

#### **400.01 The Foundation of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church - 2017**

The Foundation was organized in 1949 and functions as an independent 501(c)(3) public charity with the mission of “multiplying resources for ministry in the Name of Jesus Christ.” The Foundation carries out its mission by partnering with many individuals, churches, and organizations to provide several services:

- Investment Management
- Endowment Genesis and Growth
- Trustee & Custodial Services
- Planned Giving Programs
- Donor Consultation
- Stewardship Development
- Financial Best Practices
- Ministry Grants

According to the Foundation’s bylaws, “All corporate powers shall be exercised by, or under authority of, and the business and affairs of the Foundation shall be managed by, the Board of Directors.” Directors are elected by the members of the Annual Conference to serve three three-year terms. In 2017 there are no new directors nominated to the Board. The current Board of Directors with full voice and vote are the following 20 individuals:

Rev. Kelli Beard, Parish of the Holy Covenant, Chicago  
Ergeline Calimlim, First UMC of the Chicago Temple, Chicago  
Veronica Davenport, Sherman UMC, Evanston  
Sach Diwan, Holy Covenant UMC, Chicago  
Rev. Jane Eesley, Christ UMC, Rockford  
Sharon Eubanks-Pope, St. Mark UMC, Chicago  
David Foster, Irving Park UMC, Chicago  
Gill George, Barrington UMC, Barrington  
Denny Hackett, First UMC of Morris, Morris  
Rev. Vickie Hadaway, Cherry Valley UMC, Cherry Valley  
Rev. Deb Percell, Epworth UMC, Elgin  
Rev. Tom Rawlinson, Community UMC, Naperville  
Lynette Rice, Grace UMC, Lake Bluff  
Marta Rodriguez, Humboldt Park UMC, Chicago  
Jim Stoddard, Sycamore UMC, Sycamore  
Tom Sumner, St. Mark UMC, Chicago  
Ken Terrinoni, First UMC of Belvidere, Belvidere  
Larry Thomas, Sycamore UMC, Sycamore  
Arnie Uhlig, First UMC of Palatine, Palatine

John Vanderheyden, Roscoe UMC, Rockford

According to the bylaws there are three *ex officio* Board members (voice but not vote): the Foundation’s president, the resident bishop, and the conference treasurer.

The officers of the Foundation are:

- Board Chair, George Gill
- Vice Chair, David Foster
- Secretary, Marta Rodriguez
- Treasurer, Ergeline Calimlim
- President, Rev. Chris Walters

The staff members of the Foundation are: Rev. Chris Walters, President; Janet Boryk, Vice President of Planned Giving; Carolyn J. Cook, Executive Assistant; Joann Turner, Bookkeeper.

Notably this year, the Foundation is celebrating the 12-year service of Janet Boryk, who is retiring at the end of June 2017 as the Director of Planned Giving. In addition to Janet’s main responsibilities of giving presentations on planned giving and working with numerous donors, she spearheaded several ministries of the Foundation, namely the Grants Ministry, the website and electronic communications, and the annual stewardship summit.

The Foundation offers three funds for long-term investment: Conservative, Moderate, and Aggressive. All portfolios are broadly diversified among major asset classes and all sectors of the economy but in different proportions to reflect each fund’s objectives. The Foundation retains Envestnet of Chicago as its investment consultant. The investment opportunities available through the Foundation offer churches and agencies of the conference professionally managed, well diversified accounts, which are invested according to the guidelines for socially responsible investing outlined in *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*.

The investment policies of the Foundation provide for a disciplined approach and to meet a variety of investment objectives. Net of all fees, the returns of the three fund models are (up to the most recent quarter, as of this historical report, March 31, 2017):

	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr 2017	Last 1 Year†	Last 3 Years†	Last 5 Years†	Inception to Date†
Aggressive Fund	4.82%	15.09%	4.28%	6.31%	4.24%
benchmark	5.99%	12.85%	4.73%	7.56%	5.08%
Moderate Fund	3.47%	10.55%	3.24%	4.75%	4.49%
benchmark	4.47%	9.20%	4.13%	6.13%	4.64%

Conservative Fund	2.36%	5.70%	2.45%	3.82%	4.79%
benchmark	2.95%	5.55%	3.54%	4.61%	4.46%

†The rates of return in these columns are annualized.  
 Inception dates are: Aggressive Fund: 7/30/08; Moderate Fund: 6/29/08;  
 Conservative Fund: 7/1/08

As of March 31, 2017, the Foundation had approximately \$57 million under management. The annual audit of the Foundation's accounts for 2015 was approved in 2016. The 2016 audit is being prepared by Sikich of Naperville and is expected to be accepted by the Board of Directors at the June 6, 2017, Board meeting.

Since 1999 the Foundation has provided several local grants each year, totaling more than \$750,000. The Foundation awarded \$23,000 in January to 19 ministries and programs. The recipients are:

<b>Church / Agency Name</b>	<b>Ministry / Program</b>
Aurora: Bethany of Fox Valley	Great Agers Retreat
Batavia: Flowing Grace	Recovery: Friends & Resources
Brookfield: Compassion	Compassion at Work
Chana	Children's Library
Chicago: Grace Logan Square	Studio 3325 Artist in Residence
Chicago: Southlawn	Aiming for Success
Chicago: West Ridge	Ministry Center for Immigrants & Refugees
Crystal Lake: First	Nathaniel's Hope
Durand	Ignite Youth Conference
Genoa: Faith	Middle School Staycation Mission Camp
Harding	Bear Necessities
Mendota: Zion	VBS and VBS Continues
Naperville: Hope	Asian Christmas Gathering
NIC Urban Strategy	Alternative to Incarceration Collaborative
Rockford: Court Street	Love Rockford
Skokie: Jesus Love Korean	Infants and Toddlers Ministry
University Christian Ministry	Anti-Hunger Initiative
Wesley Foundation at NIU	Dear My Friends with Children

This year (2017) is the first year for the Foundation to participate in Dollars for Scholars (DFS), which is organized by the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation (UMHEF) in Nashville. DFS matches support from a student's church, UMHEF, participating United Methodist-related schools, and participating Conference Foundations. By participating in this

scholarship program, the Foundation completes the matching of some local church scholarships to magnify \$1000 into \$4000.

The Foundation also provides other scholarships according to the testamentary wishes of donors.

In August the Foundation is sponsoring the annual stewardship summit at Barrington UMC on August 26, featuring Rev. Molly Baskette, Senior Minister of First Congregational Church of Berkeley, California, and author of *Real Good Church*.

