



*Practicing  
Hope*

**June 14 through 16, 2026**  
**Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center**

**187th Session**  
**Bishop Dan Schwerin, Presiding**

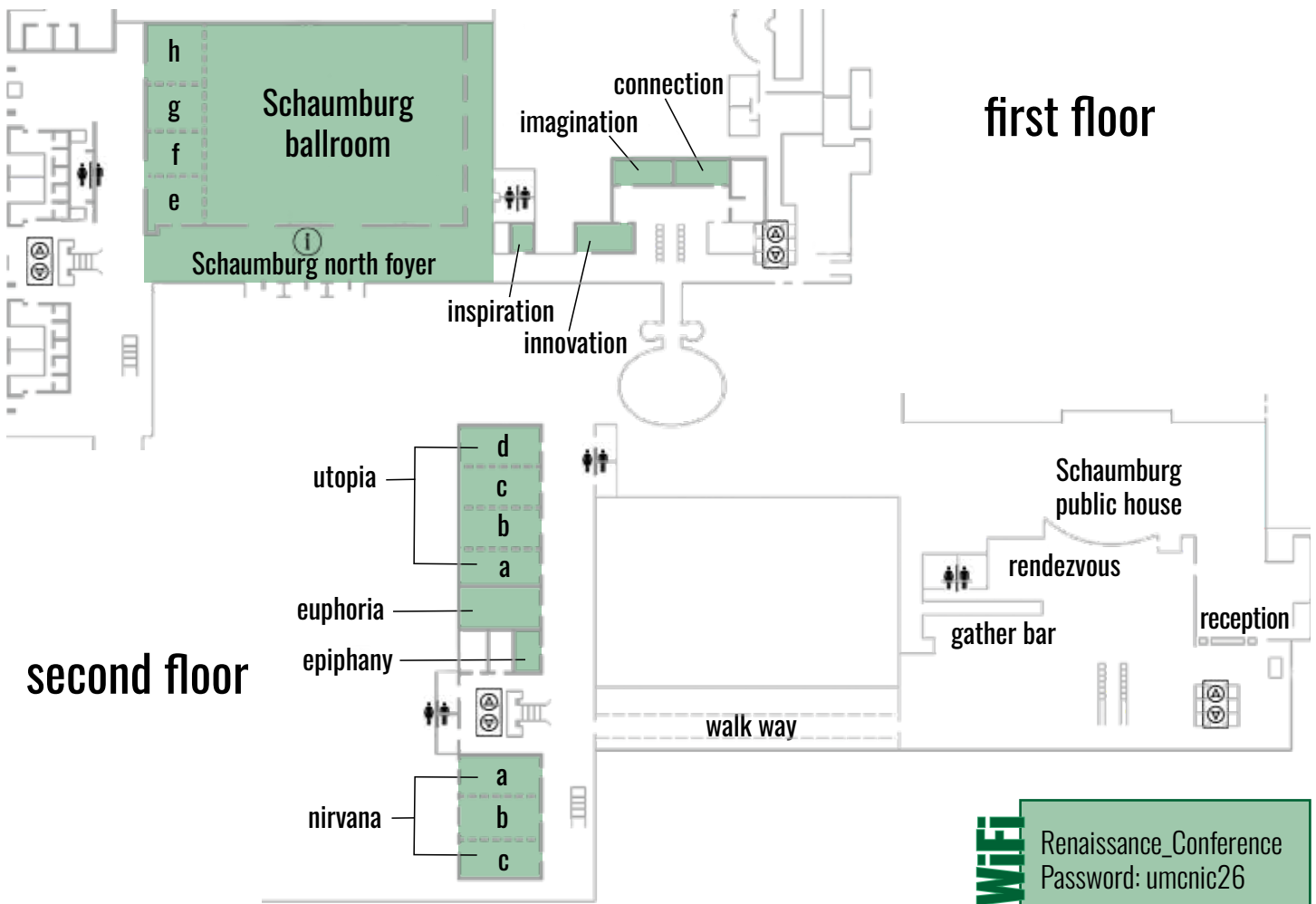


**Northern Illinois Conference**  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Map



## A Message from the Bishop

Dear Children of Hope,

Let me begin with gratitude. Thank you for your faithfulness in your places of service and for your commitment to holy conferencing as we engage in our 187th annual conference session and our theme, 'Practicing Hope.'

Our theme is founded on the scripture from Romans 5:3-5, and I would lift this line: "hope doesn't put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit." We live in the daily and constant outpouring of God's love!

Our hope is not tied to the ease of our circumstances, but the outpouring power of God. Whatever your calling, whether as one of the baptized, a lay leader, or lay speaker, a certified lay minister, or deacon, or deaconess, or local pastor, or elder, The United Methodist Church and the Northern Illinois Conference has a place for you.

As we gather for worship and mission, let's turn our cups upward and consider:

- What might the Spirit be asking you to hope for as a lay member, clergy member, staff, or volunteer?
- What neighborliness can you bring so that others can experience a hope-filled community?
- How might you look for something to bring home from annual conference that will renew your community of faith?
- How might you be disciplined to record how the Spirit speaks, what you might learn, new resources or impressions so that you can reflect theologically on what God is doing in your life and our life together?

I look forward to seeing you, being in worship with God's outpouring, and how we might all be changed.

May hope be in your steps.



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



# Agenda

## Sunday, June 14

10:00 a.m.	<b>Mission Truck Opens</b> ..... Next to Conference Center Parking Lot
11:00 a.m.	<b>Check-in and Credentials Available</b> ..... Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer
	<b>Late Legislation Deadline</b> (deliver to Chair of Daily Proceedings with 75 Copies)
Noon	<b>Display Tables Open</b> ..... Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer
	Celebration of Ministry Service Rehearsal ..... Schaumburg Ballroom
1:30 p.m.	<b>Laity Session</b> ..... Utopia Ballroom
	<b>Clergy Session</b> ..... Nirvana Ballroom
3:30 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
4:00 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
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> ..... Nirvana Ballroom
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

