

Northern Illinois Conference
of The United Methodist Church
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Rev. Katie Voigt, Chair of Daily Procedures (left) opens the business of the fall session of the 182nd Annual Conference.



Rev. Tammy Scott (Vice-Chair) and Stephanie Uhl (Chair) from the Conference Council on Finance and Administration introduce and take questions on the 2022 budget.



Annual Conference Committee Chair Deborah Dangerfield thanks everyone who made the virtual fall session possible and sends a reminder that the 183rd session will be held June 8-10, 2022.



Annual Conference approves budget, support for retired pastors initiative

In a continuation of the 182nd Northern Illinois Annual Conference with the theme "Jesus Makes a Way," more than 600 members gathered for a half-day fall session held virtually through Zoom on October 2 to vote on the budget, a nominations slate, Board of Pension proposals and other business.

The Annual Conference approved a \$4.3 million budget for 2022 annual conference expenses, which is a \$70,000 decrease from 2021 based on lower apportionment projections and other cost savings. The Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA) said savings came mainly from the reduction of the number of districts and superintendents from 6 to 5 this year, as well as fewer in-person meetings and events. CCFA has also budgeted \$1.8 million in apportionments to be paid to General Church funds, a 101,499 increase set by the General Council on Finance and Administration.

"In CCFA's discussion of the budget, we tried to balance the faithful apportionment receipts we received during the pandemic from our local churches with the concern about the financial strain that may be caused by the prolonged pandemic," said CCFA Chair

Stephanie Uhl. "We also wanted to make sure that our budget continued to allow us to do valuable ministry as a conference and provide support to local churches during a difficult time."

To get a better understanding of where churches stand financially, CCFA held several focus group discussions with about 40 total churches in September. Church leaders were asked, "How are you approaching 2022? Do you expect things to be much the same as 2021? Are you expecting further decreases/reductions?"

CCFA Vice-Chair Rev. Tammy Scott said that many churches are planning for 2022 to be similar to 2021 with some increased programming and others with decreased staffing or other areas of reduction to meet anticipated revenue. Some people also shared that it's still hard to make a plan since they are still in a time of ambiguity with rules and guidelines around COVID-19 keep shifting. While many churches reported that their finances have been relatively stable during the pandemic, a number of local churches reported experiencing significant challenges. A poll presented to Annual Conference members during the Zoom session resulted in similar responses indicating a majority of churches are working toward restoring to pre-pandemic church life or holding steady.

"Our experiences may vary from church to church, but there is comfort in knowing that we are not alone," said Rev. Scott.

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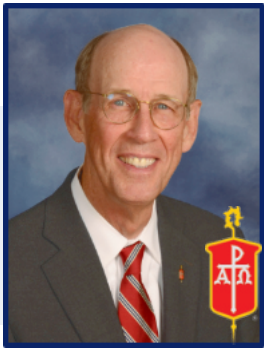


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FROM THE BISHOP: Questions about the future of The United Methodist Church

Through this column over several months, I want to discuss some crucial bedrock issues that will determine the future of our church at every level. In each issue of *The Reporter* the last several months, I have been presenting key questions that each of us must understand to help us move forward together in ministry. Each question has more history than I can tell and more nuances than I can explore. I simply want to engage you in understanding the importance of these questions and let you make your own decisions as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Previous Questions addressed:

Question 1: "Is the Church a Movement or an Institution?"

Question 2: "Is the Church a Covenant Community or a Voluntary Association?"

Question 3: "Is our mission focus Geographical or Generational?"

Question 4: "Is our emphasis on Clergy or Lay Ministry?"

Question 5: "Do we have a Private Faith or a Public Witness?"

"Do we want a large Church or a Small Church?"

"Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function. In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other." Romans 12:3-5 (CEB)

In October, we celebrate World Communion Sunday to recognize that in Christ, we are one body. We gather for Holy Communion in our local churches to remember the suffering, death, and glorious resurrection of Christ (under current health safety guidelines). We are reminded that our local church is not the only place where Jesus is at work in the world. So, "Do you want a large Church or a Small Church?"

It is not the size of the church's membership, attendance, or building that is crucial; it is its perspective. You can be in a large or small church that acts like it is the center of God's activity or a church that acts like it is one expression of the larger Church—the body of Christ—called to redeem the world. Our United Methodist Church is a "connectional" church with every local congregation a missionary outpost to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are not an association

of independent churches!

As people in our culture segment into more affinity groups, perhaps the question should be, "Do you want a church where everyone is like you or a church that includes people completely different from you?" What kind of church do you need to help you be formed in Christ, understand scripture, and be held accountable for your life and personal ministry?

Earlier this year, I had a pastor proudly tell me she was serving a "purple" church. Immediately, I knew what she meant. In a country with deep political divisions, some churches appear to be all "red" and others all "blue," but her church has a mix of both. Regardless of the size, "Do you want a "purple" church or an all "red" or all "blue" church?"

