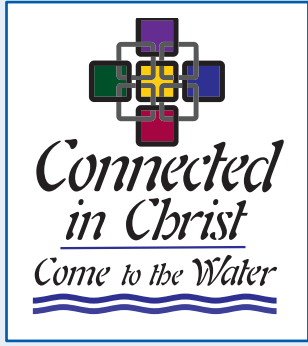


The Northern Illinois Conference OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Reporter

March 2022 Volume 167 | Issue 12 umcnic.org



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Healthy Living



2 Annual Conference News



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Connecting for Good

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Church recognized for community outreach

By Anne Marie Gerhardt, NIC Dir. of Communications



Jerry Martz, a member of Oregon UMC, and pastor Rev. Megan Smick take part in a community clean up day in partnership with the local chamber of commerce.



Children participate in outdoor activities at a local park for a reimagined, hybrid Vacation Bible School.

Attending the local Chamber of Commerce's annual awards banquet last August, the Rev. Megan Smick, who leads Oregon UMC in the Prairie South District, received a big surprise for her small church.

"I was flabbergasted!" said Smick, who had no idea she would be presented with the 2021 Civic Leadership Award for Oregon UMC that evening. "Someone wrote a beautiful nomination letter outlining some of the many ways we have served our community. I'm so proud of our congregation and our outreach ministry team for being recognized."

When the pandemic happened, shutting down churches and changing everything overnight, Smick says the church developed a new mindset. She says more people started getting involved and the congregation is engaged in more ministry than ever before.

"Our motto has been the building is closed, but ministry is open," said Smick. "Our congregation has been very open to doing new things. Whatever crazy idea we have come up with, members have said, 'Okay, let's do it.' And I haven't heard anyone saying 'we've never done that before.'"

Smick, who was appointed to Oregon in 2018, says while the church has always desired to be a force in the community, changes began to happen through a year-long coaching process with Nickerson Coaching, which apportionment dollars supported. Oregon is one of five churches invited to participate by Rev. Martin Lee, NIC's Director of Congregational Development and Redevelopment.

Rev. Lee says the coaching emphasizes a teamwork approach between clergy and laity with the end goal of reaching new people. They meet together monthly, working on mission alignment and community engagement.

The church began building relationships in the community.

Smick reached out to the Chief of the local fire protection district. The church learned

that the firefighters had to provide their own beverages while on duty, so they held a community water drive to help keep them hydrated. The church began partnering with the Chamber of Commerce, opening the building for events and participating in a community-wide clean up day to help homeowners and businesses spruce up their property.

The Children and Youth Ministries team kept Sunday school going through Facebook and Zoom meetings, reaching new people. They contacted the Park District, which offered space at the park for the summer Vacation Bible School. The church held blood drives, gave to a local food pantry and distributed Valentine's to the staff at the area schools.

In turn, businesses and non-church members from the community have helped the church with some of its ministries such as donating to their Wednesday night free meals program, which shifted to a drive-through service and has grown from serving 50 to more than 100 people during the pandemic. Some also have come to Worship on Sunday.

"These are some of the examples of ways we have forged really good relationships in the community," said Smick. "What's worked for us is finding out what people need and asking 'how can we partner with you?'"

Beth Shenberger, a member of Oregon UMC since she was a kid, says the community outreach impact she's seen under Rev. Smick is exciting.

"I would say since Megan has been here, we have taken on the most outreach, and I'm sure it's a combination of her leadership, what we've been learning through the coaching, and having to think and work differently," said Shenberger. "We have been trying to adapt during the pandemic and not doing something just because it's not the way we have always done it. We are asking how can we serve and what can we do? And so we hope that we're making a difference in the lives of those in our community."

(continued on page 8, see from the cover)



From Your Bishop: Healthy living

In 1747 John Wesley published "Primitive Physic" or "An Easy and Natural Method of Curing Most Diseases." It was first published anonymously

and only thirteen years later did he place his name on it. In this book, Wesley gives sound medical advice to the everyday person. He offers treatment for everything from the bite of a viper or rattlesnake to scurvy and kidney stones.

Some of his advice is right on target. For example, he advises, "A due degree of exercise is indispensably necessary to health and long life." Some of his admonitions sound a little strange, like, "the fewer clothes anyone uses by day or night, the harder he will be."

It is no surprise that the founder of the Methodist movement believed in the health of the mind, body, and spirit. In addition to his concern for the health of the body, Reverend Wesley had a love of scholarship as an Oxford graduate and a passion for practical piety as an Anglican priest.

Just as there is no holiness that is not social holiness, there is no wellness that does not involve the whole person—mind, body, and spirit.

For Wesley, the love of God was the remedy to make us whole. In his medical advice, he wrote, "The love of God, as it is the sovereign remedy of all miseries, so in particular it effectually prevents all the bodily disorders the passions introduce, by keeping the passions themselves within due bounds; and by the unspeakable joy and perfect calm serenity and tranquility it gives the mind; it becomes the most powerful of all the means of health and long life."

Like Wesley, I believe we must be healthy in our mind, body, and spirit to be fully alive and well. For me, keeping that balance is not always easy. I find that one of these areas inevitably gets neglected with a busy work and family schedule. I can be exercising my mind and caring for my spirit and find my eating habits and exercise going astray. Perhaps that is why it is essential to have people around us that call us into account for our

self-care. Living in a community of accountability keeps us healthy and increases our faithfulness. Remember the first part of the Great Commandment? You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. (Mark 12:30) Fitness of mind, body, and spirit increases our capacity to love God.

