



March 12, 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We invite you to attend the Northern Illinois Annual Conference June 2-4, 2019. This year we will celebrate our **180th year** as a conference together along with Global Ministries, which is celebrating its bicentennial in 2019, and United Methodist Women, which is observing its 150th anniversary.

”Back to the Future” is the theme of the 2019 Northern Illinois Annual Conference. As your Co-Conference Lay Leaders, we believe that it is vital that we work together to envision and make that future. We will be at a new location this year: The Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center in Schaumburg, Ill. Together we will hear of the outstanding ministries occurring throughout our conference as well as challenges ahead for our conference and our denomination. We will also be voting on new strategic goals outlined by our Annual Conference Shepherding Team. They have been working faithfully since our last Annual Conference to discern these goals. We will also be electing lay delegates to General Conference 2020. We invite you to meet all the nominees at a Laity Reception on Sunday, June 2 following the ordination service.

We invite you to register for Annual Conferences, download all materials and read those materials as part of your preparation to attend by visiting [www.umcnic.org/AC2019](http://www.umcnic.org/AC2019). Check-in for Annual Conference begins at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 2. There will be no clergy or laity session at Annual Conference this year. The Ordination Service will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. We encourage you to attend the Ordination Service and fellowship with the ordinands and their families after the service as well as attend the Laity Reception.

We are excited as we gather in Schaumburg for the first time. We look forward to seeing familiar faces along with a host of new faces coming to Annual Conference for the first time. May God bless you in your journey to Annual Conference.

Jessie Cunningham, Elisa Gatz, Mark Manzi  
Co-Conference Lay Leaders