## Monday, June 15

7:30 a.m.	Multicultural/Cross-Cultural/Cross-Racial Clergy Breakfast ..... Nirvana A
8:00 a.m.	<b>Display Tables Open</b> ..... Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer
	<b>Mission Truck Opens</b> ..... Next to Conference Center Parking Lot
8:30 a.m.	<b>Legislative Sections</b> ..... Schaumburg E,F, G & H, Utopia A, B, & C
	- Section 1: Schaumburg E      - Section 2: Schaumburg F      - Section 3: Schaumburg G
	- Section 4: Schaumburg H      - Section 5: Utopia A      - Section 6: Utopia B      - Section 7: Utopia C
9:30 a.m.	<b>Break</b>
9:45 a.m.	<b>Plenary 2</b> ..... Schaumburg Ballroom
	- Bible Study      - Consent Calendar Introduction
	- Episcopal Address      - Presentations
Noon	<b>Lunch-and-Learn</b> ..... Nirvana A, B, & C, Utopia A, B C & D
	- Practicing Hope, Living Mission (NIC Board of Global Ministries) ..... Nirvana B-C
	- Practicing Hope as an Anti-Racist Christian (NIC Commission on Religion and Race) ..... Nirvana A
	- Practicing Hope with Discipleship (NIC Committee on Discipleship and Formation) ..... Utopia B
	- Roots, Resilience, and the Road Ahead (Chicago Black Methodist for Church Renewal) ..... Utopia C
	- Fresh Expressions (NIC Office of Congregational Development) ..... Utopia A
	- Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary ..... Utopia D
1:00 p.m.	<b>Mission Truck Leaves</b> ..... Next to Conference Center Parking Lot
1:20 p.m.	Family Gathering for Memorial Service ..... Schaumburg E
1:45 p.m.	<b>Memorial Service</b> ..... Schaumburg Ballroom
	<b>Deadline for petitions to be removed from Consent Calendar</b>
3:00 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
3:30 p.m.	<b>Plenary 3</b> ..... Schaumburg Ballroom
	- Annual Conference Shepherding Team Table Talk      - Awards      - Bishop's Appeal Offering
	- Presentations      - Vote on Consent Calendar
5:30 p.m.	<b>Dinner Break and Adjournment</b>
	<b>Public Demonstration</b> ..... Outside building walking to Meacham Road
	<b>Display Tables Close</b> ..... Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer

# Agenda

## Tuesday, June 16

7:00 a.m.	Health Screening .....	Epiphany
8:00 a.m.	<b>Display Tables Open</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer
	Retirement Service Rehearsal .....	Schaumburg Ballroom
8:30 a.m.	<b>Plenary 4</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom
	- Bible Study	- Cabinet Report
		- Laity Address
		- Presentations
10:30 a.m.	<b>Break</b>	
11:00 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 5</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom
	- Legislation	- Midwest Mission Foundation Annual Meeting
	- Missions Collection Report	- Nominations
		- Presentations
3:15 p.m.	<b>Break</b>	
3:30 p.m.	<b>Plenary 6</b> .....	Schaumburg Ballroom
	- BBC (Monitoring) Report	- Courtesies and Privilege
	- Legislation	- Presentations
5:00 p.m.	<b>Adjournment</b>	

# WiFi

Renaissance\_Conference  
Password: umcnic26

## Need help?

- First Aid
- Questions
- Lost & Found
- More

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

# #NICAC26

## #PracticingHope

**Share your photos, experiences,  
and more on social media.  
Use the hashtags to stay connected.**

## 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.

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.

## 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. He 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.



**Memorial Service Preacher, Rev. Dr. Brian Gilbert**, serves as the District Superintendent of the Prairie South District, supporting clergy and congregations in ministry, leadership development, and connective life. He holds a Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. His work focuses on helping churches practice hope, navigate change faithfully, and deepen their commitment to grace, justice, and discipleship within the Wesleyan tradition. A self-proclaimed “Methodist nerd,” Brian regularly speaks and teaches on United Methodist theology, church leadership, and polity. He is passionate about helping congregations move beyond maintenance toward meaningful ministry, deeper community engagement, and a fuller embrace of the connective relationships that shape the UMC. Outside of ministry, Brian is the proud human to two chihuahuas, Gucci

and Bella, whom he unapologetically spoils and occasionally reads church polity and the Book of Discipline to—though their theological feedback remains limited. Whether working with clergy, teaching laity, or helping congregations navigate change, Brian believes the church is at its best when it chooses grace over fear, connection over isolation, and hope over despair.

**Bible Study Leader, Sally Vonner**, is the General Secretary/CEO of United Women in Faith. Sally oversees the implementation of United Women in Faith’s vision, mission, and strategic plan to positively impact the lives of women, children, and youth around the world. She collaborates with the senior executives from the Offices of the General Secretary, Connectional, Finance and Asset Management, Operations, and Transformation on day-to-day operations. She has served in many areas of The United Methodist Church—leading women’s retreats, as a jurisdictional conference delegate or alternate for three quadrennia and in immigration assistance and reform, community development and dismantling racism initiatives at jurisdiction and conference levels. Sally is a graduate of Southern Methodist University - Perkins School of Theology, with a Master of Divinity, and Women’s Studies certification. She graduated from East Texas State University, now East Texas A&M, with a B.S. degree in Biology. She serves on the board of the Scarritt Bennett Center in Nashville, TN. Her favorite pauses include daily quiet time, beach lounging, grilling, attending her daughter’s musical performances, reading and watching sunrises and sunsets.



**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, and RCMA. 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: ChristFirst UMC, transitioning to Marengo

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.

## Annual Conference Leadership (continued)

**Chair of Annual Conference Worship, Rev. Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton**, serves as Lead Pastor of Community UMC in Naperville. He brings more than 25 years of experience in worship leadership, preaching, discipleship, pastoral care, and ministry innovation within the United Methodist Church. Jacob holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Saint Joseph's College. He also currently serves on the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, and as a Board Member of United Voices for Children. Passionate about worship that is authentic, engaging, and rooted in grace, he is committed to helping congregations connect faith with justice, compassion, and community transformation. Jacob is also actively involved in Fresh Expressions ministry initiatives, leadership development, and advocacy for children and families connected to the foster care system. As a follower of Jesus, he seeks to create spaces where all people experience belonging, hope, and the love of God.



**Worship Leader, Drew Jones Marquez**, serves as the Director of Contemporary Worship at Community UMC 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.

### Special Guests

**Ecumenical Guest, Rev. Dr. Craig Howard**, Executive Presbyter of Chicago  
**General Secretary of Religion and Race, Rev. Dr. Giovanni Arroyo**



## The Annual Conference Cabinet



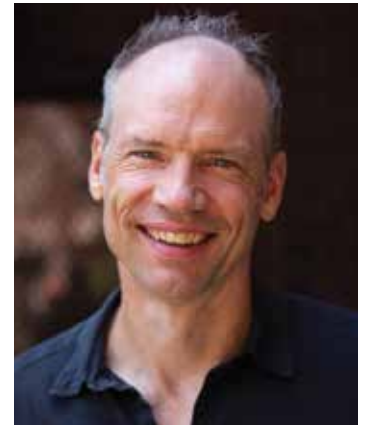
**Bishop Dan Schwerin**



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



# BISHOP'S APPEAL 2026

Giving Abundantly, Generosity Overflowing

## Education for Central Conferences

Every year, the Northern Illinois Conference raises funds for a project of the area bishop's choosing and brings the money raised to the Annual Conference session in June. Together, we join our resources and bring hope to the world.

This year's appeal invites us to invest not only in classrooms and curriculum, but in futures, in young people's discovering their gifts and in pastors and leaders who are equipped to guide communities with wisdom, compassion, and courage. Gifts to the appeal will be divided equally between two projects.