Last year during the COVID pandemic, Wespeth, our United Methodist pension agency, conducted a Clergy Well-Being Survey to create a more empathetic community and environment for clergy and lay staff struggling with mental health. Research shows one of every five Americans (52.9 million people in 2020) experience mental illness. The Wespeth survey showed a steady decline over the past decade in five dimensions of the well-being of United Methodist clergy: physical, emotional, social, spiritual, financial.

Men, older clergy, black clergy, and clergy working in smaller churches are at higher risk of physical well-being issues. Women, younger clergy (especially those with children), and white clergy are at higher risk for emotional well-being issues. Lower-income clergy are at higher risk for both physical and social well-being issues. I recommend you study the detailed summary of this survey at wespeth.org and search under "health & well-being" clergy resources.

In response to their survey, Wespeth is developing well-being resources for each of the five dimensions of a healthy life. In March, a First Aid for Mental Health training will be offered at no cost to clergy and their spouses, church leaders, staff, and congregation members. It is OK, not to be OK. The goal is to help attendees accept their personal mental health struggles without embarrassment or shame. It is an important step toward improving our support for those struggling with mental health issues.

When I was a young pastor in my twenties, a 70-year-old church member told me, "If I knew I was going to live this long, I would have taken better care of myself." I laughed at the joke, but the advice stayed with me. I am now older than the member who gave me this advice, and I'm not getting any younger. Let me stop writing this article and get some exercise.



First Aid for Mental Health See the world through the eyes of others

A live, virtual training opportunity for all UMC clergy and their spouses, church leaders, staff and congregation members to learn how to identify and understand mental health challenges with empathy, and without judgment.

New dates added: March 10, 17, 23 and 24.

For details and registration, visit wespeth.org/r/firstaidmh.



Connected in Christ Come to the Water

2022 Annual Conference registration opens April 4

Committee members continue to plan for the 183rd session of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference that will be held June 8-10, 2022 at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center at 1551 N. Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg, Ill. While the number of COVID cases across the state are declining, the planning team will continue to closely monitor state and local health guidelines for in-person large gatherings in order to host the conference as safely as possible.

Important Dates:

April 4 - Online registration opens at umcnic.org/AC2022

April 6 - Legislation and Historical Documents due (All documents must be in the Action/Rationale format with a maximum of 500 words for the rationale, be submitted as a WORD document, and editable to the Chair of

Daily Proceedings, Joanne Ray by email at ACdocuments@umcnic.org. Late documents must be submitted at conference to the chair BEFORE the opening of the annual conference session both electronically and with two printed copies).

May 6 - Legislation and documents posted online

May 24 - Clergy Session

June 1 & 2 - Pre-Conference Briefings

June 8 - Annual Conference session opens

Worship Schedule:

June 8 - Memorial Service

June 9 - Retirement Service

June 10 - Ordination Service

**Times and full agenda TBD*

This year's theme is "Connected in Christ: Come to the Water" with a focus on Matthew 3:13-17, the baptism of Jesus. Bishop John L. Hopkins will preside in his second year with the conference as Interim bishop and will preach at the Memorial Service. Also, Rev. Tércio Junker, former Dean of the Chapel at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and Pastor at Poplar Grove UMC, and Josiah Montgomery, pastor at East Side UMC in Chicago, will be the music coordinators for this year's worship services.

More updates and details will be posted in the NIC eNews and on the website at umcnic.org/AC2022.



Why Give to Apportionments?

Apportionment giving is based upon the desire to meet the needs of God's family NOT just in our neighborhoods, but around the world. Apportionments are also based on our need to give in order to be spiritually healthy, complete children of God.

We send the Apportionment funds out of our blessing that Christ might be known in transformative ways. Apportionments provide avenues for giving so that we can be strong local churches & annual conferences and a strong connection throughout the world as we seek to be in mission and ministry together. The funds demonstrate our connectedness to one another, to God and to the body of Christ.

"World Service Fund is everything that defines our church. It is the way that we connect together, the way that we become powerful in our response to injustice and to poverty, and to tragedy, and to need." Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, retired Bishop from the Pacific Northwest, explained why the World Service Fund is vital to the ministry of the UMC.



It takes more than one person's generosity to change the world, it takes all of us.

What are Apportionments?

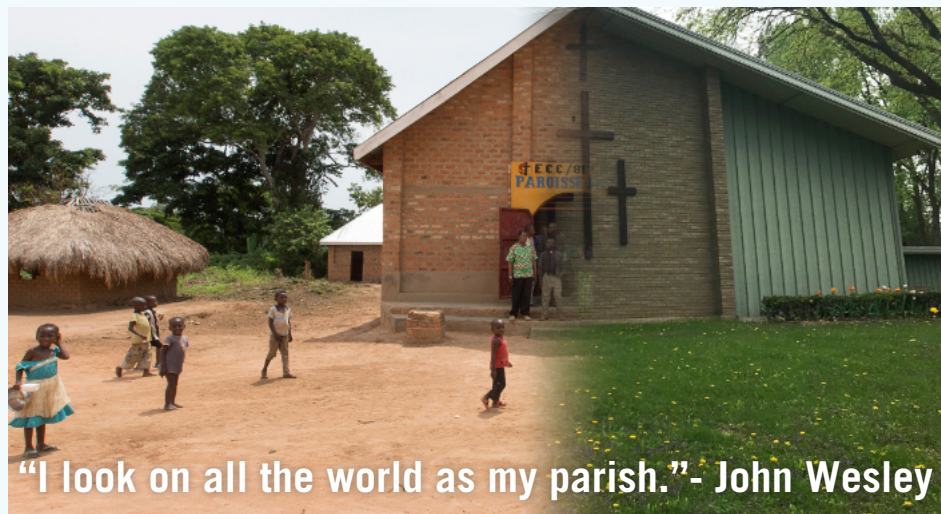
Apportionments are the way that congregations are connected to the conference and the world. Apportionments are used to fund the global mission and witness of our church, to help provide the necessary structure to respond in moments of crisis locally, nationally, internationally, and to develop and nurture the leaders we need today and tomorrow.

