pulpit supply to Apple River, Sept 1, 1992. I began the Master of Divinity program at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, February 1993. I was appointed to Lanark, July 1, 1996. I finished the Master's of Divinity program December 1996. I was

approved as a probationary member in 2001 and was appointed to Erie November 30, 2003. I was approved as a full member and ordained Elder in 2004.

The highlight of ministry for me has always been to love Jesus and the people, serving with and for them in

the churches and communities where I've been appointed. I will miss most the pastoral care responsibilities of visitation and nurture.

In retirement (my wife's plan is for me to spend more time helping her and driving her to work when the weather is bad), I

plan to spend more time taking care of our family farm, visiting grandchildren, volunteering in the communities of Erie and Fenton, and working part-time for Gibson-Bode funeral homes. And I just might spend some time watching the CUBS!

Dean Francis - 34 years



Dean Francis is a third-generation Methodist pastor. In 1922, his grandmother, Blanche Sheppard Francis, was the third woman in the Detroit Annual Conference to be assigned as a local pastor. His father, John Francis, was an elder in the West Michigan Annual Conference (WMAC).

Following studies at the University of Michigan and Boston University, he

was ordained by Bishop Edsel Ammons in the WMAC. In West Michigan, he served Lawton-Almena, Kalamazoo First (Associate), Albion First, and was the Director of Development at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. In 1995, he transferred to the Northern Illinois Conference (NIC) and was appointed to Evanston First, where he served for 23 years.

One highlight of his ministry is the large number of candidates for ministry that have come from Evanston First. In 2017, four of the eight persons who were ordained in the NIC came from the church. He will miss the long-term pastoral relationships that he has formed with his parishioners in Evanston.

Dean is married to his high school sweetheart, Dr. Nora J. Francis and

they have been married for nearly 45 years. Nora recently retired from the faculty at Northwestern University. In retirement, they are moving to the Old Mission Peninsula near Traverse City, Michigan. Dean will continue his ministry by consulting with 'First Church' congregations who are seeking revitalization.

Ronald Greene - 38 1/2 years



Ronald Greene looks forward to immersing himself in nature and service opportunities on the South Carolina coast. He grew up in nature on a Minnesota farm, reading Carl Jung, and joining the boomer exodus

to higher education and urban life. Briefly, he dreamed big urban dreams, but a sojourn in professional acting revealed the need for a better script. He began to notice the Scripture's bigger visions - while listening to the

insinuations of his night dreams. This led to a doctoral paper on Jungian dream interpretation as a source of spiritual vision and pastoral supervision.

On January 1, 2019, Ron retires from Algonquin Christ UMC, via churches in

River Forest, Winthrop Harbor/North Prairie, Westmont, Winfield, Aurora and Chicago Emmaus and counseling work in Palos Park. He's tremendously grateful for the fellowship of friends.

David L. Haley - 44 years



The Rev. David L. Haley was born in Hardin, Kentucky, in 1951. He is married to Michele Harbeck Haley, and they are parents to four children: Chris (Lynne), Melissa, Rebecca, and Anna; and grandparents to two, Logan and Carson.

David earned a B.S. from Murray State University (1973), an M.Div. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (1976), and

an M.A. from the University of Chicago Divinity School (1983).

In his clergy career, he served as Associate Pastor at Trinity UMC in Memphis, Tennessee (1976-1979), before transferring to Northern Illinois in 1979, where he served Hermosa-Salem (1979-1981), Berry Memorial (1981-1990), West Chicago (1990-2007), and Skokie: Central (2007-2018).

For David, the best part of the journey was the wonderful people he got to know, and with whom he served, along the way. What he says he won't miss are the forms and the pastoral version of the Myth of Sisyphus, the relentless weekly service/sermon cycle.

In addition to ordained ministry, David has mown grass, packed ice, carried furniture, worked in a tennis club, an

emergency room, as a Firefighter/Paramedic, and as a hospital and fire and police chaplain.

In retirement, David and Michele will live in Park Ridge, where David will serve as Chaplain for the Des Plaines Fire Department and the NIPSTA Fire Academy in Glenview, as well as travel the world in search of adventure, history, religion, and great food.