### High School Construction in Tanzania

Led by United Methodist missionary Rev. Christina Kim, clergy member of the Northern Illinois Conference. As a connectional church and following the priorities of the early Methodists, we believe that every child deserves an education.

It will include four classrooms, a well-organized computer laboratory, separate dormitories for boys and girls, a multipurpose hall, and guest rooms for volunteer teachers and visitors.



In addition, the campus will have two outdoor shower and toilet facilities, two storage buildings, a basketball court, and two playgrounds with seating stands built into the natural slope of the land. These spaces will allow students and the local community to gather for sports, various events, and school programs.

It will share with the secondary school (built a few years ago by this ministry) its science laboratories, a library, and a cafeteria.



### Council of Bishops' Endowment Fund for Theological Education in Central Conferences

The endowment supports clergy education in the denomination's eight regions in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

Scan QR code to donate online



or give during the Bishop's Appeal Offering during Plenary 3 in the afternoon on Mon., June 15.

# Fill the Truck

## Mission Challenge Collection Drive



### Collecting Outside in the Parking Lot

Sun., June 14, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Mon., June 15, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Find the most needed items and learn more  
at [umcnic.org/2026MissionChallenge](http://umcnic.org/2026MissionChallenge)

If you missed out on the challenge, don't worry. You also can send donations to the center directly or drop off at any of the NIC Midwest Mission permanent sites throughout the year:

• **Lake North:**

**Maywood: Neighborhood UMC**

1817 Washington Blvd, Maywood, IL 60153

Contact: Magnolia

Phone: 708.203.3017

Email: [neighborhood6@sbcglobal.net](mailto:neighborhood6@sbcglobal.net)

Office Hours: Tues. to Fri. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Glenview UMC**

727 N Harlem Ave, Glenview, IL 60025

Contact: Ethel Doyle

Phone: 847.975.0361

Email: [lareth@aol.com](mailto:lareth@aol.com)

Office Hours: Mon. to Thurs. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **Lake South:**

**New Lenox UMC**

339 West Haven Ave, New Lenox, IL 60451

Contact: Ray Trent

Phone: 815.485.8271

Email: [mmost1@hotmail.com](mailto:mmost1@hotmail.com)

• **Prairie Central:**

**Fox River Grove: Community**

400 Opatrny Dr, Fox River Grove, IL 60021

Phone: 847.639.7737

Contact: Church Office

Email: [communitychurchfrg@gmail.com](mailto:communitychurchfrg@gmail.com)

• **Prairie North:**

**Lanark UMC**

405 East Locust, Lanark, IL 61046

Contact: Church Office

Phone: 815.493.6300

Email: [lumc@lanarkumc.com](mailto:lumc@lanarkumc.com)

Office Hours: Tues. to Fri. 8:30 a.m. to noon

• **Prairie South:**

**Dixon: First UMC**

202 S. Peoria Avenue, Dixon, IL 61021

Contacts: Sandy Burris

Phone: 815.284.7112

Email: [burris402@comcast.net](mailto:burris402@comcast.net)

Office Hours: Mon. to Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Church Phone Number: 815.284.2849

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)

# Celebration of Ministry

A Service of Commissioning, Ordination & Recognition of Ministries & Holy Communion

Sunday, June 14, 2026, 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

*House of the Lord  
Build My Life  
Firm Foundation*

NIC Praise Team

## \* Processional Hymn

*In Christ Alone with The Solid Rock*

Words on the screen

## \* Call to Worship

Eugene Williams

Leader: We come to worship our God, who has done wonders in our lives.  
People: **God anoints us with joy and light, gifts from the treasures of God's heart.**  
Leader: We come to follow Jesus, who bears our lives with grace and hope.  
People: **Jesus would send us into the brokenness of the world to bring healing.**  
Leader: We come to be touched by the Spirit, who brings gentleness and peace for all.  
People: **The Spirit would enable us to offer reconciliation and justice to everyone we meet.**

## 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 the 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 may 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.**

*Practicing  
Hope*



# Celebration of Ministry (continued)

## Recognition of Common Ministry & Reaffirmation of Baptism

Bishop Dan Schwerin, Grant Showalter-Swanson

**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!

## Introduction of Guests

Danita R. Anderson  
Giovanni Arroyo, GCORR General Secretary  
Sally Vonner, General Secretary/CEO United Women in Faith  
Craig Howard, Executive Presbyterian of Chicago

## Recognitions

70 Years of Ordination of Women  
40 Years as a Reconciling Ministries Conference  
30 Years of the Ordination of Deacons  
Danita R. Anderson

## Recognition of Set-Apart Ministries

### Recognition of Newly Licensed Local Pastors

Brenda Morris

Sean DelGrosso  
Rachel Grover  
Joy Hayag  
Shawn Saldano  
SamStanes Stephen Raj



**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.

## Scripture Reading

*Romans 5:3-5 (CEB)*

Audrine Rochet (Spanish)  
Cerna Castro Rand (Tagalog)

But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. This hope doesn't put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

**Leader:** The Word of God in scripture ...among us... within us...  
**People:** **Thanks be to God**

# Celebration of Ministry (continued)

The Word in Music

*How Firm a Foundation  
Firm Foundation (He Won't)*

NIC Praise Team

Sermon

*Hope Never Fails*

Bishop Dan Schwerin

\*Response to the Word

*An Affirmation of Faith for Immigrant Rights*

Luis F. Reyes-Rosario

by Rev. Dr. Lydia Muñoz

We believe in a God who journeys.  
A God who called Abraham and Sarah to leave their homeland.  
A God who heard the cries of enslaved migrants in Egypt and led them across borders into freedom.

We believe in Jesus Christ, a child carried across borders for safety,  
a brown-skinned teacher with no place to lay his head,  
a Savior who said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

We believe the Holy Spirit moves in every language,  
speaks in every accent, and falls on all flesh—  
documented and undocumented, citizen and newcomer alike.

We affirm that every human being is made in the image of God.  
Not in the image of a passport. Not in the image of a visa. Not in the image of a wall.

We reject the lie that some lives are illegal.  
We reject policies rooted in fear, racism, and exploitation.  
We reject systems that profit from detention, separation, and despair.

We proclaim that immigrant rights are human rights.  
That families belong together. That children deserve safety.  
That workers deserve dignity. That asylum seekers deserve protection.  
That every community deserves to flourish without fear.

Therefore, we commit ourselves to welcome the stranger,  
to accompany the vulnerable, to advocate for just laws,  
and to stand in sacred solidarity until justice rolls down like waters  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.



