



# Grace is Sufficient

**June 9 through 11, 2025**  
**Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center**

**186th Session**

**Bishop Dan Schwerin, Presiding**

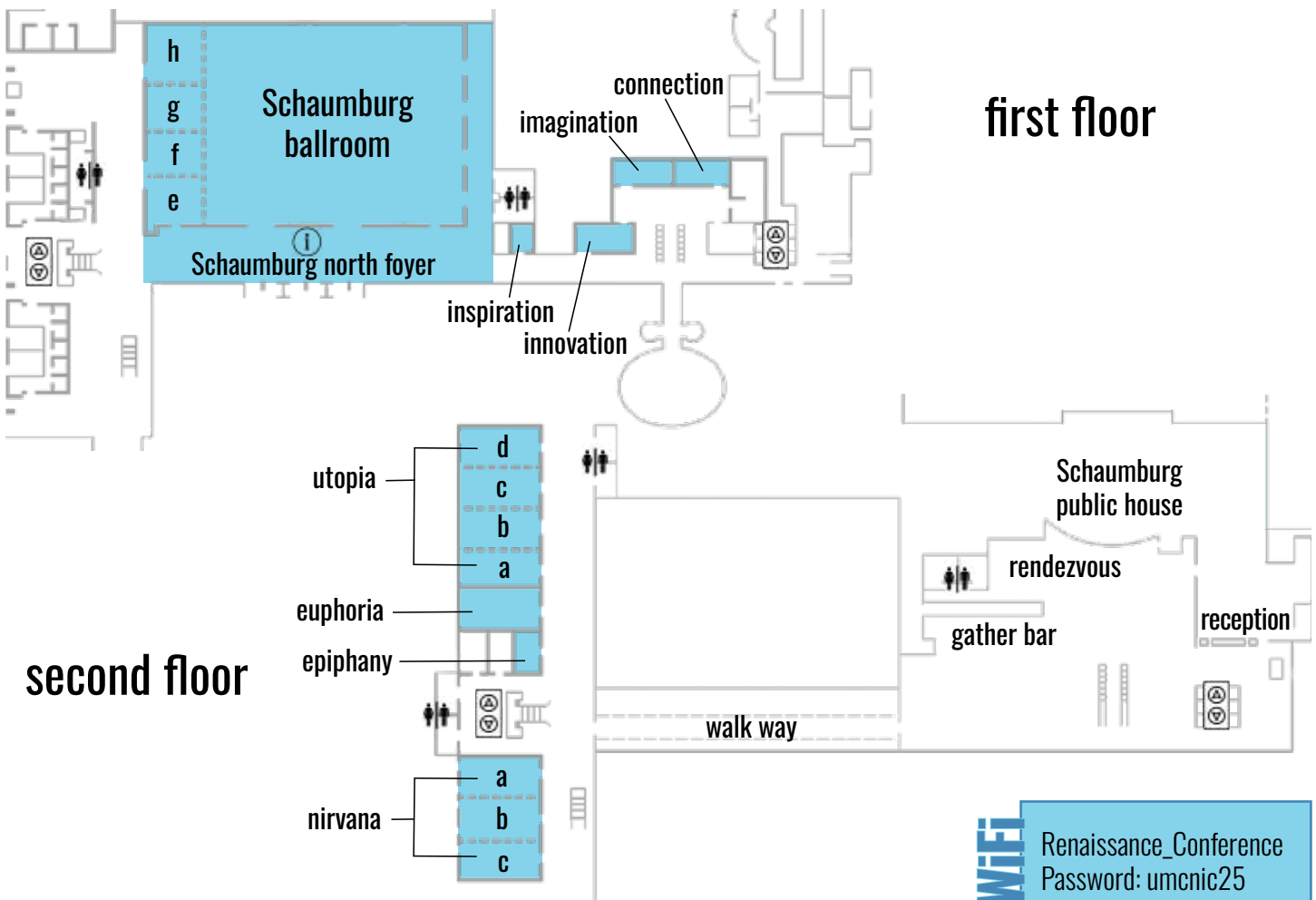


**Northern Illinois Conference**  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Map



## A Message from the Bishop

Dear Children of Grace:

Let me begin with gratitude. Thank you for your faithfulness in your home congregations and for your commitment to holy conferencing as we engage in our 186th annual conference session and our theme, “Grace Is Sufficient.”

Grace is sufficient to heal and transform. Grace is sufficient to forgive and to serve.

Undergirding our theme are the words from 2 Cor. 12:9: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

I invite you into this time of liminal space, a threshold passing over and through, leaving what was—the known of Christendom—for the unknown of what is emerging. We are in a time that requires grace to lead, grace to experiment with vocation and ministry, and grace to be an advocate for God’s reign of love and justice.

As we gather, I invite you to reflect on these questions:

- How might grace be calling you deeper in your walk with Christ?
- How might grace call you to take another step by faith?
- How might focus on grace help your church become more?
- How might grace help you bear witness to the vision of Jesus?
- How might grace strengthen and heal the Northern Illinois Conference?

I look forward to being with you, and discovering once again, how grace is always amazing.

May the grace of Christ be in our steps,



Dan Schwerin, Bishop  
Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Area  
The United Methodist Church



# Agenda

## Monday, June 9

9:00 a.m.	<b>Check-in and Credentials Available</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer
10:00 a.m.	<b>Mission Truck Opens</b> .....	Next to Conference Center Parking Lot
	<b>Laity Session</b> .....	Utopia Ballroom
11:00 a.m.	<b>Late Legislation Deadline</b> (deliver to Chair of Daily Proceedings with 75 Copies)	
	Celebration of Ministry Service Rehearsal .....	Schaumburg Ballroom
Noon	<b>Display Tables Open</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer
1:30 p.m.	<b>Opening and Plenary 1</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom
	- BBC (Monitoring) Introduction	- Daily Procedures and Organizing Motions
	- Historic Reports	- Ordination Class Introduction/Historic Questions
		- Presentations
3:30 p.m.	<b>Break</b>	
4:00 p.m.	<b>Legislative Sections</b> .....	Schaumburg E,F, G & H, Utopia A, B, & C
	- Section 1: Schaumburg E	- Section 2: Schaumburg F
	- Section 4: Schaumburg H	- Section 5: Utopia A
		- Section 6: Utopia B
		- Section 7: Utopia C
5:00 p.m.	<b>Dinner Break</b>	
	Mass Choir Rehearsal for Celebration of Ministry Service .....	Schaumburg Ballroom
6:00 p.m.	<b>Mission Truck Closes</b> .....	Next to Conference Center Parking Lot
6:30 p.m.	<b>Clergy Robing and Line Up for Service</b> .....	Euphoria
7:00 p.m.	<b>Celebration of Ministry</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom
7:30 p.m.	<b>Display Tables Close</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer
8:30 p.m.	<b>Celebration of Ministry Reception</b> .....	Schaumburg E-H

## Tuesday, June 10

7:00 a.m.	Health Screening .....	Epiphany
8:00 a.m.	<b>Display Tables Open</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer
	<b>Mission Truck Opens</b> .....	Next to Conference Center Parking Lot
	<b>Directory Photography</b> (until 11:00 a.m.) .....	Imagination
8:30 a.m.	<b>Plenary 2</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom
	- Bible Study	- Consent Calendar Introduction
	- Episcopal Address	- Presentations
10:00 a.m.	<b>Break</b>	
10:15 a.m.	<b>Plenary 3</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom
	- Awards	- Bishop's Appeal Offering
	- Presentations	- Vote on Consent Calendar
10:30 a.m.	<b>Deadline for petitions to be removed from Consent Calendar</b>	
Noon	<b>Lunch-and-Learn</b> .....	Nirvana A, B, & C, Utopia A, B C & D
	- Board of Global Ministries in partnership with United Women in Faith .....	Nirvana B-C
	- Chicago Black Methodists for Church Renewal.....	Utopia A
	- Commission on Religion & Race .....	Utopia C
	- Creating New Faith Communities .....	Utopia D
	- Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary .....	Nirvana A
	- Wespath/Compass Retirement Account Information.....	Utopia B
1:00 p.m.	<b>Mission Truck Leaves</b> .....	Next to Conference Center Parking Lot
1:45 p.m.	<b>Plenary 4</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom
	- Annual Conference Shepherding Team Table Talk	- Constitutional Amendment Voting
4:10 p.m.	<b>Break</b>	
	- Family Gathering for Memorial Service .....	Schaumburg E
4:30 p.m.	<b>Memorial Service</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom
5:30 p.m.	<b>Dinner Break and Adjournment</b>	
	<b>Display Tables Close</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer

# Agenda

## Wednesday, June 11

7:30 a.m.	Multicultural/Cross-Cultural/Cross-Racial Clergy Breakfast .....	Utopia A-B
8:00 a.m.	<b>Display Tables Open</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer
	Retirement Service Rehearsal .....	Schaumburg Ballroom
8:30 a.m.	<b>Plenary 5</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom
	- Bible Study                      - Cabinet Report                      - Laity Address                      - Presentations	
10:30 a.m.	<b>Break</b>	
10:45 a.m.	<b>Retirement Service</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom
Noon	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
	- Retirement Lunch (by invitation) .....	Utopia A
	- Extension Ministries Lunch (by invitation) .....	Utopia B
	- Midwest Methodist Foundation Lunch (by invitation) .....	Utopia C
1:00 p.m.	<b>Display Tables Close</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer
1:45 p.m.	<b>Plenary 6</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom
	- Legislation                      - Midwest Mission Foundation Annual Meeting	
	- Missions Collection Report                      - Nominations                      - Presentations	
2:00 p.m.	<b>Directory Photography</b> (until 4:00 p.m.) .....	Imagination
3:30 p.m.	<b>Break</b>	
3:45 p.m.	<b>Plenary 7</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom
	- BBC (Monitoring) Report                      - Courtesies and Privilege	
	- Legislation                      - Presentations	
5:00 p.m.	<b>Adjournment</b>	

## Photo Directory

Stop by the photo booth to get your free professional headshot for inclusion in the new photo directory. All members are welcome, clergy and lay.

**Tues., June 10 from 8 to 11 a.m.**

**Wed., June 11 from 2 to 4 p.m.**

**Imagination Room**



Directories can be purchased or downloaded in early fall.

# WiFi

Renaissance\_Conference  
Password: umcnic25

## Need help?

- First Aid
- Questions
- Lost & Found
- More

**Visit the Information Desk  
in the Schaumburg Foyer**

## Voting Rights for Clergy and Lay Members on NIC Legislation and Budget

### Clergy WHO ARE eligible to vote:

- Clergy members in full connection
- Provisional clergy members
- Associate clergy members
- Full-time and part-time local pastors

### Clergy WHO ARE NOT eligible to vote:

- Clergy from other conferences or denominations
- Clergy on Honorable Location or Administrative Leave
- Clergy on Involuntary Leave of Absence

### Clergy WHO HAVE VOICE BUT NO VOTE:

- Affiliate Members
- Ordained and provisional clergy from other annual conferences
- Ordained clergy from other Methodist denominations

### Voting Rights for Lay Members (§ 602.6)

Laity ARE eligible to vote for:

All business of the 2025 annual conference.

