



## 2022 Retirement Class

The Northern Illinois Annual Conference 2022 retirement class has contributed a combined 364 years of faithful service! We give thanks for the many ways they've lived out their calling and stayed Connected in Christ: inviting people to come to the water in their local churches and ministries. Each retiree has been invited to share more about their ministry, which appears in the following pages and are a testimony to the ways they've impacted lives and shared Christ's love. We give you thanks and bless you in your retirement!

---

(years of service)

### **Rev. Dr. Robert B. "Bob" Campbell (27.75)**

Rev. Campbell began his ministry serving congregations in Mokena, First: Freeport, and Chicago: New Hope. Since 2007, He has been appointed to extension ministry at the Willow Wellness Center in Park Ridge, Ill., as a clinical psychologist and Co-Director. During his ministry at Willow, he served as the Director of Residential Rehabilitation Treatment at the Tomah, Wisconsin VA Hospital, and as the Chief of Mental Health and Associate Chief of Staff at the Birmingham, Alabama VA Hospital. Highlights of his ministry include serving community meals, starting a food pantry and leading Peace Vigils at New Hope, starting a family shelter with the Freeport Area Church Cooperative, and each of the hundreds of people he says he's been privileged to work with in therapy. "I don't believe I will miss much, as I intend to stay closely related to the church, and my retirement plans include continuing to work at the Willow Wellness Center, consulting, preaching, traveling, improving my Spanish, and learning to draw," Bob said.



## **Larry Edward Dunlap-Berg (43)**

Larry says the church placed a claim on his life in the mid-1960s after the Women's Society of Christian Service in Maineville, Ohio, provided scholarships to attend church camp and the West Ohio School of Mission for Youth. As an undergrad studying geology and environmental science, Larry considered Peace Corps service. Judith Craig, the youth and young adult worker at his campus church, suggested serving as a US-2 through the General Board of Global Ministries. Fifty years ago, he was a recent college graduate researching methods to reclaim land damaged by strip mining for coal and preparing to teach science at a UMW mission school in Puerto Rico. Through US-2 assignments in Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican community near Humboldt Park UMC, serving as co-pastor in the international community surrounding Albany Park UMC and returning as co-pastor at Humboldt Park, he says he realized his gifts would be best used as an educator helping to reclaim damaged urban and rural environments and empowering people in abandoned and underserved areas. Other appointments included short-term interim pastor at Chicago's Parish of Reconciliation, coordinator of an international General Board of Higher Education and Ministry conference, community engagement educator at Cumberland Science Museum/Adventure Science Center and NIC UMWIM co-coordinator. "I celebrate the partnerships that empowered new leaders, identified their gifts and removed obstacles," Larry said. "My hopes for retirement include tutoring my granddaughters in middle/high school math and science, promoting mission and eco-sustainability opportunities, and serving on the Southern Illinois University Wesley Foundation and Midwest Mission Distribution Center boards."



## **Rev. Sharon Engert (13.5)**

During Sharon's ministry, she has served Green Garden UMC, Manhattan, Lockport: Christ UMC, Lockport, and is currently serving Millbrook. She says the highlights of her ministry include, serving and loving God and others in pastoral ministry in all times; some very positive, some very challenging, and some very much in the middle. Sharon has also served as the NIC Local Pastor Chair and Local Pastor Registrar. She serves on the NIC Board of Ordained Ministry and was the Spiritual Director on 22 Emmaus Walks. She served three year as a CPE hospital chaplain and as a police chaplain, among other leadership roles in the church. She says her plans for retirement



don't include much change since she's appointed to continue pastoral leadership at Millbrook UMC, continuing to serve as the NIC Local Pastor Registrar and on the NIC Board of Ordained Ministry. She said her other plans include spending more time with family and friends, especially doing more lunches and dinners with them. My plans also include more travel, especially completing the Route 66 tour from Oklahoma to California where our daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter live.

## **Rev. Vickie L. Hadaway (19.5)**

During her ministry, Vickie served, Oak Park: Cornerstone, Chicago: Irving Park, Sugar Grove UMC, Cherry Valley UMC, and Algonquin and Central UMCs in Sault Sainte Marie, MI. Her highlights include serving on the Chicago Northwestern (CNW) District Strategy Team with Rev. James Preston (DS), Rev. Lois McCullen Parr, Gerald Hayes, Rev. Ernest Singh, Pong Javier, Rev. Chris Coon, Matt Kuzma, Delia Ramirez, Doris Thornton.