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

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

Sarah Champlin Boutell  
Allison N. Kojak

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

Jonah Briggs Boutell  
Nadan Cho  
Hwankyu Kim  
Alex Sangwon Lee  
Kelly McKune  
Chanje (CJ) Woo

### To be ordained as an elder:

Abby Savannah Holcombe  
Brian Smith, sponsor



## Celebration of Ministry (continued)

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 Abby Savannah Holcombe for ordination as an elder.  
We present her with our prayers and support.**



Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry:

We present Jonah Briggs Boutell, Nadan Cho, Hwanky Kim, Alex Sangwon Lee, Kelly McKune, and Chanje (CJ) Woo for commissioning as provisional members preparing for ordained ministry as elders and Sarah Champlin Boutell and Allison N. Kojak preparing for ordained ministry as deacon.

We present them with our prayers and support.

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

*Available*

NIC Praise Team

*Practicing  
Hope*

## Celebration of Ministry (continued)

### 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 him/her/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.

Let all the people of God say:

**People:** Amen.



### The Ministry of the Deacon (Renewal)

Bishop Dan Schwerin

**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.



# Celebration of Ministry (continued)

## The Ministry Of Elders

Bishop Dan Schwerin

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.

## 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 Abby Savannah Holcombe 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:

Abby Savannah Holcombe 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.**

## 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.

Scan QR code to  
donate online



## Prayer for the Offering

Noral I. Brown, Board of Ordained Ministry Chair

## The Word in Music

*Total Praise*

NIC Mass Choir

# Celebration of Ministry (continued)

## Celebration of Eucharist

Bishop Dan Schwerin  
Grant Showalter-Swanson

### 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*

### The Great Thanksgiving

Bishop: God is with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Bishop: Lift up your hearts.

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.)



# Celebration of Ministry (continued)

## 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  
Cornerstone*

NIC Praise Team

## 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.**

## \*Dismissal with Blessing

Bishop Dan Schwerin, Grant Showalter-Swanson

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

*I Thank God*

NIC Praise Team

**We are thankful to all who participated and coordinated the Celebration of Ministry.**

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# **Celebration of Ministry (continued)**

## **Order of Procession**

**Marshals: John Bell & Alka Lyall**

**Cross: Grant Showalter-Swanson**

**Christ Candle: Cerna Castro Rand**

**Bible: Auderine Rochet**

**Chalice: Paul Lee**

**Lamp: Beverly D. Dukes**

**Bowl, Pitcher & Towel: Sherry Steele**

**2026 Candidates for Commissioning and Ordination, and Sponsors**

**2026 Class of Local Pastors**

**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**

**Ecumenical Guest, Rev. Dr. Craig Howard, Executive Presbyter of Chicago**

**Rev. Dr. Giovanni Arroyo, General Secretary GCORR**

**Sally Vonner, General Secretary/CEO United Women in Faith**

**Bishop Dan Schwerin, Resident Bishop**

## **Order of Recession**

**Marshals: John Bell & Alka Lyall**

**Cross: Grant Showalter-Swanson**

**Christ Candle: Cerna Castro Rand**

**Bible: Auderine Rochet**

**Chalice: Paul Lee**

**Lamp: Beverly D. Dukes**

**Bowl, Pitcher & Towel: Sherry Steele**

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**Sally Vonner, General Secretary/CEO United Women in Faith**

**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**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Scott Himel, Board of Ordained Ministry Leadership Team**

**Eric Blachford, Board of Ordained Ministry Leadership Team**

**Melissa Meyers, Board of Ordained Ministry Leadership Team**

**2026 Newly Commissioned and Ordained Clergy and Sponsors**

**2026 Class of Local Pastors**

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

## 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

Monday, June 15, 2026, 1:45 p.m.

### Gathering Music

*Promises*

NIC Praise Team

### Opening Words

1 Corinthians 15:51, 53, 54 b-55, 57

Kicheon Ahn

Listen, I will tell you a mystery!  
We will not all die, but we will all be changed.  
For this perishable body must put on imperishability,  
and this mortal body must put on immortality.  
Then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:  
"Death has been swallowed up in victory."  
"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"  
But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Opening Prayer

Lino Aragon

Let us pray.  
O God, you have ordered this wonderful world  
and know all things in earth and in heaven.  
Give us such faith that by day and by night,  
at all times and in all places,  
we may without fear commit ourselves  
and those dear to us to your never-failing love,  
in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

### \* Song of Worship

*In Christ Alone*

NIC Praise Team

### Scripture Interpretation of Joshua 3 & 4

Marcia Peddicord

### Song

*Wade in the Water*

NIC Praise Team

### Sermon

*Finding Hope Through the River*

Brian Gilbert

### \* Song of Response

*Hope's Gonna Find You*

NIC Praise Team



## Act of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

### Naming of Those to be Remembered

Bishop Dan Schwerin, Randy Hayes

### Song of Reflection

*Wade in the Water*

NIC Praise Team

### Active Clergy

Betsy Evans, Dec. 14, 2024

# Memorial Service (continued)

## Retired Clergy

Donna Atkinson, Jan. 27, 2026  
Bill Bryan, May 13, 2025  
Rodney Dillinger, Mar. 30, 2026  
Philip M. Dripps, Apr. 15, 2026  
Hayes Fletcher, Feb. 4, 2026  
Janice Gilbert, Jul. 6, 2025  
Charlette Hoffman, Apr. 6, 2026

Donald Keck, Oct. 26, 2025  
Patrick McNally, Feb. 28, 2026  
Fernando Siaba, Oct. 6, 2025  
Mary Elise Thomas, Sep. 26, 2025  
James Wilson, Oct. 6, 2025  
Donald Wright, Feb. 7, 2025  
Lora Zink, Aug. 12, 2025

Song of Reflection

*Wade in the Water*

NIC Praise Team



## Spouses of Active Clergy

Vi Tran, Nov. 11, 2025

## Spouses of Retired Clergy

Helen Gibbons, May 11, 2025  
Faith McWilliams, Oct. 1, 2025  
Virginia Nicholson, Jan. 6, 2026

## Surviving Spouses of Deceased Clergy

Helen Beck, Jun. 12, 2025  
Erma Brian, Jun. 11, 2025  
Lorraine Cheek, May 12, 2025  
Evelyn "Ruth" Johnson, Jun. 6, 2025  
Dorothy Lindman Ogle, Oct. 30, 2025  
June Porter, Dec. 4, 2025  
Freda Whittle, Apr. 16, 2025



Song of Reflection

*Wade in the Water*

NIC Praise Team

## Lay Members to Annual Conference

Joyce Bowles, Dec. 25, 2025  
Gail Bradshaw, Oct. 25, 2025  
Juanita Dean, Feb. 5, 2026  
Nancy Duel, Sep. 20, 2025  
John George, Dec. 20, 2025  
Claudia Johnson, Apr. 27, 2026  
Robin Koptik, Jan. 10, 2026  
Al McClellan, Sep. 17, 2025  
Vern White, Jun. 27, 2025

Song of Reflection

*Wade in the Water*

NIC Praise Team

Remembrance at Tables

Leslie Stanford

At each table, there are stones. Take a stone and feel it. Some are smooth and some are rough. Some are shiny and some are dull. As you hold your stone or stones... 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 reflect on this person and carry them with you, bring your stone to one of the light bearers around the room as we raise our Ebenezer. At the conclusion of the service, you can return to the stones and take one with you as you leave to carry with you and remember the great cloud of witnesses around us.