The basic idea behind apportionments is that local congregations send some of the money they collect to accomplish things that are either beyond their ability to do as individual congregations or that can be done more effectively or efficiently together. Apportionments allow the church to produce goods and services funded by all for the benefit of all – collective goods.



"What is your church's call to action? The call to action of the church is still the same. And in my opinion, we are living in the greatest evangelistic season of our lifetime." Rev. Olu Brown speaking at the Tending to the Harvest Discipleship Event, sponsored with funds allocated to Goal #1 - grow & reach new disciples.

Find out more, access resources, videos, downloads, sermon starters and more
umcnic.org/apportionments



"I look on all the world as my parish." - John Wesley

Apportionments denote an understanding that the purpose of the church is not just to care for its own members but also to reach out beyond itself to engage with the world, to minister to the world, to be in mission to the world.



"The focus is to ask forgiveness for our (each participant's) contribution, witting or unwitting, to the perpetuation of the machinery of systemic racism by any of myriad ways". Lennox Iton, NIC Co-Chair Religion & Race, talking about the Forgiveness Ceremony from the Becoming Beloved Workshop, which is an initiative of the Anti-Racism Task Force supporting the NIC Goal #2 - living out the conviction that racism is incompatible with Christian Teaching.

Are These "Special Gifts"?

Apportionments are not to be considered "special gifts," but rather, they are similar to our tithes that we give to our local church. These funds are to be set aside and given first priority in our church budgets.

Apportionments are our first-mile of mission giving. They form the framework for the rest of our connectional ministry & mission. First-mile giving ensures 100 percent of gifts to Advance Specials, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Imagine No Malaria, Love Offerings, Special Sundays, etc. benefit the desired mission or ministry.

We encourage all churches to go the second mile to become a Mission Links church by participating in The Advance mission giving and continuing to support the good work across the connection.



"Because of God's hand on my life through Paine College, all these things will come to pass for a young man who finished high school with the lowest GPA in the entire school and finished last in his class." Deonte Moses, Paine College Alumni. Paine College is supported by funds from the Black College Fund.

How are Apportionments Calculated?

Northern Illinois Conference Fund Apportionments are derived from the financial experience of your local church. It takes the previous five years of metrics into consideration. The highest and lowest numbers of the five are removed, and the other three years are averaged.

Your churches' General Church Apportionment is a percentage of each local churches share of the requested amount from the general church, calculated using the same formula as Conference Fund Apportionments. Find more details on umcnic.org/apportionments

Connectional Giving
demonstrates our
connectedness to one
another, to God and to the
body of Christ.



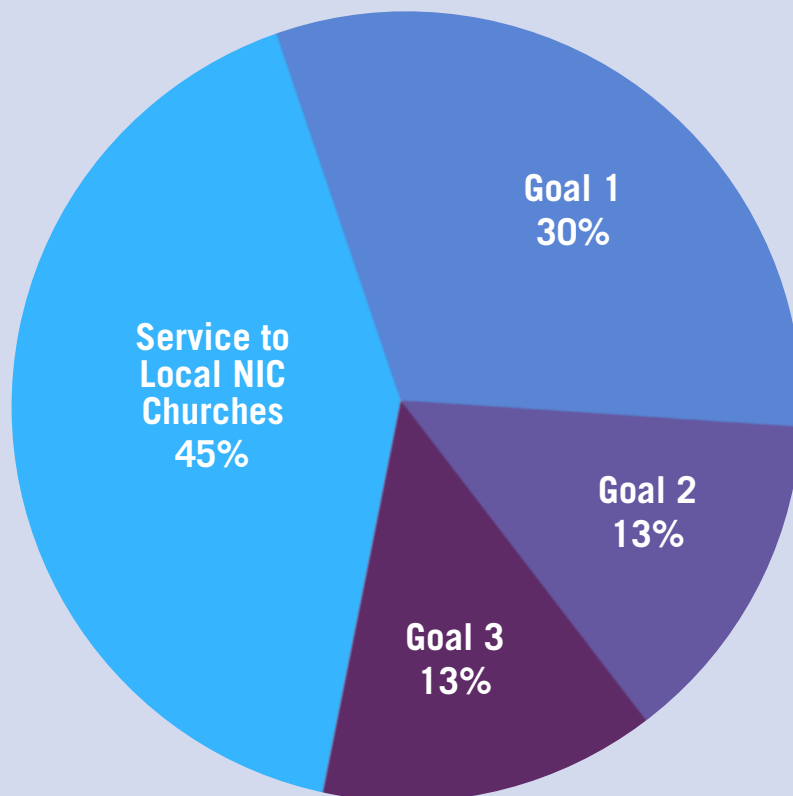
The connections of
the church are
more than
institutions; the
connections are
the means God
uses to convey
grace to the world.

What is Connectional Giving?