We were tasked to find locations for new church starts, work with conference staff to develop and nurture leaders for these new starts, and work with other district strategy teams to start communities of faith that demonstrated the love of Christ in Northern Illinois. It was energizing work. I enjoyed working with dedicated individuals and others from our conference who became good friends. As a student pastor, Rev. Norma Lee Barnhardt and Rev. Bonnie Campbell were my mentors. Both of them taught me so much. I will always be grateful to these strong, confident, and loving women who showed me how to be an authentic minister. I am grateful to all women who came before me in ministry. Because of their sacrifice, I have been vulnerable and authentic in my preaching and confident in my leadership. I enjoyed working with a number of G-ETS students. What I will miss the most is the dedicated followers of Jesus in every congregation and community where I was appointed. In retirement, I will serve with NOMADS (Nomads On a Mission Active in Divine Service). Mack (my dog) and I will be traveling the country in our RV doing three-week mission projects a number of times a year. Grateful for family and friends who loved and supported me as I did my best to serve, where ever I was sent.

## **Michelle Oberwise Lacock (36)**

Michelle served in the local church at Our Saviors UMC Hoffman Estates (while in seminary); Faith-Freeport, Lyndon/Leon, University UMC in Peoria, Glasford/Kingston Mines/Banner UMC in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. She also served as a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Supervisor at several hospitals in Illinois, Kansas and Wisconsin. "I thoroughly enjoyed working with CPE students who were from all over the world, from Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Native American traditional, and a multitude of Christian denominations, and Humanist at all levels of CPE, summer interns, residents and supervisory education students." Michelle also celebrates her work with our Native American Ministries in the NIC and in the NCJ Jurisdiction, especially with the Native American Course of Study School. "Even though I have retired, I am still working as a contract CPE educator via ZOOM with two different centers one in Albany, NY and the other at the UMC Center for Integrative Pastoral Practice. I celebrate technology advances that allow us to enroll students who would otherwise not have access to CPE and have their CPE clinical work be completed in their local church." In her retirement, she has formed an LLC with Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin for coaching, retreats and CPE called MorningSky Leadership Initiative LLC. She will also continue working with the Native American Course of Study. Her next writing adventure is a collaborative interactive book entitled: "Healing With Dignity: Spiritual and Pastoral Care in Native America" with Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin.



## **Pastor Teri Lafferty (11.75)**

Teri says she came late to ministry after many years in the world of Finance after realizing that God calls all kinds of people. Her first appointment was to Mount Carroll UMC, second was to Evans UMC in Machesney Park, and her final appointment is to Sharon UMC in Plainfield. "Over the years, I have come to see myself as a theologian for the people using my sermons to expand their understanding of God's Holy Word for us today. I will miss doing that on a weekly basis. The questions people asked me determined some of the content for my sermons. This was why I discussed the concept of One Baptism as practiced by the United Methodist Church and instituted the Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Vows which worshipers have found very meaningful." Terri says spending time with family will be important once she retires. "I am looking forward to catching up on





some of the things I pushed to the side due to the demands of local church ministry. I also will listen for that small still voice of God telling me how I can continue the work that God has for me here on earth. I continue to place my life in God's loving hands knowing that I will be led as needed to fulfill God's plan for me."

### **Rev. Cheryl T. Magrini, Ph.D.**

During her ministry, Cheryl has served as Assistant Pastor North Northfield UMC, Northbrook, Glenview UMC, Minister of Children and Families at First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple, Minister of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation, President, Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance Chicago Loop Chapter, Director of Woodland Spiritual Retreats for Women in Ministry and Biblical Studies Teacher at the Chicago Temple.

"Highlights of my ministry can be summed up in one word:

community," said Cheryl. "It is in the community of the family, the Sunday school of any age, the breadth of humanity gathered in worship, communing at the Eucharist and at the baptismal font, the vulnerable sharing of pain and of joy around a table or over a simple meal where God works. These are moments of awe and wonder that I treasure." Cheryl's plans for retirement include spending time with family as much as possible, locally, in Wisconsin, and in California. She will continue to teach Bible study with the Chicago Temple online. Cheryl says she is continually "exploring creation and humanity through the camera lens, enjoying new ways of seeing the world through photography." She says she spends a lot of time outdoors in native restoration work on our property and volunteer with the Land Conservancy of McHenry County.



### **Catiana P. McKay (23)**

Catiana's first appointment, in 1999, was at Good Samaritan UMC in Addison, IL, a suburb of Chicago. With the help of God, friends, colleagues and parishioners, she said she grew into a pastor with always much to learn but an eager and full heart for ministry. From 2007 through 2017, she served ten years at United Church of Rogers Park, a United Methodist congregation on the northeast side of Chicago... "my dear love," she said.