## Memorial Service (continued)

### Worship Song

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NIC Praise Team

### Prayer

*United Methodist Book of Worship*

G. Morris Jarkaloh

Eternal God, you have shared with us the lives of your people.  
Before they were ours, they are yours.  
For all that they have given us to make us what we are,  
for that of them which lives and grows in each of us,  
and for their life that in your love will never end, we give you thanks.  
As now we offer them back into your arms,  
comfort us in our loneliness, strengthen us in our weakness,  
and give us courage to face the future unafraid.  
Draw those of us who remain in this life closer to one another,  
make us faithful to serve one another,  
and give us to know that peace and joy which is eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



### \* Song

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

NIC Praise Team

### Benediction

Brian Gilbert

### Postlude

*Cornerstone*

NIC Praise Team

**We are thankful to all who participated and coordinated the Memorial Service.**

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The NIC thanks the Foundation for generously providing lanyards for this year's conference.

**[midwestmethodist.org](http://midwestmethodist.org)**

# Retirement Service:

## A Ritual to Honor Retirees and Pass the Mantle

Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

### \* Gathering Songs

*Living Hope*  
*The Solid Rock [My Hope Is Built]*

NIC Praise Team

### Greeting and Reflections

Bishop Dan Schwerin

### \* Call to Worship

*Psalm 62: 5-8*

Chelsea Ganzon

Leader: For God alone my soul waits in silence,

People: **for my hope is from God, who alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.**

Leader: On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

People: **Trust in God at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before God who is a refuge for us.**

### A Prayer of Praise (Unison)

Hyo Sun Oh

God of hope and new beginnings, we praise you for your steadfast love in every generation.

You call pastors into ministry, sustain them by your grace, and fill their hearts with your Spirit.

Today we give you thanks for these retiring pastors

—for their faithful witness and for the fruits of their ministries among your people.

Through their preaching, their prayers, and their care for your church, your grace has been shared,  
lives have been transformed, and your love has been carried into the world.

As we celebrate these retiring pastors, their faithful ministry, and the new beginnings before them,

renew that hope among us, and teach us to practice hope—to trust your promises,

to follow where your Spirit leads, and to serve Christ with courage in the days ahead.

For you are the God of hope, and in you we place our trust. Amen.

### Scripture Reading

*Romans 5:3-5 (NRSVUV)*

Heewon Kim (Korean)

And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

### Hymn of Worship

*Goodness of God*

NIC Praise Team

### 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 hope, 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



Elizabeth Bowes (16 ¼)  
Norval Brown (49)  
Eun-Hye Choi (28)  
Marylou Eubanks (12)  
Kurt Gamlin (46 ¾)  
Sandra Harbour (30)  
Adrenne Ann Ilsmann (28)  
Barbara Javore (27)  
David Jungnickel (16 ½)  
Emma Lozano (11)  
Timothy Mitchell (24 ½)  
Barbara Morgan (21 ¼)  
Kwadwo Ntim (27)  
Awilda Nolla (42)  
Grace Oh (11)  
Christopher Pierson (37)  
Richard Wisdom (26 ½)



### Questions and Response from the Retiring Class

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

1. What brought you hope in ministry?
2. What are your hopes for the United Methodist Church's future?
3. What hopeful advice would you give to clergy?

### Special Music

*One Faith, One Hope, One Lord*

NIC Fellowship of Asian American Choir  
Director: Deaconess Geraldine Mencias  
Accompanist: Rachel Villanueva, Trumpet: Haidar Barbarji

*Practicing  
Hope*

## Retirement Service (continued)

Passing of the Light

Retirees  
Chelsea Guanzon, Josiah Montgomery

Passing of the Mantle

Norval Brown, Abby Holcombe, Bishop Dan Schwerin

\* Hymn of Parting

*The Summons*

NIC Praise Team

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 trust and hope in the living God and to obey God's command to share the message of love, mercy, justice, hope and peace. We will move throughout the world with God's calling upon our lives.

Postlude

*For Everyone Born*

NIC Praise Team

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- and more!



[northern-illinois-conference-of-the-umc.myshopify.com](http://northern-illinois-conference-of-the-umc.myshopify.com)



**Mission Links help you live out the beatitudes and be a blessing for projects around the block and around the world.**



## 2025 Mission Links Awards

Thank you to the Northern Illinois Conference churches that became 2025 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](http://umcnic.org/MissionLinks).

**The Philip Otterbein Award for Highest Total Mission Link Giving  
Kingswood UMC in Buffalo Grove and Deerfield: \$25,580**

**The John Wesley Award for Highest Mission Link Giving per Member  
Hope UMC in Joliet: 84%**



## Francis Asbury Award for Excellence in Higher Education

The General Board of Higher Education, in partnership with the Northern Illinois Conference, presents the Francis Asbury Award to honor the contributions to United Methodist ministries in higher education.



**HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY**  
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Named for early American Methodist Bishop Francis Asbury, this award honors his call to establish a school in the vicinity of every church. "We must," he said, "... give the key of knowledge to your children, and those of the poor in the vicinity of your small towns and villages." The award recognizes United Methodist individuals who have made a significant contribution to fostering United Methodist ministries in higher education at the local, district or annual conference level.

**Presented To:**  
**Rev. Dr. Javier Viera,**  
President of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

**Learn more about the awards given out at AC as well as the stories of the winners at [umcnic.org/ac2026awards](http://umcnic.org/ac2026awards) or scan the QR code below:**



# 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: Evanston: First UMC**
- **Lake South: Chicago: House of Praise UMC**
- **Prairie Central: Naperville: Grace UMC**
- **Prairie North: Rockford: Christ UMC**
- **Prairie South: Plattville UMC**

### Questions about One Matters?

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



## #BeUMC Awards

The #BeUMC Awards are a new opportunity to honor and celebrate outstanding faithfulness across our conference, provided by the NIC in partnership with United Methodist Communications.



The #BeUMC Awards recognize individuals and congregations who embody our shared United Methodist vision to **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously**. These awards highlight lives and ministries that reflect the mission of The United Methodist Church: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Award recipients demonstrate faithfulness, leadership, and impact that reflect both the mission of the Church and the values central to the United Methodist vision.

## Presented To:

- **Outstanding layperson: Robbie Moultrie, Resurrection UMC of Chicago**
- **Outstanding clergy member: Rev. Dr. Char Hoffmann (Posthumously)**
- **Outstanding congregation: Durand UMC**

## 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 ¶1268.1)



### Our New NIC Certified Lay Ministers for 2026

- Shaileshkumar Alendry
- Rebecca Casey
- Tom Carter
- Jessica Houston
- Lois Moreland-Dean
- Lois Nemeth
- Selena Roberts
- Dawn Shires

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.

