



Sunday, June 14 - Tuesday, June 16, 2026

umcnic.org/ac2026

Celebration of Ministry

As one of its first acts in its 187th session, the Northern Illinois Conference ordained an elder, commissioned two people for deacon's ministry and six for elder's ministry, recognized four new local pastors and transferred orders for 4 clergy.



Memorial Service

Recognized 35 clergy, spouses, and lay members to Annual Conference who are no longer with us with stones and built ebenezer as reminders



 *Practicing
Hope*

Retirement Service



Seventeen clergy were welcomed into the Class of 2026 retirees. Totaling over 450 years of service.



We celebrated the the following anniversaries:

- **70th Anniversary of Women's Ordination**
(full clergy rights)
- **50th Anniversary of United Methodist Volunteers in Mission**
- **40th Anniversary of the NIC becoming a Reconciling Ministries Network Conference**
- **30th Anniversary of the Order of Deacons**



Episcopal Address

Refugia is a living hope.

Bishop Scherwin envisioned for the NIC a hope that cares for the marginalized and expects a future.



Laity Session

The laity session featured the insights and testimonies of five youth and young adults. They described where they find hope and how they use their gifts to share hope in Christ with others.



Bible Study

Ms. Sally Vonner, the General Secretary/CEO of United Women in Faith, lead the Bible study, reminding us to look for Hope and that Hope is ritual.



Budget Passed

The 2027 balanced draft budget was passed.

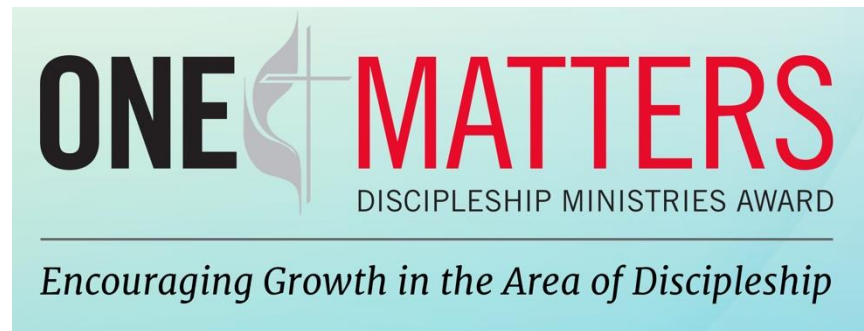
THANK YOU!

In 2025, the NIC received **80% of apportionments**, which is the highest percentage collected since 2016.



Awards

- 3 #BeUMC Awards given to a congregation, lay person and clergy member
- 5 One Matters awards given to one church in each district
- 1 Francis Asbury Award given to Rev. Dr. Javier Viera



Legislation Passed

Legislation included the budget, nominations, Special Sundays, Mission Links, Minimum Salaries for Clergy, camp ministries, policies, and other conference work

- 2027 Draft Budget
- Nomination Slate
- 12 pieces of Legislation passed in Consent Calendar
- 2 pieces of Legislation passed on the plenary floor



Public Demonstration

About 150 marched to demonstrate their support of justice for immigrants on June 15, attracting supportive waves and horn-honking from passersby.





umcnic.org/2026BishopsAppeal

2026

BISHOP'S APPEAL

Giving Abundantly, Generosity Overflowing

Education for Central Conferences
\$30,960.52

Ministerial Education Fund \$2,561



Fill the Truck

Mission Challenge Collection Drive

53 churches, from all 5 districts


2 Trucks needed

Close to 7,000 pounds





Northern Illinois Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Practicing
Hope

2026 Northern Illinois Annual Conference