

Northern Illinois Conference Board of Laity

Members of the Board of Laity work in our districts and churches to build relationships and make connections between laity and clergy in order to provide support for ministry and to assist in making disciples for Jesus for the transformation of the world. The Board of Laity provides district training sessions, communications and participates in meetings with local lay leaders, lay servant academies, and a variety of other activities.

Co-Conference Lay Leaders

- Connie Augsburger, Disciples UMC, Mt. Morris, IL
- Eugene Williams, South Shore UMC, Chicago, IL

District Lay Leaders

- Lake North District
 - Ellen Feliciano, Urban Village Church, Edgewater, Chicago, IL
 - Chester Lacey, Olivet UMC, Chicago, IL
- Lake South District
 - Lisa Butler, Morgan Park UMC, Chicago, IL
 - Dawn Shires, Tinley Park UMC, Tinley Park, IL
- Prairie Central District
 - Leonard Jones, Friendship UMC, Bolingbrook, IL
- Prairie North District
 - Kris Aves, Faith UMC, Genoa, IL
- Prairie South District
 - Karen Newby, First UMC, Princeton, IL
 - Betsy Smith, Rochelle UMC, Rochelle, IL

Members by Virtue of Office

- Peggy Hansen, NIC Director, Lay Servant Ministries - St. Andrew UMC, Carol Stream, IL
- Craig McGregor, NIC President, United Methodist Men - Good Shephard UMC, Oswego, IL
- Barb Farley, NIC President, United Women in Faith - St. Andrew UMC, Carol Stream, IL
- Marilyn Steenwyk, NIC Rep., United Women in Faith - United Church, Sandwich, IL
- Jim Loeppert, NIC Conference Scouting Coordinator - Our Saviour’s UMC, Schaumburg, IL
- Rev. Dr. Char Hoffmann, NIC Clergy Representative, Hebron UMC, Hebron, IL
- Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer, NIC Director of Connectional Ministries

More Information

- **Legislation and Budget to be voted on:** umcnic.org/ac2025docs
- **Constitutional Amendments to be voted on:** umcnic.org/2025-annual-conference/constitutional-amendments-information
- **What Lay Members Should Know About Annual Conference Article:** resourceumc.org/en/content/what-lay-members-should-know-about-annual-conference
- **Apportionments:** umcnic.org/apportionments
- **NIC Finance & Administration and Pension & Health Benefits:** umcnic.org/financeadministration
- **Wespath:** www.wespath.org
- **NIC Board of Laity:** umcnic.org/laity
- **Online resources for UMC leaders:** resourceumc.org



Be sure to watch the NIC eNews for information on the 2026 Laity Convocation. Sign up here to receive the eNews: umcnic.org/newslettersignup.



Scan the QR code for all things Annual Conference

- Booklet
- Worship service bulletins
- Legislation and documents
- Legislative section information
- Leadership bios
- Mission Challenge information
- Bishop’s Appeal information
- Meals
- and more!



 **Northern Illinois Conference**
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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 **Northern Illinois Conference**
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH


Grace is Sufficient

Laity Session
June 9, 2025
Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center

Laity Session

Monday, June 9, 2025, 10 a.m.

Opening Welcome

Hymn

Pues Si Vivmos (When We Are Living)

UMC #356

1. When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus, and when we are dying, it is in the Lord. Both in our living, and in our dying, we belong to God, we belong to God.

2. Through all our living, we our fruits must give. Good works of service, are for offering. When we are giving, or when receiving, we belong to God, we belong to God.
3. Mid times of sorrow, and in times of pain, when sensing beauty or in love's embrace, whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing, we belong to God, we belong to God.

4. Across this wide world, we shall always find, those who are crying, with no peace of mind. But when we help them, or when we feed them, we belong to God, we belong to God

Call to Praise, Prayer and Scripture

Leader: May God's grace be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: A long, long time ago, in a land far, far away, God's messengers brought wonderful words of hope to God's people. Siblings in Christ, we remember these words by speaking them to each other, renewing our hope in God's grace, and providence and promises for the future.

Left: For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Right: But those who hope in the Lord, will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

Left: We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. (Romans 5: 3 - 5)

Right: Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. (Romans 12:12)

Left: And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13: 13)

Right: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15: 13)

People: God's Spirit is poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3: 6 – 7) Amen.



Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: God's grace be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. In ancient days, you created us in your image, inviting us to live as your people upon this earth. When we fell short and acted out of fear and doubt, you held our hand and walked with us out of the garden and into every corner of the earth. When we struggled to love, you blessed us and challenged us to be a blessing to all the nations. You continue to extend the hand of your steadfast love, abiding with us always, even when we turn away. In the words of the prophets, you challenged us to live in love and righteousness. But as we shrunk from the challenge, you sent your Son, Christ Jesus, as love for a love-starved world. From the earliest days of creation, to the most recent of days, you offer to abide in us even as we abide in your love. And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn, saying:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: Holy are you and blessed is your constant love. Through Christ's patient love and unfailing grace, we are once again invited into your abiding love and rescued from the fears and sins that would separate us from your nurturing presence. With Christ's love in our lives, we are invited to live in your love and to reveal your love to the world, even as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Leader: With joy and gratitude, we break this bread of life and remember the many times when Jesus' love was shared in the breaking of the bread.

People: In remembrance, we will take and eat this bread.

Leader: With awe and wonder, we fill this cup and remember the many times when Jesus poured out his love as an everlasting spring of grace.

People: In remembrance, we will drink from this cup and partake of the love that overflows in our lives.

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on all of us gathered here, that we may be the branches of Christ, your true vine. Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup that we may be filled with your abiding love. Strengthen us in the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may be one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at the heavenly banquet. Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forevermore. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Receive the Bread and Cup

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Program: Grace is Sufficient

Introductions

Presentations

- Budget and Apportionment Formula - CCFA
- Overall Financial Picture
- Pension & Health Benefits
- Voting on Constitutional Amendments

Announcements

Small Group Discussion

- Please share your: name, local church, district and a sentence or two about how you are feeling about being here today.
- What does your church does well?
- Where have you seen grace in your congregation/community and other places?
- How can the Board of Laity be of assistance as you seek to bring grace and hope to your community?

Also feel free to share your thoughts on the presentations:
Budget and Apportionment Formula, Pension & Health Benefits, and Legislation.

Closing and Sending

Closing

Leader: But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:21 – 23)

People: For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from the Lord. (Psalm 62: 1 – 2)

Leader: Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for the One who promised is faithful. (Hebrews 10: 23)

People: But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me. (Micah 7:7)

Leader: In God's grace, go in peace to love and serve God and our neighbors.

Directions

Leave for Lunch and Plenary 1

The Board of Laity wants to hear from you.

You have been given a notecard on which to write joys/concerns/questions. Notecards may be placed in the baskets as you leave or at the UMM, UWFaith, and Lay Servant ministries booths in the display areas. They will be picked up, prayed over, and shared with leadership. If you leave your contact information, we will try to get back to you with answers to questions that haven't been answered during the AC Sessions.



Please complete the evaluation.