## Church Planters

Church Planters answer God's call to establish new communities of faith across our connection. Church planters are pioneers of faith, stepping into new places

and ministries with courage, vision, and a passion for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Northern Illinois Conference Office of Congregational Development supports new churches and church planters through encouragement, coaching, resources, and partnership as they cultivate new ministries and connections within their communities.



As these leaders begin this sacred work, we give thanks for their willingness to serve and pray that God will guide, strengthen, and sustain them in ministry. May the Holy Spirit lead them as they build communities rooted in grace, reconciliation, hope, and transformation.

### Our New Church Planters for 2026

- Denice Haynes
- Juan Pablo Herrera
- La'Kendrea Gibson-Webster

Learn more about what the NIC Congregational Development Office at [umcnic.org/congregationaldevelopment](http://umcnic.org/congregationaldevelopment).

## Annual Conference Strategic Goals



### GOAL #1

To grow and reach new disciples of Jesus Christ

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19: ESV)



### GOAL #2

To live out the conviction that racism is incompatible with Christian teaching

[Jesus said] "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself". (Matthew 22:36-39: ESV)



### GOAL #3

To increase the number of highly vital congregations

All of you together are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of that body. (1 Corinthians 12:27: ICB)

# Your ministry partners.

THE COKESBURY COMMUNITY

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Ministry Matters · Cokesbury Kids

## Visit the Annual Conference Online Store



[cokesbury.com/annual-conference-2026](https://cokesbury.com/annual-conference-2026)

## 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

## Bishop Schwerin's Recommendations

- *An Aura of Hope: United Methodism's Next Chapter in the United States* by Lovett H. Weems, Jr.
- *Voices of Resistance: The Bible's Songs of Victory, Peace, and Protest* by Amanda C. Miller
- *Will You Pray with Me: A Guide for Those Who Pray in Public* by Steven Langhofer, Anne Williams
- *The God of the Dangerous Sermon* by Frank A. Thomas
- *Fresh Expressions in a Digital Age* by Michael Adam Beck, Rosario Picardo
- *Come Back: Returning to the Life You Were Made For* by Roger Ross
- *High Yield: Seven Disciplines of the Fruitful Leader* by Lovett H. Weems, Jr., Tom Berlin

## Table Displays

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

**Sun., June 14: Noon to 7:30 p.m.**

**Mon., June 15: 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

**Tues., June 16: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Chaddock  
Chicago Black Methodists for Church Renewal  
Discipleship Ministries  
Educational Opportunities  
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary  
Global Mission Secondary School in Tanzania  
Immigration Law & Justice of Northern Illinois  
IMPR Divino Redentor  
Interfaith Federal Credit Union  
Midwest Methodist Foundation  
Midwest Mission  
MYSI Corporation  
NIC Board of Global Ministries  
NIC Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry  
NIC Commission on Archives and History  
NIC Commission on Religion & Race  
NIC Commission on the Status and Role of Women  
NIC Committee on Discipleship and Spiritual Formation  
NIC Committee on Lay Servant Ministries  
NIC Council on Young People's Ministry  
NIC Creation Care Committee  
NIC Finance and Administration Office  
NIC Merchandise Offerings  
NIC Office of Congregational Development  
NIC United Methodist Men  
NIC United Women in Faith  
North Central College  
Rosecrance Foundation  
SMU Perkins School of Theology  
Spirit Lake Ministry Center  
UM Volunteers in Mission - North Central Jurisdiction  
United Voices for Children  
Wespath

# 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/2026-annual-conference/after-you-leave-ac](http://umcnic.org/2026-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.

## THEME: Practicing Hope

### Day One – Sunday, June 14

#### 1:30 p.m.: LAITY SESSION

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#### 4:00 p.m.: PLENARY 1

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

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**Day Two – Monday, June 15**

**8:30 a.m.: LEGISLATIVE SECTIONS, 9:45 a.m.: PLENARY 2: BIBLE STUDY & EPISCOPAL ADDRESS**

**Noon: LUNCH-AND-LEARN, 1:45 p.m.: MEMORIAL SERVICE, 3:30 p.m.: PLENARY 3**

**Day Three – Tuesday, June 16**

**8:30 a.m.: PLENARY 4: BIBLE STUDY & LAITY ADDRESS, 11:00 a.m.: RETIREMENT SERVICE**

**1:45 p.m.: PLENARY 5, 3:30 p.m.: PLENARY 6**

**CONFERENCE BOARD OF LAITY**

**Conference Co-Lay Leaders:**

**Connie Augsburg  
Eugene Williams**

**District Lay Leaders:**

**Lake North: Ellen Feliciano and Chester Lacey  
Lake South: Dale Carver  
Prairie Central: Kimberly Lynch  
Prairie North: Kris Aves  
Prairie South: Karen Newby**

**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, UWFaith Representative  
Pastor Joy Hayag, ACST Discipleship Area Representative  
Rev. Dr. Char Hoffmann, Clergy Representative (Posthumously)  
Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer, Director of Connectional Ministries**



# NIC Celebrates 40 Years with Reconciling Ministries Network

In 1986, the Northern Illinois Conference made history as the first annual conference in The United Methodist Church to declare itself a Reconciling Conference, boldly affirming the sacred worth of LGBTQ+ persons. For 40 years, the NIC has continued this faithful journey of inclusion, justice, and welcome, helping lead the wider church toward greater love and belonging for all. Together, we give thanks for four decades of reconciling ministry and the ongoing work of building a church where everyone is embraced as beloved children of God.

**We celebrate the courageous leaders, congregations, and advocates whose witness helped shape this legacy and continues to inspire future generations.**

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## CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF SERVICE 30 Years of the Order of Deacons in the UMC

The Order of Deacons in The United Methodist Church has faithfully connected the church and the world through ministries of compassion, justice, service, and love. Since its creation in 1996, deacons have served in congregations, communities, schools, hospitals, nonprofits, and beyond, embodying Christ's call to servant leadership. We celebrate the countless ways deacons have strengthened the church's witness and inspired communities through their ministry.

**May this anniversary be a time of gratitude, renewal, and continued commitment to transformational service.**



# Northern Illinois Conference Committee of the Status and Role of Women

## 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S ORDINATION IN THE METHODIST TRADITION

**In this 70th year of women's ordination, we honor the generations of women who have led with courage and faith, including Bishop Tracy S. Malone, whose roots in Northern Illinois continue to inspire.**



Bishop Tracy Smith Malone preaching during morning worship at the 2024 United Methodist General Conference in Charlotte, N.C. Bishop Malone is the first black woman president and immediate past president of the Council of Bishops. She is a member of the Board of trustees of Africa University and president of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.