Connectional Giving is one of the founding ideas that the United Methodist Church was built upon. Participating in connectional giving helps us to be in mission with people and congregations around the world - giving every church, regardless of size, a larger mission footprint.

Connectional giving includes Apportionment giving (Northern Illinois Conference Fund and General Church Apportioned Funds) as well as Mission Link (The Advance) giving.

Northern Illinois Conference Fund



Do all the
good you
can...
in all the
places
you can...
to all the
people
you can,
as long as
ever you
can.
- John
Wesley

Do you have a story of a sacred
moment or mission work that is
happening because of
Apportionments?
Share your story with us -
communications@umcnic.org



Do you have questions about
Apportionments, Mission Links,
Advances or specific projects?
Please contact David W. Quinn,
NIC Apportionments Administrator,
at dquinn@umcnic.org

When we give, we have the
power and potential of a
scale of impact that
no single church could
have on its own.

Apportionment contributions are essential to serving the local churches and to helping us achieve our goals as a conference.

Service to Local NIC Churches - 45%

The main goal of the conference is to give support and service to the local churches. The funds in these section support:

- Financial support to local churches including intervention and personnel
- Conference programming & meetings, and District events & ministries
- Board of Ordained Ministry and clergy relocation expenses

Goal 1 - To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ - 30%

The funds in this section support:

- New faith communities and Church redevelopment programming
- Board of Higher Ed & Campus Ministries, and Outdoor & Retreat Ministries
- Board of Laity, Pembroke Institute, Discipleship Strategic Goals (ACST) and Spiritual Formation Ministries

Goal 2 - To Live Out the Conviction that Racism is Incompatible with Christian Teaching - 13%

The funds in this section support:

- Anti-racism Shepherding Team (ACST)
- Commission on Race & Religion, Black Family Link in the Chain, and Urban Youth Initiative
- Justice for Our Neighbors, Global Justice: Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (CRLN), and Refugee support

Goal 3 - To increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregations - 13%

The funds in this section support:

- Congregational Redevelopment Grants, Creative Ministry Grants, NIC Ministerial Education Fund, Vital Congregations Strategic Goals (ACST) and Leadership Development
- Accessibility Ministry, Media Resources and Safe Sanctuaries training
- Asian American Fellowship, Black Church Mobilization, Hispanic Ministry Team, and Native American Community Support

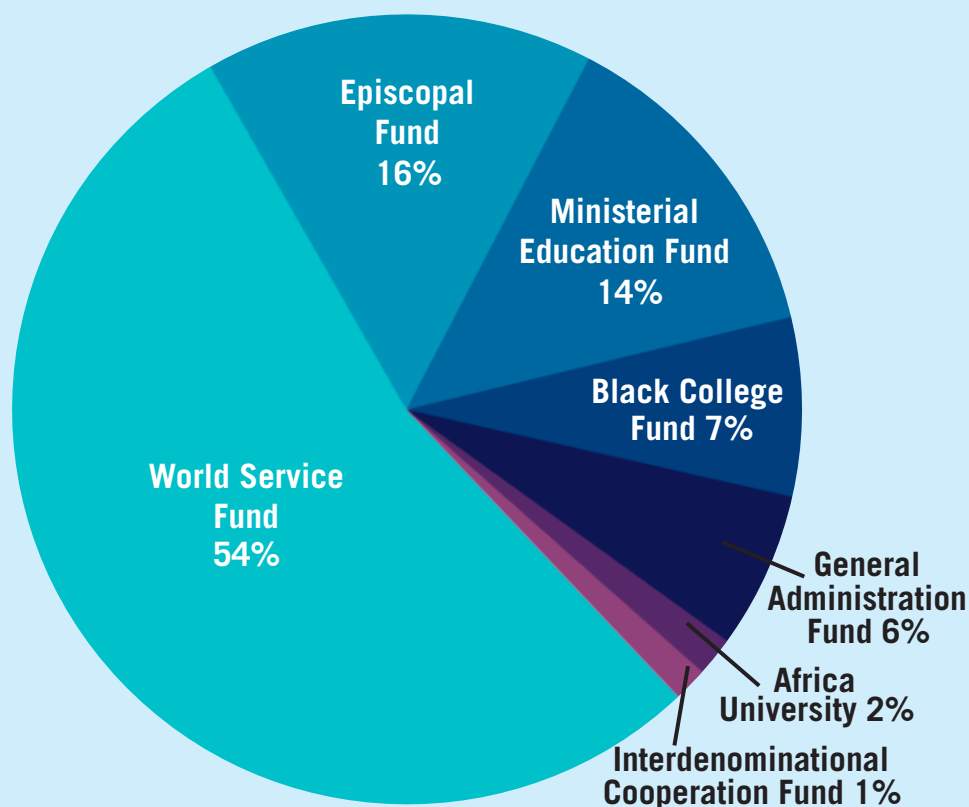


Apportionments allow us to do together what no church, district, or annual conference could do alone.



Mission Links help you live out the beatitudes and be a blessing for projects around the block and around the world.

General Church Apportioned Funds



With over 12 million members working in 136 countries, The United Methodist Church's global reach is made possible through these 7 funds.

World Service Fund - 54% When UM congregations give to the annual General Church apportionments, they contribute to work that is done around the world. This fund supports all UMC general agencies and supports missionary personnel and administrative costs of many areas.

Episcopal Fund - 16% Provides for UM bishops worldwide, including salaries, housing, office expenses and travel costs of active bishops, and provide pension and health benefit coverage for bishops and family members in a bishop's household.