Harlene Harden - 24 years



The Rev. Harlene Harden was ordained to the order of Deacon in The United Methodist Church in 1994 and immediately began her ministerial journey with a two-point charge that included Pullman United Methodist Church, now known as Greenstone, and Fellowship United Methodist Church. She later moved to First United Methodist Church in Waukegan where she was ordained as an Elder in full connection in the Northern Illinois Conference. Her service continued at

St. James United Methodist Church and concluded with Sycamore United Methodist Church where she was the Associate Pastor for nearly 11 years.

She earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Justice from Lewis University and received the Illinois Laureate Award. Acknowledging her call to ministry, she attended Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary where she earned a Master of Divinity degree. Her ministry involvement includes being a Southern

District Lay Instructor on Methodist Worship, a member of Volunteer's in Mission, a member of the Conference Board of Trustees and a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry, just to name a few. She is a tireless worker who strives to spread the good news of the gospel for the transformation of the world.

As she looks forward to retirement, Harden says she will miss most the daily interactions with the congregation and community. This includes the various

celebrations of the church year and special services and activities during the year like Christmas, Lent, Easter, the golf outing, Confirmation, Pentecost and annual church picnic. She will miss writing sermons which she hopes have been meaningful for the congregations she has served. In retirement, she looks forward to relocating to Georgia and welcomes the opportunity to deepen her relationship with her grandsons who are now 12 and 15.

David Holden - 4 years



I am a retired school teacher (high school chemistry) and then found my way, somewhat unexpectedly, into ministry. I was called a bit more than four years ago, at the age of 62, to become a pastor, and it has been an outstanding experience. Certainly it is one which is difficult to put into words. I

have been serving at the Compton and Paw Paw Methodist churches.

As I have been asked to record here "what highlights have been" for me... and "what I will miss the most"... the answer is much the same for both questions. The people... and the growth.

The people have been enormously supportive and there is a mutual love and respect. In fact, the departure includes a good deal of grieving.

The growth... is an umbrella term that includes financial recovery, emotional healing, and as much as anything, the learning and spiritual growth that they

relate and which I see. That has touched my heart.

I anticipate remaining involved, though a bit more part-time... filling in where it is needed... as long as I don't have to drive too far.

Dale Kelley - 10 3/4 years



I thank God, our Lord and Savior for reaching a great milestone in my life. Our God blessed me richly to serve as pastor of Clair Christian United Methodist Church in Chicago. God appointed me Pastor of Clair in September of 2007 and the journey has

been extremely rewarding, with some challenges but with greater joy and a multitude of blessings.

With our God guiding words, hand and the spiritual truth that He has ordered my steps on this awesome journey; I have been able to complete

my assignment with everything He equipped me with and now, after much prayer to the Lord Almighty and believing in His guidance, I have decided to retire. The highlight of my ministry was working with the congregation, particularly the youth, in all aspects of

ministry, which I will miss the most.

In retirement, I will continue to work with our youth and do community development while preaching from time to time.

Scott A. McClellan - 32 years



I have been under appointment in the NIC since my graduation from Garrett-Evangelical in 1981. While at G-ETS I served at Skokie: Central under Harry Conner and Buffalo Grove: Kingswood under Steve Dahl and Jean Bush. Appointments included: Chicago: Ravenswood and Bethel (2-pt. charge), Hebron, Lindenhurst: Trinity, Wheaton: Aldersgate, Lena Winslow and McConnell (co-operative parish), Morris:

First, and McHenry: First and Mt. Hope (cooperative parish).

At various times I have served on the Conf. Committee on Aging, Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, Board of Pensions and Church Builders Board. I was also trained by Herb Miller in various evangelism programs as well as the Consecration Sunday stewardship program.

What I will miss the most is watching people embrace their calling and helping them to use their gifts in establishing new ministries. Among those ministries have been: Contemporary Worship Services (including integrating visuals into worship) and Food and Fun Nights. I will also miss the opportunities to collaborate with colleagues through clusters and ecumenical groups.

For me, retirement means continuing ministry without beholden to the itinerate process. I hope to be active in a local church while still using my gifts to help congregations through supply preaching and stewardship programs. I also plan to continue to mentor and support young clergy just as I was mentored along my journey.

