2018 Annual Conference Registration opens April 2

Things to Know:

- Online registration begins Monday, April 2
- Hotel Registration at Pheasant Run:
  - Rate is $122 plus 11% tax. through May 11. Link found on the website.
- Gary Rand will be working with our worship team to develop worship services and lead us in worship during Annual Conference.
- The Conference will open on Sunday, June 3 at 4 p.m. with the Ordination Service. Watch for more information about clergy processional and all other related instructions.
- Clergy session, like last year, will be held at an earlier date on May 15, 2018. Bishop Sally Dyck will make the official call for that at a later time. Detailed information will also be shared in coming days.
- Among other business pieces, we will celebrate all who have transitioned into eternal life in a Memorial Service on Tuesday, June 5. Please remember to submit names of Lay Members to Annual Conference who have died since June 2017 to Megan Casey at mcasey@umcnic.org. All families, friends, and congregations are welcome to attend the service.
- We will be offering the “New Member Orientation” on Sunday, June 3. Watch for location in the upcoming updates.
- A new pictorial directory is in the works. Look for sign-ups for your photo session at Pheasant Run coming soon.

A few reminders:

- ALL historical documents and proposed legislation for the conference must be submitted by April 1, 2018 to Rev. Katie Voigt by email at ACdocuments@umcnic.org. No exceptions, please. Legislation will be posted online at www.umcnic.org/AC2018 by May 4.
- Look for more information and updates in the Conference weekly eNews and the Reporter. Remember to sign up for eNews if you have not already done so at www.umcnic.org (scroll down halfway and click on “sign up for our Newsletter”).
- Childcare will be available for those attending the Annual Conference for children 12 years old and under at Baker UMC in St. Charles. May 19 is the last day to register. June 1 is the last day to cancel childcare, no-shows will be billed $20 an hour.
- Cokesbury Bookstore and Display Tables will again share the space (selected rooms of the St. Charles Ballroom). Registration for Display Tables opens March 4. The cost is $25 per 6 ft table and $45 with electricity.
- Our onsite Accessibility Coordinators, Kathy Wellman and Violet Johnicker and assistant Susan Harkness will be present to help with any needs (vision, movement, hearing, etc.), within our ability. Please be sure to indicate in your registration 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.
- Visit and bookmark www.umcnic.org/AC2018 for updates.

UVC looking for award nominees

United Voices for Children is once again seeking nominations for awards to honor extraordinary volunteer service or advocacy efforts on behalf of children, youth and/or families throughout the Northern Illinois Conference.

The three awards are the Bishop Jesse R. DeWitt Worker Award, and the Rev. Margaret Ann Williams Service Award. Any United Methodist member or congregation in Northern Illinois can nominate someone to receive one of these awards.

More information about the awards and the nominations form can be found at unitedvoicesforchildren.org/programs/awards.

Deadline for nominations is April 6, 2018. Awards will be given during the UVC Breakfast at the annual conference session on Tuesday morning, June 5.
Discipline

the number of laity and clergy at AC. Per the
and conducts other business via email. One of the
Credentials Committee or your church’s lay members
Sutton (DeKalb - chair), Kathy Dickerson (Elgin),
- Diana Davis (interim - Chicago Northwest
Our current group consists of: Roger Curless (Au-
each of the Districts and the Conference Registrar.
with certification of people for the Conference and
credentials Committee – a group that invites the correct
we do? Every AC must have the equivalent of a Cre-
We are also responsible for any questions that deal
with certification of people for the Conference and
their seating on the floor. Our membership is limited
to seven – we have one person (lay or clergy) from
each of the Districts and the Conference Registrar.
Our current group consists of: Roger Curless (Au-
ora), Diana Davis (interim - Chicago Northwestern),
Rose Faulkner (Chicago Southern), Rev. Ryan
Sutton (DeKalb - chair), Kathy Dickerson (Elgin),
Rev. Christopher Druce Jones (Rockford), and
Laura Lopez (Registrar). If you have questions about the
Credentials Committee or your church’s lay members
to AC, please contact your District’s representative.
Our committee meets about three times per year,
and conducts other business via email. One of the
challenging parts of our job is attempting to equalize
the number of lay and clergy at AC. Per the Book of
Discipline, we are required to invite the same number
of lay persons as clergy for voting purposes. With the
high number of retired clergy in our Conference, we
are constantly trying to find new lay persons to attend
Junee AC.