**View voting eligibility for the  
Constitutional Amendments on page 39.**

Making a motion from the floor or amending a motion from the floor requires submission of a written copy. Please complete the form with the required signatures before making the motion. Both the ushers' and secretaries' tables have copies of the required triplicate forms. Both the motion maker and the person seconding need to sign the form.

**Northern Illinois Conference GRACE IS SUFFICIENT \* 5**

## Annual Conference Leadership

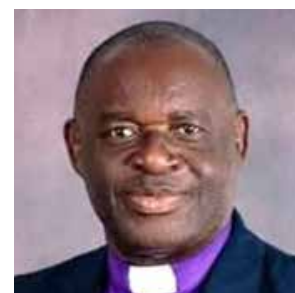
**Bishop Dan Schwerin** is serving as the bishop of the Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area. Bishop Schwerin was elected to the episcopacy at the North Central Jurisdiction gathering in November 2022. Bishop Schwerin is husband to his wife, Julie, and a father, grandfather, and poet. He is a graduate of Perkins School of Theology and did post-graduate Bowen family systems theory work there. He has enjoyed many contexts for pastoral ministry, including urban and rural churches, a new-church plant, and superintendent of two districts. He also pastored a multi-staff downtown church, which became a Reconciling Congregation and launched a beloved community of nonprofits that benefitted children dealing with poverty, organized people who wanted to battle generational poverty, and offered music lessons for children. After the General Conference of 2019, Bishop Schwerin was asked by Bishop Hee-Soo Jung to lead a collaborative effort with conference partners to increase racial justice and radical inclusion. He then served as Assistant to the Bishop in the Wisconsin Conference. He has also served on the General Conference Task Force on Funding Patterns in the UMC.



**Ordination Service Preacher, Bishop Karen P. Oliveto**, is a bishop, pilgrim, pastor, activist, and scholar. She was consecrated as a bishop of The United Methodist Church on July 16, 2016, and retired on August 31, 2024. She holds a B.A. in Psychology from Drew University, a Master of Divinity from Pacific School of Religion, a Master in Philosophy and a PhD in the Sociology of Religion, both from Drew. Bishop Oliveto has served in rural and urban settings in parish and campus ministries in New York and California. She has also served as the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at Pacific School of Religion and has been an adjunct professor of United Methodist studies at the school from 2004 to 2016. She has also been an adjunct professor at Drew University, Brite Divinity School, Illif School of Theology, and Yale Divinity

School. She was elected to the episcopacy after serving as the first woman pastor of the 12,000-member Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco. She served Glide from 2008 until her election as bishop. Bishop Oliveto has the distinction of being the first openly LGBTQIA+ bishop in The United Methodist Church. She and her wife, Robin Ridenour, a nurse anesthetist and United Methodist deaconess, met in junior high church camp and have been together for 25 years. They were married in 2014.

**Special Guest, Bishop James Boye-Caulker**, is serving as the bishop of the Sierra Leone Episcopal Area. He was elected in December 2024 during the West Africa Central Conference gathering held in Ghana. He holds a Higher Certificate in Pastoral Studies from Sierra Leone Theological College, and a Bachelor's degree in Theology at the Gbarnga School of Theology in Liberia. He also holds a Diploma in Theology from Cliff College in England and a Master of Philosophy degree in Theology from the University of Sierra Leone. He is currently a PhD candidate at the Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. Prior to his election, Bishop Boye-Caulker served in many churches and was the full-time District Superintendent of the Western District, a position he occupied since 2016. He served as the Secretary of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and also Chairman for the Lowell & Ruth Gess Eye Hospital Local Management Committee, Kissy, Freetown. Bishop Boye-Caulker is married to Janet Juma Ruth Boye-Caulker and they have three children: James, Jimmy and Julia.



**Ecumenical Guest, Rev. Dr. Craig Howard**, began serving as Executive Presbyterian of Chicago at the end of 2021. Before coming to Chicago, he served as Presbytery Leader of Giddings-Lovejoy in St. Louis, Ministry Relations Officer with the Presbyterian Foundation, and as Presbytery Executive for the Presbytery of Milwaukee. Craig is a native of Chicago's south suburbs. He completed his undergraduate work at DePaul University, and earned MDiv and DMin degrees from McCormick Theological Seminary. Craig's first career was in business as an insurance executive. After being ordained to specialized ministry, Craig served as Director of Recruitment and Admissions at McCormick Seminary and later as Chief Development Officer. Craig has served several racial ethnic churches including Latinx, African American, Korean, and Euro American — and also a new church development in the Pentecostal Church. Craig's spouse is the Rev. Marilyn Gamm, who is also a pastor in St. Louis. They have two adult daughters who both live in Chicago.

## Annual Conference Leadership (continued)



**Bible Study Leader, Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount**, is a Murray H. Leiffer Associate Professor of Formation, Leadership, and Culture and director of the Center for the Church and the Black Experience, both at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. He earned a bachelor's degree from Tuskegee University, a master of divinity degree from Candler School of Theology, and a PhD from Northwestern University in cooperation with Garrett-Evangelical.

Dr. Blount believes the purpose of Christian education is to be emancipatory, to set people free to be children of God and co-creators with God. Many personal, social, spiritual, and institutional hindrances prevent the people of God from becoming all that God has created them to be. His research interests are in the areas of African American identity formation, adolescent and young adult identity formation, Christian education theory, Christian education and the black church, and African/African American spirituality. He is currently researching the role of the black church in the identity formation of African American youth.

**Chair of Annual Conference Worship, Rev. Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton**, is the lead pastor at Community United Methodist Church in Naperville. He brings over 25 years of experience in leading both traditional and contemporary worship, children's and youth ministries, adult discipleship, and pastoral ministry. Rev. Tipantasig-Wolverton earned a master of divinity degree from the Methodist Theological School of Ohio and an associate's degree in biblical studies and bachelor of ministries from White Horse School of Ministries in West Lafayette, Ind. He also holds a bachelor of arts in music education from St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind. He is a member of the Queer Clergy Caucus, Reconciling Clergy, and actively advocates for children in the foster care system. As a follower of Jesus, he has made it part of his mission to show love and compassion to these children and the foster families.



**Worship Leader, Drew Jones Marquez**, serves as the Director of Contemporary Worship at Community United Methodist Church in Naperville. A lifelong musician and worship leader, Drew's journey began on the South Side of Chicago, where he nurtured his passion for music and ministry. Drew has an extensive background in both education and ministry. A former lead vocalist in the United States Air Force's regional band, he has a rich history in music and performance, having composed over fifty original songs. Drew brings a unique blend of musical expertise, leadership, and a deep commitment to fostering a grace-filled, welcoming environment for all. He is passionate about guiding the young and seasoned through authentic worship and spiritual growth, empowering all to encounter God in meaningful ways.



**Annual Conference Committee Chair, Deborah Dangerfield**, is an active member and current treasurer of Maple Park UMC in Chicago. In

the NIC, she serves or has served on the Nominations Committee, Board of Pensions, ACST, BMCR, RCMA, and the Inter-Ethnic Strategic Development Group. She has also served as a delegate to the North Central Jurisdiction. Deborah has a master's degree in both business and health care.



**Annual Conference Committee Vice Chair/Daily Proceedings Chair, Rev. James Fu**, is the senior pastor at Elmhurst:

Christ UMC and the associate pastor at Lombard: First UMC. Jim is presently the Treasurer and Financial Secretary for the Fellowship of Asian Americans. He has his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Computer Science from the University of Pennsylvania and Stanford University and his M.Div from Asbury Theological Seminary.



**Conference Secretary, Randy Hayes**, is a former local pastor, active member at Faith

United Methodist in Polo, and former Conference Co-Chair of the Bishop's Initiative on Children & Poverty. Randy spent his professional career in Behavioral Health as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and Certified Addiction and Drug Counselor.



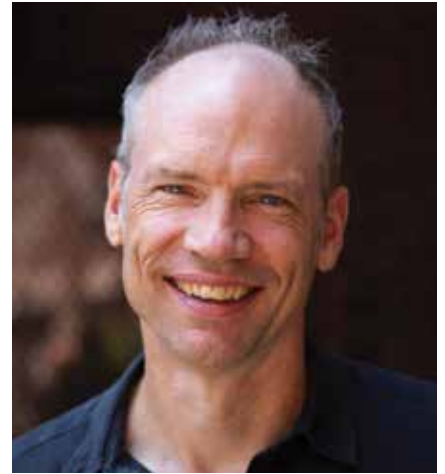
## The Annual Conference Cabinet



**Bishop Dan Schwerin**



**Rev. Danita R. Anderson**  
Assistant to the Bishop



**Rev. Christian Coon,**  
Director of Congregational Development



**Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer**  
Director of Connectional Ministries



**Rev. Victor Melad Jr.**  
Lake North  
District Superintendent



**Dr. Audrea Nanabray**  
Lake South  
District Superintendent



**Rev. Wendy Hardin Herman**  
Prairie Central  
District Superintendent



**Rev. Hwa-Young Chong**  
Prairie North  
District Superintendent



**Rev. Brian Gilbert**  
Prairie South  
District Superintendent



# BISHOP'S APPEAL 2025

Giving Abundantly. Generosity Overflowing

## Innovative Outreach

**This year's appeal will provide grants to churches that have devised innovative ways of doing outreach.**

In their book *A Way Out of No Way: An Approach to Christian Innovation*, Stephen Lewis and Kimberly Daniel explore how Christians can innovate using practices rooted in our faith. They write, "A playful 'what if?' approach to imagining and refining ideas is necessary to develop, support, and amplify solutions that matter to everyday people given that the stakes are high." In these times, "what if?" kinds of questions are more important than ever and our congregations and communities must begin to imagine, innovate, and foster creative ways of nurture, outreach, and witness. To encourage this kind of innovation and experimentation, this year's appeal will encourage churches to lead worshipers out of their buildings and find new ways to engage with their communities.

**Scan QR code to donate online**



or give during the Bishop's Appeal Offering during Plenary 3 in the morning on Tues., June 10.

# Fill the Truck

## Mission Challenge Collection Drive

**If you prefer to make a financial contribution you can:**

- Give to Midwest Mission #50000150 through the online apportionment process.
- Send a check written to the Northern Illinois Conference with Midwest Mission #50000150 in the memo section to the conference treasurer's office.