The Foundation continues its work of encouraging the *church--the people* who follow Jesus Christ--to express and extend their Christian faith through their generosity *as the church*, from the ground up, through the various people, places, and programs of their local churches and the many connections and values shared by the The United Methodist Church.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Chris Walters  
President

**400.02 The Foundation of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church - 2018**

The Foundation was organized in 1949 and functions as an independent 501(c)(3) public charity with the mission of “multiplying resources for ministry in the Name of Jesus Christ.” The Foundation carries out its mission by partnering with many individuals, churches, and organizations to provide several services:

- Investment Management
- Endowment Genesis and Growth
- Trustee & Custodial Services
- Planned Giving Programs
- Donor Consultation
- Stewardship Development
- Financial Best Practices
- Ministry Grants

In 2017 the Board of Directors with full voice and vote were the following 18 individuals:

Rev. Kelli Beard	David Foster	Lynette Rice
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Ergeline Calimlim	Gill George	Marta Rodriguez
Veronica Davenport	Denny Hackett	Jim Stoddard
Sach Diwan	Rev. Vickie Hadaway	Tom Sumner
Rev. Jane Eesley	Rev. Deb Percell	Larry Thomas
Sharon Eubanks-Pope	Rev. Tom Rawlinson	Arnie Uhlig

The staff was Rev. Chris Walters, President; Janet Boryk, Director of Planned Giving; Carolyn J. Cook, Executive Assistant; Joann Turner, Bookkeeper.

The Foundation celebrated the 12-year service of Janet Boryk, who retired at the end of June 2017.

The Foundation offers three funds for long-term investment: Conservative, Moderate, and Aggressive. All portfolios are broadly diversified among major asset classes and all sectors of the economy but in different proportions to reflect each fund’s objectives.

As of December 31, 2017, the Foundation had \$63.4 million under management.

Since 1999 the Foundation has provided several local grants each year, totaling nearly \$800,000. The Foundation awarded \$25,500 in January 2018 to 15 ministries and programs.

For the 2017/18 school year the Foundation participated in two matching scholarship programs by distributing more than \$40,000 for 22 students and seminarians, for a total of more than \$100,000 in matched scholarship funds.

**Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship**

From the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry: “Designated for Full time, MDIV student enrolled at one of the 13 United Methodist seminaries/schools of theology, enrolled as pursuing certified candidacy or certified candidate for ministry (elder or deacon), with demonstrated merit, progress, and commitment in the candidacy process. Demonstrated financial need and how this scholarship will help avoid additional student loans.”

**United Methodist Dollars for Scholars Application**

From the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation (UMHEF): “The United Methodist Dollars for Scholars program involves matching support from a student’s church, UMHEF, participating United Methodist-related schools and participating UMC Conference Foundations.”

The Foundation is blessed and honored to carry on the legacy of Christian saints that have gone before us by managing donated funds for permanent scholarships.

In August the Foundation sponsored the annual stewardship summit, featuring Rev. Molly Baskette, Senior Minister of First Congregational Church of Berkeley, California, and author of *Real Good Church*.

The Foundation continues its work of encouraging the *church* – the *people* who follow Jesus Christ – to express and extend their Christian faith through their generosity *as the church*, from the ground up, through the various people, places, and programs of their local churches and the many connections and values shared by The United Methodist Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Chris Walters, President

#### **400.03 - Conference Congregational Development and Redevelopment 2016**

##### Introduction

Our work continues its focus on the vision of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference to make *disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*. Social, contextual and cultural dynamics continue to impact our strategic plan and inform the ways in which we live out this vision. We are sincerely grateful for the leadership of Bishop Sally Dyck, our District Superintendents and the District Strategy Teams who enable visions to become missions that change lives.

##### School of Congregational Development and Redevelopment

The Northern Illinois Conference was the site of the 2016 School of Congregational Development and Redevelopment. This denominational event was held August 17-20 in Evanston. As the host conference, we welcomed over 400 laity and clergy from across the United States including several persons from the Philippines. Lay and clergy leaders from across the Northern Illinois Conference all worked to make this event a huge success. Many churches and missions worked collaboratively on this event. We are grateful for the countless volunteers, along with members of the Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Women, who generously gave of their time to welcome and offer hospitality to participants.

##### TeamWorks Seminars

In partnership with the General Board of Discipleship Ministries, and as a follow-up to the School of Congregational Development, training designed to equip laity and clergy leaders in effective discipleship was made available in October. Sixty persons, representing twenty-six congregations, participated in this event. Bishop Sally Dyck says: "This is a gift from the general church to our conference. As a conference, our goal is to equip leaders who will equip other leaders. We are fortunate to have Dr. Craig Miller helping us out." The training is designed to

the address results from the Landscape Survey and listening sessions of the past year. These seminars will continue in 2017.

#### New Faith Community Development

A new faith community was launched in 2016 under the leadership of Nino and Reyna Espinoza. These graduates of the 2015 class of the Conference Academy for Faith Community Development are passionate about this ministry initiative. This new Hispanic/Latino Ministry worships at Grace United Methodist Church in Blue Island. The Conference Academy for Faith Community Development started in October of 2015 with 27 participants and continued to meet throughout the year each month. Twenty-five persons participated in the Lay Missioner Training Module 1 in November 2016.

#### Institute for Congregational Development

The Institute for Congregational Development is another vehicle for equipping clergy and laity. Participants in this two year program meet monthly and sponsor conference-wide events four times a year. Community Organizing, Discipleship Systems, Youth and Young Adult Ministry and the School of Congregational Development were the conference-wide events in 2016.

#### Conclusion

We rejoice in the rich resource of laity and clergy across the Northern Illinois Conference who continue to engage the changing dynamics of our culture and communities with a goal of making new disciples of Jesus Christ. *Together we make a difference.* Thank you for your faithful work.

Rev. Dr. Cecelia S. Harris

Chair, Congregational Development and Redevelopment

Rev. J. Martin Lee

Director of Congregational Development and Redevelopment

#### **400.04 - Wesley Theological Seminary Annual Conference Report 2017**

At Wesley Theological Seminary, we are building on 135 years of faithful preparation of church- and world-changing leaders by continuing to innovate and grow. We are excited to partner with you in the ministry to which God has called you now – and wherever you may be called in the future.