Back in 2014, we passed legislation that increased
(per church membership levels) the amount of lay
people invited per church. If you have up to 300 offi-
cial members, you are invited to have one lay member
attend AC besides your pastor. But for each additional
level (i.e. 301-600 members), you are allowed one
additional lay member. (This means your church’s
number of lay members can change from year to
year). This helped us gain more lay, but there are still
more lay who are needed to attend AC. Each District is
then granted an additional amount of District-appointed
lay members that can come from any church to repre-
sent that District. If you are interested, please contact
your District Superintendent.
The Credentials Committee seeks to do its work in
the background, so you don’t hear much from us. But
hopefully we help the AC work smoothly by making
sure people are properly credentialed for the decisions
our Conference makes. We appreciate your prayers as
we all work together for the ministry of Christ!

What’s the Credentials Committee? By Ryan Sutton, Credentials Committee Chair

You’ve heard our group’s name spoken at Annual Conference (AC) every year, but do you know what we do? Every AC must have the equivalent of a Credentials Committee – a group that invites the correct amount of people to attend AC each year, as well as the correct amount of lay members and clergy.

We are also responsible for any questions that deal with certification of people for the Conference and their seating on the floor. Our membership is limited to seven – we have one person (lay or clergy) from each of the Districts and the Conference Registrar.

Our current group consists of: Roger Curless ( Aurora), Diana Davis (interim - Chicago Northwestern), Rose Faulkner (Chicago Southern), Rev. Ryan Sutton (DeKalb - chair), Kathy Dickerson (Elgin), Rev. Christopher Druce Jones (Rockford), and Laura Lopez (Registrar). If you have questions about the Credentials Committee or your church’s lay members to AC, please contact your District’s representative.

Our committee meets about three times per year, and conducts other business via email. One of the challenging parts of our job is attempting to equalize the number of lay and clergy at AC. Per the Book of Discipline, we are required to invite the same number of lay persons as clergy for voting purposes. With the high number of retired clergy in our Conference, we are constantly trying to find new lay persons to attend Junee AC.

Back in 2014, we passed legislation that increased (per church membership levels) the amount of lay people invited per church. If you have up to 300 official members, you are invited to have one lay member attend AC besides your pastor. But for each additional level (i.e. 301-600 members), you are allowed one additional lay member. (This means your church’s number of lay members can change from year to year). This helped us gain more lay, but there are still more lay who are needed to attend AC. Each District is then granted an additional amount of District-appointed lay members that can come from any church to represent that District. If you are interested, please contact your District Superintendent.

The Credentials Committee seeks to do its work in the background, so you don’t hear much from us. But hopefully we help the AC work smoothly by making sure people are properly credentialed for the decisions our Conference makes. We appreciate your prayers as we all work together for the ministry of Christ!
Canoing and exploring in the Boundary Waters can have profound effects on those who enjoy its pristine beauty. Noting that Boundary Waters trips have been offered for over 30 years, the Rev. Lisa Telomen, pastor of First United Methodist Church of La Grange, observes that “many a formative spiritual experience has resulted from time spent in the Boundary Waters.”

Hayden Claesson, an Eagle Scout in Troop 14, which meets at First UMC in La Grange, also finds canoeing in the Boundary Waters an extraordinarily rewarding experience. Concerned with recent federal government action that would allow toxic sulfide-ore mining in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) watershed, Hayden decided to take action to raise awareness of the potential threat. First UMC was the site of a forum arranged by Hayden on the potential threat to the Boundary Waters.

**Eagle Scout Project**
The 16-year-old son of Erik and Susan Claesson and a junior at Lyons Township High School, Hayden says he has been going to the Boundary Waters every year since fifth grade. “I love being outdoors and exploring the wilderness of the Boundary Waters,” Hayden explains. He and his fellow Scouts visit the Boundary Waters regularly.