Brett William McCleneghan - 38 1/2 years



Looking back over my years in parish ministry, I am overcome by a sense of humility. What an honor to be invited to journey with so many dear souls as they have lived through the stages on life's way. To hear their stories, to share in their tears, to laugh, to hope, to pray. So, too, it has been humbling to walk with local congregations as they have sought to be true to their call to strive for peace, justice, and a radically gracious welcome

to all in word, worship, and action. The Church and world cry out for such a witness in times such as these when authentic expressions of Christianity are overshadowed by inauthentic and destructive forces.

I want to offer a particular word of thanks to the members of Northbrook UMC who, all those years ago, supported, nurtured, and helped to heal

me and my family before, during, and after my kidney transplant.

Finally, one of the most luminous aspects of ministry came through the opportunity to serve as both a field site supervisor and as a small group leader in the VFCL program at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. Both the seminary and the seminarians provide me with great hope for the

future of the church and the world. Thank you to the many seminarians over the years who have taught me so much and have always widened my worldview.

Rev. McCleneghan served at Palatine: First, Park Ridge: First, Glenview, Northbrook and Community Church UCC in Park Ridge.

Greta McDonald - 43 years



I've served in parish ministry in the Northern Illinois Conference for more than 40 years, beginning at Elizabeth, where I served for eight years; then being appointed as an associate at Libertyville, where my husband, Jim, was also appointed as an associate and serving there for 13 1/2 years. In January 1999, we were appointed as Co-Pastors to New Lenox and served there until

July of 2010, when we were appointed as Co-Pastors to Downers Grove First.

A highlight of my ministry?!?! I couldn't narrow it down to one. But in general, those times when I had the incredible privilege of being with someone at a life-changing moment, whether it was grief-filled or joy-filled, being present not only as myself but, in some way, as a reminder of God's invisible presence and

love, too. Each one of those experiences has changed me, and deepened my awe as well as my questions.

What will I miss most? The opportunities to be joyfully irreverent while being a pastor.

Plans for retirement - Living on Grace. Seriously, Jim and I are moving into our first non-parsonage home, and its address is 684 Grace Court. If I start

straying too far from the Wesleyan Way, well - I'll have a daily reminder of what really matters. While there, I plan to wear jeans most of the time, read books as long as I want, spend lots of time watching sunsets, sunrises, and full moons on the deck, and make myself available as an extra adult for our grandchildren.

James McDonald - 40 years



The Rev. Jim McDonald has been in ministry more than 40 years of pastoral experience. Jim grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. He received his B.A. with a double major in Sociology and History from the University of Manitoba.

Jim graduated from the Iliff School of Theology, a United Methodist seminary in Denver, Colorado, where he received his Masters of Divinity degree with Distinction.

Following seminary, Jim served in the Rocky Mountain conference for one

year then upon moving to Illinois Jim served the Hanover, Illinois UMC eight years before they were both appointed as associate pastors to Libertyville UMC, where they served for 13½ years. During his Libertyville days, Jim went to Alaska and served a small Athabasca Indian village called Anvik.

During these years he also served on a committee that helped bring healing to victims of sexual misconduct at the hands of persons overseeing Mission Schools in West Africa. For 11 years,

they served as co-pastors at New Lenox UMC and the past eight years serving at Downers Grove UMC. They have two adult children. Their daughter, Danica, is a pediatric intensive care nurse at Hope Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn. Their son, Colin, is working at the Seminary Book Store at the University of Chicago as well as being on staff at the Urban Village Church North.

"The highlights of my ministry must include working with victims of child abuse along with going to Alaska and

working with the indigenous Indians of Anvik," said McDonald. "They taught me a great deal about caring for the environment."

McDonald added that he's loved Pastoral Ministry. "I once met theologian H. Richard Niebuhr in Winnipeg and his one comment to me was that there is no promotion beyond the Local Church," said McDonald.

