



Northern Illinois Conference

OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Laity Call Letter
June 1, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We invite you to attend, virtually, two sessions of Annual Conference 2021 on July 16 and 17 and October 1 and 2. This year we will celebrate our **182nd year** as a conference together. The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged all of us. We have experienced loss, yet we have also celebrated new life and new ideas in this evolving phase of our lives. As we begin to see a way forward from this difficult time, we will be entering into a period of discovering what church, ministry, mission, and relationships will look like. Whatever changes may occur, we will always have the grace, mercy, peace, and love found in Jesus Christ. Together, we will be stronger and ready to meet the challenges of this adaptive time.

“Jesus Makes a Way” is the theme of the 2021 Northern Illinois Annual Conference. As your Conference Co-Lay Leaders, we believe that it is vital that we work together focused on the way Jesus will make for all of us. We will be together virtually, as we were in 2020, via the technology services of Good News TV (GNTV). GNTV’s upgraded technology will allow for even more interaction between members as we hear about the outstanding ministries occurring throughout our conference, as we work on legislation, and as we face the challenges ahead for our conference and our denomination.

Please make sure that you register for Annual Conference on time. The registration period begins June 1 and ends June 30 at midnight. Your registration will be for both the June and October sessions of Annual Conference, and the \$30 fee covers both sessions as well. Please be sure to download all materials and read those materials as part of your preparation for Annual Conference.

We are especially excited to invite you to the Laity Session of Annual Conference on Thursday, July 15 from 7 - 8:00 p.m. During this online session, we will hear about new ministries throughout our conference, we will learn about conference and district resources available to help all local churches, and we will participate in break out meetings in new districts to hear about activities being planned.

For registration and more information, follow umcnic.org/AC2021.

May God bless you in your journey to Annual Conference.

Connie Augsburger, Mark Manzi, Eugene Williams
Conference Co-Lay Leaders