"Purple" churches have members who hold different views about many things, but they "don't think of (themselves) more highly than (they) ought to think." They welcome everyone and work hard to keep opening the doors to the newcomer without a test of loyalty to something other than Jesus Christ and his saving grace. Of course, no church is perfect, but any church can easily become a "red" or "blue" church if they allow any group to dominate everyone else.

About three months before he died, I visited Dr. Lyle Schaller, the author and church consultant. He lived in Naperville for many years but moved to a care center in

Oklahoma. His memory was fading, but he still possessed flashes of insight that I remembered from my early days of ministry.

Lyle said that about half of the Protestant Christians in this country go to mainline churches that originated in Europe. These churches have a supervised ministry, extensive clergy training, ordination, generational worldwide mission work, and a long tradition of faith and practice. The other half goes to independent churches led by the pastor who started the church with a small group of people from the congregation for oversight. When the pastor leaves or is asked to leave, they can call any person they want to be their leader. Do you want an independent local church that makes its own decisions or a connectional church with a worldwide ministry and a supervised oversight of ministry?

Jesus began his ministry by calling twelve disciples. They certainly were not alike. Others soon followed and had their lives changed. The Apostle Paul was one whose life was changed, and he began starting churches for Jesus. His ministry was to the gentiles who certainly were not like the Jewish Christians back in Jerusalem. In the letter to the Romans (v.12:5), Paul writes, "We are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other."

What kind of church do you need to help you be formed in Christ, understand scripture, and be held accountable for your life and personal ministry? I like "purple" myself.

Welcoming the stranger: Putting our faith into action by assisting afghani refugees

By Carrie Woodward, World Relief and Jonathan Crail, NIC Refugee Coordinator



Photo: Adobe Stock

Many of us have watched the situation in Afghanistan and felt heartbroken and powerless as thousands of families fled for their lives. Watching their fear and grief has been heartbreaking. The good news is that we can show the Afghan people who have arrived in Chicago the love of Christ and welcome them into community. Together, we can walk with these new neighbors as they rebuild their lives.

Amir is a father who fled to the United States with his daughter Farzana and his son Mortaza. Together, they found safe haven in California. As a father, Amir believed in the value of education for his daughter, and he wanted more girls to have the opportunity to learn and reach their fullest potential. Amir shared with his children about the value that they have just for being human. And he taught his young daughter and son to accept those who are different, be patient, and always take care of one another. Even though these values were contrary to the Taliban's, Amir believed so strongly that he put his own safety on the line to serve alongside U.S. troops in Afghanistan. He did it because he wanted to build a better Afghanistan – a country where his children could thrive. A country that Farzana and Mortaza could grow up to be proud of to call home.

When his mission was complete, Amir applied for a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) because he knew that his work with the United States put his family at risk of retaliation. The family eventually made it to California, where World Relief workers met them. While it was a big transition, World Relief walked with the family every step of the way. Today, Farzana and Mortaza are excelling in school and planning for a bright future ahead.

There are thousands of Afghan allies just like Amir, whose help to the United States put their lives in danger. As they seek refuge and safety in the U.S., World Relief is committed to helping them thrive. In the Chicagoland area, more than 100 Afghani refugees like Amir and his family will be arriving over the next two months, with about 850 expected over the next year. They need your congregation's help!

Ways to Engage

Churches and individuals can help in a variety of ways.

Financial Partnership:

You can meet an urgent need by joining World Relief as an individual or church financial partner and supporting the resettlement of Afghans in the first few

continue on page 4, see Faith in Action

Bishop Malone returns home preaching a message of courageous conviction



Bishop Hopkins lays hands on Grant Swanson, one of three candidates ordained as a Deacon.



East Ohio Conference Bishop Tracy S. Malone reads the historical questions to the 2021 class of ordinands. Malone was welcomed back home to Northern Illinois where she was ordained and served as a pastor and District Superintendent.

It was a joyous celebration filled with thanksgiving at the 2021 Ordination and Commissioning service held in the evening on October 1 in the sanctuary at Barrington United Methodist Church.

"This is a moment that those who are being commissioned and ordained have been waiting for and working toward for years," said East Ohio Conference Bishop Tracy S. Malone. "For every risk that you have taken to follow your 'yes' to God's will for your life and ministry, thank you, Lord!"

It was a welcome home for Bishop Malone who was ordained and served in the Northern

Illinois Conference and returned as the guest preacher for the service to celebrate those fulfilling their call to ministry.

"The Northern Illinois Conference will always hold a special place in my heart for this is the place where both my faith and leadership were nurtured," she added.

Bishop John L. Hopkins officiated the service commissioning one person for the work of a deacon and two for the work of an elder. He ordained three deacons and four elders.