Glenna L. Olumstad - 11 years



I entered the ministry later in life having enjoyed two prior careers as a Registered Nurse and as an Early Childhood Educator. I was in my 50s when I discerned a call to ministry and entered GETS as a full-time student in 2004. After receiving my MDiv, and upon receiving probationary status (that's what they called it in those days) from the Board of Ordained Ministry, I was appointed to Hope UMC in Joliet in

2007. It was a privilege to serve as their pastor for 6 years before receiving my second appointment to North Shore UMC in Glencoe.

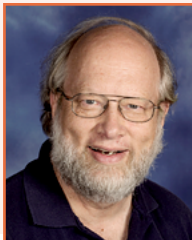
The highlight of my ministry was the opportunity to lead both congregations through the process of meeting goals. At Hope UMC in Joliet, it was the dream of expanding their building by adding a new sanctuary to replace their current meeting space. A plan the congregation

had dreamed would someday come to fruition since their establishment as a worshipping community in 1959. At North Shore UMC in Glencoe, it was the fulfillment of becoming a Reconciling Congregation, a designation that reflects the openness of the community.

What I will miss the most upon retirement are the many relationships that I've made in each congregation and the opportunity and privilege of

hearing and sharing their stories. My plans for life after full-time ministry are full. I look forward to the opportunity of spending more time with my mother, children, and grandchildren who reside in Chicago and the surrounding area. Having the time to travel and engage in ongoing hobbies of gardening, genealogy and playing the lap and hammered dulcimer.

Philip Sheets - 40 1/2 years



Phil Sheets has served as a UMC pastor since 1977, and in the NIC since 1981. His appointments have included Irving Park, Chicago; Channahon, First DesPlaines, Calvary, Chicago; Good Shepherd Oswego and First Lockport. Sheets said the highlight of his ministry

has yet to occur, and he appreciates being with supportive people. He figures retirement is mostly like heaven: he'll deal with it when he gets there he said.

"The new thing I have learned through the years is that the typical

congregation rests on a basic paradox: our local churches were founded as a stabilizing force, intended to make sure that as little changed as possible," said Sheets. "But the Spirit wants and needs everything to change. Parish ministry means riding this schizoid tiger."

Sheets is still very engaged in full-time ministry at First UMC Lockport. He said his retirement is more a formality than an actuality.

Kent L. Svendsen - 25 years



Chaplain Kent Lowell Svendsen is an ordained United Methodist Minister, a retired army chaplain, a suicide prevention trainer, a certified counselor and a Veterans advocate.

Kent and his wife Paula have been married 40 years and have two grown daughters and four grandchildren. He has served as a United Methodist church pastor for twenty-nine years and has twenty-seven years of military service.

He retired from the military at the rank of major in 2009.

He has served 7 different churches in his career and is presently the Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Mendota. Those churches are Harmon, Carpentersville, Plattville, Reynolds (Ashton), Forreston / Leaf River, Plano / Millbrook, and First United Methodist Church of Mendota. While in the military he served 11 military units. His

service included two tours of Vietnam, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Peace Shield, and Operation New Horizons. During that time he taught suicide prevention for fourteen years. His professional video "Suicide Takes Another Life", which can be found on YouTube, has been credited with saving a number of lives.

Other achievements include being an Advisor to the Western Hemisphere

Institute For Security Cooperation a Department Of Defense school from 2001-2005 and a Full Board of Visitors Member 2005-2009. While serving he was involved with the creation and development of their human rights protection materials and training program. In 2009 upon finishing eight years of service for the school, he was named: "Ambassador of Good Will".

OTHER RETIREES: Deborah Tinsley-Taylor - 11 years | Linda Walker - 4 years

Annual Conference moving to new location



After a search for an ideal location to fit the Conference's needs, the Annual Conference Committee has chosen the Schaumburg Convention Center for the next site.

"Pheasant Run has been home for our AC sessions for many years but everything that has a beginning is bound to come to an end," said Rev. Alka Lyall, Annual Conference Chair. "This relationship was a good one and like any relationship - had its great moments and its challenges."

Lyall said the Schaumburg Convention Center is more modern, spacious, affordable, cleaner and accommodating.

NIC Accessibilities Chair Rev. Terry McDorman said after a site visit, he was pleased with the facilities and its accessible friendly atmosphere.

"The facility is extremely accessible for everyone," said McDorman. "There is plenty of free parking- even handicap spots. The restrooms are nice and the hotel rooms are designed for those with mobility, vision or hearing challenges."