Wesley's **Lewis Center for Church Leadership** continues to be the internationally respected go-to resource for actionable best practices for clergy and laity. The center's free *Leading Ideas* e-newsletter provides well-researched, discipleship-growing ideas to more than 17,000 people. **Sign up for Leading Ideas at <https://www.churchleadership.com/category/leading-ideas/>.**

The new **Wesley Theological Seminary Lay Academy** offers **11 online courses** covering a variety of topics including Methodist identity, early church history, Christian ethics, interfaith

relations, and the intersection of faith and science. Laypeople can earn a certification in Wesleyan Studies by completing six of the courses online, or can choose to take courses individually for personal education and enrichment. **More information about the Wesley Lay Academy and the certification in Wesleyan Studies can be found at <http://www.beadisciple.com/wesley/>.**

The **Luce Center for Arts and Religion** remains the only seminary-based program uniting arts and theology. The Luce Center invites the public to artist talks with each new exhibit and has regular classes and workshops with visiting artists. **For information on past and upcoming opportunities visit [luceartsandreligion.org](http://luceartsandreligion.org).**

*If you're a current or future seminarian*

**Wesley's Master of Divinity degree can now be completed via online, weekend, short-term intensive, and weeknight courses in 5 years.** This format is designed to be more accessible to those with busy ministry, work, and/or family commitments throughout the region.

**The new African American Church Studies Master of Divinity specialization** gives contextual preparation for the unique opportunities and challenges our future leaders may encounter in African American churches, while the **Public Theology specialization** allows master's degree students to gain skills for community leadership and advocacy.

Wesley continues to offer our 36-hour Master of Arts and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies to **equip those called to ordained deacon ministries or to other ministries beyond the pulpit.**

*Talk to someone at (202) 885-8659 or [admissions@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:admissions@wesleyseminary.edu).*

*If you're a pastor, alumnus, or just want to keep up on the news...*

Wesley's Doctor of Ministry program continues to offer **the most practical and spiritually renewing tracks** in theological education. **Find out more or apply now at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/>**

We invite you to stay in touch through the year and learn more of the latest developments at Wesley by **signing up for our monthly electronic newsletter, *eCalling*, at [www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling).**

Thank you for journeying with us through this update! We look forward to continuing to serve you and your community as we seek to live into God's dream together. Blessings to you on a fruitful and faithful annual conference. We thank you for your service and hold you in prayer as you continue in ministry, wherever that may be.

--The Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President

**400.05 - 2017 Historical Report for the Northern Illinois Conference Board of Trustees**



During 2017 the Northern Illinois Conference Board of Trustees continued to carry out its responsibilities as the Board of Directors of the Northern Illinois Conference. Officers elected in June of 2017 were Harry Nicol, President, and Martha Rudy, Vice- President. Connie Augsburger, Vern White and Timothy Biel Sr. served as additional members of the executive committee. Vern White, Connie Augsburger and Tim Biel serve on the Insurance Committee with Vern White designated as chair. The conference secretary, Deborah Tinsley Taylor, is the designated secretary of the Board of Trustees with Margaret Lundahl serving as her assistant to record minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees.

Other members of the Board of Trustees are Walton Davis, Jr., Gary Kaufman, Jon Stewart, George Wentworth, Jr., Alvin Vidad, Nancy Rethford and Jim Loeppert. During 2017 the Board met eight times.

The NIC cabinet representative on the Board of Trustees is Martin Lee, the Director of Congregational Development/Redevelopment. The conference treasurer, Lonnie Chafin, regularly attends the meetings of the Trustees.

Areas of responsibility for the Board of Trustees include investment and management of conference owned financial assets, management of all conference owned real estate, the sale or lease of property no longer used for conference purposes, and purchase of property to be owned by the conference. In addition, the Trustees are responsible to assure that comprehensive insurance is available to the local churches of the NIC.

There were conference 17 owned properties as of December 31, 2017 which includes housing for the Bishop, the Assistant to the Bishop, the Director of Congregational Development/ Redevelopment, and the 6 District Superintendents. In addition, the conference owns the building used by the Northwestern campus ministry program, the property in Mundelein used by the Vision Church UMC, the camps at Wesley Woods and Reynoldswood, vacant land in Shorewood, the property formerly used by First UMC Westmont, Bethany UMC Itasca, and Christ UMC Lockport. We took possession of the church buildings in Itasca and Lockport during 2017.

In addition the conference leases property used by the conference staff in Chicago, Elgin and Rochelle as well as for the archives in Evanston and for the Hyde Park campus ministry in Chicago.

The Board of Trustees assigns one of its members as the liaison for each of the conference owned properties. This liaison is to inspect each property annually and provide a report on this inspection to the board.

The Board of Trustees is to receive bequests of assets to the conference and identify best use for these gifts. During 2017 no new bequests were received.

Key items for the Trustees during 2017 included:

1. In early 2017 the sale of Hilltop in Machesney Park was completed.
2. We completed our first full year of a major change in the operation of our conference provided insurance program for property and liability which took on January 1, 2017. A Conference Director of Ministry Protection, Dwayne Jackson, was employed. The new program was been implemented under the leadership of the NICUMC Insurance Association. The members of the board of this association are Jim Loeppert, Connie Augsburg, and Tim Biel, Sr. from the Board of Trustees along with Sheryl Anderson (Chairperson), Jeffery Ludwig and Larry Stephens. The Trustees have deemed the program successful.
3. In October the Trustees in conjunction with the Conference Council on Finance and Administration presented a workshop, "Minding the Cookie Jar." This workshop provided information to help local churches develop adequate internal financial control procedures.

Current challenges facing the Board of Trustees include:

1. assisting local churches with risk management related to property and finances and
2. keeping up with and managing local church property coming to the annual conference due to church closures and mergers.

The Board continues to monitor and approve distributions of proceeds of several invested funds that benefit NIC programs. During 2017 these distributions were made:

1. \$151,944.15 from the Seager Fund to the Board of Outdoor and Retreat Ministries, and
2. \$24,500 from the Keagy Fund to ministries in the Rockford and DeKalb Districts.

Respectfully submitted by Harry Nicol, President, NIC Board of Trustees

#### **400.06 - NIC COUNCIL ON OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES 2017-2018**

*"Do not cast me off in time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength is spent." (Psalm 71:9)*

Older adults are the fastest growing population in the church. In response, while there is still time, the church needs to explore their potential and ensure their full participation in the church. Accordingly, their contribution to the church and society, past and present, will be recognized and celebrated. *"Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is found on the path of righteousness."* (Proverbs 16:31)

MISSION: The Council on Older Adult Ministries (OAM) serves to enrich the lives of older adults in the Northern Illinois Conference through ministries (education, training, and service).

These will be accomplished by

- a. Equipping local church ministries with training and resources;
- b. Provide leadership, motivation and support; and

- c. Present opportunities for life enrichment and spiritual nourishment and growth.