When he learned from John Lorenzen, an expert who has been leading Boundary Waters trips for a decade, that mining in the area adjacent to the Boundary Waters would cause problems, Hayden decided to undertake a year-long Eagle Scout project to make others aware of the potential threat of toxic-ore mining in the BWCAW watershed. He does presentations for his Scout Troop on the BWCAW on a regular basis.

In early December, Hayden organized a forum at First UMC as part of his Eagle Scout project to raise awareness of the threat from potential toxic-ore mining in proximity to the BWCAW. He credits First UMC as having been “super-helpful” in his project. Supported by The Save the Boundary Waters organization in Ely, Minnesota, Hayden presented an informative introduction to the BWCAW and its value to him, scouting, and as a natural space for the enjoyment of all, according to Pastor Telomen.

Also on hand at the forum were Dave and Amy Freeman, named Adventurers of the Year in 2014 by National Geographic. The Freemans discussed their two-year efforts to save the BWCAW and answered questions from the approximately 75 in attendance at the December forum. As part of his Eagle Scout Project, Hayden also has sent emails to various groups in the Chicago area that use the BWCAW, including an organization that works with refugee children who invited him to talk about the importance of the wilderness.

**Potential Threat**
Studies show that sulfide-ore mining used to extract copper and nickel pollutes waters with acid, arsenic, mercury, and lead. Hayden emphasizes that this type of mining has resulted in sulfuric waste contamination that has never been avoided. The Obama Administration placed a 20-year moratorium on mining leases near the BWCAW and planned to conduct a two-year comprehensive study (Environmental Impact Statement) on mining leases until potential damage could be determined.

In November 2017, H.R. 3905, introduced by Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minn., passed the House. Among other things, the bill would allow copper and nickel mining on the edge of the Boundary Waters and stop the critical environmental study on the potential risks of copper mining to the Wilderness. The bill is now in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Although a Chilean mining company, Antofagasta PLC, has held leases for mining in the area since the 1960s, no mining has ever been done at the site. In December, reversing the Obama Interior Department and U.S. Forest Service, the Trump administration renewed the Antofagasta leases to allow copper and nickel mining operations on the border of the BWCAW by Twin Metals Minnesota, Antofagasta’s subsidiary. On January 26, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke reversed the Obama comprehensive study and instead called for a more modest environmental assessment.

**Additional Information**
Pastor Telomen noted the importance of potential threats to the BWCAW from toxic-ore mining. The issue is important “to preserve God’s creation and these spaces for human renewal and animal survival,” she observed, “and for future generations’ survival and appreciation.” Additionally, First UMC has an environmental justice task force involved as leaders in the nearby Salt Creek Watershed Preservation and Restoration Board. Decisions made about the BWCAW, she said, may set precedents for the work at Salt Creek. More importantly, she declared, “the poisoning of the Boundary Waters will affect an even greater watershed in Minnesota, Canada, and Wisconsin.”

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is some 1.1 million acres located in the northern third of the Superior National Forest in northeastern Minnesota and is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service. Set aside in 1926 to preserve its primitive character, the BWCAW was made part of the National Wilderness Preservation System in 1964. Formed from the melting of glaciers that left rugged cliffs, crags, canyons, gentle hills, rocky shores, and sand beaches, the BWCAW includes some 1,200 miles of canoe routes and 12 hiking trails in addition to 2,000 campsites.

To learn more about how to protect the BWCAW, see savetheboundarywaters.org. For information and further details about the Superior Forest and the Boundary Waters, see the USDA Forest Service website at www.fs.usda.gov.

*Linda Hendelman is a freelance writer and editor, a lifelong United Methodist and Lay Servant in the Chicago Northwestern District.*
Pastors, churches respond to Florida massacre

By Sam Hodges, UMNS

The Rev. Vance Rains expected that his church’s Ash Wednesday evening service would be just like the noon service. But in between, a mass shooting occurred at nearby Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in Parkland, Florida. So evening worship at First United Methodist Church of Coral Springs, became a time for grieving, consoling and praying, with Rains improvising a new message.