Ministerial Education Fund - 14% Provides funds for recruitment of clergy candidates and provides financial support for 13 United Methodist seminaries, including Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Black College Funds - 7% Supports the programs and ministries of 11 historically black colleges and universities, including one medical school. These gifts reflect the value our Church has on education, especially those who have been historically excluded.

General Administration Fund - 6% Helps maintain a system of management oversight and fiscal accountability, and underwrites General Conference and the Judicial Council

Africa University Fund - 2% Supports the first fully accredited UM-related institution on the African continent. The University promotes independence and empowerment through a diverse student body from across the continent.

Interdenominational Cooperation Fund - 1% Supports UMC's with ecumenical and interreligious partners such as the World Council of Churches, Churches Uniting in Christ, and World Methodist Council.

7 areas of giving within the Mission Links Program

- 1. Special Sundays** - Sundays set aside and celebrated around the conference and the denomination as a way for your church to join with other congregations across our connection to recognize specific kinds of ministries.
- 2. Global Advance Projects** - Advance funds are specifically designated for particular projects or ministries around the world working to care for the least of these.
- 3. Missionary Support** - Missionary support providing direct support to specific United Methodist missionaries serving in over 60 countries.
- 4. UMCOR / Emergency Relief Projects** - Projects providing immediate relief during disasters as well as ongoing support, and are directly related to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Learn more about UMCOR at umcor.org.
- 5. US-Based Advances** - Mission projects located across the United States and correlate with the ongoing work of justice in the Northern Illinois Conference.
- 6. Northern Illinois Conference Projects** - Mission projects located within the Northern Illinois Conference that have a far reaching impact. Includes campus ministries, outdoor and retreat ministries, and Northern Illinois projects and organizations.
- 7. NIC District Projects** - Mission projects located within our districts effecting direct communities. Includes campus ministries, outdoor and retreat ministries, and Northern Illinois projects and organizations.



Find a detailed listing of the missionaries supported by our Conference and choose the projects to support in our Mission Links booklet at umcnic.org/missionlinks



To become a Mission Links 100% supporter, Apportionments (conference and general church) need to be paid 100% and at least one project in each of the giving areas needs to be supported.



Mission Links help us change our world as we work together locally and around the globe.



The Beatitudes are essential and relevant today.

The Advance for Christ and His Church (The Advance) is the United Methodist program for designated mission giving. The Northern Illinois Conference Global Board of Ministry has organized the options for giving through The Advance in our Mission Links program book. In Matthew 5: 1-12, Jesus offers a portrait of the ways in which it is possible to be a good person with respect to others within the eight categories of the beatitudes.

Each project in the Mission Links book connects to at least one of the beatitudes – and NIC’s direct call to action in response to Jesus’ words. The Beatitudes are identified with the following icons:



Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God. Moved by God’s grace, we forgive ourselves and others as we pursue justice, peace and unity in our journeys together.



Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Called to service, we grow in faith while sharing in ministries that reveal God’s vision as we face and respond to challenges.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Inspired by the Spirit, we seek God’s guidance as we accept new challenges in our faith journey, wherever it takes us.



Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Touched by the pain of those who suffer injustice and hopelessness, we demonstrate God’s compassion, love and acceptance.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Remembering Jesus’s humble journey to Jerusalem, we seek nonviolent, peaceful change and advocate for the powerless.



Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Recalling Jesus’ promise to heal the sick, free the prisoner and liberate the oppressed, we reach out in compassion.



Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Remembering Isaiah’s promise to rescue the poor and the oppressed, we pursue social justice to restore wholeness to communities.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Heeding Jesus’ call to witness to God’s love, we work with others to restore local, regional and global communities and celebrate the faith and courage of those who risk persecution.

Tree of Life Ministry is a part of the working hands and feet of God to the Lakota Nation residing on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota serving body, mind, and soul. Tree of Life Ministry is supported by U.S. Based Advances and by volunteers on mission trips from our conference.



What is The Advance?

As the accountable designated giving program of The United Methodist Church, The Advance serves as the leading conduit that allows churches, individuals and organizations to support missionaries and projects throughout the world in order to strengthen and sustain one another.

Advance funds are specifically designated for particular projects or ministries, allowing the Church to advance the cause of Christ through new church development, disaster relief, missionary support, health services, and many other programs.

Your congregation chooses to partner with an existing project or ministry. Because other donations cover overhead costs, 100% of every gift to the Advance goes to the ministry designated.

“UMCOR has a wide reach internationally because we have a large network of trusted partners experienced in humanitarian relief that we can confidently support. We work with partners who can safely reach the affected populations.” Roland Fernandes, the general secretary of Global Ministries and UMCOR. UMCOR is supported by donations on UMCOR Sunday and through direct support of UMCOR/Emergency Relief Projects.