While in-person attendance was limited because of continued COVID-19 health risks, the candidates were surrounded in love by

From the Cover (continued from page 1)

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CCFA says the apportionment formula calculates apportionments based on local church expenses, so as local churches contract (or expand), the apportionment does as well, understanding that there's a lag in data since it's based on the previous year's numbers. Look for a video explanation of the apportionment formula as well as a new apportionments appeal form posted on the conference website in the coming months.

"Because They Cared" Initiative

The Annual Conference also approved the Board of Pensions two pieces of legislation; one addressing eligibility for coverage in the conference pension and health benefits program and a second that establishes the "Because They Cared" fund. Individuals and churches may make contributions in honor of clergy who have served meaningfully through the years through this conference-wide appeal. The Conference Board of Pensions says this fund will be a way to affirm and celebrate the service of clergy who have made an impact in our lives and churches as well as honor their legacy through our commitment to support future clergy in retirement.

"The Conference Board of Pensions secured estimates from Wespath upon the amount of funding required to continue our retiree benefit programs over the next 20 years," said Chair Rev. Katherine Paisley. "While there are funds to make current payments, we want to be sure we have sufficient funds to meet future payments – even if the investment market performs poorly."

Paisley said the "Because They Cared" Initiative began with prayerful consideration of a potential funding gap and an awareness of the many ways that clergy have touched her own life through the years as well as a way to assure the conference that there is sufficient funding for future benefit needs.

"I am the daughter of a United Methodist pastor who served in this conference. My family has many generations of ministers on both sides," said Rev. Paisley. "I was raised in the church – but besides my parents, other pastors made a significant impact in my life and although many of them are gone, I would like to honor them in some way."

Paisley said this initiative is an opportunity to recognize pastors who have blessed many of us through the years by making contributions in their honor to help provide support for future generations of pastors.

The Conference will maintain a list online of clergy (active and retired) that donors wish to honor with a gift to this initiative. For a donation of \$100, each of the saints will be listed on a website page. All of the funds raised will be used to continue the benefit programs for retirees when required in the future.

"We all have our stories. Giving is a way to show our gratitude to them," said Paisley. "Giving a gift of \$100 in honor of those who cared for us to a fund that will care for future generations of clergy is another way to celebrate them, and pass their legacy forward. May we cherish the memories of past clergy, who 'Because They Cared', enriched our lives."

Bishop encourages Conference to "Keep Moving"

Interim Bishop John L. Hopkins recalled while watching the November 2020 Northern Illinois Annual Conference session online before he came on board, he imagined by this time we would be together in person singing and praying together, telling stories of our ministries, making new friends, and celebrating worship and Holy Communion together. But as the pandemic kept its hold on the country, that was not to be.

"Our imagination about what the future will hold is often not correct. Instead, we are surprised with unimaginable joys and challenges that we did not anticipate," Bishop

Hopkins said during his reflections at the fall 2021 session. "I stand here amazed and deeply grateful for how you have not only survived this past year but have kept the ministry of Jesus and his Church strong. Over this past year, you have 'kept moving' despite many challenges. Praise be to God we have come this far. Surely, the God who has brought us through this year will direct our path in the coming year. 'Jesus finds a Way' beyond our imagination."

Hopkins said it's time to focus on what brings us together rather than what tears us apart.

"Let me repeat what I said in July. I would regret having any pastor or church leave our conference. We would be less inclusive and diverse without that pastor or congregation," said Bishop Hopkins. "I would say to any of you who are being encouraged to leave, there will always be a place for you in the Northern Illinois Conference and The United Methodist Church!"

Keep Moving into 2022

In September, Bishop Hopkins traveled to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., for his annual checkup and scans as a kidney cancer survivor. He's grateful to report he is still clear of any metastasis.

"Consequently, I have agreed to make myself available to continue as you Interim Bishop in Northern Illinois (past December 31, 2021) if my colleagues in the Council of Bishops believe I can be helpful, said Bishop Hopkins. "Their decision should be made soon."

Any decisions on Episcopal assignments will be posted in our Conference communications.

Meantime, save the date for the 183rd Annual Conference planned for an in-person meeting at the Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel and Convention Center June 8- 10, 2022. Stay informed by signing up for the Conference eNews by visiting umcnic.org.



Fall fill-the-truck collection drive for Haiti and disaster relief

The NIC Board of Global Ministries is organizing a fall collection drive to support recovery efforts from the 2021

Hurricanes and the recent devastating Earthquake in Haiti.

Relief items requested:

Items listed here have been requested by non-profits working in Haiti:

Home

- Blankets - can be gently used
- Powdered milk with expiration date of 12 months or more

Hygiene Supplies

- Toilet Paper
- Baby Wipes
- Diapers - adult or child

Hurricane Recovery and the Relief Supply Network need Cleaning Kits:

ITEMS MOST NEEDED

- Liquid Laundry Detergent - 32-64 oz.
- Liquid Household Clean - 16-40 oz.
- Liquid Dish Soap - 14-32 oz.
- Toothpaste-2.5 oz or larger

Other MMDC kits will be accepted, but please no electric sewing machines or bikes are needed at this time.