**If you prefer to make a bulk purchase, you can take advantage of competitive prices.**  
Find more information at [midwestmission.org/collect-donate](http://midwestmission.org/collect-donate)

## Collecting Outside in the Parking Lot

**Mon., June 9, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

**Tues., June 10, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**If you missed out on the challenge, don't worry. You also can always send donations to the center directly or drop off at the NIC permanent sites:**

- Lake North:  
Maywood: Neighborhood UMC  
or Glenview UMC
- Lake South: New Lenox UMC
- Prairie Central:  
Fox River Grove: Community
- Prairie North: Lanark UMC

**Find the most needed items and learn more at [umcnic.org/2025MissionChallenge](http://umcnic.org/2025MissionChallenge)**

# Celebration of Ministry

## Including A Service of Commissioning and Ordination

**Monday, June 9, 2025, 7:00 p.m.**

You are welcome to stand at the times in the service when individuals are recognized, commissioned and ordained. As we stand where we are in silent, prayerful support, we embody the Church in affirming the work of the Holy Spirit in these persons.

In keeping with the significance of the occasion, please refrain from the use of photography or videography, especially at the times of commissioning and ordination.

Please do not approach the worship platform with phones, cameras or video recorders. Photos will be available online at the UMCNIC Flickr page, [flickr.com/photos/umcnicac](https://www.flickr.com/photos/umcnicac) to download for free.

Following the service, all are invited to greet the honorees in Schaumburg Rooms E-H.

### Gathering Music

*Your Grace is Enough  
I Thank God  
Good Grace*

NIC Praise Team

### \* Processional Hymn

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

UMH #62

### \* Call to Worship

Eugene Williams

Leader: God, in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the water and you created everything.  
People: **By your Spirit you create us anew, and we praise you.**  
Leader: Loving Christ, when you rose from the dead you breathed your Spirit into us.  
People: **By your Spirit you raise us up from death, and we thank you.**  
Leader: Holy Spirit, you breathe your love into us and give us your beauty and your courage.  
People: **In your Spirit you make us one body, the Body of Christ, the Body of Love.**  
All: **In your Spirit we bear your love to the world.**  
**We love you; we worship you; we serve you. Alleluia!**

### Centering Prayer

Bishop Dan Schwerin

Bishop: The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.  
People: **And also with you.**  
Bishop: We come together to praise God, to hear Holy Word, and to seek for ourselves and others the power, presence and direction of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray.  
People: **Eternal God, by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit you gave your apostles many excellent gifts. Give your grace to all servants of your church, that we many with diligence and faithfulness fulfill our various ministries.**  
**Grant that we your people may follow where you lead, perfect our ministries, and live in joyful obedience to your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**



## Celebration of Ministry (continued)

### Recognition of Common Ministry & Reaffirmation of Baptism

Bishop Dan Schwerin, Sherry Steele

Bishop: Ministry is the work of God, done by the people of God.  
Through baptism all Christians are made part of the priesthood of all believers,  
the church, Christ's body, made visible in the world.  
We all share in Christ's ministry of love and service for the redemption of the human family and the whole of creation.  
Therefore, in celebration of our common ministry, I call upon all God's people gathered here:  
  
Remember you are baptized, and be thankful.

All: We reaffirm our baptism and our common call to ministry. Thanks be to God!

### Recognitions and Introduction of Guests

Danita R. Anderson  
Bishop James Boye-Culker, Sierra Leone Annual Conference  
Bishop Karen Oliveto, retired  
Rev. Dr. Craig M. Howard, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Chicago

### Reading of the Hebrew Scripture

*2 Kings 10: 15-16 (CEB)*

Paul Lee (Korean)  
Elsa Noemi Mesa (Spanish)  
Victor Melad, Jr. (Tagalog)

Jehu departed from there and encountered Rechab's son Jehonadab. Jehu greeted him, and asked,  
"Are you as committed to me as I am to you?"  
Jehonadab responded, "Yes, I am."  
"If so," said Jehu, "then give me your hand." So Jehonadab put out his hand, and Jehu pulled him up into the chariot.  
Jehu said, "Come with me and see my zeal for the Lord." So Jehu had Jehonadab ride with him in his chariot.

Leader: The Word of God for All  
People: Thanks be to God

## Recognition of Set-Apart Ministries

### Recognition of Consecrated Deaconess

Fabiola Grandon-Mayer

Rhonda Smith-Sumrall

Bishop: In your recent consecration, you publicly declared your commitment:

- To engage in this lifelong work of love, justice and service and to assume its responsibilities, led by the Spirit of God.
- To be diligent in prayer, in the reading of the Holy Scriptures, in mutual relationship with the communities you serve and in all other means of grace available to you.
- To earnestly seek to carry forward your ministry call in sincerity and in love under the direction of the Church.
- To accept responsibility for participation in the mutually supportive deaconess and home missionary covenant community and for a lifetime of loving and supporting your sisters and brothers as part of the world diaconate.

Do you now affirm these commitments publicly in the presence of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference?

Deaconess: I do so publicly affirm these declarations with God being my helper.  
Bishop: Today, we send you forth with our blessings and support.

## Celebration of Ministry (continued)

Bishop: Rhonda Smith-Sumrall, I commission you to the appointed ministry of  
St. Franciscan Health Care Hospital System on behalf of The United Methodist Church.

Bishop to congregation:

Let us pray: Most Gracious God, source of all mercies, anoint your servant with your Holy Spirit,  
enrich them with your grace, and strengthen them for the tasks which lie ahead.

May their labors glorify your holy name, as they continue their daily work in ministries of  
love, justice and service on behalf of The United Methodist Church. Through your Son Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

To the church gathered here and around the world, I present our deaconess, commissioned to a lifetime of  
Christ-like service under the authority of the Church.

People: Thanks be to God!

### Recognition of Newly Licensed Local Pastors

Brenda Morris

Rene Bello  
Kurt Beystehner  
Saturnino Espinoza  
David Profitt  
Sanha Kang  
Robert Wandell

Leader: Eternal God, you call each and every one of us to love you and love our neighbors.

People: **Today we celebrate those who have answered your call as local pastors in past year.**

Leader: Fill them with the presence, power, and hope your Spirit brings.

People: **Empower them to spread your Word connecting all into the body of Christ.**

Leader: Sanctify their lives that they may reveal your love.

People: **Use them as your means of grace as they go into the world, in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give themselves for others. Amen!!**

Bishop: I invite you to extend your hands in blessing toward these persons.

Let us pray:

Bless these local pastors who have committed their lives— their gifts and skills, time and resources to your service.  
They are the lifeblood of our mission, bringing Christ to the world.

May they experience the joy of service as they invite and lead others in your church. Amen.

### Gospel Proclamation

*Halle, Halle*

NIC Praise Team

#### \*The Proclamation of the Gospel

*Luke 8:40-56, CEB*

Grant Showalter-Swanson

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ recorded according to Luke 8:40-56

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

When Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they had been waiting for him. A man named Jairus, who was a synagogue leader,  
came and fell at Jesus' feet. He pleaded with Jesus to come to his house because his only daughter, a twelve-year-old, was dying.

As Jesus moved forward, he faced smothering crowds. A woman was there who had been bleeding for twelve years. She had  
spent her entire livelihood on doctors, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the hem of his clothes, and  
at once her bleeding stopped.

"Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

When everyone denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds are surrounding you and pressing in on you!"

## Celebration of Ministry (continued)

But Jesus said, "Someone touched me. I know that power has gone out from me."

When the woman saw that she couldn't escape notice, she came trembling and fell before Jesus. In front of everyone, she explained why she had touched him and how she had been immediately healed.

"Daughter, your faith has healed you," Jesus said. "Go in peace."

While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the synagogue leader's house, saying to Jairus, "Your daughter has died. Don't bother the teacher any longer."

When Jesus heard this, he responded, "Don't be afraid; just keep trusting, and she will be healed."

When he came to the house, he didn't allow anyone to enter with him except Peter, John, and James, and the child's father and mother. They were all crying and mourning for her, but Jesus said, "Don't cry. She isn't dead. She's only sleeping."

They laughed at him because they knew she was dead.

Taking her hand, Jesus called out, "Child, get up." Her life returned and she got up at once. He directed them to give her something to eat. Her parents were beside themselves with joy, but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

Leader: The gospel of our Lord!

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reprise	<i>Halle, Halle</i>	NIC Praise Team
Song	<i>Precious Lord</i>	NIC Praise Team
Sermon	<i>Give Me Your Hand</i>	Bishop Karen Oliveto
Song	<i>Lean on Me</i>	NIC Praise Team
*Response to the Word	<i>The Immigrants' Creed</i>	Luis F. Reyes-Rosario

I believe in Almighty God, who guided the people in exile and in exodus,  
the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon, the God of foreigners and immigrants.

I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean, who was born away from his people and his home,  
who fled his country with his parents when his life was in danger,  
and returning to his own country suffered the oppression of the tyrant Pontius Pilate, the servant of a foreign power,  
who then was persecuted, beaten, and finally tortured, accused and condemned to death unjustly.  
But on the third day, this scorned Jesus rose from the dead, not as a foreigner but to offer us citizenship in heaven.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us,  
who speaks all languages, lives in all countries, and reunites all races.

I believe that the church is the secure home for the foreigner and for all believers who constitute it,  
who speak the same language and have the same purpose.

I believe that the communion of the saints begins when we accept the diversity of the saints.

I believe in the forgiveness of sin, which makes us all equal, and in reconciliation,  
which identifies us more than does race, language, or nationality.

I believe that in the resurrection God will unite us as one people in which all are distinct, and all are alike at the same time.

Beyond this work, I believe in life eternal in which no one will be an immigrant,  
but all will be citizens in God's kingdom which will never end. Amen.

## Celebration of Ministry (continued)

### Presentation of Persons to Be Commissioned, Recognized and Ordained

#### To be commissioned for the work of a deacon:

Alexander Dade Dungan

#### To be commissioned for the work of an elder:

Dawn Marie Gardner

Michael Mitchell, Sr.

D. Josiah Montgomery

Hyesang Jay Shin

Jacob R. Tipantasig-Wolverton

#### To be ordained as a elder:

Kicheon Ahn

Paul Lee, sponsor

Jaeon Cho

Saeah Yoon, sponsor

Chan Ik Choi

Viang Hong, sponsor

Clayton Scott Edwards

Caitlin Edwards, sponsor

G. Morris K. Jarkloh, Jr.

Myron McCoy, sponsor

Matthew James Smith

Lisa Schickert Smith, sponsor

Bishop addresses the Laity:

Who presents these candidates to be ordained, commissioned, or recognized?

**All Laity: We have recommended them in our local congregations.  
We present them with our prayers and support.**

Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry address all the Elders:

We have examined these candidates according to the standards of our Discipline  
and this annual conference of The United Methodist Church.