GENERAL COMMISSION ON THE  
**STATUS & ROLE OF  
WOMEN**

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 

NIC YOUTH PRESENTS

# THE 2026 FALL YOUTH RETREAT

REGISTRATION OPEN JUNE - SEPTEMBER 9

SEP 25-27 @ TIMBER-LEE



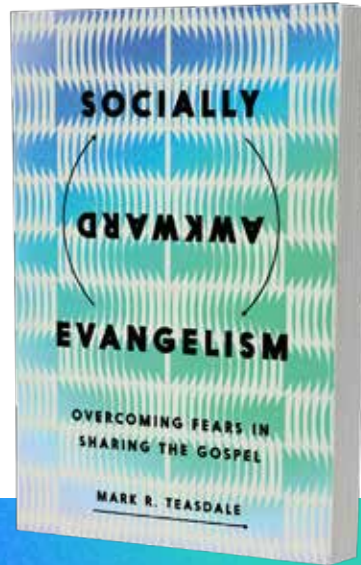
WORSHIP + TEACHING + CAMPFIRE  
ZIP-LINING + FISHING & MORE!

630-469-3510

Contact Pastor Laura  
@ First UMC Glen Ellyn

student@geumc.org

## MOVE PAST ANXIETY AND INTO CONFIDENT WITNESS



Are fear and anxiety holding you back from sharing your faith?

Does the thought of evangelism make you uneasy or leave you concerned about making others uncomfortable? The biggest barrier to evangelism, Mark Teasdale argues, is not lack of training or information—it's fear.

In *Socially Awkward Evangelism*, Teasdale provides the tools to help you move past anxiety and step into this sacred task with confidence and purpose.

ORDER  
YOUR COPY!



InterVarsity  
Press



Northern Illinois Conference  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
**COUNCIL ON  
YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
MINISTRY**

*Strengthening the disciples of tomorrow,  
to lead the church today!*

Connect with other leaders to learn and share the wonderful opportunities for ministry with young people in NIC.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE!

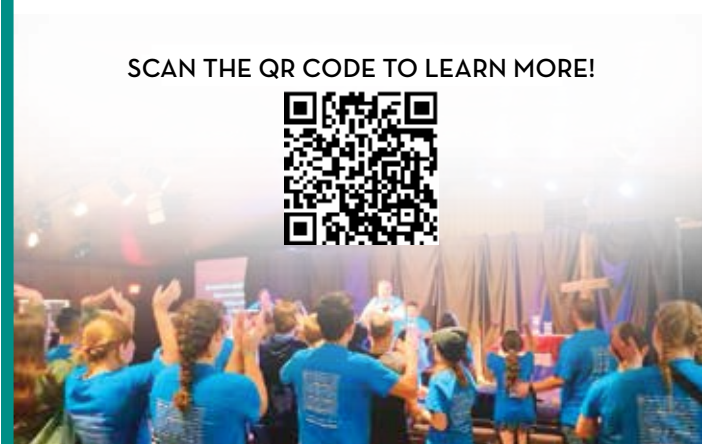


Celebrating  
**50**  
YEARS IN MISSION  
1976-2026

*Be a 50 at 50 church!  
Share your Mission Story!  
Be part of a mission journey!  
Become a Team Leader!  
Celebrate UMVIM Sunday!*

Donate

More info at  
the UMVIM  
table and at



# Thank You

## Northern Illinois Annual Conference

Your year-over-year increase in apportionment giving is a sign of faithful commitment and forward movement. Thank you for strengthening the work we share together across the connection.



**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**  
General Council on Finance and Administration

**UNITED IN  
IMPACT**

A MINISTRY OF THE  
NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

## UNITED VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Advocating for children, youth & families since 1979.



*Kids are at the heart of who we are.*

Supporting mental wellness, advocacy, and child-serving agencies.



### ADVOCATE

We speak up for children and families, promoting policies that build healthy and just communities.



### CONNECT

We link churches, agencies, and communities so information and resources flow both ways.



### EMPOWER

We equip advocates and ministries so kids and youth thrive with hope and opportunity.



Stop by and visit our table – we hope to see you there!



[www.unitedvoicesforchildren.org](http://www.unitedvoicesforchildren.org)

**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)**



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## **Upcoming Northern Illinois Trainings:**

**Online Via Zoom: Cost \$20**, includes background check

- **Sat., Sept. 26**, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Learn more at [umcnic.org/calendar/safe-sanctuaries-trainings-fall-2026](https://umcnic.org/calendar/safe-sanctuaries-trainings-fall-2026).**

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## **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)

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## **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 check, 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. The \$47 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)**

# REVOLUTIONIZE YOUR MINISTRY with Jason Moore



**Fri., July 17 and Sat. July 18** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Naperville: Woori UMC, 2403 W. Diehl Rd.

**Cost (includes lunch): \$50** both days, **\$35** one day

## **Day 1 (July 17): Using AI in the Church**

Explore how Artificial Intelligence can support and shape ministry in practical, thoughtful ways. This session will cover what A.I. is, ethical and theological considerations, and hands-on tools to help integrate it into your church's work.

## **Day 2 (July 18): BOTH/AND: To Be Continued**

Discover how to strengthen your hybrid ministry by creating engaging worship experiences for both in-person and online participants. Practical strategies for participation, hybrid hospitality, and budget-friendly solutions will be shared, along with a follow-up Zoom coaching session.

**Learn more and register: [umcnic.org/calendar/revolutionize-your-ministry](https://umcnic.org/calendar/revolutionize-your-ministry)**

**Clergy from the Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area are invited to the 2026 School of Leadership: Innovating for our Future.**

**Tues., Sept. 29, to Thurs., Oct. 1**

**Green Lake Conference Center  
Green Lake, WI**

This is not just pivot in name, but in how we approach our time together. We are coming together to learn with Rev. Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean as we explore innovative ways to engage our congregations, connect to our communities and grow into a more vibrant expression of church together.

**Join us for worship, prayer, and learning.**

**Learn more and register: [umcnic.org/calendar/school-for-leadership](https://umcnic.org/calendar/school-for-leadership)**





# JOIN GARRETT'S LAITY DISCERNMENT COHORT

THIS FALL | ONLINE OR IN-PERSON

TAKE YOUR FIRST CLASS FOR \$200 + FEES



Scan the QR code to explore how the Laity Discernment Cohort could be the right next step for you.

[GARRETT.EDU/DISCEARN](https://garrett.edu/discern)

Regardless of where and how you are called, theological education can support you and offer tools for the journey.

CONNECT WITH OUR TEAM TO DISCERN YOUR NEXT MOST FAITHFUL STEPS

# BUILD A BRIDGE

DON'T JUST BUILD A CHURCH. BUILD A BRIDGE.

*"Bringing Unity into the Community"*



When the local Starbucks moved away, the community of Itasca didn't just lose a coffee shop—they lost their gathering space. The *Center Cup* was born to fill that void.

As a non-profit "coracle," we believe that nurturing relationships is as vital to human wellness as *health and exercise*.