Christmas Game/Toy Collection for non-profits serving poor children in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica and Haiti:

- Jump ropes, Simple musical instruments (recorder, harmonica, percussion)
- Sports balls (soccer, basketball, soft ball, baseball) Board Games (no batteries required)
- Pumps to inflate sports balls (Candyland, Connect 4, Jenga, Trouble, or other simple games)

Bring your items to the most convenient collection point at several designated churches around the Conference between **Nov. 29 and Dec. 7**, and MMDC will pick them up on a day to be announced between Dec. 9 and 15.

If you want to make a financial contribution, you can give to MMDC online or send a check to the Northern Illinois Conference with the Advance Number 50000150 in the memo section.

Please check the NIC website for future information about the collection site locations, pick up schedule and other updates at umcnic.org/2021missionchallenge.

Ordination (continued from page 3)



The Ordination and Commissioning Class of 2021 with Bishop Hopkins.



Bishop Hopkins introduces the candidates commissioned for the work of elder and deacon.



Bishop Hopkins offers a time to remember our baptism.

Faith in Action (continued from page 2)

months after their arrival. \$10,000 supports an Afghan family of four for three months following their arrival to the United States. Thanks to the Bishop's Appeal for Global Migration in 2018, our Northern Illinois Conference recently donated \$10,000 for this very purpose! This funding equips World Relief to provide holistic services that meet the unique needs of each individual or family. The total costs will vary with what the family needs to reach a place of stability, with World Relief helping with needs like secure housing, steady employment, access to English classes, immigration legal services, and many other vital services.

Advocate:

You can seek justice and mercy for the most vulnerable, using your voice to influence those in positions of power who can save lives. World Relief has an active Advocacy Action to Protect Vulnerable Afghans that needs bold and compassionate people like you.

Volunteer:

Share your skills and passions as a volunteer! Volunteers who begin serving later this fall or in early 2022 will play an essential role in welcoming Afghan arrivals into the community as you dedicate your time and talent to serving with World Relief.

Donate Items:

You can help transform a house into a home by donating furniture and household items to prepare for a newly-arrived family! By October, we expect an increased need for items as the stock in place is depleted. Churches and individuals who can collect and store items to be donated at that time will help to meet an important need for families beginning life in a new apartment.

As a network of churches all across Northern Illinois, our Conference can demonstrate the love of Christ for these families by combining our resources.

close family, friends, and mentors, and many others online, including from as far away as South Korea, sharing in their celebration by viewing the livestream.

In her sermon titled, "Shepherding with Power, Promise and Purpose," Bishop Malone encouraged the candidates to "live, proclaim, love and serve with courageous conviction."

"There are three convictions in Paul's prayer for Timothy that I commend to you: Keep alive the gift, Be bold in your witness, and Keep at work," Bishop Malone preached. "It matters how we live, love, relate, and show up in the world and in people's lives. I am convinced that as followers of Christ, we are the instrument for God's hope and plan of salvation for the world."

2021 Class

Commissioned Deacon

Tura Jovan Foster Gillespie

Commissioned Elders

Elizabeth M. Rutherford

JiEun Mori Siegel

Ordained Deacons

Elizabeth Lauren Evans

Christine Voreis Hides

Grant Tyler Swanson

Ordained Elders

Hope Mary Chernich

Juyeon Jeon

Violet Jean Johnicker

Sun-Ah KangThese

Ways to Help

Visit the World Relief website at chicagoland.worldrelief.org. Or contact another great organization doing the same kind of work in our area: Refugee One at refugeeone.org.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) continues to provide humanitarian relief and is prepared to assist with refugee resettlement. To give, visit umcmmission.org/advance-project/3022144.

To view the service, watch on the Conference Vimeo channel at vimeo.com/622714715.

Remembering Native American victims of US schools

United Methodist leaders decry church sponsorship of U.S. abusive “Indian boarding schools” and call for remembrance of victims and survivors.

Recent media reports, a public education campaign, and the announcement of an investigation by the U.S. Department of the Interior have cast renewed light on one of the most shameful practices in the deplorable treatment of the Indigenous people of North America by European colonists across 500 years. This was the forcing of thousands of Native American boys and girls into “Indian boarding schools” in a deliberate attempt to separate them from their families and cultures.

Disturbing new reports from both Canada and the U.S. indicate that, in some cases, large numbers of the young people died in school custody without notice to families and were buried in mass schoolyard graves. Some of these burials have been documented internally in boarding school records, but others have not.

While authorized and primarily funded by government, some of these schools were also sponsored or operated by religious organizations, including several with Methodist affiliations. Some Methodists and their institutions shared and promoted the sentiment that Indigenous people must be “Christianized” and then “civilized” to be regarded as human beings, or as stated by prominent proponents, “Kill the Indian and save the man.”