The Schaumburg Convention Center is conveniently located at 1551 N. Thoreau Drive just off of Interstate 90 with easy access from the West, East, North, and South.

Schaumburg offers almost 500 restaurants in the vicinity and numerous hotels that cost under \$100 per night within 1 mile of this facility.

For more information visit www.schaumburgconventioncenter.com.

We look forward to a new and exciting place for our AC business, worship, and fellowship. See you in 2019!

Prayers for Peace in Korea



On June 11 in anticipation of the historic summit and document signing in Singapore between the leaders of North Korea and the U.S., Korean-American United Methodist pastors and leaders in the Northern Illinois Conference gathered to pray for peace on the Korean Peninsula and an official end to the Korean War. "We pray for the people of North and South Korea and that families who have been separated for decades will be unified," prayed Bishop Dyck at the morning prayer service at First Korean UMC in Wheeling, Ill. "We pray that fears and prejudices will break down and there will be a renewed spirit in the country of Korea." Read the full story at www.umcnic.org/news.

As part of our ongoing solidarity, the United Methodist Korea Peace Table invites people to join them in Washington, D.C., for a Korean Peace Festival July 26-28 to mark 65 years since the Armistice and renew our call for a permanent peace treaty. For more details, visit www.umcjustice.org/koreapeace.

NIC Risk Management offering active shooter training

In response to voiced interest received from some of our Pastors, Trustees and members, the Risk Management Department of the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church (NICUMC) has undertaken steps to provide "FREE" on-line training on the subject of addressing an "Active Shooter" situation.

What Is This "FREE" Training?

The framework of the Active Shooter on-line course being offered to Conference churches centers upon the nationally recognized methodology entitled "ALICE." ALICE* stands for "Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evaluate." The ALICE practice is emulated by local, State and Federal agencies (e.g. FBI, FEMA, Department of Education and Department of Homeland Security).

The ALICE online course provides a "proactive response options to fill the time gap between when a violent event begins and law enforcement arrives." The essential objective of the course is to "authorize and empower individuals with the tools necessary to increase survivability during a violent event."

How Do We Implement This Training?

Each church is allowed access to the ALICE training module one time on a "GROUP" basis. Thus, it is recommended that your church arrange a mutually convenient time to assemble those individuals interested in completing this on-line training. (This could include church pastoral staff, ushers, and church leadership. It is not contemplated that church membership at large be in attendance for this training).

Once again, the on-line training course is required to be completed as a GROUP as access to the on-line course is limited to only ONE access per church – no exceptions. Therefore, it will be to your church's benefit to also ensure that the group gathered is able to effectively communicate the information presented to those persons who may not be able to attend the training due to scheduling difficulties.

How Long Is The Training?

The online Active Shooter training course should take 60 – 75 minutes to complete.

How Will Access to This Training Be Provided?

Under separate email communication each respective Pastor will receive an email from "SmarterNow" which contains your respective church User ID & Password in order to access and complete the training. Note, SmarterNow serves as our on-line vendor charged with managing all training pertaining to Active Shooter, as well as soon to be released training modules on various safety training topics. The email communication from SmarterNow will also contain introductory information including the steps required to be performed in order to access the on-line training.

We encourage each NICUMC member church to complete the Active Shooter training in advance of the workshops that will be scheduled in your District in the coming months.

District Workshops

The Risk Management Department in concert with Philadelphia Insurance plan to conduct workshops throughout the six (6) districts in the coming months. The selected sites, dates and times will be communicated at a later date.

What If Our Church Offers Daycare, Pre-School and/or Sunday School?

** IMPORTANT **

For those churches that have onsite daycare, pre-school and/or Sunday School teachers, a separate training module is available. Please contact Dwayne Jackson via email at djackson@umcnic.org and provide the name of your church, which of these programs (that is, daycare, pre-school and/or Sunday School) is being offered at your church and the email address of the designated contact charged with overseeing each program. Upon receipt of your email containing this information, a separate access User ID & Password will be assigned and forwarded to the church.

What If Our Church Has Questions?