#### All Elders in Full Connection:

**We present Kicheon Ahn, Jaeon Cho, Chan Ik Choi, Clayton Scott Edwards, G. Morris K. Jarkloh, Jr.,  
and Matthew James Smith for ordination as elders.**

**We present them with our prayers and support.**

Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry:

We present Dawn Marie Gardner, Michael Mitchell, Sr., D. Josiah Montgomery, Hyesang Jay Shin, and  
Jacob R. Tipantasig-Wolverton for commissioning as provisional members preparing for ordained ministry as elders  
and Alexander Dade Dungan preparing for ordained ministry as deacon.

We present them with our prayers and support.

## Celebration of Ministry (continued)

**Bishop:** These persons are by God's grace to be commissioned or ordained to ministry in Christ's holy church. Those authorized by the Church to inquire about them have discerned that they are persons of sound learning and of Christian character, and possess the necessary signs of God's grace, and have demonstrated a profound commitment to serve Jesus Christ. Therefore, we believe them to be duly called to serve God.

We ask you, people of God, to declare your assent to the commissioning, and ordination of these persons. Do you trust that they are worthy, by God's grace, to be commissioned, recognized or ordained?

**People:** **Yes! Worthy! Thanks be to God!**  
**Bishop:** Will you uphold them in their ministry?  
**People:** **With God's help, we will!**

*Let there be applause, shouts and rejoicing!*

### The General Examination

After the examination, the candidates for ordination are seated and commissioning sponsors will robe those to be commissioned.

### The Examination of Persons Being Commissioned and Ordained

**Song of Worship**

*Oceans*

NIC Praise Team

### The Prayer of Commissioning with the Laying on of Hands

Bishop Dan Schwerin

**Bishop:** By affirming the covenant of baptism, all members of Christ's holy church pledge to serve as Christ's representatives in the world.

Christ gave all of us this command: "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest."  
We have asked, and the Lord has answered. These sisters and brothers know our Savior's concern for God's people, see the plentiful harvest, and are ready to respond generously to the Lord in the words of the prophet:  
"Here I am; send me."...

... Deepen their sense of purpose as they exercise commissioned ministry.  
Empower them, with all of your people, to heal the sick,  
love the outcast, resist evil, preach the Word,  
and give themselves freely for your name's sake.

**The bishop, standing behind and laying both hands upon the shoulders of each candidate, prays:**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon \_\_\_\_\_.  
Send them now to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ,  
to announce the reign of God, and to equip the church for ministry,  
in the name of the Triune God. Amen.

**People:** Let all the people of God say:  
**Amen.**



# Celebration of Ministry (continued)

## The Ministry of the Deacon (Renewal)

Bishop: **A deacon**

is called to share in Christ's ministry of servanthood,  
to relate the life of the community to its service in the world,  
to lead others into Christian discipleship,  
to nurture disciples for witness and service,  
to lead in worship,  
to teach and proclaim God's Word,  
to assist elders and appointed local pastors at Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, and  
where contextually appropriate, to preside at the celebration of the sacraments.  
to interpret to the church the world's hurts and hopes,  
to serve all people, particularly the poor, the sick, and the oppressed,  
and to lead Christ's people in ministries of compassion and justice, liberation and reconciliation,  
even in the face of hardship and personal sacrifice.  
This is the rule of life and work of a deacon.

Will you, for the sake of the church's life and mission,  
reaffirm your covenant to continue your participation in the order of deacons?  
Will you continue giving yourself to God through the order of deacons  
in order to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship, and service?

Response: I will, with the help of God, and with the help of my siblings in the order of deacons.

## The Ministry Of Elders

Bishop: **An elder**

is called to share in the ministry of Christ and of the whole church:  
to preach and teach the Word of God  
and faithfully administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion;  
to lead the people of God in worship and prayer;  
to lead persons to faith in Jesus Christ;  
to exercise pastoral supervision, order the life of the congregation and the connection,  
counsel the troubled, and declare the forgiveness of sin;  
to lead the people of God in obedience to Christ's mission in the world;  
to seek justice, peace, and freedom for all people;  
and to take a responsible place in the government of the Church and in service in and to the community.  
This is the rule of life and work of an elder.

Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of an elder?

Response: I do so believe.



# Celebration of Ministry (continued)

## Laying on of Hands

The candidate for ordination as an elder is invited to kneel before the bishop as directed.

Family members and friends are invited to stand where they are for silent prayer during the laying on of hands for the ordinand.

The bishop lays both hands on the head of the ordinand, praying:

Almighty God, pour upon \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit,  
for the office and work of an elder in Christ's holy church.

The candidate places hands on a Bible as the bishop lays hands on the hands of the ordinand and says:

\_\_\_\_\_ take authority as an elder to preach the Word of God,  
to administer the Holy Sacraments and to order the life of the Church;  
in the name of our Triune God.

All: Amen.

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## Invitation to Offering

The offerings given today will go towards the United Methodist Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) to support the ongoing work of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, through whose work candidates for ministry are recruited, empowered, and sent to serve on behalf of our conference locally and around the world.

## Prayer for the Offering

Sejoon Jang, Board of Ordained Ministry Treasurer

## The Word in Music

*Praise His Holy Name*

NIC Mass Choir

## Celebration of Eucharist

Bishop Dan Schwerin  
Sherry Steele

## Invitation to the Table

## Confession and Peace

People: Merciful God,  
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have failed to be an obedient church.  
We have not done your will, we have broken your law,  
we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors,  
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Silently confess your sins to God.*

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven! Glory be to God! Amen.

## \*The Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

*Signs of reconciliation and love may be exchanged*

## Celebration of Ministry (continued)

### The Great Thanksgiving

Bishop: God is with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

Bishop: Lift up your heart.

**People:** **We lift them up to God.**

Bishop: Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

**People:** **It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.**

Bishop: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you...

... We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**People:** **Holy, holy, holy One, 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 God.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Bishop: Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...

... And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**People:** **Dying, Christ destroyed our death.**

**Rising, Christ restores our life.**

**Christ will come again in glory.**



### The Lord's Prayer

(Please pray in the language or form of your preference.)

### Breaking the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

All communion elements are vegan and gluten free.

They will be distributed to the congregation by the newly ordained and commissioned and others at the direction of the ushers.

### Communion Hymns

*For Everyone Born  
One Bread, One Body  
Let Us Break Bread Together*

See words on the screen

### Prayer After Receiving

Bishop: Let us pray.

**People:** **We thank you, gracious God, for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us,**

**And united us in the communion of your Holy Spirit.**

**We bless you for raising up among us faithful servants. Clothe them and us with your righteousness**

**And grant that we, with them, may glorify you by giving ourselves to others,**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Celebration of Ministry (continued)

### \*Dismissal with Blessing

Bishop Dan Schwerin, Sherry Steele

Bishop: The grace of Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all always.

Deacon: Go in peace to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

People: We are sent in Christ's name. Thanks be to God!

### \* Hymn of Celebration (Recessional)

*All the People Said Amen*

NIC Praise Team

### Postlude

*Rattle!*

NIC Praise Team

### Thank you to Our Participants

Bishop Dan Schwerin, Bishop James Boye-Culker, Bishop Karen Oliveto, Rev. Dr. Craig M. Howard, members of the NIC Mass Choir, members of the NIC Praise Team, Danita R. Anderson, John Bell, Norval I. Brown, Fabiola Grandon-Mayer, Abby Holcombe, Sejoon Jang, Drew Jones Marquez (Worship Leader), Paul Lee, Kimberly Lewis Davis, Alka Lyall, Mary Gay McKinny, Victor Melad, Jr., Elsa Noemi Mesa, Brenda Morris, Lucas Pepper, Eric Reniva, Luis F. Reyes-Rosario (coordinator), Grant Showalter-Swanson, Sherry Steele, Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton (Chair of Annual Conference Worship), Eugene Williams

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# **Celebration of Ministry (continued)**

## **Order of Procession**

**Marshals: John Bell & Alka Lyall**

**Cross: Luke Pepper**

**Bible: Brenda Morris**

**Processional Candles: Abby Holcombe & Eric Reniva**

**Chalice: Paul Lee**

**Bowl, Pitcher & Towel: Sherry Steele & Grant Showalter-Swanson**

**2025 Candidates for Commissioning and Ordination, and Sponsors**

**2025 Class of Local Pastors**

**Rhonda Smith-Sumrall, Deaconess**

**The Licensed, Commissioned, Consecrated, and Ordained Ministers of the Northern Illinois Conference**

**The Leadership Team of the Board of Ordained Ministry**

**Northern Illinois Conference Cabinet**

**Eugene Williams, Co-Lay Leader**

**Rev. Dr. Craig M. Howard, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Chicago**

**Bishop Karen Oliveto, Retired**

**Bishop James Boye-Culker, Sierra Leone Annual Conference**

**Bishop Dan Schwerin, Resident Bishop**

## **Order of Recession**

**Marshals: John Bell & Alka Lyall**

**Cross: Luke Pepper**

**Bible: Brenda Morris**

**Processional Candles: Abby Holcombe & Eric Reniva**

**Chalice: Paul Lee**

**Bowl, Pitcher & Towel: Sherry Steele & Grant Showalter-Swanson**

**Bishop Dan Schwerin, Resident Bishop**

**Bishop James Boye-Culker, Sierra Leone Annual Conference**

**Bishop Karen Oliveto, Retired**

**Rev. Dr. Craig M. Howard, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Chicago**

**Danita R. Anderson, Assistant to the Bishop**

**Eugene Williams, Co-Lay Leader**

**Fabiola Grandon-Mayer, Director of Connectional Ministries**

**Christian Coon, Director of Congregational Development**

**Victor Melad, Jr., Superintendent, Lake North District**

**Audrea Nanabray, Superintendent, Lake South District**

**Wendy Hardin Herman, Superintendent, Prairie Central District**

**Hwa-Young Chong, Superintendent, Prairie North District**

**Brian Gilbert, Superintendent, Prairie South District**

**Sejoon Jang, Treasurer, Board of Ordained Ministry**

**Luis F. Reyes-Rosario, Chair of Conference Relations, Board of Ordained Ministry**

**Sherry Steele, Co-chair, Order of Deacons**

**Paul Lee, Chair, Order of Elders**

**Mary Gay McKinney, Elders Registrar, Board of Ordained Ministry**

**Kimberly Davis, Deacons Registrar, Board Ordained Ministry**

**Norval I. Brown, Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry**

**Tiffany Garcea, Secretary, Board of Ordained Ministry**

**Caleb Hong, Vice Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry**

**2025 Newly Commissioned and Ordained Clergy and Sponsors**

**2025 Class of Local Pastors**

**Rhonda Smith-Sumrall, Deaconess**

## The Ministerial Education Fund

On behalf of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and each of the persons set apart for ministry today, thank you for participating in this ordination service!