"And yet, as I think of each congregation, tears come to my eyes as my heart feel the love that binds us." From July 1, 2017,

Catiana served as pastor of Galena UMC. "My ministry has been and remains a celebration of the diversity of God's creation through ecumenical and interreligious leadership," she said. Catiana served as a former chair of the Commission on Christian



Unity and Interreligious Relationships (CCUIR); an Ecumenical Officer for our Northern Illinois Conference; and represented the UMC Office of CCUIR (formerly CCUIC) in various venues. From 2012 through 2018, she provided leadership for The National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU) as the UMEIT (United Methodist Ecumenical and Interreligious Training) Network chair on The National Planning Committee for the NWCU. She's also served on the leadership Team of Illinois Conference of Churches (ICC); represents the Northern Illinois Conference for a second term (the first 2016-2021) of The World Methodist Council. In 2010, she received the Bishop's Ecumenical and Interreligious Award honoring my passionate commitment to interfaith relations and bridge-building. "The ministry God has placed in my path, has provided the perfect mix of ethnic, economic and religious diversity in which to live out my passion for societal transformation through interfaith and intercultural dialogue and spiritual renewal," said Catiana.

## **Deborah A. Percell (21)**

During her ministry, Deborah served Davis: Calvary and Rock City; Waterman; Morris: First (Associate); Elgin: Epworth (Journey of Hope), and Lake Bluff: Grace. She says the stories she tells the most often are stories of ministry with children and youth: junior high mission trips to Midwest Mission Distribution Center; senior high ASP mission trips; 8th grade confirmation class, retreats, and worship leadership; Christmas pageants; and everyday ordinary youth group activities. "These experiences were sometimes hilarious, such as the time I fell off the horse, and sometimes very serious, such as the question an 8th grader asked, 'what happens when we die?' Did you know 8th graders ask the same existential questions as 90 year olds? The stories I don't tell out loud very often are the stories of people in crisis," said Deborah. "In these experiences of trauma, I am deeply honored to be invited to walk the journey with them and be the presence of Christ to them." These are the highlights of ministry are what Deborah says she will miss the most. Plans for retirement include, spending family time with her children and grandchildren. Additionally, she plans to set up a practice as a Spiritual Director, having completed the two year training program in November 2020.



## **Peter R. Pereira (35.5)**

"I am thankful to God for His faithfulness throughout all these years of ministry during which we have seen lives being impacted locally and globally," Peter said. "I started serving as a deacon in the Alden UMC. As an ordained Elder I served at Faith Evangelical UMC in Elmhurst. In the evenings I also helped serve the Asian Indian community church that was meeting at the UIC Medical Center in Chicago." During vacations, Peter would travel to South Asia with the late Dr. Akbar Haqq, an Associate Evangelist with the Billy Graham organization, to assist in the ministry of outreach and evangelism. "Every time I returned from one of those trips, I had a heavy heart for the people," Peter said. "My wife picked me up at the airport upon my return from one of those trips and I switched on the radio to one of my favorite Christian stations as we were driving home. With a touch of a button, I can choose from any number of stations playing Christian songs. How blessed I am! So many people around the world don't have the luxury of hearing Christian songs and messages. They don't even know the name of the loving Savior who gave his life for us." As a result, Peter said he was designated a General Evangelist in the UMC and appointed to the not-for-profit ministry they had formed. "We have focused on the street women and children who have no place in the society. My wife, Esther, picked them up and placed them in her heart as her own. We have established children's homes, nutrition programs and schools for street children, vocational training centers for women, and continued a ministry of church planting and leadership development. By God's grace we have trained nearly 50,000 leaders and planted (hundreds/thousands) of house churches. Most of the people we have reached come from non-Christian backgrounds," Peter said. "Though I am entering the retired relationship with the Annual Conference, there is no retirement in serving the Lord. We look forward to leading and serving in the years ahead!"



## **Pamela M. Rossmiller (13)**

Pam began her local licensed pastor experience at Broadway UMC in Rockford from 2007 – 2009. "They were a delightful congregation who loved and trained me well," she said. "When I was commissioned in 2009, I was appointed to Kirkland, where I served this farming community from 2009 – 2012." In this congregation, Pam says she found a loving family with a deep faith and desire to grow as disciples. As she received her elder's



orders, Pam was appointed to Grace UMC in Rockford, where she served from 2012 – 2022. “Grace Church is a loving example of healthy day to day church,” Pam said. “The highlights of my ministry are exactly what I will miss the most ... journeying with people as they catch fire for Jesus. People as they encourage, challenge, partner together, and use their faith stories to unfold the hope of God to tell all the world of the love of Jesus is exciting for me,” Pam says she is retiring from congregational ministry, but she will never retire from being in relationship with sisters and brothers in Christ. “My husband, Vann and I plan to enjoy our family, travel, and find a godly purpose together in this next chapter of our lives,” Pam said.

