



Grace is Sufficient

Retirement Service

June 11, 2025

Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center



Northern Illinois Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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