Because you are interested in each of these ministers and in quality ministry for each local church, we want you to know how vital the Ministerial Education Fund is in funding the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry, at both the national and conference levels.

The Ministerial Education Fund is a beautiful example of connectional ministry at its best! The fund is a portion of the “Support of the General Church” category within the Apportionment figure for each local church and is 5.8% of the entire apportionment.

The Northern Illinois Conference retains 25% of the funds given to MEF, and uses these funds for (among other things) seminary scholarships, continuing education grants, and developing continuing education events.

Of the 75% of MEF funds sent on to the General Church — approximately 84% is used to support our 13 United Methodist seminaries, and most of the remaining portion supports and enhances the Course of Study, which prepares local pastors.

Therefore, you can see that the MEF has a direct impact upon the quality of ministry at the local church level! We hope and expect that you will be a staunch supporter of the Ministerial Education Fund.

## Commissioning and Ordination Glossary

Commissioning relates persons to the annual conference and to the ministry of the provisional clergy members within the annual conference. Commissioning confirms that the person is being sent for service and the church invokes the Holy Spirit to empower commissioned ministers during their time of provisional membership. The provisional period is a time of full service in which one is licensed for the practice of ministry (§ 317.1) and a period of formation in one's journey toward ordination and full membership in the annual conference (2020/24 Book of Discipline).

Ordination of deacons and elders is both to an office and for a lifetime. Ordination confers a new identity as well as authority for ministry. The new identity of the ordained is always claimed in relation to Christ and his call to leadership and service with the baptized for the life of the world. The authority is always exercised in stewardship of the mysteries of the gospel and of the church's mission in the world. Ordination has to do with who the person is as well as what the person does in ministry (2020/24 Book of Discipline).

**Deaconesses and Home Missioners** are laity called by God to a lifetime relationship in The United Methodist Church for engagement with a full-time vocation in ministries of love, justice and service (§ 1913). They are consecrated by a bishop, then commissioned in their local annual conference.

**Local Pastors** answer God's call to serve the mission of Jesus Christ in a local congregation under the authority of a license for pastoral ministry. They are not itinerant ministers and are not ordained or elected into full membership of the annual conference. A local pastor's authority is within their appointment setting and does not extend beyond it.

**Deacons** are called by God, authorized by the church, and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime ministry of Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice. They serve the community and congregation in a ministry that connects the two. The deacon's ministry connects the church's worship with its service in the world (§ 328-331).

**Elders** are called by God, authorized by the church, and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service. The elder serves in ministry and servant leadership giving pastoral leadership to order the life of the congregation (§ 332-335).

**Commissioned/Provisional Members** are in the ordination step between candidacy and full membership. Those applying for ordination serve as a provisional member for a minimum of two years. Provisional membership ends with ordination. (§ 324-327).

**Clergy Members in Full Connection** have been ordained as a deacon or elder and have been voted into conference membership. Their lives and work are amenable to the annual conference and they are supported by and accountable to that annual conference.

# Memorial Service

## Remembering the Saints Triumphant

### Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 4:30 p.m.

**Gathering Music**

*Promises*

NIC Praise Team

**Centering Words**

Rosa Lee

**Centering Music**

*Give Me Jesus*

NIC Praise Team

**The Word of Grace**

*United Methodist Book of Worship*

Cherie Quillman

Jesus said, I am resurrection and I am life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. I died, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I hold the keys of hell and death. Because I live, you shall live also.

**\* Hymn of Worship**

*In the Garden*

UMH #314

**Scripture Reading**

*Romans 8:1–2, 11, 14, 17–18, 28, 31–32, 35–39 (NRSVUE)*

David Hamer (English)  
Audrey Rochet (Spanish)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.  
For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.  
If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.  
For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ — if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.  
I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.  
We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.  
What then are we to say about these things?  
If God is for us, who is against us?  
He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?  
Who will separate us from the love of Christ?  
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?  
As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."  
No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.  
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



## Memorial Service (continued)

### Reading

*Grief, a poem* by Morgan Harper Nichols

Dan Van Haften

Whether grief is a mountain range  
towering high above you,

or an unsettling hum  
in a desert  
you didn't know  
you'd have to travel through,

a volcano,  
indiscriminate  
as it wildly erupts,

or an earthquake  
that never prepares you  
before it breaks everything up,

a storm of waves that turn the ocean  
into an inescapable dome

a starless void of silence  
millions of light years from home,

for whatever shape grief takes,  
its presence claims space,  
unapologetically pushing the boundaries  
of logic, time, and place.

You are not a failure  
when you cannot  
make the grief just  
“go away.”

It'll take time  
to move through this landscape  
and I hope you know  
that's okay.

### Hymn of Worship

*It is Well with My Soul*

UMH #377

### Scripture Reading

*2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (NRSVUE)*

Sophia Hyon (Korean)  
Amy Reimer (English)

It is necessary to boast; nothing is to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—was caught up into paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

### Sermon

Bishop Dan Schwerin

## Act of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

### Song of Reflection

*I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry, Vs. 1-2*

TFWS #2051

#### Active Clergy

Charlene Hill, Jan. 27, 2025  
Dennis Oglesby Jr., June 16, 2024  
Sigfried Schwirblat, Dec. 29, 2024  
Robyn Tabb, Oct. 22, 2024

## Memorial Service (continued)

### Retired Clergy

Ronald Ball, Jan. 11, 2025  
Nancy Dvorachek, July 12, 2024  
George Edwin Franke, Sept. 29, 2024  
Sang Hyu Han, May 15, 2024  
C. Wesley Johnson, Aug. 23, 2024  
Gladys King-Lucas, Feb. 8, 2025  
Lynn Everitt Longenbaugh, June 6, 2024  
Ron Purser, Feb. 24, 2025  
Raymond Rhoads, Aug. 4, 2024  
Royal Speidel, July 21, 2024  
Francine Taylor-Thirus, Oct. 8, 2024  
Margaret Anne Williams, June 5, 2024  
Cynthia Zolk, July 25, 2024

**Song of Reflection**

*I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry, Vs. 3-4*

TFWS #2051

### Spouses of Retired Clergy

Marsha Harman, July 20, 2024  
Susan Keck, Oct. 17, 2024  
Robert Lacock, Feb. 28, 2025  
Maurine Patten, Dec. 9, 2024  
John E. Robinson, July 13, 2024  
Rosalind Swanson, Aug. 15, 2024

### Surviving Spouses of Deceased Clergy

Patrice Brown-Jackson, Aug. 24, 2024  
Catherine "Beth" Bundy, Jan. 28, 2025  
Esther Crandall, July 28, 2024  
Bruce Eller, Aug. 18, 2024  
Janet Matteson, Nov. 22, 2024  
Jane Reid, Feb. 3, 2025  
Kathryn Rockwood, June 30, 2024  
Elva Strawser, July 1, 2024

**Song of Reflection**

*I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry, Vs. 5-6*

TFWS #2051

### Lay Members to Annual Conference

James "Jim" Blue, June 9, 2024  
Elizabeth "Liz" Okayama, Sept. 2, 2024  
Grace Elaine Willstead, June 7, 2024

**Song of Reflection**

*I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry, Vs. 7*

TFWS #2051

### Remembrance at Tables

Corey Ashley

At your table, you received a small glow stick. The glow sticks are varied in color and size. As you break the glow stick, I invite you to raise it up for all of us to see and remember one of the saints who now rests from their labor. One of the saints who has helped to make you who you are. One of the saints who lived their faith the best they knew how. One of the saints who has now joined the great cloud of witnesses. As you remember and give thanks for them, see the light continue to grow as we remember that great cloud of witnesses. May their memory be a blessing.

## Memorial Service (continued)

Worship Song	<i>Beautiful Things</i>	NIC Praise Team
Prayer	<i>United Methodist Book of Worship</i>	David Profitt
* Hymn of Parting	<i>Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)</i>	NIC Praise Team
Benediction		Bishop Dan Schwerin
Going Out Song	<i>Gratitude</i>	NIC Praise Team

### Thank You to Our Participants

Bishop Dan Schwerin, members of the NIC Praise Team, Danita R. Anderson, Corey Ashley, Laura Barkley, Josh Brown, Nadan Cho, Hwa-Young Chong, Avani Christian, Harriette Cross, Wesley Dixon, Brian Gilbert, David Hamer, Randy Hayes, Sophia Hyon, Drew Jones Marquez (Worship Leader), Lisa Kruse-Safford, Dennis Langdon, Kimberly Lewis Davis, Danice Loveridge, Melissa Meyers (coordinator), Doc Newcomb, David Profitt, Amy Reimer, Audrey Rochet, Cherie Quillman, Tammy Scott, Sherry Steele, Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton (Chair of Annual Conference Worship), Dan Van Haften

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# Retirement Service:

## A Ritual to Honor Retirees and Pass the Mantle

Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 10:45 a.m.

### Gathering Songs

*Your Grace is Enough  
This is Amazing Grace*

NIC Praise Team

### Greeting and Reflections

Bishop Dan Schwerin

### Call to Worship

*Psalm 145: 8-13, 21*

Innis L. Miller

Leader: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
People: **The Lord is good to all, his compassion is over all his creation.**  
Leader: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,  
People: **and all your faithful ones shall bless you!**  
Leader: They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,  
People: **and tell of your power,**  
Leader: to make known to all people your mighty deeds,  
People: **and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.**  
Leader: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
People: **and your dominion endures throughout all generations.**  
Leader: My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord;  
People: **Let all flesh bless God's holy name for ever and ever.**



### A Prayer of Praise (Unison)

Misook Yoo

God of a new beginning, your faithful people have arrived to this day after all the years of effort and toil. We give you praise and thanks for your abounding grace on their every step of the way until now, for their great and quiet achievements, for their service and love for God and the communities they belonged to. As they stand on the shore of new invitations, guide them to open their lives to what is left undone. Bless their hearts to enjoy a different rhythm and live the dreams they've waited for. Bless all of us gathered here to celebrate them in this time of worship. Amen.

### Scripture Reading

*2 Corinthians 12:9 (NRSVUE)*

David Lagos Fonseca (Spanish)  
Gary Greene (English)

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

### Hymn of Worship

*Grace Greater than Our Sin*

UMH #365

### Recognition of the Retirees

Bishop: Retirees and spouses, please stand. Beloved friends in Christ, you came to us from congregations and ministry settings where the Spirit of the Lord was upon you. You were charged to love, serve and pray for all people among whom you worked, caring for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. These things you have done.  
People: **We give thanks to God for the lives that have been changed through your faithful witness and service.**  
Bishop: At your licensing or ordination, you received authority to read the Holy Scriptures in the church of God, to preach the Word, to celebrate the Sacraments, and to Order the life of the church. At your commissioning, you received authority to equip the people of God, and to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. There were times when the seas were rough and the way unclear, but God's goodness and guidance has seen you through.  
People: **We give thanks to God for the courage you have shown and the steps of faith you have taken.**

## Retirement Service (continued)

**Bishop:** Never think lightly of the great good that God has wrought through you. And continue to be true to your calling to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with God. This is a transition, not a finale. This is an opening to new uncharted waters, not the end of the road. May God's love and power be with you always. Let us pray together.