We know the names and locations of a number of Methodist-related Native American boarding schools and efforts are underway to identify as many such institutions as may have existed. We need to better understand our complicity in this form of cultural genocide and to bring the boarding schools more clearly into focus in our expression of repentance for the inhumane treatment to which the church and its members subjected Indigenous people in the past. Such repentance was expressed by the 2012 United Methodist General Conference.

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition represents an effort to educate the public in the U.S. about these schools and their lingering harmful legacy. In light of the recent reports of abuse and neglect, the coalition has called for September 30, 2021, to be observed as National Day of Remembrance for U.S. Indian Boarding Schools. This date aligns with the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation that is dedicated in Canada to residential school survivors.

The National Day of Remembrance is being observed by Native American United Methodist leaders, including the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, Native American Comprehensive Plan, Native American International Caucus and numerous annual conference committees on Native American Ministries. Our agencies join our Native American sisters and brothers in this special occasion, an opportunity for individual grief and collective reaffirmation of the 2012 “Act of Repentance Toward Healing Relationships with Indigenous People.” Suggestions from the healing coalition for ways to remember the victims and survivors of the schools can be found online at boardingschoolhealing.org.

We welcome a recent announcement by U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, that the Bureau of Indian Affairs will investigate the programs and operations of these boarding schools. We will share information we may discover in our investigation of Methodist involvement in such institutions.

Background

The history of the “Indian boarding schools” is complex and perplexing, particularly regarding religious complicity.

Policies and practices regarding such schools in the U.S. took various forms across a century and a half — from the 1820s to the 1980s. Current media attention is on schools reflecting a strict military-style model, the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, opened in 1879. While Carlisle itself had no religious sponsors, others of its ilk did. The promotion of Carlisle-type schools corresponded to the development of U.S. policy on Native people at the end of the so-called “Indian wars,” a time when the reservation system was being implemented for Great Plains tribes was emerging and included a short experiment in using Christian missionaries as administrators of the “Indian agencies.” These schools often transported the young people far away from their home regions. The first class at Carlisle came from Dakota Territory.

Earlier Native American boarding schools, usually more local in nature, with mixed patterns of sponsorship — tribal/religious/federal government also existed. At least one Methodist-related example in Ohio in the early 1820s was a tribal/mission school with a federal grant. Some links between churches and the schools lasted for only a few years, while other stretched across decades.

Searching the record

The General Board of Global Ministries and United Methodist Women, which represent Methodist mission outreach in frontier America, are in the process of attempting to determine exactly where and when Methodists sponsored “Indian boarding schools.” In terms of numbers, we have a short list of connections that need further research and our work on that will continue.

But regardless of numbers or duration, earlier American Methodists helped to perpetuate the concept that Native people should be stripped of their heritage through forced assimilation of youngsters in residential schools apart from their families and communities. This is not a new awareness, although the schools were not specifically cited in the denomination’s public repentance of its former attitudes toward and treatment of Indigenous people.

Repentance

The “Act of Repentance Toward Healing Relationships with Indigenous People” was one of the high moments of the 2012 United Methodist General Conference, the denomination’s governing body. The subsequent quadrennial General Conference (2016) adopted an omnibus resolution on “Native People and the United Methodist Church,” drafted by Native members, that specified the forcing of young people into boarding schools as an example of offense. The resolution states:

“Government and religious institutions intentionally destroyed many of our traditional cultures and belief systems. To assimilate our peoples into mainstream cultures, many of our ancestors as children were forcibly removed to



Photograph of Capt. Pratt (back, center) and students at the Carlisle Industrial School (Indian boarding school) circa 1900. Public Domain: courtesy of the Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.

boarding schools, often operated by religious institutions, including historical Methodism.”

The future

In the face of renewed focus on the damages done by the boarding schools, we:

- Endorse and join the Day of Remembrance on September 30, 2021,
- Welcome the investigation underway by the U.S. Department of the Interior,
- Pledge to conduct our own study and investigation of Methodist-related boarding schools,
- Seek to embody in our work the spirit of our church’s 2012 “Act of Repentance Toward Healing Relationships with Indigenous People,”
- Review and implement as possible recommendations for healing and reconciliation found in the resolution of 2016, including measures to increase the role and visibility of Indigenous persons and communities, and
- Promote equity and justice for Native Americans in both church and society.

Signed by:

General Board of Global Ministries
Roland Fernandes, General Secretary

United Methodist Women
Harriett Olson, General Secretary

General Board of Church and Society
Susan Henry-Crowe, General Secretary

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
Greg Bergquist, General Secretary

Discipleship Ministries
Jeff Campbell, Acting General Secretary

General Commission on Archives and History
Ashley Boggan Dreff, General Secretary

General Council on Finance and Administration
Moses Kumar, General Secretary and Treasurer

General Commission on Religion and Race
Giovanni Arroyo, General Secretary

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women
Dawn Wiggins Hare, General Secretary

United Methodist Communications
Dan Krause, General Secretary

General Commission on United Methodist Men
Gil Hanke, General Secretary

Applications open for Global Mission Fellows program

The Global Mission Fellows program of The United Methodist Church places young adults, ages 20–30, in social justice ministries for two years of service. The program offers the opportunity for service in the United States (US-2 track) and around the world (international track). The application for the 2022-24 cohort of Global Mission Fellows US-2 track launched October 1.