OAM accomplished in the 2017 conference year (until 2018):

OAM was prominently present at the June 2017 annual conference sessions in St. Charles by being one of programs highlighted during the Program Council presentation. The Rev. Dr. William Randolph, then director of the Office of Aging and OAM in the Discipleship Ministries (GBOD), was a featured speaker. Dr. Randolph brought packets of materials for delegates to inform local congregations and to start ministries locally.

For the first time, OAM hosted a group luncheon at the 2017 annual conference to honor workers in NIC-related senior care institutions. The workers were accompanied by their supervisors; Bethany Methodist Communities in Chicago, Chicago Methodist Service Center, and Wesley Willows in Rockford.

Also, for the first time, OAM sponsored in September an overnight retreat for older adults at Northern Illinois University. OAM plans to repeat the SIXTY PLUS retreat in 2018.

OAM was at the First Park Ridge UMC during a month-long celebration of older adult ministry and at the 2018 Laity Convocation in Sycamore to operate a resource table. OAM keeps in touch with constituents via its Facebook and eMail communications and the NIC website.

Budget

Much of the expenses and cost of materials in the past were donated or at minimal cost to OAM. Much of printed materials were provided free by the Office of the Aging in Nashville. For 2018, OAM has been allocated \$3,100, most of which will be spent for the proposed SIXTY PLUS retreat, administration of the Golden Cross Sunday observance, and a plan for a conference-wide study and workshop on the subject of aging.

Golden Cross Sunday and Older Adult Recognition Sunday:

The Council on Older Adult Ministries is charged to administer the GCS Offering Fund and to promote the Older Adult Recognition Sunday in NIC. A deserving employee of a NIC-related senior care institution may be a recipient of GCS Offering Fund grant. The employee/recipient must be pursuing a study to further expertise in caring for seniors.

Facebook Page Reaches Constituents on Regular Basis:

[www.facebook.com/nicolderadultministries](http://www.facebook.com/nicolderadultministries)

AQUILINO (PONG) JAVIER and JAMES BARRY, OAM co-chairs

**400.07 - Rockford Urban Ministries**

Rockford Urban Ministries (RUM) was initiated by the Northern Illinois Conference in 1962 and now has 17 United Methodist churches participating in the Council. They bring resources and the Holy Spirit into the city, initiate new programs, and raise social justice issues.

The most recent issue/mission is to formulate classes to be held in the Winnebago County Jail, teaching secular life skills classes, i.e., finding a job, overcoming addiction, citizenship, etc. Five

volunteers have come forward and are being trained to enter the jail which has seen cutbacks in their services.

RUM also participated in protesting against the jail being used as an immigrant holding cell for those found without documents. The sheriff finally changed his mind, thanks to the work of RUM and the community. RUM supports the work of JFON.

Rockford Work Camps continues to host a number of church volunteers who are then put to work on needed projects throughout the city. This last summer we hosted fifteen crews with 450 volunteers providing over 10,000 hours of free labor. Pastor Jeff Brace is the director and can be reached at 815/315-3957. He will put your youth and adults to meaningful work in the city, at your convenience.

JustGoods, the beautiful fair trade store, celebrated its eleventh anniversary, selling fair trade gift items from around the world. It graces the corner of Seventh Street and First Avenue in the heart of Rockford's Shalom Zone. 24 volunteers and two part-time staff keep the store open from Monday through Saturday, from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. There is a wonderful meeting space where RUM hosts many civic organizations and programs. RUM also thanks the Conference for its support in placing solar panels and a wind generator on the roof, which supplies electricity to the building.

Conference's support of \$15,000 is multiplied 20 times and is the foundation for RUM's work with JustGoods, Work Camp, and advocacy. Churches participate more in the urban life of the community, and that increases support from the urban community.

You are invited to visit and see where your Conference funds are going. Please call the director, Mr. Stanley Campbell, at 815/964-7111, and he can give you a short "walk the neighborhood" mission tour. Please keep us in your prayers. Rockford Urban Ministries and the Rockford Work Camps are both part of the Rainbow Covenant.

#### **400.08 - Saint Paul School of Theology**

Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of the United Methodist Church committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry. We are one institution with two campuses, in Kansas and Oklahoma.

This past 2017-2018 academic year, Saint Paul enrolled 117 students in the master and doctoral degree programs. The Saint Paul Course of Study School educated 261 students in Kansas City, KS; Hays, KS; Oklahoma City, OK; and Springfield, MO.

Saint Paul School of Theology announced a new **FLEX** schedule for theological education starting Fall 2018. Seminarians will receive a more **Flexible Learning Experience** that combines convenience and community opportunities with intentional academic scheduling. Students can take a mixture of online, on-campus, and hybrid (blended online and on-campus) courses to complete the required curriculum.

One FOCUS week will be scheduled each semester for hybrid and on-campus students. They will come together with faculty and skilled practitioners to participate in spiritual formation retreats, practicums that teach ministry skills (i.e. funeral planning, technology in worship, financial reporting), and community activities.

The Board of Trustees and president set into motion a new scholarship initiative. Every entering, full-time, master's degree student at Saint Paul will receive a \$5,000 scholarship for the 2018 seminary year. This broad opportunity is the most recent effort to reduce student indebtedness.

Seminary partner, United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, will offer a three-year, full-ride scholarship beginning 2018-2019 academic year. The Resurrection Fellow will have a hands-on, paid internship with a ministry mentor to learn ministry skills in evangelism, worship, pastoral care, and discipleship.

Dr. Amy Oden, Professor of Early Church History and Spirituality, at Saint Paul at Oklahoma City University received the 2017 GBHEM Exemplary Teacher Award. Her book entitled, *Right Here, Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness* examines how Christian mindfulness practices begin with the teachings of Jesus and continue throughout Christian history. Oden includes step-by-step instructions for practicing Christian mindfulness today.

Dr. Mike Graves, William K. McElvaney Professor of Preaching and Worship, published a book in October entitled *Table Talk: Rethinking Communion and Community*. *Table Talk* explores communion practices and a new way of doing church that is catching on around the world. Dr. Graves writes about the dinner church movement and ways that it is carried out.

Seminary partner, Oklahoma City University, dedicated a classroom in the W. Angie Smith Chapel building to honor retired Oklahoma UM Bishop Robert Hayes, Jr. A plaque on the classroom door recognizes Hayes for his many years of service to both the seminary and university. He returned to Saint Paul at Oklahoma City University this year to teach, preach, and serve as Bishop-in-Residence.

The Saint Paul trustees, faculty, staff, and students thank you for your interest, prayers and support.