**People:** **God of grace, you fill your servants with vision. You empower your servants with your Spirit. We give thanks for the ministry of these women and men, and for the ways in which you have ministered to us through them as they built your reign of justice. Give them a sense of your abiding presence that they may continue to love and serve you, and ever grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### Introduction of Retirees

Danita R. Anderson



Kwan Chong (17)  
Arlene Christopherson (39 ¼)  
Calvin Haines (11)  
Myron McCoy (44 ½)  
Marilyn Nolan (17)  
Colleen Norman (25 ½)  
Amos Oladipo (19)  
KyungHae Anna Shin (39 ½)



### Questions and Response from the Retiring Class

In keeping with our theme, "Grace is Sufficient," the retiring clergy were invited to reflect on one of the three following questions:

1. How have you experienced God's strength in your weakness?
2. When was God's grace sufficient for you?
3. What wisdom would you share with your other colleagues as you have experienced God's grace in your life or in your ministry?

### Special Music

*Light of Grace*

Korean Caucus Choir

Director: Dave Yim, Accompanist: Sun-Ah Kang

### Passing of the Light

Retirees

### Passing of the Mantle

Myron McCoy, G. Morris K. Jarkloh, Jr.

### \* Hymn of Parting

*Shalom to You*

UMH #666

### Benediction

**Bishop:** For everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven. So, too, there is a time for movement, new adventure, fields of service not yet touched. With love, we send you forth in the spirit of John Wesley; may the world be your parish.

**People:** We leave this sacred space as we freely and heartily yield with God's command to share the message of mercy, grace, and peace. We will move throughout the world with God's calling upon our lives. Amen.

### Postlude

*Goodness of God*

NIC Praise Team



# Retirement Service (continued)

## Thank You to Our Participants

Bishop Dan Schwerin, members of the NIC Praise Team, Danita R. Anderson, Cerna Castro Rand (coordinator), Gary Greene, Drew Jones Marquez (Worship Leader), Sun-Ah Kang (Accompanist), Heewon Kim, Korean Caucus Choir, David Lagos Fonseca, Myron McCoy, Innis Miller, G. Morris K. Jarkloh, Jr., Hyo Sun Oh, Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton (Chair of Annual Conference Worship), Dave Yim (Choir Director), Misook Yoo

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## Who We Are

### OUR MISSION (Why)

"The purpose of the annual conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God." (Par. 601)

### OUR VISION (Where)

"Making and supporting vital Christians in vital congregations that engage with their communities and the world for peace, justice and mercy."

### OUR PRIORITIES (What)

1. Equip both Leaders and Churches:
  - With strategies to reach new members.
  - To help members grow as disciples.
  - To be more effective in community outreach.
2. Resource struggling churches.
3. Rethink how to be vital churches.
4. Cultivate trust within the conference.

### OUR VALUES (How)

- Focus on mission
- Evaluation, accountability and support for growth
- Experimentation and risk-taking (with room for failure) for the purpose of learning
- Transparency honesty and graciousness with each other
- Safe spaces for sharing
- Building relationships
- Providing resources/services to the local church
- Fostering and celebrating diversity (as a conference, in our community & in the world)



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

Based on Landscape Survey and Annual Conference Presentation June, 2016

**Safe Sanctuaries® is an overt expression in making congregations safe places where children, youth, and elders may experience the abiding love of God and fellowship within the community of faith.**

Safe Sanctuaries® is a social structure that is consistent with the gospel allowing our sanctuaries, classrooms, mission encounters, camps, retreats, and all spaces where we gather to worship and serve God to be places of trust.

**Learn more at [umcnic.org/safesanctuaries](https://umcnic.org/safesanctuaries)**



## **Upcoming Northern Illinois Trainings:**

**Online Via Zoom: Cost \$15**, includes background check

- **Sat., Aug. 23**, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Sun., Aug. 24**, 3 to 6 p.m.

**Spanish Offering: Sat., Sept. 13**, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Franklin Park: First UMC

**Learn more at [umcnic.org/calendar/safe-sanctuaries-trainings-2025](https://umcnic.org/calendar/safe-sanctuaries-trainings-2025).**

## **Is your church interested in hosting a training?**

Contact Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer for more information at [fgrandon-mayer@umcnic.org](mailto:fgrandon-mayer@umcnic.org)

## **Looking for an online individual option?**

**The Northern Illinois Conference partners with Safe Gatherings as an individual online training option.**



Safe Gatherings is an online abuse prevention program that screens and educates staff and volunteers to help prevent abuse of children, youth, and vulnerable adults in group settings. When using Safe Gatherings, upon successful completion of the application, background and reference checks, and the online training program, each applicant will receive documentation of approval valid for three years, and will have continued access to the online training program for an entire year. Screening includes obtaining background checks and professional references. The \$35 training is comprehensive, and applicants may complete the online training modules at their own pace. The training typically takes about 2 hours to complete and are offered in english or spanish.

**Questions? Contact Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer [fgrandon-mayer@umcnic.org](mailto:fgrandon-mayer@umcnic.org)**

**Learn more at [umcnic.org/safegatherings](https://umcnic.org/safegatherings)**



## 2024 Mission Links Awards

Thank you to the Northern Illinois Conference churches that became 2024 Mission Links churches. These churches have given 100% of their apportionments and supported a project in each of the 7 giving areas (Special Sundays, Global Advance Projects, Missionary Support, UMCOR/Emergency Relief Projects, U.S.-Based Advances, NIC Conference Projects, and NIC District Projects).

Thank you for living out the beatitudes and being a blessing for projects around the block and around the world.

Learn more about our Mission Links program at [umcnic.org/MissionLinks](https://umcnic.org/MissionLinks).

**The Philip Otterbein Award for  
Highest Total Mission Link Giving  
Kingswood UMC in Buffalo Grove and Deerfield: \$21,542**

**The John Wesley Award for  
Highest Mission Link Giving per Member  
Good Shepherd UMC in Oswego: 70%**

**Look  
for a  
new Mission  
Links booklet  
in 2025.**



Our new vision reflects both who we already are and God's dream for us.

**The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.**

- **Love Boldly:** We passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender, and walk of life. (Matthew 22:37-39 | John 13:34-35)
- **Serve Joyfully:** With the heart of Christ, we journey alongside the most vulnerable among us, offering care and compassion with joy. (Psalm 100:1 | Nehemiah 8:10 | John 13:14-15 | 1 Peter 4:10)
- **Lead Courageously:** Following Jesus' example, we resist and dismantle all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice, and reconciliation. (Joshua 1:9 | Ephesians 6:10)

# One Matters Discipleship Ministries Award

The One Matters Discipleship Award was created by the Discipleship Ministries (GBOD) in 2015 with the purpose of lifting up churches that have in recent years moved from 0 baptisms and 0 professions of faith into positive numbers as they redirected their focus toward intentional discipleship. In addition to the One Matters Discipleship plaque, each church will receive \$1,000 to encourage the continuation of their work in discipleship. The Northern Illinois Conference

is one of the most diverse conferences in The United Methodist Church, so we present five awards instead of recognizing one congregation. As we celebrate these churches and their stories, we are invited to ask ourselves what new thing we can do to make an impact in our communities and what else we can do to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our society and share God's love and hope with everyone.



## Presented To:

- **Lake North: Arlington Heights: First UMC**
- **Lake South: New Lenox: First UMC**
- **Prairie Central: Antioch UMC**
- **Prairie North: Rockford: Grace UMC**
- **Prairie South: Hinckley UMC**

## Questions about One Matters?

Please contact Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer, Director of Connectional Ministries  
fgrandon-mayer@umcnic.org (872) 810-0870



## Certified Lay Ministers

Lay Servant Ministries within the UMC is a leadership development program that equips laypersons to serve in mission and ministry, empowering them to live out their discipleship through leading, caring, and communicating. This program emphasizes the call of all baptized believers to ministry and provides training and resources for laypersons to fulfill that calling within their local churches and beyond. The certified lay minister is "called and equipped to conduct public worship, care for the congregation, assist in program leadership, develop new and existing faith communities, preach the word, lead small groups, or establish community outreach ministries as part of a ministry team with the supervision and support of a clergy person." (2016 BOD ¶268.1)



## Our NIC Certified Lay Ministers

- |                    |                    |                            |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| • Kris Aves        | • Peggy Hansen     | • Marcia Peddicord         |
| • Shaun Barton     | • Bill Howell      | • Joann Roth-Crackenberger |
| • Fay Bennett      | • Katherine Howell | • Jay Schaney              |
| • Katherine Brock  | • Antoinette Lucas | • Raleigh Shifflette       |
| • Irma Clark       | • Michael McIntosh | • Jeff Spang               |
| • Dawn Crowley     | • James Miller     | • Kristine Warning         |
| • William Dunfrund | • Steve Pearce     | • Alex Wilson              |

Learn more about Lay Servant Ministries at [umcdiscipleship.org/equipping-leaders/lay-ministry](http://umcdiscipleship.org/equipping-leaders/lay-ministry).  
Watch the district eNews for information on Lay Academies in fall.

SEE // CREATE // DISCIPLE

# SCD 2025

## LAITY BOOTCAMP

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The United Methodist Church

# October 23-25, 2025

Kenosha First United Methodist Church (Kenosha, WI)

Learn more at [umcnic.org/calendar/scd-laity-boot-camp-2025](https://umcnic.org/calendar/scd-laity-boot-camp-2025)



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NIC Steering  
Team Contact:  
Debbie Rogers  
[drogers@  
umcnic.org](mailto:drogers@umcnic.org)

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## Visit the Annual Conference Online Store



[cokesbury.com/annual-conference-2025](http://cokesbury.com/annual-conference-2025)

## Your Publishing House: Here to Support What Matters Most to You

- Adult Discipleship
- Children's Ministry
- Church Leadership
- United Methodist Essentials
- Planning Tools
- Supplies and Gifts
- Amplify Media

## Bishop Schwerin's Book Recommendations

- *Gardens in the Desert* by Micheal Adam Beck & Kenneth H. Carter Jr.
- *Wesleyan Vile-tality* by Ashley Boggan
- *On Love* by Paul W. Chilcote & Janet K. Chilcote
- *Out of Every Tribe & Nation* by Justo L. Gonzalez
- *I'm Black. I'm Christian. I'm Methodist.*  
Edited by Rev. Rudy Rasmus

## Table Displays

This year display tables are in the Schaumburg Ballroom foyer and side hallway.