“I talked about Jesus calming the storm and basically said that Jesus obviously doesn’t calm all the storms, but he’s with us in the storms, and he’s bigger than the storms,” Rains said.

Authorities have accused 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz, who had been expelled from Nikolas Cruz, a fellow Douglas High student, was OK. Though no friends of hers had participated in youth programs at First Church Coral Springs.

“We had a lot of students and teachers there, lots of deep connections,” Rains said.

“Our families were waiting to get notice that their child was fine. ... People are still in shock.”

A youth member of Bethesda Haitian United Methodist Mission in Tamarac was among the Douglas High student survivors. “We heard the guns shooting. We were so scared,” said Judeland Norceide, a 12th grader.

The youth recalled a frantic, harrowing evacuation, and a tense two-hour wait to learn that a cousin of hers, a fellow Douglas student, was OK. Though no friends of hers were killed or wounded, she’s mourning the death of a beloved school staff member.

The Rev. Cheryl Jane “CJ” Walter, pastor of Cokesbury United Methodist Church in nearby Margate, opened the church to offer prayer stations on Feb. 15, and planned an evening prayer vigil.

“Basically, it’s just listening to people at this point and helping them find something to hold onto, and we’re so grateful that God’s holding onto us,” Walter said.

The Rev. Cynthia Weema, superintendent of the Florida Conference’s South East District, noted the United Methodist pastors near the shootings are part of a highly effective covenant or support group.

“They are positioned particularly well to lead their congregations and communities in this time of tragedy due to their strong friendships with one another and the years of shared ministry they have modeled to their larger community, including church-school partnerships that are a priority for the Florida Conference,” Weema wrote in an email.

Bishop Kenneth Carter, who oversees the Florida Conference and also is the incoming president of the Council of Bishops, offered a statement, which read in part:

“In light of (the Feb. 14) shootings, we repent from our participation in a culture of death; we acknowledge the harm we do to others; and we claim the power of the cross that breaks the cycle of violence and retaliation. We also grieve with the communities of Parkland and Coral Springs,” he said.

Many United Methodists took to social media to express horror and outrage at the nation’s latest mass shooting, one of six to occur in schools this year. United Methodist pastors continued to reach out to NIU staff with words of comfort and hope and area churches were holding vigils to remember the 17 victims. United Methodist pastors and churches have been and continue to be a source of comfort for the NIU community grappling with these feelings of anger, fear and grief over the years.

Sam Hodges, a writer for United Methodist News Service, writes in Dallas.
Commission moderators emphasize mission as key to way forward

The moderators of the Commission on a Way Forward are urging United Methodists to engage in reflections on where they see mission at the heart of the denomination as well as seeing mission as significant for resolving conflict. The following statement is from Bishops David Yemba, Sandra Steiner Ball, and Ken Carter:

“At the conclusion of the recent meeting of the Commission on a Way Forward, the members were asked to share three words that expressed their prayer for the church in the present moment. The 32 persons reflect the global nature of the church and a profound diversity of gender, age and theological perspective. They are laity, deacons, elders and bishops. These three words each shared then helped to create a word cloud. The more often a word is named, the larger it becomes in the word cloud (picture).

In the Mission, Vision and Scope given to the Commission by the Council of Bishops, we are seeking to “design a way for being church that maximizes the presence of a United Methodist witness in as many places in the world as possible.” This vision is deeply rooted in the movement of the gospel from a small village in Bethlehem to the ends of the earth. The revelation of the Christ to the Magi (the gentiles) in Matthew 2 signals the church’s calling to share the good news with all people. At our best, this has been the vocation of a missionary church and is the root of a global church, where we are sent “from everywhere to everywhere” in the name of Jesus.

For reflection:
- What does it mean that the commission sees “mission” at the heart of the way forward for our denomination?
- Could it be that we discover our unity as we are in mission together?
- What if mission became the primary framework for our work in resolving conflict?
- How are we called to be in mission together more fully with our brothers and sisters in the LGBTQ community?
- And what three words would express your prayer for the church in the present moment?