Feel free to contact Dwayne Jackson via email at djackson@umcnic.org should there be any questions and/or should any issues arise with accessing the Active Shooter training.

Merging the Streams

July 9-12

The North Central Jurisdiction of the Historical Society of The UMC will be hosting an event in the West Ohio Conference to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the E.U.B.-Methodist merger in 1968.

Location: E.U.B. Heritage Center, 4501 Denlinger Rd., Dayton, Ohio.

Registration cost: \$155.

For more information and to register visit www.umchistory.org/merging-streams.

NIC UMW Summer Mission u

Learning together for the transformation of the World Sponsored by the Northern Illinois UM Women.

Weekend Dates: July 12-15, 2018

Camp Reynoldswood 621 Reynoldswood Rd. Dixon, IL

One Day Date: July 21, 2018

Gary United Methodist Church 224 N Main St. Wheaton, IL

For more registration and more info visit umwnic.org.



Dr. Saul Ebema

UM Foundation Stewardship Summit Set the Tone of Generosity with Testimony

Two different days and locations for the same summit:

Sat., August 11, Trinity UMC, Freeport
Sat., August 18, First UMC of La Grange

Time: 8:30 a.m. registration, 9 a.m. keynote, 12:30 p.m. depart

Cost: \$25 per person, \$75 per church group of 3+

Come, be inspired by Dr. Saul Ebema, Senior Pastor of Lombard Bible Church, to name the obstacles and overcome them so your church can move on to change and action!

Additional presenters:

- Youth ministry - Hattie Koher, Director of Youth Ministry, First UMC of La Grange
- Outreach - Rev. Robert Biekman, Maple Park UMC, Chicago

For registration and more info visit umfnc.org/summit.

Service and installation new

Chicago Northwestern District Superintendent

September 23, 4 p.m.

Welcome Rev. Brittany Isaac

Location: Evanston: First, 516 Church St, Evanston, IL

Service and installation new

Aurora District Superintendent

September 16, 2 p.m.

Welcome Jeffry Bross

Location: Grace United Methodist Church 300 E. Gartner Road, Naperville, IL

Clergy are invited to robe and process, wearing green stoles. If you are processing, please arrive at 1:30 p.m.

Breaking Barriers HIV/AIDS ministry conference

October 25-27, 2018

Location: St. Luke's UMC, 100 W 86th St., Indianapolis, IN

Cost: \$125 per person (includes two lunches, two dinners and program costs)

Registration deadline: October 1, 2018

Sponsored by the UMC Global AIDS Committee

The purpose of the Breaking Barriers HIV/AIDS ministry conference is to help create an AIDS-free world through saving lives, reducing stigma and increasing awareness. The gathering is open to anyone with an interest in reaching out to the HIV/AIDS community with a message of love.

Visit inumc.swoogo.com/bbaid18 for more info and registration.

DYK???

Did You Know?



"Youth Ministries Abound"

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

Every year during annual conference, some great questions are raised as we review the conference budget. From administrative costs, to congregational care, to programing, we want you to know your apportionment dollars are making a difference.

One of the questions asked this year focused on youth ministries. The writer wanted to know where youth ministries are in the budget. Answer: While we do not have a large line item budget titled "youth ministries" the work of the conference for young adults, youth and children abounds.

Here are just a few of the ways we support the work of Youth Ministries.

We have two conference camps Wesley Woods in Williams Bay, Wisconsin and Reynoldswood in Dixon, Illinois. These camps host individual church youth groups for retreats throughout the year and 400 campers over the summer months including a new Chicago Southern District camp in 2017. Our Outdoor and Retreat Ministries Board of Directors is working hard to make these programs self-sufficient. We currently support the camps with a \$60,000 line item in the budget - only 14% of their overall budget.

Our conference apportionments give partial support to five campus ministries located at the University of Chicago, The University of Illinois at Chicago, Northwestern University in Evanston, North Central College in Naperville, and Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. College youth worship together, eat together, participate in missions, Bible study, eat and retreat. Did I mention they eat? At this critical crossroads in the lives of young adults, we are actively framing a faith perspective as part of the decision-making that will form these persons for the rest of their lives. This has been a significant investment in the future generation with a budget of almost \$300,000.