**Mon., June 9: Noon to 7:30 p.m.**

**Tues., June 10: 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

**Wed., June 11: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Chaddock

Constitutional Amendments Education

Discipleship Ministries

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NIC Commission on Archives and History

NIC Commission on Religion & Race

NIC Committee on Eco-Sustainability

NIC Council on Young People's Ministries

NIC Insurance Program and Administrative Support

NIC Lay Servant Ministries

NIC United Methodist Men

NIC United Women in Faith

North Central Jurisdiction UM Volunteers in Mission

Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors (NIJFON)

Pan African Rural Health and Social Services

Rockford Urban Ministries

Rosecrance Behavioral Health

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MISSION U 2025



July 18-20 – Weekend  
July 19 – Korean One-Day  
Aug 2 – Spanish One-Day

### All Are Welcome

Join us as we explore what it means to practice hope as followers of Christ.

- \* How do we understand hope in the midst of hard realities?
- \* Is hope merely optimism?

We will study Jesus' resurrection appearances and the example of early Christian communities to explore what it means to practice hope in God even when things seem to be falling apart.



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Questions:

nilumw.registrar@gmail.com

# Lay Member Reporting Guide

Dear Lay Member to Annual Conference,

Attendance at the annual conference session is the basis for the work you will do in your congregation throughout the year.

An effective member of annual conference informs the congregation about The United Methodist Church in the Northern Illinois Conference and around the world.

- ☐ Write your reactions about proceedings, discussions, worship experiences, special ceremonies, music, and so on as preparation for later sharing with your congregation. Keep an accurate record of the votes taken that will have an impact on the congregation's finances, operations, and ministry.
- ☐ Share information with your congregation about your experience. Remember that the report to the congregation and the church council is to be given as soon as possible but not later than three months after the close of the annual conference session.
- ☐ Share with the your church the ministries NIC and UMC are doing with their apportionments and encourage your church to pay 100% of its apportionment.
- ☐ Search the Northern Illinois Conference websites and The United Methodist Church news sources. Make sure you share the news and opportunities offered by our Conference with your congregation throughout the year. (See [umcnic.org](http://umcnic.org).)
- ☐ Choose to participate in the committees or work areas of the annual conference or district.

Contact your pastor and your District Superintendent for more guidance on how to serve.

Look for tips, links and more information at [umcnic.org/2025-annual-conference/after-you-leave-ac](http://umcnic.org/2025-annual-conference/after-you-leave-ac).

The Board of Laity provides this reporting guide as a means for you to take notes on highlights and takeaways from the various sessions of Annual Conference.

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

## THEME: Grace is Sufficient

**Day One – Monday, June 9**

**10:00 a.m.: LAITY SESSION**

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**1:30 p.m.: PLENARY 1, 4:00 p.m.: LEGISLATIVE SECTIONS**

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**7:00 p.m.: CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY**

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**Day Two – Tuesday, June 10**

**8:00 a.m.: PLENARY 2 - BIBLE STUDY & EPISCOPAL ADDRESS, 10:15 a.m.: PLENARY 3**

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**Noon: LUNCH-AND-LEARN, 1:45 p.m.: PLENARY 4, 4:30 p.m.: MEMORIAL SERVICE**

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**Day Three – Wednesday, June 11**

**8:30 a.m.: PLENARY 5: BIBLE STUDY & LAITY ADDRESS, 10:45 a.m.: RETIREMENT SERVICE**

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**1:45 p.m.: PLENARY 6, 3:45 p.m.: PLENARY 7**

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**CONFERENCE BOARD OF LAITY**

**Conference Co-Lay Leaders:**

**Connie Augsburger**  
**Eugene Williams**

**District Lay Leaders:**

**Lake North: Ellen Feliciano and Chester Lacey**  
**Lake South: Lisa Butler and Dawn Shires**  
**Prairie Central: Leonard Jones**  
**Prairie North: Kris Aves**  
**Prairie South: Karen Newby and Betsy Smith**

**Members by Virtue of Office:**

**Peggy Hansen**, Director of Lay Servant Ministries  
**Craig McGregor**, United Methodist Men Conference President  
**Jim Loeppert**, UMM Director of Scouting  
**Barb Farley**, UWFaith Conference President  
**Marilyn Steenwyk**, United Women in Faith Representative  
**Rev. Dr. Char Hoffmann**, Clergy Representative  
**Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer**, Director of Connectional Ministries

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS IN BRIEF

EVERY SINGLE VOTE MATTERS

These amendments to The United Methodist constitution were approved by General Conference delegates in 2024. They must be supported by two-thirds of the voting members of all the Annual Conferences in order to be ratified.

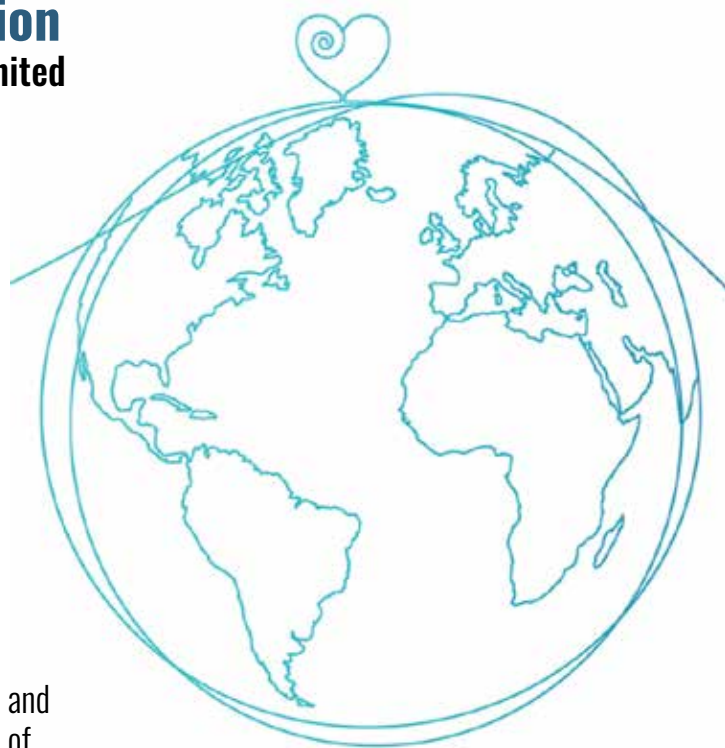
**Constitutional Amendment voting will take place in Plenary 4 on Tuesday, June 10.**

## Ballot 1: Worldwide Regionalization

**If ratified, this amendment would organize the United Methodist Church into geographic bodies.**

The United States-based United Methodist Church (and predecessor bodies) sent missionaries and formed UM churches around the world. This created a paternalistic relationship between the church in the U.S. and the church in other countries ("Central Conferences.") In some regions, the UMC is flourishing. However, these conferences still have an unequal "child" relationship to the "parent" church in the U.S. This is evident in how the Book of Discipline is updated: the UM delegates from around the world can vote on these changes, but not necessarily follow them, because the annual conferences outside of the U.S. can adapt the Discipline to their contexts.

This amendment would place all conferences on an equal footing. We would share the essential parts of the Discipline and adapt other parts to respective cultural contexts. A coalition of Central Conference leaders strongly commends this restructuring.



## Ballot 2: Inclusion in Membership



**If ratified, this amendment would add "gender" and "ability" to the list of characteristics that do not bar people from membership in a United Methodist congregation.**

The amended paragraph 4, article IV in the constitution would read, "All persons, without regard to race, gender, ability, color, national origin, status, or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection."

**Find links, videos, opinion pieces and more information at**  
**[umcnic.org/2025-annual-conference/constitutional-amendments-information](https://umcnic.org/2025-annual-conference/constitutional-amendments-information).**

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS IN BRIEF

EVERY SINGLE VOTE MATTERS

## Ballot 3: Racial Justice

If ratified, this amendment would strengthen the denomination's longtime support for racial justice.

The new paragraph would read, in part,

"... Racism opposes God's law, goodness and love and diminishes the image of God in each person. Fueled by white privilege, white supremacy and colonialism, the sin of racism has been a destructive scourge on global society and throughout the history of The United Methodist Church. . . . Racism must be eradicated. Therefore, The United Methodist Church commits to confronting and eliminating all forms of racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege and white supremacy, in every facet of its life and in society at large."

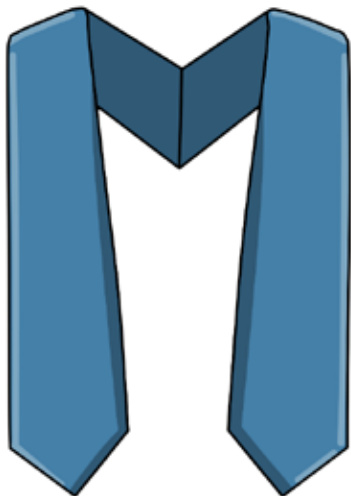


## Ballot 4: Educational Requirements for Clergy Voting Rights

If ratified, this amendment would clarify the educational requirements for clergy who may vote for clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

This amendment to paragraph 35, article IV aims to clarify the educational requirements for clergy who may vote for clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. It spells out the meaning of an M. Div. degree and

its equivalents for United Methodists outside of the United States, thus bringing uniformity to the qualification requirements and ensures that all voting clergy have met the denominational standards for theological education.



## Voting Eligibility on Constitutional Amendments

### WHO IS eligible to vote:

- Clergy members (elders and deacons) in full connection (§ 602.1.a) This includes clergy on sabbatical leave, voluntary leave of absence (§ 353.7), family leave (§ 353.7), transitional leave (§ 353.7) or medical leave (§ 356).
- Lay members of Annual Conference (§ 602.6)
- Diaconal ministers and active deaconesses are lay members of annual conference and as such have the right to vote (§ 33, Article II of Constitution)
- Lay Members by Virtue of Office

### WHO IS NOT eligible to vote:

- Provisional deacons and elders (§ 602.1.b, Book of Discipline)
- Associate and affiliate clergy members (§ 602.1.c, Book of Discipline)
- Full-time and part-time local pastors (§ 602.1.d, Book of Discipline)
- Clergy on Honorable Location (358.2) or Administrative Location (359.3)
- Observers, Alternate Lay Members not certified as sitting for an absent Lay Member

**Packets of ballots for eligible members will be available for pick up at the Information Desk starting on the morning of Tuesday, June 10. Members are responsible for their ballots; no new ballots will be given out.**

## Debating and Amending

Lay and clergy members of Annual Conferences may debate the constitutional amendments as printed. However, they **MAY NOT** change the wording of the proposed amendments in any way.

# Terms

**Alternate Member:** One who is elected to serve should the member from their congregation be unable to attend or participate in Annual Conference.