The Commission will present their final proposal to the Council of Bishops (COB) meeting in May 2018. The COB will then decide on the proposal to be sent to the General Conference Special Session in February 2019 where delegates will vote on it.

**About the Commission:** The 32-member Commission on a Way Forward was appointed by the Council of Bishops to assist the bishops in their charge from the 2016 General Conference to lead the church forward amid the present impasse related to LGBTQ inclusion and resulting questions about the unity of the church.

For more information on the Commission on a Way Forward, visit umc.org/wayforward.
Facebook: www.facebook.com/umcforward
Twitter: @UMCForward
Instagram: www.instagram.com/umcforward

Grant Deadlines

The Keagy/Town and Rural Committee wishes to invite rural congregations to apply to our annual Keagy and P.A.C.K. Grants by March 15, 2018.

Eligibility: Applicant churches must be in a rural community or small town. “Rural” is defined as communities of 10,000 or less that are a part of farming communities.

Those seeking grants for ministry opportunities ranging $100-500 are encouraged to apply for a P.A.C.K. grant.

Those seeking grants for ministry opportunities ranging $500-3,000 are encouraged to apply for a Keagy Grant.

For a brochure and to download a copy of either application visit www.umcnic.org/calendar/keagytown-and-rural-grants-deadline.

Save the date for Peace with Justice Sunday

As one of the six churchwide Special Sunday offerings of The United Methodist Church, Peace with Justice Sunday helps support advocacy work through the General Board of Church and Society and right here in the Northern Illinois Conference.

The date for this year’s Peace with Justice offering is Sunday, May 27, 2018. Half of the offering receipts remain within the conference for the local Board of Church and Society and its work to address issues of injustice.

Special giving envelopes and posters can be ordered by visiting shop. umc.org. Let us give thanks to God for how the United Methodist Connection utilizes the Peace with Justice offering to address issues of injustice both at home and around the world!

NIJFON offers Citizenship Workshops

Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors (NIJFON), a part of The New Americans Initiative, can guide your community members on their path to citizenship. Free citizenship workshops are being held in the Buffalo Grove (new location), Rockford, and Aurora.

At the workshops eligible legal permanent residents who qualify to apply for citizenship will receive free legal help with the application process, applying for fee waivers, and other steps to successfully become U.S. citizens.

Anyone who qualifies to apply for citizenship or has questions can call the Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors for more information and to make an appointment at 773-609-4401 or email appointments@njfon.org.

The New Americans Initiative is coordinated by the Illinois Coalition for Refugee and Immigrant Rights and funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services.

For more info on NJFON visit njfon.org.

---

Rosecrance partners with Northern Illinois Food Bank: Solving hunger in the community

Recently Rosecrance hosted one of Northern Illinois Food Bank’s Mobile Pantry trucks at their Ware Center location, 2704 N Main St., Rockford, IL. More than 20 Rosecrance employees handed out nutritious meals to almost 300 individuals.

Rosecrance Recovery Coach Bonnie Gilmore coordinated the mobile pantry distribution with the Food Bank. “We are very grateful for this opportunity,” said Gilmore. “The goal of this event aligns with the Rosecrance’s mission-to build healthier communities.”

At the workshops eligible legal permanent residents who qualify to apply for citizenship will receive free legal help with the application process, applying for fee waivers, and other steps to successfully become U.S. citizens.

Anyone who qualifies to apply for citizenship or has questions can call the Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors for more information and to make an appointment at 773-609-4401 or email appointments@njfon.org.

The New Americans Initiative is coordinated by the Illinois Coalition for Refugee and Immigrant Rights and funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services.

For more info on NJFON visit njfon.org.

---

Rosecrance Recovery Coach Bonnie Gilmore coordinated the mobile pantry distribution with the Food Bank. “We are very grateful for this opportunity,” said Gilmore. “The goal of this event aligns with the Rosecrance’s mission-to build healthier communities.”