We support the active work of several unique youth events that bring teenagers from across the conference together. The Pembroke Institute for African American youth faith formation meets each summer and the Plumline Tour involves a trip to New York to study a contemporary topic from a faith perspective. New plans are underway for a Latino/Hispanic youth retreat next spring.

Through the Chicago Urban Strategy, churches are involved in Safe Havens that provide activities and meals for Chicago children on school breaks and we are working with agencies on the effects of trauma on children. We have given grants to churches for summer programming, Vacation Bible School, after school programs, gardens, and even cooking classes.

The NIC Youth Ministries Team offered a workshop this past spring on sustainable children and youth ministries attended by 46 people. The NIC Safe Sanctuaries team also provides important support, resources and quality training for adults working with children and youth.

This summer many of our congregations are taking their youth on UM Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) trips. We support this work with resources, training and a network of work site possibilities throughout the denomination, including hosting groups in our annual conference.

I praise God for all the dedicated and visionary volunteers that make all this work for youth ministries a reality.

Appointments and Retirements: May/June Announcements

Bishop Sally Dyck announces the following clergy appointments for the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church, effective July 1, 2018 (unless otherwise noted)

Hyu Jae Lee (Elder) to Woodstock: First (Elgin District) from Highland Park: Galilee (Chicago Northwestern District). Hyu Jae follows Kurt Gamlin who is appointed to McHenry: First (Elgin District).

Satya Sudhakar (346.2) to Ashton/Franklin Grove (DeKalb District). Satya follows Laura Crites who has been placed on Medical Leave.

Deborah Tinsley Taylor (Elder) to Cicero: Wesley and Riverside (Chicago Southern District) from Aurora: Fourth Street (Aurora District). Deborah follows Cathryn Caliendo at Cicero: Wesley as she retires and Mark Gilmore at Riverside as he is appointed to Pecatonica (Rockford District).

Daniel Cochran (Provisional Elder) to Naperville: Grace (Aurora District) (Associate Pastor) from Hinsdale (Past-time Associate). Daniel follows Matthew Johnson who is appointed to Barrington.

Annie Gonzalez (Elder) to Metropolitan Family Services as Program Supervisor for the Healthy Family Program from St. Leonard's Ministries. Effective February 5th.

Matthew Johnson (Elder) to Barrington (Elgin District) (Associate Pastor) from Naperville: Grace (Aurora District) (Associate Pastor). Matt fills a new associate role at Barrington.

Lois Parr (Elder) to Washtenaw Intermediate School District in Professional Development training and coaching from Reconciling Ministries Network. Effective September 2017.

Thomas Rawlinson (Elder) to Leave of Absence from Naperville: Community (Aurora District) (Associate Pastor).

Erin Simmons (Provisional Deacon) to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois as Master Child Welfare Specialist from the Chicago: Temple (Chicago: Southern District). Effective March 1.

Deborah Tinsley Taylor (Elder) to Retirement from Aurora: Fourth Street (Aurora District). Deborah became a probationary member in 2008 and full member in 2013. She has served at Lockport: Christ, Morrison (Associate), Rockford: Centennial Multicultural and Aurora: Fourth Street. Deborah will continue to serve as a retired pastor.

Corey Ashley (pending local pastors license) to Naperville: Wheatland Salem. (Aurora District) Corey follows Derek Rogers who is appointed to Aurora: Flowing Grace.

Melissa Hood (Elder) to Elgin: Cornerstone. (Elgin District) Lisa Follow is Jim Bell whose appointment will be announced at a later date.

Deborah Kang (Elder) to Urbana Wesley UMC Urbana, Illinois Great Rivers Conference from DeKalb: First (Associate).

Siegfried Schwirblat (DSS) to Orangeville and Afolkey: Bethel. (Rockford District) Sig follows Judy Sherk who served following retirement.

Melissa Meyers (Elder) to Freeport: Faith (Rockford District) from Genoa: Faith (DeKalb District). Melissa follows John Wesley Lee who surrendered his Elders Orders under complaint on April 13, 2018.

Elsa Noemi Meza (Pending Local Pastors License) to Elgin: Wesley (Elgin District) Elsa follows an interim assignment.