**Bar (of the Conference):** The boundary that separates voting members during plenaries from others present.

**Beloved Community Reflections/Monitoring:** Provided by CORR and COSROW, to remind us of our diversity and inclusion.

**Consent Calendar:** Groupings of legislation addressed in legislative sections that receive at least 80% of votes for approval or 80% of votes disapproving. The consent calendar is placed before the body at least two hours before action is taken on this grouping of legislation.

**Daily Proceedings:** Order of business while we are together as an Annual Conference.

**Delegate:** Those who are elected to be voting delegates at General and/or Jurisdictional Conferences.

**Legislative Sections:** All members to annual conference are assigned to a legislative section, where they vote on assigned documents to build the AC consent calendar.

**Member:** All clergy and an equal number of lay people who have been elected by their churches to vote at Annual Conference.

**Motion:** According Robert's Rules of Order, which the conference follows, a member presents a matter for a vote by making a motion. The person would rise to a microphone and when recognized the by bishop, they would say, "I move [the matter they present for a vote]." (Proposed adjustments, or amendments, to a proposed item are also presented as a motion.) A motion must be seconded by another voting member in order to move forward. NIC requires amendments to be submitted to the conference secretary in writing using the Motion/Amendment triplicate form.

**North Central Jurisdiction:** The Northern Illinois Annual Conference is part of the North Central Jurisdiction, which includes the conferences of Northern Illinois, Illinois Great Rivers, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Dakotas, West Ohio, East Ohio, and Wisconsin. Every four years the jurisdictional conferences meet to elect new bishops, converse jurisdictional matters, worship, and fellowship together.

**Order of the Day:** The agenda as agreed upon by the Annual Conference and established by the Chair of Daily Proceedings in consultation with the Bishop.

**Organizing Motions:** Motions made at the beginning of the conference that include the rules of order for the proceedings. These may include setting the bar, limiting the number of speeches per motion, and other matters.

**Plenary:** The plenary comprises all members entitled to be seated within the bar of Annual Conference.

**Point of Order:** A call to attention to make sure that the correct procedure is being followed.

**Robert's Rules of Order:** The conference uses Robert's Rules of Order to organize its work.

**Second:** In order for a motion to be considered by the body, another member must second it.

## Acronyms

**A2B** – Assistant to the Bishop  
**ABLC** – Appointed Beyond the Local Church  
**ACST** – Annual Conference Shepherding Team  
**ACC** – Annual Conference Committee  
**BMCR** – Black Methodists for Church Renewal  
**BOD** – Book of Discipline  
**BOL** – Board of Laity  
**BOOM** – Board of Ordained Ministry  
**CBOP** – Conference Board of Pensions  
**CCUIR** – Conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships  
**CCFA** – Conference Council on Finance and Administration  
**CLM** – Certified Lay Minister  
**CLS** – Certified Lay Servant  
**CCORR** – Conference Commission on Religion and Race  
**CONAM** – Committee on Native American Ministries  
**COSROW** – Commission on Status and Role of Women  
**DCM** – Director of Connectional Ministries  
**DCOM** – District Committee on Ordained Ministry  
**DM** – Discipleship Ministries  
**DS** – District Superintendent  
**DST** – District Shepherding Team  
**FAA** – Fellowship of Asian Americans  
**GBCS** – General Board of Church and Society  
**GBGM** – General Board of Global Ministries  
**GBHEM** – General Board of Higher Education and Ministry  
**GCAH** – General Commission on Archives and History  
**GCSRW** – General Commission on Status and Role of Women  
**GCFA** – General Council on Finance Administration

**GCORR** – General Commission on Religion and Race  
**ICD** – Institute for Congregational Development  
**LN** – Lake North District  
**LS** – Lake South District  
**MARCHA** – The Methodist Association Representing the Cause of Hispanic Americans  
**MFSA** – Methodist Federation for Social Action  
**NIC** – Northern Illinois Conference  
**NCJ** – North Central Jurisdiction  
**NIJFON** – Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors  
**OAM** – Older Adult Ministries  
**ORM** – Outdoor and Retreat Ministries  
**PATH - Plant and Thrive**  
(formerly Committee on Congregational Development)  
**PC** – Prairie Central District  
**PN** – Prairie North District  
**PS** – Prairie South District  
**SR** – Standing Rules  
**UMC** – United Methodist Church  
**UMCOM** – United Methodist Communications  
**UMCOR** – United Methodist Committee on Relief  
**UMF** – United Methodist Foundation  
**UMM** – United Methodist Men  
**UMGAF** – United Methodist Global AIDS Fund  
**UMPH** – United Methodist Publishing House  
**UMRC** – United Media Resource Center  
**UWFaith** – United Women in Faith  
(formerly United Methodist Women)  
**VIM** – Volunteers in Mission



## Parliamentary Procedure Chart - Robert's Rules

To Do This: SECONDARY MOTIONS IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE		You Say This:		(See Key Below)				
				I	S	D	A	Vote
Adjourn	<i>“I move to adjourn.”</i>	No	Yes	No	No	Maj		
Call an intermission	<i>“I move we recess until . . .”</i>	No	Yes	No	Yes	Maj		
Suspend further consid- eration of an issue, espe- cially in an emergency	<i>“I move we table the motion . . .”</i>	No	Yes	No	No	Maj		
End debate and amend- ments	<i>“I move the previous question . . .”</i>	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	R	
Limit or extend the lim- its of debate	<i>“I move the debate be limited (or extended) to . . .”</i>	No	Yes	No	Yes	Maj*	R	
Postpone debate to a specific time	<i>“I move to postpone this matter until . . .”</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj	R	
Have the matter studied further	<i>“I move that this matter be referred to . . .”</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj	R	
Amend a motion, including amend by sub- stitution	<i>“I move to amend by . . .” or “I move to substitute . . .”</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj	R	
Postpone indefinitely (Kills the main motion)	<i>“I move to postpone indefinitely.”</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj	R	
MAIN MOTION (Introduction of a Petition)								
Introduce New Business	<i>“I move that . . .”</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj	R	
INCIDENTAL MOTIONS (Pertaining to the business under consideration)								
Correct an error in par- liamentary procedure	<i>“I rise to a point of order”</i>	Yes	No	No	No	Chair Rules		
Obtain advice on parlia- mentary procedure	<i>“I raise a parliamentary inquiry”</i>	Yes	No	No	No	Chair Rules		
Request information	<i>“Point of information.”</i> (must be in form of a question)	Yes	No	No	No			
Question the ruling of the presiding officer	<i>“I appeal the chair’s decision.”</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Maj	R	
Suspend the rules tem- porarily	<i>“I move to suspend the rules so that . . .”</i>	No	Yes	No	No	2/3		
BRING A MATTER BACK BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY								
Take up a matter previ- ously tabled	<i>“I move that we take from the table . . .”</i>	No	Yes	No	No	Maj		
Reconsider previous action (May be made only by a member who voted previously on the prevailing side)	<i>“I move to reconsider the vote on . . .”</i>	No	Yes	**	No	Maj		

I = Interrupt Speaker?; S = Second Needed?; D = Debatable?; A = Amendable?; R = May be Reconsidered.

\*See GC rule 9.4 (an exception to usual 2/3 vote parliamentary procedure).

\*\* See GC Rules 21 and 30.

+ information shared from the Daily Christian Advocate, Delegate Handbook for General Conference 2020, page 73

## Making a Motion From the Floor

Making a motion from the floor or amending a motion from the floor requires submission of a written copy. Please complete the form with the required signatures before making the motion. Both the ushers' and secretaries' tables have copies of the required triplicate forms. Both the motion maker and the person seconding need to sign the form.

# Acknowledgments & Appreciation

## Annual Conference Committee

Bishop Dan Schwerin, Deborah L. Dangerfield (Chair), James Fu (Vice Chair/Daily Proceedings), Ryan Sutton (Chair, Annual Conference Committee on Credentials), Ariel Alonso (Conference Events Coordinator), Danita R. Anderson (Assistant to the Bishop), Veletta Bell (Legislative Section Coordinator), Kim Chapman (Worship Design Coordinator), Marc Dean (Accessibility Coordinator), Fabiola Grandon-Mayer (Director of Connectional Ministries), Randy Hayes (Conference Secretary), Char Hoffman (Pre-Conference Briefing Coordinator), Matthew Mariani, Erica McIntosh (UW Faith Rep, Display Table Coordinator), Craig McGregor (UMM Rep), Linda Osikowicz (Committee Secretary/Usher Coordinator), Victoria Rebeck (Director of Communications), Sharon Rice (Childcare Coordinator), Martha Rudy (Logistics/Evaluation), Lisa Smith (Communications Specialist), Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton (Chair of Annual Conference Worship), Eugene Williams (Conference Co-Lay Leader)

## Annual Conference Committee on Credentials

Roger Curless, Diana Davis, Rosa Lee, Nancy Pendergrass, Ryan Sutton (Chair), Ariel Alonso (NIC Registrar)

## Worship Team

Ariel Alonso (Conference Events Coordinator), Kim Chapman (Worship Design Coordinator), Fabiola Grandon-Mayer (Director of Connectional Ministries), Melissa Meyers (Memorial Service Chair), Cerna Castro Rand (Retirement Service Chair), Luis F. Reyes-Reyes (Celebration of Ministry Chair), Lisa Smith (Communications Specialist), Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton (Chair of AC Worship)

## Northern Illinois Conference On-Site Staff

Ariel Alonso, Danita R. Andersen, Marva Andrews, Jeff Casey, Christian Coon, Amania Drane, Fabiola Grandon-Mayer, Nicole Minter, Elaine Moy, David W. Quinn, Victoria Rebeck, Debbie Rogers, Lisa Smith, Elizabeth Stahl, Leola Tucker, Lameise Turner, Cheryl Weaver

**Annual Conference Secretary:** Randy Hayes

**Secretarial Pool:** Jeffrey Brace, Paul Lee, Antoinette Lucas, Marcia Peddicord, Megan Smick

**Memorial Service:** Melissa Meyers (Chair), Lisa Smith, Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton (Chair of AC Worship), LaMeise Turner

**Retirement Service:** Heewon Kim, Innis Miller, Hyo Sun Oh, Cerna Castro Rand (Chair), Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton (Chair of AC Worship), Misook Yoo

**Celebration of Ministry:** John Bell, Alka Lyall, Luis F Reyes-Reyes (Chair), Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton (Chair of AC Worship),

**NIC Praise Team:** Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton (Chair of AC Worship), Drew Jones Marquez (Conference Worship Leader), Rashada Dawan, Lean Deval, Peter Diekos, Ben Dillinger, Gwen England, Rico Howard, Bill Kidera, Ashley Stevenson, Amanda Zigterman

## Eric Joob and the AV3 Productions Team

## All Volunteer Hosts, Ushers, Legislative Section Leaders, and Greeters



## 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!



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