#### **400.09 - Board of Laity**

Our WHY is to provide support and direction for the ministry of the Laity on the local, district, and conference level. Our How is through building relationships and connections with local church leaders and clergy for equipping and empowering ministry.

Members of the Board of Laity continue to work in our districts and churches to build those relationship and make connections with laity and clergy in order to provide support for ministry and making disciples for Jesus for the transformation of the world. Through district training session, communications and meetings with local lay leaders, lay servant academies, and a variety of other functions.

Laity Convocation is a highlight of the work of the Board of Laity. Last year we focused on Knowing Our Why. This year we remembered our Why and focused on our How. 270 participants gathered at Sycamore UMC to hear our keynote speaker, the Rev. Junius Dotson, General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries, encourage us with a powerful message about knowing our why, moving to our how and understanding the importance of churches developing an intentional discipleship system. Rev. Dotson reminded us, "We cannot disciple people that we are not in relationship with. Discipleship begins with relationship. When churches create an intentional discipleship system, they move from tinkering and fixing to relationship and discipleship building. We do this not to just fill our pews, but to boldly show Christ's love to those around us." Participants then moved on to five breakout learning sessions - "How Do We Share Our Faith?", "How Do We Meet Our Neighbors?", "How Do We Use Data to Help Our Neighbors?", "How Do We Talk About the Way Forward?", "How Do We "See All The People?"

District Lay Leaders are working with District Superintendents and District Councils to bring training needed by local church members closer to the local churches and to make that training more specific to the needs of the local church. Because the Board of Laity wants to provide a connection between the conference, district, and local church, we have concentrated on being a liaison for groups attempting to bring new ideas to members of our local churches.

The Board of Laity has also continued our efforts to promote Laity Sunday. We were encouraged to hear the number of churches who recognize Laity Sunday. We are working to make sure that all of our churches recognize the value of a collaborative spirit between clergy and laity to expand the ministry of the local church.

Jessie Cunningham, Elisa Gatz, Mark Manzi  
Co-Conference Lay Leaders

#### **400.10 - Office of Connectional Ministries**

The 2017-2018 was focused on guiding the emerging vision and mission of the annual conference while also addressing change, implementation and discovery.

Our vision is *"making and supporting vital Christians in vital congregations that engage with their communities and the world for peace, justice and mercy."* "Equip" is our watch word while we strive to bring resources closer to the local church while also engaging as a conference in ways the local church cannot engage on its own.

With this framework, following the approval of reorganization at the 2017 annual conference, we began building an Annual Conference Shepherding Team (ACST). Co-Chairpersons, Elizabeth Gracie and Myron McCoy were recruited and members were named following the guidelines of the legislation. In November the first meeting of the ACST was held.

Simultaneously District Superintendents and district lay leaders recruited Shepherding Teams

for each of our six districts. Building new teams from the ground up in both districts and conference was a slow intentional process taking significant time.

I have worked with Bishop Dyck and the co-chairs of the ACST on support and coordination of the ASCT's efforts of recruitment, meeting planning and training. Training in Adaptive Leadership was led by Reverend Susan Beaumont for all the shepherding teams in March. Helen Chang, a Strategic Planning Consultant was recruited in the winter of 2018 for the first major task of this group as we develop a strategic plan for the Northern Illinois Conference. Striving to keep our community attuned to the work of the General Church and the Commission on the Way Forward, an all-conference event "Into the Future" was offered in September 2017 and led by Bishop Sharon Rader as we worked with the resource "Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality." Almost every issue of the Conference e-news and Reporter continue to carry updates and stories on the work that is being done denominationally. In the coming annual conference year we will see an increase in coverage as the work takes on a more concrete form.

With the portfolio of building connections between the general church and the conference I was privileged to attend meetings with the General Board of Global Ministries this January and participate in a beta testing of a general church tool for assessment with members of the NIC Conference, Discipleship Ministries, General Board of Higher Education and Ministries and the Connectional Table in March.

The Director of Communications, Anne Marie Gerhardt took on the major task of redesigning the conference website this year, launching a clean, attractive, user-friendly tool early in 2018 that follows the schematic of our organization. With the website as a model, Anne Marie then redesigned the monthly print newspaper the NIC Reporter and the weekly electronic e-news. The Reporters new design received first place in the United Methodist Association of Communications awards for excellence in communication across the denomination. The judges said that the newspaper had a very attractive layout and good photography. We are grateful for the many ways in which Anne Marie and her communication specialist, Megan Casey are sharing our story through the web, social media, video and print.

Quadrennial boundary training was a focus in the fall of 2017 as we collaborated with the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women and Becky Williams, Senior Director of Sexual Ethics and Advocacy, in training over 400 persons serving our local church in the ethics and practices of good boundary setting.

Ministry with children and youth continues as a strong emphasis beyond the local church. The NIC Camping Program director Jeff Casey with the leadership of the ORM Board, Co-Chaired by Charles Rea and Karen Huffman continue to strengthen the work of our two camps. This year Jeff and the board invested time and energy in a partnership with the Chicago Southern District so children and youth for the city could spend a fun packed, faith formational week at Reynolds Wood in Dixon, Illinois.

Working to identify the things that the conference can do that the local church cannot do on its own 2018 has seen the redevelopment of Plumblin. This educational, missional trip to New York for high school youth includes time at the Church Center, a tour of the United Nations and

an opportunity to experience New York. The focus for this year's training is Islamophobia. Thank you to Amania Drain for coordinating this event with a team of dedicated clergy and laity.

Our five campus ministries across the northern part of the state reach out to young adults at a formational time in their lives providing grounding in faith. These ministries are staffed by Rev. Eric Doolittle (Naperville: North Central College), Rev. Mosung Eam (Korea-American Campus Ministry U of C), Rich Harvard (The Inclusive Collective at UIC) , Rev. Rosa Lee (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University) and Rev. Julie Windsor-Mitchell (University Christian Ministry at Northwestern).

In addition, the caucuses of our conference are given financial support as they host events for youth specific to their context through the Pembroke Institute, the Christmas Conference and Hyla.

Our work to organize and mobilize the churches in Chicago is coordinated by Rev. Robert Biekman. While also serving the church part-time, Robert is networking and coordinating the UM presence in the city.

Rev. Martin Lee (whose report appears elsewhere) also collaborates with the Office of Connectional Ministry on leadership development, designing and coordinating many opportunities for laity and clergy to grow in discipleship and effective church ministry. Connectional Ministries and the office of Congregational Development and Redevelopment share the services of Laura Lopez as Meeting Planner and Administrative Assistant. Part of Laura's work is in setting up user-friendly registration tools for the many events held in the NIC.