## **Bonny S. Roth (9.5)**

Serving as a deacon at First United Methodist Church, Evanston, from July 2012 through November 2021, has been the most fulfilling of my vocations, says Bonny. "My situation was rather unique in that I joined First Church in 1981 as a lay person, served in leadership positions, and benefited from many learning and service opportunities. After I was commissioned in 2012, I joined the staff as Pastor of Pastoral Care. It was an honor to give back to a congregation that I'd loved for 30 years." Bonny says building relationships with God's children was the highlight of her ministry, especially facilitating small groups and walking with parishioners through joys and sorrows. "My ministry as an on-call hospital chaplain has allowed me to serve in short-term relationships that complemented my long-term parish relationships. While I continue building relationships with God's children in new contexts, I miss connecting with my colleagues as a staff group," she said. The first six months of her retirement have affirmed her new calling: writing a spiritual memoir, she said. "Several years ago I began this project, yet in retirement I'm developing a stronger writing voice and discovering deeper insights. Most important of all, expanded time with our four children and three grandchildren gives me joy beyond measure."





## **Michelle Taylor Sanders (21)**

I was working in advertising, trying to convince people to buy McDonald's products, Crest toothpaste and Ford cars, when the Lord called me into ordained ministry. In her goodbye memo, my boss wrote that I was going to work for a bigger and better client – God. I found out that trying to convince people to know and trust God was just as challenging as advertising. I became a United Methodist at Princeton Seminary. And after I returned home to Chicago, I realized I had never set foot in a UM Church. So, I appointed myself to Maple Park where some of my family members attended. I learned a lot, worked as a Chaplain and got my D.Min. at Chicago Theological Seminary, during my four years there. My first official appointment was in 2001, to St. Mark UMC as the Associate Pastor with Rev. Dr. Myron McCoy. My learning and growing continued. And in 2004 I was appointed to Hartzell Memorial UMC as the Senior Pastor. I was there for 11 wonderful, fruitful years. I was able to do creative, innovative ministry and to develop meaningful relationships with the members. In 2015 I was appointed to Kelly Woodlawn UMC and found the congregation open to participate in my creative programs. Again, I have been able to develop meaningful relationships with the members. Pastoral Care and preaching are the heart of my ministry. I have been privileged to walk with people through significant times in their lives. That has been a blessing and real highlight. I will miss the people the most. After retirement, I plan to write a book or two, work with people on End-of Life Planning and offer Grief Support Groups. My husband, Mr. Phillip Sanders, who is my soul-mate, is also retiring and we plan to travel and enjoy our lives together. I thank God for using me to help build The Kingdom.



## **Cheri Lynn Stewart (16)**

From 2006-2012, Cheri served part-time in a cooperative appointment, Earlville, Cortland and Suydam and later the LET'S Cooperative. In 2012, she was appointed full time to Prophetstown. In 2015 she was appointed to Ottawa First and have served there 7 years for a total of 16 years in ministry. "It has been a highlight of my ministry to witness to God's Loving Spirit moving in the lives of the congregations I've served," Cheri said. "I felt like sometimes congregations cooperated with the Spirit's movement and others not so much but God's Loving Spirit is and is always inspiring us to love like in Earlville when God used me to gather



community leaders to form Sharing Hearts, the community's access to food assistance." Cheri said God used her to gather and lead the Prophetstown community in a prayer service two days after the fire that devastated seven downtown businesses. A year later, she led a celebration of hope, lifting up thanks to God for all the ways the community's recovery was supported. In Ottawa, God used my administrative gifts and leadership to help the church reinvigorate lay leadership and become financially healthier. God's Spirit inspires! "I will miss the interactions with people in the congregation and communities in which I've served," Cheri said. "I will miss seeing the Holy Spirit gather and inspire people to do what is good, right, truth and love in Jesus' name." Her retirement plans include spending time ministering to her family and reconnecting with family and friends she feels that she's neglected since serving in pastoral ministry these last beautiful and challenging 16 years.

## **Daniel L. Swinson (43)**

Daniel Swinson has served in School, Lyndon-Leon, Chadwick: Hope, Mt. Morris: Disciples, Morrison, Mt. Prospect: Trinity, and Sycamore United Methodist Churches in the Northern Illinois Conference under appointment since 1979. He and June have been married 46 years, with two children and two grandchildren. He has a Ph.D. in History of Christianity from the University of Chicago, writing his dissertation on American Methodism and the Temperance Movement under the direction of Martin Marty, and is published in scholarly publications. He has served in many capacities in the Annual Conference, including as Conference Secretary and Conference Historian. For much of his ministry he has been connected with the Conference Commission on Archives and History. He has served the General Church in the same capacity as a member of the General Commission on Archives and History, Chair of the Library Committee of the GCAH, President and Vice President of the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church, President, Vice President, and at-large member of the Executive Committee of the North Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church. His connection with the HSUMC has been since its formation in the 1980s. In retirement he hopes to write and travel. He and June will live in the area to be close to grandchildren.