LEARN MORE & PARTNER WITH US:

 [communitycenter.life/thecup](https://communitycenter.life/thecup)

 [info@communitycenter.life](mailto:info@communitycenter.life)

## Why a Coffee Truck?

- **It's a Third Space:**

A bridge between the sacred and the secular.

- **It's Radical Hospitality:**

Following the example of the ancient Gaelic monks, we harness the simple joys of life—drinking, eating, and good conversation to share our first love: Jesus

- **It's Restorative:**

All resources after expenses are invested back into the community to heal those "undone" by life" supporting local partners who fight poverty, addiction and injustice.

*Building the Kingdom of God a Cup at a Time.*



Mission u 2026



Invite friends, family, and neighbors. All are welcome!

More information at our table



United  
Women  
in Faith

## Mission u 2026

### Weekend

July 10-12, 2026

Stronghold Camp, Conference, and Retreat Center  
1922 IL RT 2 North, Oregon, IL 61061

### Korean Language Day

July 25, 2026

Woori Naperville KUMC, 2403 Diehl Rd.,  
Naperville, IL 60563

### One-Day

August 8, 2026

Euclid Avenue UMC, 405 S. Euclid Av.,  
Oak Park, IL 60302



Founded in 1853 as a ministry of the Methodist Church, Chaddock is recognized around the world for the treatment of children and families suffering from severe attachment and trauma-related issues.

WE PROVIDE:

- **RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT**  
For children ages 7-21 on our 30 acre campus in Quincy, IL
- **IN-HOME TREATMENT & CONSULTATION**
- **FAMILY COACHING SERVICES**  
In Person & Remote
- **EDUCATION & TRAINING**  
For clergy, educators, and mental health professionals




**Stop by our table in the display area!**

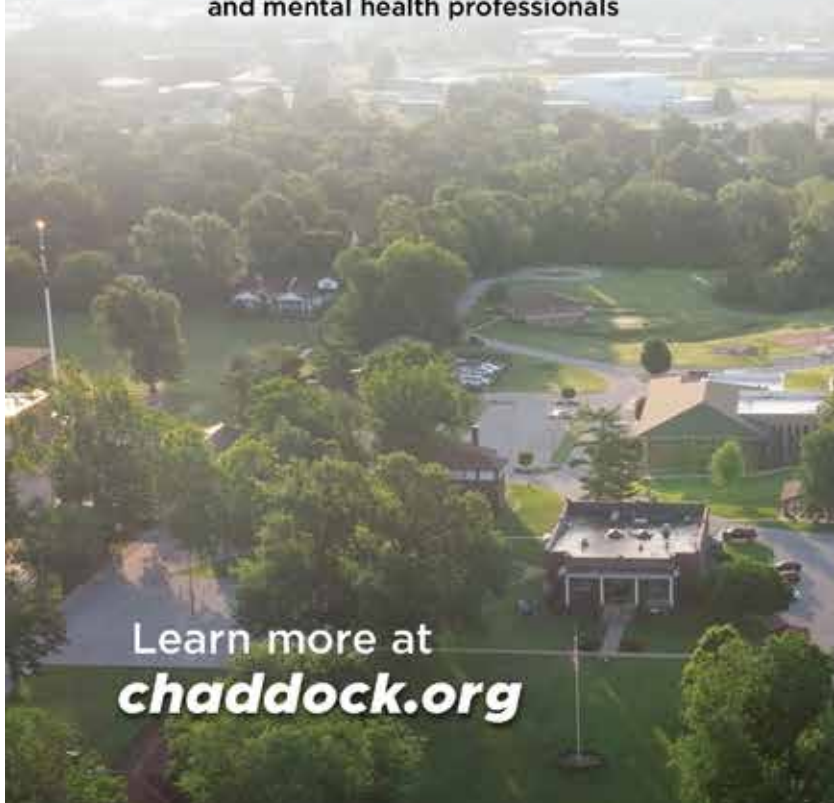
For more information contact:

**Pastor Shawna Bunnell**  
Outreach and Church Relations Manager

 [sbunnell@chaddock.org](mailto:sbunnell@chaddock.org)

 217-592-0330

Learn more at  
**[chaddock.org](http://chaddock.org)**



## 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
- **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
- **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
- **UMPH** – United Methodist Publishing House
- **UMRC** – United Media Resource Center
- **UWfaith** – United Women in Faith  
(formerly United Methodist Women)
- **VIM** – Volunteers in Mission

## 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 by the 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.

## Parliamentary Procedure Chart - Robert's Rules

To Do This:	You Say This:	(See Key Below)					
		I	S	D	A	Vote	R
<b>SECONDARY MOTIONS IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE</b>							
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 consideration of an issue, especially in an emergency	<i>"I move we table the motion . . ."</i>	No	Yes	No	No	Maj	
End debate and amendments	<i>"I move the previous question . . ."</i>	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	R
Limit or extend the limits 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 substitution	<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
<b>MAIN MOTION (Introduction of a Petition)</b>							
Introduce New Business	<i>"I move that . . ."</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj	R
<b>INCIDENTAL MOTIONS (Pertaining to the business under consideration)</b>							
Correct an error in parliamentary procedure	<i>"I rise to a point of order"</i>	Yes	No	No	No	Chair Rules	
Obtain advice on parliamentary 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 temporarily	<i>"I move to suspend the rules so that . . ."</i>	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	
<b>BRING A MATTER BACK BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY</b>							
Take up a matter previously 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 (Posthumous), Matthew Mariani (Pre-Conference Briefing Coordinator) 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

Diana Davis, Rosa Lee, Sharon Orr, 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-Rosario (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. Anderson, Marva Andrews, Christian Coon, Amania Drane, Fabiola Grandon-Mayer, Nicole Minter, Elaine Moy, David W. Quinn, Victoria Rebeck, Debbie Rogers, Lisa Smith, Elizabeth Stahl, Lameise Turner, Cheryl Weaver

**Annual Conference Secretary:** Randy Hayes

**Secretarial Pool:** Jeff Brace, Seamus Enright, Paul Lee, Betsy Lovelady-Smith, Anna Claire McCandless, Marcia Peddicord, Megan Smick

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

**Retirement Service:** Chelsea Guanzon, Heewon Kim, Josiah Montgomery, Hyo Sun Oh, Cerna Castro Rand (Coordinator), Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton (Chair of AC Worship)

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

**NIC Praise Team:** Features worship leaders and musicians from churches across the Northern Illinois Conference.

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

**Eric Joob and the AV3 Productions Team**

## Share Your Thoughts

Please take a few moments to complete the Annual Conference evaluation by scanning the QR code and sharing your feedback to help improve future gatherings.



## Plan for future Annual Conferences

**2027: Mon., June 14 to Wed., June 16** Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center

**2028: Mon., June 12 to Wed., June 14** Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center

# #NICAC26

# #PracticingHope

Share your photos, experiences,  
and more on social media.  
Use the hashtags to stay connected.



**Scan the QR code for all things Annual Conference**

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



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

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