I have given focus to connecting all part of the conference through my relationship with the Board of Laity as I support their efforts at communication and leadership development. One of the "best kept secrets" in equipping laity is the Lay Servants program ably coordinated by Peggy Hansen.

In Service,

Reverend Arlene W. Christopherson

Assistant to the Bishop /Director of Connectional Ministry

#### **400.11 - Program Ministries**

The Office of Connectional Ministries collaborates with the Director of Congregational Development and Redevelopment on the work of resourcing, training, leadership development and mission in the Northern Illinois Conference.

With the redesign of the organization there has been a shift in the structure of program ministries. These ministries have been organized into three areas with programmatic work of the conference lodged within the related focuses.

**Age Level Ministries includes:**



Education Work Area, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, Council on Older Adult Ministries, Council on Young Adult Ministries, Council on Youth Ministries, Children's Ministries, Board of Outdoor and Retreat Ministries.

**Church Development and Revitalization includes:**

Congregational Development and Redevelopment, Evangelism Work Area, Spiritual Formation Work Area, Worship Work Area, Committee on Accessibility Ministries, Strengthening the Black Church for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (SBC 21) and the Latino/Hispanic Ministry Team.

**Justice and Mercy Ministries includes:**

Board of Church and Society, Board of Global Ministries, Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations, Commission on Religion and Race, Commission on Status and Role of Women, Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns, Committee on Native American Ministries, Committee on Restorative and Transformative Justice

Annual Conference Shepherding team members serving as connectors to these areas are: Meg Park (Age Level Ministries), Laura Wilson Underwood (Church Development and Revitalization) and Mary Rawlinson (Justice and Mercy Ministries).

The new design gave rise to a new budgeting process for 2018. Committees submitted a report of their work in the previous year, along with requests for funding with identified plans for the coming year. The Shepherding Team members serving as liaison to these areas met along with the Director of Connectional Ministries and Chair of the Conference Committee on Finance and Administration and worked to designate line item budgets for the areas.

Within the areas, new life has been breathed into the work of the Youth Ministries under the leadership of Christine Hides, Irma Clark has stepped forward to chair COSRW, and Church and Society has relaunched with the co-leadership of Britt Cox and Scott Himel.

Numerous training and leadership events have been offered in the 2017-2018 year designed by both staff and conference committees. More can be learned about the work of the conference program areas throughout the historic report.

Having deferred the work of reorganizing the many committees, commissions, work areas, task forces, and teams in the conference while we focus on the strategic plan of the Shepherding Team, it is my hope that we can return to this work later in 2019.

With gratitude for the service of our leaders,  
Reverend Arlene W. Christopherson

## 400.12 - ANNUAL REPORT FROM GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

In 2017-2018, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary focused on the following priorities:

- **Responsive and Relevant Theological Education:** Respond to the educational and professional development needs of prospective students, alums, clergy, and laity by providing relevant theological education in a variety of formats and investing in our competent and diverse faculty.
- **Inclusivity in Our Relationships:** Ensure we are equitable, just, and inclusive in our relationships with the variety of diversity we encounter (e.g., racial, cultural, sexual orientation) within both our seminary and local communities.
- **Ensuring a Vibrant Future:** Establish a vibrant future by investing in employees, instituting new policies and procedures, caring for the earth, and generating gifts to sustain the seminary for generations to come.

### **RESPONSIVE AND RELEVANT THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION**

#### *Scholarships Available for Fall 2018*

Continuing the seminary's commitment to reducing student debt and addressing the financial needs of students seeking a theological education, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary has an additional 25 full-tuition scholarships available for individuals applying for admission as a full-time student in Fall 2018. For more information, please visit [www.garrett.edu/news](http://www.garrett.edu/news).

#### *Two New Master of Arts Degrees*

##### Master of Arts in Public Ministry

In Fall 2018, Garrett-Evangelical will accept students into the newly formed Master of Arts in Public Ministry program. Students in this program aspire to fulfill their Christian vocations through public ministries of advocacy, organizing, and justice-making in collaboration with other communities of faith and conscience.

##### Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation and Direction

Through rigorous academics paired with profound spiritual formation, the Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation and Direction is designed to provide you with advanced training in the spiritual and devotional practices that lead to both personal and communal growth. Graduates of this program aspire to fulfill their Christian vocation through the task of spiritual direction and companionship.

#### *Connectional Learning*

Connectional Learning is the name for Garrett-Evangelical's new take on continuing education. We seek to create education and training suited to your unique professional, vocational, and spiritual needs.

Upcoming programs that may be of interest to you are a community organizing workshop held in Chicago on June 18-22, 2018. In Fall 2018, we will launch our online “Financial Management for Churches and Nonprofits” course for clergy to attend with a lay leader. Registration opens in late spring/early summer. To learn more about our offerings and stay up to date on future programs, please visit: [www.garrett.edu/connectional-learning](http://www.garrett.edu/connectional-learning).

### **INCLUSIVITY IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS**

Since the launch of our strategic plan in 2015, we have been working to pay greater attention to race, diversity, and inclusivity in our community. This work began with a Racial Equity and Diversity Inclusion Audit. We have been working through the results of the audit to inform changes we need to make in our community.

Thank you for your continued interest in our work. We are grateful to serve The United Methodist Church and the church at large. For more information about Garrett-Evangelical, I encourage you to visit our website, [www.garrett.edu](http://www.garrett.edu), or visit us on campus.

Cordially,

Lallene J. Rector, President

### **400.13 – Northern Illinois Conference Shepherding Team**

With the passage of document 700.14 at the 2017 Annual Conference, the Northern Illinois Conference Shepherding Team (ACST) reorganization became a reality. Over the course of the summer, Bishop Sally Dyck recruited co-chairpersons: Elizabeth Gracie (member Oak Park: First) and Reverend Myron McCoy (Pastor, Chicago: Temple).

During the fall, positions on the ACST were filled following the guidance of the legislation. In November the first meeting of the team took place at Oak Park: First United Methodist Church. The meeting included review of responsibilities, creation of a covenant and work on better understanding the roles/functions of the ACST. The team also heard a report from Lonnie Chafin focused on Trends in the NIC.

After small group discussions, the team decided its top priority is to discern a 5-year vision plan. The second responsibility the group chose for the ACST is to "lead as a learning organization in addressing the technical and adaptive, challenges and opportunities presented to the NIC."

Following the first meeting, plans were made for an all Shepherding Team training on Adaptive Leadership, including both district and conference team members. Led by Reverend Susan Beaumont, author and church consultant, this training was held on Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup> at Barrington UMC. The ACST met for dinner the night before the training to build community and have some additional conversation with Rev. Beaumont.