Special Sundays

Northern Illinois Conference Special Sundays

- Scouting Ministries Sunday - NIC Fund #783
Any Sunday in February or March
- Golden Cross Sunday - NIC Fund #775 - First Sunday in May
- Volunteers in Mission - NIC Fund #901375
Any Sunday in July or August
- Christian Education Sunday - NIC Fund #776
First Sunday in September
- Accessibility Sunday - NIC Fund #782
First Sunday in November
- World AIDS Day - NIC Fund #780 - First Sunday in December
- United Voices for Children Sunday - NIC Fund #778
Each fifth Sunday in months with five Sundays

General Conference-Designated Special Sundays

- January - Human Relations Day - Northern Illinois Fund #770
- March - UMCOR Sunday - Northern Illinois Fund #771
- April - Native American Ministries Sunday
Northern Illinois Fund #769
- May - Peace with Justice Sunday - Northern Illinois Fund #773
- October - World Communion Sunday - Northern Illinois Fund #774
- November - United Methodist Student Day
Northern Illinois Fund #772

Find out more and download the Mission Links booklet at umcnic.org/missionlinks

Church apportionment giving up amid pandemic

The Northern Illinois Conference is thankful to its many churches for their faithful apportionment giving and celebrates those who paid in full, despite challenging times. In 2021, 198 churches paid 100% of their calculated apportionments compared to 159 in 2020. Forty churches paid over 100% and nearly 50 went the second mile as Mission Links churches. The Conference also celebrates the 42 churches that have consistently paid 100% for ten years.

Several churches made significant increases in their apportionment giving. Hartzell Memorial UMC in Chicago went from 58% in 2020 to 100% in 2021. Rev. Andrea Davidson, who leads Hartzell, credits the congregation's deep commitment to connectional giving.

"Over the last three years, we have received a special offering for apportionments on the second Sunday each month," said Davidson. "As their pastor, I explained that our church can do far more missionally when we join with other churches in our conference and around the world. In giving to apportionments, we give to the larger mission that God is doing through our church locally and globally."

Davidson says the church's finance team was also diligent about sending in monthly payments even if designated gifts didn't cover the full amount, so the apportionment bill didn't add up and become overwhelming at the end of the year.

"This was, perhaps, the biggest challenge – ensuring that connectional giving was as high a priority as our other financial commitments," said Davidson. "We are thrilled to have reached this milestone, and give thanks that God has continued to bless us to be a blessing, even in a pandemic."

Ron DeBaun, part-time pastor at Hope UMC in Joliet, said that like many churches, the past couple of years with the persistent pandemic along with diminishing active membership and giving put them in a difficult financial situation.

"With these reductions, it was getting hard for the church to stay financially solvent," said DeBaun. "Tough decisions had to be made and unfortunately, paying apportionments became less of a priority to the church. In 2020 the church only paid about 9% of their apportionments."

During Lent 2021, the church returned to in-person services and DeBaun said they began to see greater engagement. He says that while they were still struggling with giving and expenses, it was getting better when he arrived last July.

"Over the first month or so, more of our church family started to return to worship and financially support our efforts at Hope," said DeBaun. "Now we are averaging 45 people in service weekly with 60 to 65 coming at least a couple of times a month."

DeBaun says from the beginning of his appointment, his message to the church leadership and congregation regarding apportionments has been very simple.

"If we as Christians want to lead a righteous life, we need to honor our covenants, just as God honors his covenants with us," said DeBaun. "I believe that as a member of the Northern Illinois Conference of the UMC, we at Hope have a covenant to pay our apportionments to the conference."

Grace UMC in Naperville increased to paying 100% of its apportionments for the first time in five years. Senior Pastor Rev. Cindy Marino said the people of Grace are committed to being responsible for sharing God's generosity with others.

"They are more than aware that if Naperville Grace is experiencing difficulties, it can only mean others are as well," said Marino.

While Grace was not able to meet the high amount of apportionment originally billed to them, the leadership prayerfully determined that they should commit to at least a tithe of their projected contribution to put aside each month as their share of conference expenses, said Marino, who added that the leadership also restructured staff to lower costs and appealed for a lower apportionment, efforts which helped them reach paying in full.

"This models a biblical basis of giving for our congregation," said Marino. "Whether as individuals or as the church, we give because it's what God asks of us as a people of faith."

The results of being faithful are becoming evident at Grace, said Marino, who added that giving to the operational budget increased for the first time in several years.

"God has been working through the people of Grace, who have stepped up to raise enough in one year for a much-needed new roof. They continue to support ministries that address food insecurity and housing, among others," said Marino. "It seems being faithful in one area carries over to others."

Because of the increase in giving in 2021, the Northern Illinois Conference will be able to pay 100% of its General Church apportionments and fund the conference budget for programs and ministries both locally and globally – connecting your church to the world.

**Publication of the Reporter is supported by your apportionment dollars – thank you!*

UMCOR SUNDAY
March 27

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."
—ISAIAH 43:2, CEB

ResourceUMC.org/UMCOR
Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church