Fellows serving on the US-2 track address the deep-rooted systems of injustice in the U.S., working in a variety of areas, including food insecurity, migration/immigration, education and poverty. Fellows leave their home state to serve in a new community, gaining a fresh perspective on systems preventing social change. They form meaningful

relationships with their host community as they are mentored by organizations meeting immediate needs and working toward lasting transformation.

The United Methodist Church has been sending young adults to serve in short-term mission for 70 years. Since 1951, young adults in the United States have crossed boundaries and formed meaningful relationships to better understand and respond to various forms of injustice.

The Global Mission Fellows program is open to those from different denominational backgrounds, but participants must be willing to represent The United Methodist Church and uphold its social principles during their time of service. The Wesleyan value of personal and

social holiness is at the core of the program.

The fall application deadline is November 30, 2021. Placement matches will be assigned throughout the selection process, but early application is encouraged for the strongest match. The final deadline is Spring 2022.

The application can be found online by visiting umcmmission.org/become-a-fellow.

Those selected for the next Global Mission Fellow US-2 cohort will begin training and service in August and September of 2022.

Email missionaryinfo@umcmmission.org for more information.



UM Foundation matches new scholarship fundraiser

For many students, continuing education beyond high school is a stressful decision due to personal and family financial situations. The United Methodist Foundation wants to empower deserving students to continue their education by providing financial assistance.

This new scholarship fund introduced during the UM Foundation's annual meeting on Oct. 2 is designed to help minority and financially qualifying United Methodist students to attend a trade school, junior college, or university.

Based on the success of its 2020 matching program for area food pantries which raised a total of \$157,000, the Foundation has a goal, starting in 2022, to give \$10,000 per year to minority and financially qualifying students through the new fund called the "Uplifting Young Methodists Scholarship" ("UYMS"). To fulfill this goal, the Foundation encourages and is grateful for your generosity.

Foundation Board members and others will match your donations, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$70,000 to reach the total fund goal of \$140,000. To learn more and make a donation, visit umfnc.org/uplift.

Find a Crop Walk near you



If you don't have a local CROP Hunger Walk in your community, join us for the 2021 National CROP Hunger Walk on World Food Day, October 16. We will walk to end hunger in the U.S. and around the world!

Walk on your treadmill, in your neighborhood, in a park with friends – you choose the location and the experience. Walk one day - 3.7 miles (the average distance a woman walks for water) or take the Weekend Challenge and walk 11.1 miles (3.7 miles for 3 days). Every step you take, every dollar you raise makes the walk shorter for neighbors in need by providing clean water, emergency food as well as livelihoods and access to education. Sign-up and start raising funds TODAY at crophungerwalk.org/usa.

For more information, contact info@cwsglobal.org.



People of God Campaign

Throughout October, the People of God campaign is celebrating the diversity of our connection. We join in a common mission, yet still honor our unique identities. Share this message, and an invitation to #BeUMC, with your congregation by downloading resources available in English and Spanish. Learn more at umc.org/PeopleofGod.

Walk 14,000 steps like Jesus

The Upper Room/Emmaus Ministries has partnered with Charity Footprints to host the first-ever Emmaus Ministries Virtual Walk and Challenge. This spiritual and physical wellness event runs from October 1–November 12.

Not your typical 5K, this event invites participants to walk in body, mind, and spirit the distance between Jerusalem and Emmaus, which is approximately seven miles (11.5 kilometers) or 14,000 steps.

Hess "Doc" Hall, associate director of Emmaus Ministries, says, "In these times of physical distancing and social innovation, we offer this event as an opportunity for people to stay connected and to focus on their physical and spiritual healing. It is important for us to walk daily with the Lord and to grow, changing ourselves and our world for the better." The Walk to Emmaus program calls this our Fourth Day commitment.

During the event, participants can earn "footprints points" for steps, spiritual practices, and other activities that lead to physical and spiritual wellness. Participants have 43 days to complete the challenge using the route of their choice.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three Emmaus community teams and to the top ten individuals who score the most points during the event. Leaderboards are a key feature of the event site

and will track on individuals and community teams with the most points.

Registration cost is \$25.00 with an option to buy an event T-shirt at an additional cost.

Please join this fun event that supports a worthy cause, and invite others to participate. All proceeds go to the Fourth Day Fund, which helps cover the operating costs of Emmaus Ministries.