During this first year, the co-chairs also sought the assistance of a strategic planner for next steps in the work of the ACST. Helen Chang, a strategic development planner with over 28 years of experience was recruited for the work. Helen is a member of Chicago: Urban Village (Wicker Park) and comes to this role with a background in healthcare strategic development and strength in strategic planning, prioritization and organizational development in complex, dynamic organizations.

The Annual Conference Shepherding Team will begin their work with Helen in April 2018 at their second meeting in Rochelle, Illinois with a goal of presenting a vision/strategic plan to Annual Conference in 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Gracie & Myron McCoy

#### **400.14 - United Methodist Men's Annual Report for 2017**

2017 was a good year for NICUMM, as they have reached out in mission and helped others to know and grow in Christ. The NICUMM men continue to develop Executive Committees in each District. Our Spiritual Congress, Upper Room Prayer Ministry and our mission efforts continue to be focal points for our men. By encouraging men to become engaged as leaders in our churches, we strive to equip men, who have a heart for ministry, to develop disciples for Jesus Christ. Rev. Dr. Rick Vance, Director of Men's Ministry for the GCUMM, was our keynote speaker at Spiritual Congress, with sessions focusing on the Holy Spirit and our ministry activities; and Rev. Jacques Conway, Chicago Southern DS shared his spiritual journey at the Friday night session. The guest speaker at our 2017 annual meeting was Bishop Jonathon Keaton, ILGRC (ret) on Exploring Issues of Fatherhood. Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries continues to be a focal point for both Illinois Great River Conference and our Northern Illinois Conference UMM including support for the spin-off mission, Suits for Success. The Class Meetings were also supported for the men in our conference. The Conference is working on materials for our endowment fund with the foundation to generate more funding for mission work.

District Activities are reaching men for Christ. Some of our 2017 highlights for the conference and common in all districts are:

- Continued the 2013-2017 plan of work for the Conference UMM, and updated for 2018-2021 including provisions for SMART goals.
- Men's Ministry Specialist, we have three men certified as MMS and one man working on certification.
- Held the 57<sup>th</sup> Spiritual Congress at Williams Bay Wisconsin in September
- The 12<sup>th</sup> National Gathering of UMM was attended by 29 conference men
- EMS/Legacy Builders & Charters, were a major emphasis to invite men to become involved in Men's Ministry, especially past due memberships

- Meals for Millions/Society of St. Andrews, continues as a major Mission Program and the NIC was recognized as the 2016 Top Conference at \$21,255 by SoSA
- Prayer Ministry, hosted Prayer Lines at NIC Annual Conference and at Spiritual Congress; provided support to the Upper Room Prayer Line (\$1000)
- Scouting Ministries Programs
- Reaching out to the younger Men

Aurora District: President Herb John

- Focused on what individual district men are doing in mission and spiritual growth
- Hosted the 2017 NICUMM annual meeting
- Lenten Breakfast at Good Shepherd UMC, Oswego
- Prayer Breakfast @ St. Andrew UMC, Carol Stream with the \$89 offering going to the Upper Room Prayer line.
- Advent Breakfast @ New Lenox UMC concentrating on Habitat for Humanity with half the \$372 offering going to Will County HfH and half going to Fox Valley HfH
- Continued to fill out our District Executive Committee

Chicago Northwestern District: President Leon DeLoney

- Have 2 Prayer Line Ministries in NWD

Chicago Southern District: President Glenn Campbell

- New District Officers elected and installed
- Continued Monday night bible study for the 29<sup>th</sup> year
- Focused on mission support for MfM, HIV-Aids and Hunger Relief
- Hosted Annual Awards Banquet honoring three men, one woman, and two youth (male & female)
- Held the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual United Methodist Men's District Musical
- Began formal outreach program to 30 district UM churches with no formal UMM units

Elgin District: Representative, Jim Nelson (President - Open)

- Supported several mission projects, including a house framing trip to Gatlinburg, TN
- Hosted Upper Room Prayer Line
- Continued to work on completing the Executive Team
- Supported MfM, through Potato drops and donations
- Collected vegetables for food pantry
- Developed Faith ministry thru bible studies
- Sponsored the God and Country Program and a Daddy and Me breakfast

De Kalb District: President, Scott Brooks (Also Conference Prayer Advocate)

- Strengthen Leadership through establishing new Charters & EMS Members
- Held district meeting/service at Dixon with individual church missions as the topic
- Distributed tons of Potatoes through Society of St. Andrews
- Continued to provide hunger relief through various pantries and gleaning sweet corn, and countless garden vegetables
- Hosted 2 conference-wide men's workdays at Camp Reynoldswood

Rockford District: President Dave Hilton

- Hosted 9<sup>th</sup> annual Harmony for Hunger concert and raised \$17,100 for local food pantries and Meals for Millions, this event has raised more than \$110,483 in the nine (9) concerts
- Hosted the District Men and their families to a Rivets Baseball game August 6<sup>th</sup> with 125 in attendance honoring the Local Food Pantries and promoting our Harmony for Hunger Concert next April.
- Beth Eden UMC, Rockford, IL hosted the Rockford District Spring Communion Breakfast, Dr Zaki Zaki was the guest Speaker.
- Freeport First UMC hosted the District Fall Communion Breakfast. The guest speaker was our own UMM National President, Steve Nailor. We raised \$4528.24 for Society of St Andrew Meals for Millions.
- The Rockford District will be sending a total of \$9,000 again this year to Society of St. Andrews Meals for Millions program. The Society of St. Andrews noted the Rockford District would have been third on the list of conferences for contributions to the Society in 2016.

President George Groves

#### **400.15 - Youth Ministry**

At the end of 2017, we began to convene a youth ministry team of diverse leaders throughout the conference. During 2018 we will focus on youth ministry goals including equipping youth leaders across the conference, increasing collaboration among churches, involving student leaders, and sharing resources. We will also support the Sustainable Youth and Children's Ministry event in April.

Submitted by Christine V. Hides

#### **400.16 - NIC Council on Finance and Administration Historical Report**

Adaptive leadership seems to be the new norm these days. In the past year, our CCFA has done some adaptive work in order meet the needs of our Conference and local churches. As a result, CCFA has shifted our goals to look at debt management. Our conference is seeing a rise in Pension, Health Benefits, and Property Insurance arrearages, these unintended subsidies are a growing liability for our conference and CCFA is exploring how to manage this kind of debt. We also are looking into how to improve apportionment revenues. CCFA has also adapted its work now include the tasks of the Equitable Compensation Committee and Personnel Committee as a result of our new Annual Conference Governance structure.