*Indicates above 100% ^ 10 years in a row

- | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Alden | Freeport: Faith | Scales Mound |
| Algonquin: Christ | Freeport: Harmony * | Schaumburg: Our Saviour's |
| Alsip: Christ | Freeport: Red Oak ^ | Seneca: First |
| Antioch * | Galena | Serena |
| Apple River * | Geneva | Shannon: Bethel |
| Argo Fay *^ | Genoa: Faith * | Sheridan |
| Arlington Heights: First ^ | German Valley | Shirland ^ |
| Arlington Heights: Incarnation | Green Garden ^ | Skokie: Jesus Loves Korean (NFC) * |
| Blaine | Hampshire: Zion | South Elgin: Community |
| Bolingbrook: Crossroads of Faith ^ | Hanover *^ | Sterling: First |
| Bolingbrook: Friendship | Harding | Sterling: Wesley ^ |
| Brookfield Compassion | Harmon ^ | Steward |
| Brookville | Harvey: Transformation Community | Stockton: Wesley * |
| Buffalo Grove: Kingswood * | Hinckley: First * | Sugar Grove |
| Burlington | Hinsdale *^ | Sycamore * |
| Carol Stream: St. Andrew | Hunter ^ | Tampico *^ |
| Cary | Itasca: The Center | Thomson ^ |
| Cedarville | Joliet: Grace | Triumph ^ |
| Chadwick: Hope * | Joliet: Hope | Urban Village |
| Chana ^ | Kaneville | Van Brocklin - Florence |
| Chicago: Adalberto Memorial | Kingston ^ | Waterman ^ |
| Chicago: Berry Memorial | La Moille: Community | Wauconda: Federated Church |
| Chicago: Big Shoulders | Lanark | Waukegan: First |
| Chicago: Chicago Lawn * | Leaf River * | West Chicago: First |
| Chicago: Church of 3 Crosses ^ | Leland | Western Springs |
| Chicago: Clair Christian ^ | Lemont | Wheaton: Gary |
| Chicago: Edison Park | Leon ^ | Wheeling: First Korean |
| Chicago: El Redentor/Redeemer of Calvary ^ | Libertyville ^ | Willow |
| Chicago: Emanuel | Lockport: First | Wilton Center Federated Church |
| Chicago: Englewood/Rust * | Lombard: First | Winfield: Community ^ |
| Chicago: Faith | Machesney Park: New Life UMC | Winfield: South Asian *^ |
| Chicago: First (Temple) | Malden | Woodridge |
| Chicago: Gorham * | Malta | Yorkville: Trinity |
| Chicago: Grace of Logan Square | Manhattan | Zion: Memorial |
| Chicago: Hartzell Memorial * | Maple Park: Grace | |
| Chicago: Humboldt Park | Marengo | Mission Links Churches |
| Chicago: Hyde Park Korean * | McHenry: Mount Hope | Antioch |
| Chicago: Indo Pak | Melrose Park: Cosmopolitan | Argo Fay |
| Chicago: Lincoln | Mendota: First | Arlington Heights: First |
| Chicago: Mandell | Mendota: Zion | Brookville |
| Chicago: Morgan Park | Millbrook | Cary |
| Chicago: Resurrection | Milledgeville ^ | Chana |
| Chicago: South Shore | Morris: First ^ | Chicago: Humboldt Park |
| Chicago: Southlawn | Morrison * | Chicago: Wesley |
| Chicago: St. Mark | Mount Carroll * | Coleta |
| Chicago: Union Avenue | Mount Morris: Disciples | DeKalb: First |
| Chicago: United Church of Rogers Park | Mount Prospect: Sam Mool Korean | Des Plaines: First |
| Chicago: Wesley ^ | Naperville: Community | Earlville |
| Chicago: West Ridge | Naperville: Grace * | Elgin: Journey of Hope |
| Cicero: Wesley | Naperville: Wesley * | Esmond |
| Coleta *^ | New Lenox ^ | Freeport: Faith |
| Compton * | Northbrook: North Northfield | Galena |
| Crystal Lake: First | Northbrook: Northbrook | Hanover |
| Dakota Rock Grove ^ | Norway | Hinckley: First |
| Davis Junction *^ | Oak Park: Euclid Avenue | Hinsdale |
| Deerfield: Christ | Oak Park: First | Kingston |
| DeKalb: First * | Oak Park: St. John's | Leland |
| Des Plaines: First | Orland Park: Faith *^ | Lemont |
| Dixon: First | Orland Park: First Korean | Leon |
| Dixon: Grace | Oswego: Good Shepherd | Libertyville |
| Downers Grove: First *^ | Oswego: Wellspring | Lockport: First |
| Durand | Ottawa: First * | Manhattan |
| Earlville ^ | Park Forest: Grace United Protestant * | McHenry: Mount Hope |
| Elgin: First | Park Ridge: First | Mendota: Zion |
| Elgin: Journey of Hope * | Paw Paw * | Milledgeville |
| Elizabeth | Pecatonica | Morris: First |
| Elk Grove: Prince of Peace | Plattville * | Naperville: Community |
| Elmhurst: Christ | Polo: Faith | New Lenox |
| Elmhurst: First * | Princeton: First ^ | Norway |
| Erie | Red Oak (Bureau) | Oak Park: Euclid Avenue |
| Esmond ^ | Reynolds ^ | Oswego: Good Shepherd |
| Evanston: Emmanuel | River Forest | Ottawa: First |
| Evanston: First * | Riverside | Princeton: First |
| Evanston: Hemenway ^ | Rochelle | Rockford: Aldersgate |
| Evergreen Park: First | Rockford: Aldersgate *^ | Rockford: Christ |
| Fenton ^ | Rockford: Beth Eden * | Rockford: Evans |
| Flossmoor: South Suburban Korean | Rockford: Centennial Multicultural | Roscoe |
| Forreston | Rockford: Christ | Schaumburg: Our Saviour's |
| Franklin Park: First | Rockford: Evans ^ | Sheridan |
| | Rockford: Grace ^ | Sterling: Wesley |
| | Rockford: Harlem | Tampico |
| | Rockton | Thomson |
| | Roscoe | Triumph |
| | Roselle | Winfield: Community |
| | Savanna: First * | Zion: Memorial |



DYK DID YOU KNOW?

Connecting for good

Rev. Arlene Christopherson, Asst. to the Bishop/Dir. of Connectional Ministries

This month's edition of the Reporter focuses on apportionments. As a convert to the United Methodist Church early in my adult life, I was smitten by the connectional nature of our tradition. I gave my heart to apportionments and my life to the itinerant ministry when I said yes to becoming a United Methodist. These are values I cherish and am proud to promote.