For nearly 43 years, the sole purpose of the Emmaus movement is to strengthen disciples for the renewal of the church. The Walk to Emmaus continues to be one of the most effective, formational and transformational programs available for personal renewal and leadership development. Since 1978, 1.4 million people have experienced this outpouring of love, benefitted from sound theological teaching and compassionate witness, and been given a spiritual boost that will last a lifetime.

Emmaus Ministries includes The Walk to Emmaus program, Chrysalis (older teens), and Face to Face (boomers) and partners with Journey to the Table (young adults) and Discovery Weekend (middle school students) to offer spiritual support for people at every age. Emmaus Ministries supports nearly 350 communities, located in 28 countries worldwide.

Register at charityfootprints.com/emmasus.



Kids Above All wants to make sure holiday wishes come true for all the children they serve. They're planning their annual Holiday Gift Drive and need supporters and volunteers to help purchase, deliver, sort and organize gifts.

Kids Above Holiday Gift Drive: 3 easy ways to step up for kids

1. MOST POPULAR! SPONSOR A CHILD:

If you or your organization would like to purchase and drop off gifts for a specific number of children, please email Catherine Inserra with the number of children you and/or your church or group want to sponsor and to schedule a drop off date. Contact Catherine at cinserra@kidsaboveall.org or call (847) 224-2870.

The child's name, age, gender, and ethnicity, along with 2-3 specific gift ideas, will be released beginning October 14 through November 20 to ensure all children and youth are sponsored. But we would like to hear from you and which organization you represent ASAP.

2. VOLUNTEER:

All persons who wish to volunteer in the toy room, sorting, organizing, and bagging gifts, please email Zulma Colon at zcolon@kidsaboveall.org to schedule a date and time. Please note: When volunteering, all federal, state, and local health and safety guidelines will be followed, including temperature checks, social distancing, and the use of masks.

3. ONLINE SUPPORT:

General wish lists will be available starting on October 14 on Amazon and Target to purchase and send gifts for our kids. All packages should be mailed directly to Kids Above All Events Department, 8765 W Higgins Rd, Suite 450, Chicago, IL 60631. Please include your affiliation for your business, group, school, agency, or church in the note section of your order.

Toy Room Hours of Operation

November 29 - December 12

*Volunteer Days available Dec 6 - 12 only.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturdays: 9 am - 2 pm;

Sundays: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

More than ever, your kindness is both needed and appreciated to ensure happy holidays for children with Kids Above All. For more information, visit kidsaboveall.org.

United Voices for Children

5th Sunday Appeal

October 31, 2021

Don't miss 2021's last special offering to support the work of United Voices for Children and its partners:

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KIDS ABOVE ALL

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unitedvoicesforchildren.org/donate/

LOCAL CHURCH NEWS



Our Saviour's UMC in Schaumburg raised anti-racism awareness during a Labor Day community event that also supported its youth program.

Schaumburg church takes stand against racism

Over Labor Day weekend, Our Saviour's UMC (OSUMC) held an Anti-Racism event in conjunction with the Village of Schaumburg's end-of-summer festival and the church's youth group annual parking lot fundraiser.

Each year on Labor Day, the youth of OSUMC open the church parking lot to the community for those attending the village's Septemberfest, which is held on the nearby municipal grounds and attracts thousands of people. Selling the parking spots helps fully fund the youth program for the year.

In conjunction with the Northern Illinois Conference's Anti-Racism Task Force's call to host DIY Anti-Racism Rallies following the July 2021 Annual Conference session, OSUMC's Anti-Bias committee joined with the youth's fundraiser to make the community aware that the United Methodist church "Stands Against Racism."

The church placed signs around the parking lot and within the open house hospitality center that OSUMC offers to people who park in the lot each year. Many in the congregation also wore their "Stand Against Racism" T-shirts as part of the event.

"We placed the signs in such a way that everyone who parked or came into the center would see the message," said Tim Alexander, OSUMC Dir. of Discipleship.

The church hoped they were able to reach hundreds of people in the community with their message, especially since the youth parked just over 1,200 cars in the two days the lot was available to the Fest.

"If we assume that each car had at least three people per car, which is an average for the event, then the signs were seen by over 3,600 people. Of those 3,600 people, about 420 were served cookies and drinks in our hospitality center," Alexander added. "We had some questions from folks about what 'Standing Against Racism' means and we explained the events and classes we have had during the last 15 months and our plans for the future."

Volunteers also directed visitors to their website at OSUMC.org for resource lists, video links, and book suggestions. Alexander says they plan on making the anti-racism tie-in to the parking lot an annual event and hope to include the signs this fall when the UMW holds their annual holiday craft fair in early November.

TURN IT UP!

Early registration open
ASSEMBLY 2022

MAY 20 - 22, 2022
ORLANDO CONVENTION CENTER
WWW.ASSEMBLY2022.ORG

DYK???