At the workshops eligible legal permanent residents who qualify to apply for citizenship will receive free legal help with the application process, applying for fee waivers, and other steps to successfully become U.S. citizens.

Anyone who qualifies to apply for citizenship or has questions can call the Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors for more information and to make an appointment at 773-609-4401 or email appointments@njfon.org.

The New Americans Initiative is coordinated by the Illinois Coalition for Refugee and Immigrant Rights and funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services.

For more info on NJFON visit njfon.org.
Laity Convocation welcomes Discipleship Ministries General Secretary

One year after laity and clergy pondered the "why", participants at the 2018 Northern Illinois Conference Laity Convocation focused on the "how" local churches carry out the mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

About 270 people gathered at Sycamore United Methodist Church on Feb. 17 to learn strategies for transforming ministry plans into action.

General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries Rev. Dr. Junius Dotson delivered the keynote challenging local churches to move from the 'why' (the purpose), to the 'how' (seeing all the people), Dotson calls it "missional engagement.

"For a long time we thought revitalizing churches meant looking for a quick fix (i.e. a new program), but we cannot quick fix our way back to vitality," said Dotson. "It's about building relationships, and being willing to share their faith with others."

Dotson introduced Discipleship Ministries grassroots initiative, "SeeAllThePeople, which provides a variety of resources to help shift the conversation from fixing churches to true discipleship.

"Engagement is more than outreach," said Dotson. "It's about building relationships because you cannot disciple people who are not in relationship with and I'm talking about building authentic, organic and consistent relationships."

Dotson says he's inspired by the many stories of churches across the denomination are engaging in the community and seeing all the people. He used South Shore UMC in Chicago as an example. The church's pastor, Rev. Adonna Davis Reid, wrote in an email to Rev. Dotson, "Since encouraging the congregation to persevere in prayer and fasting, we have begun to move in ways not previously experienced, or at least not in anyone's memory. And we're trying new ways of engaging with the community by encouraging people to see all the people in line with your new initiative."

Reid says the following week she baptized 12 people, some who experienced the outdoor communion, in Lake Michigan – another first for the church!

"SeeAllThePeople is one of many ways Discipleship Ministries is working to bring clarity, focus and renewed energy to our plans into action.

To find short film conversation starters, a free downloadable version of the Developing an Intentional Discipleship System book, social media opportunities, worship resources, and to sign up for updates by email visit: www.seeallthepople.org.

Discipleship Ministries General Secretary Rev. Junius Dotson shares the initiative #SeeAllThePeople with laity and clergy at the 2018 Laity Convocation.
Plumbline returns this summer

After a brief hiatus of a couple of years, the Northern Illinois Conference is delighted to announce that we will be re-starting the Plumbline Tour. This 4-day New York City trip weaves together a faith-based perspective on world events with daily seminars at the Church Center for the United Nations directly across the street from the United Nations in mid-town Manhattan. It brings together youth (14 - 17) from across our conference to form relationships as well as learn, have fun and shape faith.

This year’s seminar will focus on “Islamophobia.” The tour will be held Sun., July 29 - Wed., Aug. 1, 2018 in NYC. We will be visiting the United Nations, seeing a Broadway play and staying at the Hampton Inn Manhattan Grand Central. The cost is $699. Some scholarships will be available. Space is limited. Registration opens March 1.

For a brochure and more info visit www.umcnic.org/calendar/plumbline-tour. If interested, please contact NIC Plumbline Tour Coordinator, Amania Drane, at niaenterprises1@comcast.net, or 630-886-7469.

UMCOR Sunday

March 11
Your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) is what allows the United Methodist Committee on Relief to act as the arms and legs of Christ’s church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days in times of disasters. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Find resources at www.umcgiving.org.

Mission Training

March 17
Open to all local church Outreach and Mission chairpersons, District Mission Secretaries, VIM, as well as any others interested in mission in the local, conference and global levels.

Come learn about the Abundant Health Initiative, UMCOR and the current structure of Global Ministries

Location: Our Saviour’s UMC, 701 E. Schaumburg Rd. Schaumburg, IL

Presenters: Stephen and Gail Quigg

Mission Advocates of Global Ministries

UM North Central Jurisdiction

Contact: Shirley Pulgar-Hughes shirleymph@gmail.com.