I grew up in a strong missional denomination, but our mission work was congregational – the impact was visible to the members but minor as one church working alone. This month as you skim through the Reporter, you will see the power of "connecting your church to the world." This is at the heart of our discipleship and our Wesleyan tradition.

The Methodist witness can be seen in the development of hospitals, schools, programs to combat poverty, promote peace, address racism, immigration reform, addiction, disaster, discrimination, voter rights, and (fill in the blank with many other works of faith). All this is

possible because our structure draws together a diverse community of people with a common core value "to make discipleship of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

I've done some outlandish things in the name of apportionments. Mission bus tours, fundraising campaigns, and yes, there was the day I kissed a pig to thank my congregation for their apportionment raising efforts. Well, it was really a piglet. The farmer cleaned him up for the occasion and held a tight grip on the pig's wiggly body while I bent in for the photo op. Perhaps my lips barely grazed his coarse fur, but the church made their annual commitment, and I was the designated "pig smoocher" as we celebrated the joy of promoting apportionments.

In this Reporter issue, you will find wonderful information on why our generosity as United Methodists means so much to the world. Resources, stories, charts, and definitions help us talk about the church's work.

In addition, the UMC provides us with a UMCGiving webpage that offers a new for 2022 generosity toolkit filled with graphics, videos, social media resources, campaign materials, infographics, sermon starters, bulletin inserts, offering talks, and more.

Kissing a pig was fun for my church and it might be the way to go. However, if you are looking for more conventional ways of sharing the good news of apportionments, promoting the power of generosity, giving your congregation a lift in these dreary pandemic times while celebrating the difference you are making for those in need around the world, for ideas try out ResourceUMC.org/GenerosityKit2022.

Remember, "Those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed." Proverbs 11:25 CEB

Thank you to all those who give so we can continue sharing the good news of the United Methodist Church connecting Christ's love to the world.



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February 2022 Clergy Appointments and Retirements

Bishop John L. Hopkins announces the following clergy appointments and retirements for the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church, effective July 1, 2022 (unless otherwise noted):

Auderine (Molina) Rochet (Licensed Local Pastor) to Rockford: Centennial (Prairie North) from Chicago: Emanuel (Lake North District). Audrey follows Uziel Hernandez who is ending his ministry.

Kelli Knight (Elder) to Dira Partners from Chicago: Holy Covenant (Lake North District). Effective March 1.

Vickie L. Hadaway (Full Elder) to retirement from Algonquin UMC/ Sault Ste. Marie Central UMC (Northern Skies District, Michigan Annual Conference). Vickie became a Probationary Elder in 2002 and Full Elder in 2005. During her ministry, she served at Oak Park: Cornerstone, Chicago: Irving Park, Sugar Grove, Cherry Valley, and Algonquin UMC/ Sault Ste. Marie Central UMC.

Michelle Taylor Sanders (Full Elder) to retirement from Chicago: Kelly Woodlawn (Lake South

District). Michelle became a Probationary Elder in 2001 and Full Elder in 2004. During her ministry, she served at Chicago: St. Mark, Chicago: Hartzell Memorial, and Chicago: Kelly Woodlawn.

Daniel Swinson (Full Elder) to retirement from Sycamore UMC (Prairie South District). Daniel became a Probationary Elder in 1979 and Full Elder in 1985. During his ministry, he served at Lyndon/Leon, Chadwick, Mount Morris, Morrison, Mt. Prospect: Trinity, and Sycamore.

Deborah Percell (Full Elder) to retirement from Lake Bluff: Grace (Lake North District). Deborah became a Probationary Elder in 2005 and Full Elder in 2008. During her ministry, she served at Davis: Calvary, Rock City, Waterman, Morris: First, Elgin: Epworth and Lake Bluff: Grace.

Sejoon Jang (Full Elder) to Rockford: Grace (Prairie North District) from Hinkley (Prairie South District). Sejoon follows Pam Rossmiller who will be retiring.

Britt Cox (Full Elder) to the newly created Evanston: First Associate (Lake North District) from Chicago: Church of the Three Crosses (Lake North District).

Judy Rodriguez (District Superintendent Supply) to serve at Stone Park: Living Waters NFC (Lake North District). Effective Feb 15.

Jin-Hee Kang (Full Elder) to Galena (Prairie North District) from Rock Falls (Prairie South District). Jin-Hee follows Catiana McKay who is retiring.



Oregon UMC members Lisa Hinricks, Heather Tinsman, Grace & Warren Druen help serve free carry-out dinners for the church's Wednesday night meal ministry.

From the Cover

Prairie South District Superintendent Rev. Brian Gilbert congratulates Oregon UMC for being an inspiration to other churches to find new ways to be the change in the world.

"It's amazing how all this started with the question of 'how can we help?'" said Gilbert. "When it comes to making disciples, discipleship isn't just that moment that you accept Jesus into your life. It is aligning your life to model after Jesus and taking the time to listen and genuinely help our neighbors – that is a very effective way of evangelizing."

Rev. Smick says making disciples is a work in progress.

"At this point, we are very good at community outreach and forming partnerships," said Smick. "The next thing we are talking about is making sure we are using all that as leverage for making disciples and looking at new directions to do so. But will keep reaching out to the community because, at this point, it's coming naturally."

To learn more about Oregon UMC, visit oregonumc.org.

Job Openings

For the latest job openings in the Northern Illinois Conference and across the connection, visit www.umcnic.org/jobs.

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Submissions

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. Submissions will be edited at the discretion of the Communications staff.

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