Did you Know? October is pastor appreciation month

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

When I hear stories about National Pizza Day or Grandparents' Day, I have to admit I'm cynical. I'm not cynical about grandparents or pizza; it's just the idea that we need to celebrate every single thing for a day or week or month. I think of it as a marketing tool for product sales and greeting card companies. However, I am softening my cynicism to talk about October's focus on "National Clergy Appreciation Month."

There is no product being promoted here, although you might find a rare greeting card. The concept is traced back in the New Testament and the Apostle Paul, who wrote in 1st Timothy 5:17, "Elders who lead well should be paid double, especially those who work with public speaking and teaching." The modern-day observance was established in 1992 with a mission of "uplifting and encouraging pastors, missionaries and religious workers."

Leading through the murky uncertainties in a pandemic world has taken its toll on all of us. From

medical personnel to first responders, teachers, and even preachers, the work of offering grounded, balanced care for our constituencies when we have no roadmap has been an incredible act of heroism. While spending time with a group of pastors a few weeks ago, I was caught up in laughter and energetic conversations – and realized I haven't heard anything like that for over a year. What I learned, as I listened, is that this group was so grateful to be together, to see and meet and share, that many were overwhelmed with joy.

Life has been tough. Each year our pension and health benefits agency Wespeth releases a clergy wellbeing survey. This year their findings indicate that clergy are struggling. The survey looks at 5 dimensions: physical, emotional, social, spiritual and financial health. The only factor of these 5 dimensions that was stable is finances. Clergy health has declined, depression and isolation, even faltering faith were reflected in the findings.

We cannot wave a magic wand and make all the factors challenging anyone's wellbeing go away. Perhaps this year is the right year to observe "Clergy Appreciation Month." Who doesn't appreciate a word of encouragement, an acknowledgment that life has been hard, or a congregational "hip-hip hurray."

How can you and your congregation offer thanksgiving and encouragement to your pastor? It doesn't take a lot of money to make someone feel appreciated. It just takes some intentionality. Flowers, a dinner certificate, a homemade dessert, a congregational card shower, a bulletin board filled with sticky notes offering words of gratitude. These are just a few examples of how you can reach out and show your appreciation. Your pastor will surely appreciate it!

For some pandemic-proof ways to say 'thank you', visit umc.org/en/content/pastor-appreciation-sunday-ways-to-say-thank-you.

October/November Calendar Events



Laity Sunday celebrates the ministry of all Christians to love God and neighbor
October 17

As we welcome and offer the good news of Jesus' love for all, we know that the most

engaging opportunities to grow deep and wide in our faith come from relationships with those beyond the comfort and security of our church walls. The stories and situations of those struggling with fear, loss, trauma, and injustice – as well as freedom, joy, and delight – become altar calls for the wholeness and holiness work of justice, mercy, and reconciliation. This is the ministry of the "all called," the laity. This is relational discipleship and participation in the mission of God. Therefore, we will go (with hope) through engagement! For resources, visit umcdiscipleship.org.



NIC UMW Annual Virtual Celebration

Oct. 23 - 9:30 - 11 a.m.

Zoom

Cost: \$10

The theme will be "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms; Listening, Transforming, Reaching Out." Keynote Speaker: Rev. Megan Dean Tobola, Lead Pastor at Naperville: Wesley.

Megan was a 2010 UMW Scholarship recipient, and she will bring a message to remind us to "Lean on God" for inner peace and strength during these hectic, stressful, and trying times of our lives. For registration, visit umcnic.org/calendar/umw-annual-meeting.

Kairos Blanket Exercise

Nov. 7 - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Join Wesley UMC Aurora, 14 N. May St., Aurora, and special guest, Joseph Standing Bear, in the KAIROS interactive Blanket Exercise teaching the history between the Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples of North America. Light refreshments will be served prior to the event. Following the exercise will be a talking circle striving for healing and reconciling.

This event will be held outdoors (weather-permitting) at the church. This event is free. All are welcome. Pre-registration requested at bit.ly/3tGWMEW.

This event is in partnership with the NIC Anti-Racism Task Force as well as the NIC Committee on Native American Ministries.



Tending to the Harvest Discipleship Weekend

Growing Together Symposium - Ephesians 4:15.

Sat., November 13 from 9 - 11 a.m. (Via Zoom)

Presenter: Rev. Kyungsu Park

Two breakout sessions—"Discipling Youth" and "Let's Talk About IDS "Intentional Discipleship Systems." For registration, visit umcnic.org/calendar/growing-together-symposium.

All Conference Worship

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Matthew 9:37

Sun., Nov. 14 at 3:30 p.m.

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

The event will also be livestreamed.

Speaker: Rev. Olu Brown, Senior Pastor at Impact Church, Atlanta, GA.

Job Openings

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

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

Visit www.umcnic.org and scroll down and click on "Sign up for our Newsletter" to enter your name and email.

How to Contact Us

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 Communications staff.

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