Fee: $10 for lunch

To register visit www.umcnic.org/calendar/mission-training.

Shift Training Series

April 11
Location: The Augsburg Room at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Churchwide Ministries Center, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago

“Membership to Discipleship”

Get to know the tools and methods to move your congregation into healthy church systems that create a new way of doing life together.

Registration Fee: $20 per workshop (includes lunch and workbook)

For more information visit www.umcnic.org/calendar/shift-membership-to-discipleship.

Questions contact: Laura Lopez 312-346-9766 ext. 724 email: llopez@umcnic.org

Sponsored by the NIC Office of Congregational Development and Redevelopment.

Mental Health Workshop

When: Saturday, April 14, 2018

Time: 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Location: First UMC Downers Grove, 1032 Maple Ave, Downers Grove, IL

Cost: $10 which includes refreshments

The presenters are experts at assisting clergy deal with the stresses in being there for your congregations. SPRC Chairs and members should plan on attending as well. It is your responsibility to care for your pastor as you would want them to care for you.

For more information and registration visit www.umcnic.org/calendar/mental-health-workshop.

TeamWorks 2018

To Equip Leaders

Over the course of four weekends, from March to June, TeamWorks training will be offered in three Districts (Chicago Southern, DeKalb, and Elgin.)

1st Session: March 3-4 - Spiritual Life of the Leaders

2nd Session: April 21-22 - Connecting with Your Community

3rd Session: May 19-20 - Creating a Discipleship System

4th Session: June 9-10 - Futurecasting

Registration fee: $10 (includes the guidebook) each session.

For more information and locations visit www.umcnic.org/calendar/teamworks or contact Martin Lee at mlee291@gmail.com.

44th Annual John Wesley Theological Institute

April 15 -16

Location: Sycamore United Methodist Church, 160 Johnson Ave., Sycamore, IL

Theme: The Deaconesses: “A Quintessential Embodiment of the Wesleyan Vision”

Registration Cost: $150 - includes Sunday evening dinner and Monday lunch

Questions? – Contact Fernando Siaba, Registrar 630-414-2429 ∙ fsiaba48@yahoo.com

Presenters: Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison Associate Professor of External Programs Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, TX

For more info and the registration form visit: www.umcnic.org/calendar/john-wesley-theological-institute

Sustainable Youth and Children’s Ministry

April 28

Time: 9am-3pm

Location: Glenview UMC, 727 Harlem Ave., Glenview, IL

Cost: $30 for morning, $10 for lunch, $20 for afternoon, so $60 for everything.

Join fellow clergy, volunteers  & staff for a day of training presented by Melissa Rau of Ministry Architects.

This workshop is delivered in four parts.

• The Anatomy of Stuckness

• The 411 on Sustainable Ministry

• Working Together: Building Teams that Win

• You Are Here: Assessing Your Own Ministry

For more info and registration visit www.umcnic.org/calendar/sustainable-youth-and-childrens-ministry
Did You Know? “Laity are in Ministry” 
By Rev. Arlene Christopherson, Assistant to the Bishop/Dir. Connectional Ministries

Last month United Methodist Directors of Connectional Ministries from around the world met in Atlanta. It was an opportunity to visit the new General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) offices and meet with many of the key staff in that agency. The time was well spent as we learned more about the resources provided by GBGM for our conference and churches. I was a little puzzled however, as I looked over our agenda and saw an entire afternoon devoted to visiting the Coca-Cola headquarters in town.

The Coca-Cola visit turned out to be an unexpected highlight of the gathering. We met with four executives from various departments who not only shared the humanitarian philosophy of the organization but also wove us with their faith witness. All four, from different faith backgrounds, are leaders in an internal, intentional Christian community at the headquarters. They lead a “Lunch and Learn” program daily, offer a weekly lunch time Bible Study, sponsor guest speakers and provide a prayer chain. All volunteers, they are also active in their own churches. These laity are preaching and teaching and discipling their co-workers with amazing stories of the community they are building in the midst of a global corporation.