Mark Schol (Provisional Elder) to Christ (Greater New Jersey Annual Conference) as a 346.1 from Chicago: Grace of Logan Square.

Velda Wright (Pending Local Pastors License) to Sheridan (DeKalb District).

Sun Ah Kang (Local Pastors license pending) to the three-point charge of Chadwick: Hope, Hickory Grove and Fairhaven (Rockford District), part-time. Sun Ah follows Mary Bohall who is appointed to Mendota: First (DeKalb District).

Sung-Eun Kim (Local Pastors license pending) to Forreton: First and Leaf River (Rockford District). Sung-Eun follows David Poust who is appointed to Walnut (DeKalb District).

Jim Bell (Elder) to Belvidere: First (Rockford District) from Elgin: Cornerstone (Elgin District) following Monty Fox who goes on Leave of Absence.

Juyeon Jeon (Elder) to Genoa: Faith (DeKalb District) from Chicago: Epworth (Chicago Northwestern District), Juyeon follows Melissa Meyers who is appointed to Freeport: Faith. Effective July 15.

Jieun (Mori) O (pending Local Pastors License) to Red Oak and Wyand (DeKalb District) following Judy Giese who is on Medical Leave.

Zaki L. Zaki (Elder) to Roselle (Elgin: District) from Chicago Northwestern District Superintendent. Zaki follows Melissa Hood who is appointed to Elgin: Cornerstone Elgin District.

Hope Chernich (Provisional Elder) to Chicago: Logan Square: Grace (½ time) (Chicago Northwestern District) from a two point charge with Chicago: Irving Park and Chicago: United Church of Rogers Park. Hope remains at Irving Park ½ time. She follows Mark Schol at Logan Square as he takes an appointment in the Greater New Jersey Conference. Effective 8/1.

Wesley Dorr (Deacon) continuing full-time at Chicago: United Church of Rogers Park with a consulting relationship to Chicago: Irving Park and Chicago: Epworth (Chicago: Northwestern District). Effective August 1.

Mosung Eam (Local Pastor) to Highland Park: Galilee (Chicago Northwestern District) from Hyde Park Korean UMC and Campus Ministry (Chicago Southern District). Mosung follows Hyujae Lee who is appointed to Woodstock: First (Elgin District).

Debra Hawkins (Provisional Deacon) to Advocate Christ Medical Center as staff chaplain in the office of Mission and Spiritual Care.

Lindsey Long Joyce (Elder) to Chicago: Epworth (1/2 time) (Chicago Northwestern District) from a two-point charge with Chicago: Irving Park and Chicago: United Church of Rogers Park. Lindsey remains at United Church of Rogers Park ½ time (Chicago Northwestern District). Lindsey follows Juyeon Jeon at Chicago: Epworth as she is appointed to Genoa: Faith. (DeKalb District)

Taekhwan Lee (Provisional Elder) to Chicago: West Ridge ¾ time and Evanston: Hemenway ¼ time as a reconfiguration of appointment time increments (Chicago Northwestern District).

Mary Rawlinson (Deacon) to the position of Acute Detox Counselor for the Family Guidance Center at Methodist Hospital of Chicago from Aurora: Hesus House. Effective June 11.

Ruben Rivera (Part-time Local Pastor) to Elgin: El Mesias, ¼ time (Elgin District) while also serving at Elgin: La Luz de Cristo Misio'n ½ time (Elgin District). Ruben follows Uziel Hernandez who is appointed to Elmhurst: Faith Evangelical (Elgin District).

Megan Smick (Elder) to Oregon (DeKalb District) from Rockton (Rockford District). Megan follows Thomas Kim who is appointed to Extension Ministry with United Methodist Communications.

Reuel Talapian (Elder) to Evanston: Hemenway full-time from a part-time appointment to both Evanston: Hemenway and Chicago: West Ridge (Chicago Northwestern District).

To find the complete listing and 2018 appointment book visit www.umcnic.org/2018appointments.

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.

How to Contact Us

For editorial content, subscriptions & address changes:
Anne Marie Gerhardt, Dir. of Communications

agerhardt@umcnic.org

312-346-9766 ext. 766

77 W. Washington St. Suite 1820

Chicago, IL 60602