



# *Practicing Hope*

**Retirement Service**

**June 16, 2026**

**Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center**



**Northern Illinois Conference**

OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# 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

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

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