Their witness made me think about the ways we equip and empower laity in our churches. The Coke speakers emphasized their nuanced approach to sharing their faith. This isn’t aggressive evangelism, but it is what we are called to do as we live a life, bearing Christ’s light into the world.

Thinking about their ministry drew me back to an email I answered recently from an active laywoman in our conference who was looking for guidance on what she could do next to continue growing her faith and stretching in her discipleship.

Our congregations do much to build a foundation for our faith, but sometimes we overlook the capacity of our local church in our thirst for discipleship. Perhaps you are drawn to music, counseling, or spiritual direction. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry offers a professional certification process that entails theological training, skill development, professional experience, a community of support, and accountability to the annual conference. You can learn more about this opportunity at www.gbhem.org/education/certification. We also have the Institute for Congregational Development that offers a two-year program in the Northern Illinois Conference attended primarily by clergy but open to lay participants who wish to grow in faith and skills. This intensive process provides support, professional growth, and leadership training in order to prepare clergy to start new churches and redevelop existing churches. Learn more at www.umcnic.org/ICD.

Some of these are general church programs and some are homegrown. All are challenging and fulfilling and they all include laity. I’m sure I’m missing something, but this is a start. Look at some of these and think about where God is calling you to grow so you can share your faith in the world.

February Announcements: Appointments and Retirements

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):

Grace Imathiu ([346, Elder] to Evanston: First (Chicago Northwestern District) from Naperville; Community (Aurora District). Grace follows Dean Francis who is retiring.
Glenna Olumstad (Elder) to retirement from Glenoce: North Shore (Chicago: Northwestern District). Glenna became a provisional member in 2007 and a full member in 2009. During her ministry, Glenna served at Joliet and Glencoe: North Shore.
Uziel Hernandez (Local Pastor) to Elimhurst: Faith Evangelical (Elgin District) from Elgin: El Mesias and Carpenterville: Bethel Hispanic NFC (Elgin District). Uziel follows George David (Retired Elder) who has been serving as interim for the appointment year.
James McDonald (Elder) to retirement from Downers Grove: First (Aurora District). Jim became a probationary member of the United Church of Canada in 1976 and a member of the NIC in 1978. During his ministry, Jim served Hanover, Libertyville: First (Associate), New Lenox (Co-Pastor), and Downers Grove: First (Co-Pastor).
Choein Oh (Elder) to Extension Ministry as Manager of Korean Communications with United Methodist Communication in Nashville from Sugar Grove (Aurora District), Effective April 2 Scott Hime (Elder) to Glencoe: North Shore (Chicago Northwestern District) from Rockford: Christ (Associate) (Rockford District). Scott follows Glenna Olumstad who is retiring.

Hwa-Young Chong (Elder) to Naperivle: Community (Senior Pastor) (Aurora District) from Gleneme (Chicago Northwestern District). Hwa-Yong follows Grace Imathiu who is appointed to Evanston: First.
Vickie Hadaway (Elder) to Leave of Absence from Cherry Valley (Rockford District).
David Holden (Local Pastor) to Retirement from Paw Paw and Compton (DeKalb District).
Claude King (Elder) to Downers Grove: First (Senior Pastor) (Aurora District) from Olympia Fields (Chicago Southern District). Claude follows Geri McDonald who is appointed to retirement.
Kent Swendson (Elder) to Retirement from Moody: First (DeKalb District). Kent became a probationary member in 1993 and a full member in 1997. During his ministry, he served Plattville, Reynolds, Forreston/Leeville, Millbrook, and Polo.
Eun-Hye Choi (Elder) to Gnievich (Chicago Northwestern District) from Plainfield: First (Aurora District). Eun-Hye follows Hwa-Young Chong who is appointed to Naperivle: Community.
Katja Voigt (Elder) to Ende (DeKalb District) from Pecatonica (Rockford District). Katje follows Rod Dye as he retires.

To find the complete listing online which is updating each Monday visit www.umcnic.org/2018Appointments.