We ended 2017 having received \$5,988,061 in apportionments from Northern Illinois Churches. Thanks to your generosity and careful stewardship of conference expenses, we are able to pay 90% of our apportionments to all the General Church Apportioned Funds, which is an improvement over last year where we were only able to pay 90% world service and 70% to the remaining funds.

CCFA is aware of the struggles of the local church and denomination and is working to meet those struggles within its scope. At the time of writing, CCFA has granted 25 apportionment appeals for the 2018 calendar year to local churches. This is a higher number of appeals than usual.

CCFA still struggles to accommodate reductions to our ministries when income is below \$6 million. We are working with the newly formed Annual Conference Shepherding Team to gain insight on how to align our resources to best support our mission as an Annual Conference.

CCFA has also worked this year with the NIC Foundation and Annual Conference members on how we can use our investments and financial holdings to better care for creation. CCFA will continue to review our investment strategies and pursue options that move us closer to a greener world.

CCFA continues to be grateful for the support of local churches in carrying our vital ministry across Northern Illinois and seeks to be the best stewards possible of our resources.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*CCFA Executive Team*

Rev. Robert A. Hamilton, President; Stephanie Uhl, Vice-President; Rev. Luis F. Reyes, Secretary; Lonnie Chafin, Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services

#### **400.17 - Organizational Task Force 2.0**

With the passage of document 700.14 Organizational Structure for the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church a follow up step was approved in reorganizing the many committees, boards, commissions, work areas and task forces of the Northern Illinois Conference.

The motion read: *"To compete the remaining task of streamlining conference committees, the Organizational Task Force shall be reformulated to evaluate the existing committees and purpose, to the Annual Conference in 2018, a streamlined committee structure as well as appropriate adaptations to the ACST and DST's. The reformulated OTF shall include 10 (10) members; five (5) shall carry forward from the existing OTF and five (5) shall be newly selected. The reformulated OTF shall include the Chair*

*of the Committee on Nominations. The remaining 9 members shall be selected by such chair and the Director of Connectional Ministries in consultation with the Bishop."*

In the fall of 2017, Reverend Christopher Winkler accepted the bishop's invitation to chair the task force. In accordance with the resolution establishing this task force, members were recruited and a meeting was scheduled for early in 2018. Simultaneously, the Annual Conference Shepherding Team secured the services of Helen Chang as a Strategic Planning Consultant.

The consultant advised a delay in this committee reorganization process while the strategic plan is designed, so the work on committee structure can be done in alignment with other goals and objectives of the Shepherding Team.

In consultation with Bishop Sally Dyck, Reverend Arlene W. Christopherson (DCM) and the task force chair, all agreed it was in the best interest of the conference to delay this work until 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Reverend Chris Winkler

#### **400.18 - The Eco-Sustainability Task Force**

Co-Chairs: Nancy Rethford and Dick Alton

Originally commissioned by Bishop Sally Dyck to advance the work of sustainability, the Task Force has worked for the last three years on discovery and networking. In our first year we subdivided into three groups "Why," "How," and "Public Power."

Our "Why" group, with an education and Faith Community focus, looked at curriculum. It was decided that the book "A Hopeful Earth: Faith, Science, and the Message of Jesus" co-authored by Sally Dyck and Sarah Ehrman is sufficient for all persons at this time. This sub-group did not continue their work.

The "Public Power" Group had the focus of advocacy and political action. In the first years the clean energy bill and the Paris Agreement were tracked. In 2017 we brought to Annual Conference a proposal to divestment from fossil fuels and were directed to work with CCFA and the UM Foundation. We accomplished this with two meetings. Our joint statement will be discussed at the UM Foundation annual meeting.

Our "How" group made a video for the 2016 Annual Conference and looked for twenty churches using the Green Team method of guiding their congregations to be more eco-sustainable. We sent out a survey and received great response. In 2017 we followed up with two green fairs. A medium sized group came on February 25, 2017 to Logan Square UMC. A large group on March 11, 2017 gathered at West Chicago: First UMC. Many vendors doing the work of solar, wind, energy and recycling joined us. Our featured speakers included Bishop Sally Dyck, Dan from Faith in Place, Kay from S.C.A.R.C.E., Conservation Foundation and Earthkeeper, and Rev. Harriett Cross. The goal of our Green Fairs was to encourage the formation of green teams and to resource teams and trustees.



Toward the end of 2017 we evaluated our goals as a task force and consulted with Bishop Dyck. We have laid out two green fairs for 2018 and solidifying the network with online presence (Face Book and a web site). Lastly with an NIC green certification program we will be able to unite the Annual Conference in a goal of eco-sustainability. As we move into 2018 we have proposed legislation to encourage churches to seek green team certification in seven areas (energy, resource management, transportation, food, toxic chemicals, water, and community outreach), to become Styrofoam free and to do an energy audit. We have established a Face Book site: Eco-Sustainability Network. We are working on the certification paperwork and the Web site.

#### **400.19 - ChildServ**

Last year marked ChildServ's 123<sup>rd</sup> year of protecting, healing and educating children and families so that they can build better lives. Our in-home, trauma-informed programs, including early childhood education, foster care and adoption, and residential group homes for teens, helped 2,481 children and families to reach their potential in Cook, DuPage, Kane and Lake counties.

#### **Building Better Lives**

ChildServ's early childhood education programs ensure children ages 0-5 reach developmental milestones. In 2017, 614 kids were on-track for kindergarten.

Last year, 34 children who had been abused, neglected or experienced trauma found permanent, loving homes through our foster care and adoption programs. Our 219 dedicated foster parents provided stability.

Finally, ChildServ operates three residential group homes in DuPage County for teens ages 12 - 18 who have experienced trauma. The youth receive clinical support, life skills training, such as budgeting, financial literacy and time management, and the encouragement to complete high school. For the third consecutive year, every teen in our group homes who was eligible, graduated on time.

#### **Sustaining Mission Partnerships**

Since the summer of 2016, ChildServ has been in partnership with Chapin Coffee, to build better lives for children in Chicago and abroad through our A Better Life Coffee Collection. For each bag sold, 10% of the proceeds support the children and families in our care and a meal is delivered to a malnourished child in Guatemala. The collection features three roasts and are available for purchase at, [www.childserv.org](http://www.childserv.org).

ChildServ's faith partners have always been integral in helping us to build better lives for children at risk. In 2017, 25 United Methodist churches provided more than 1,100 kids with clothing, diapers and toys, ensuring that they experienced the joy of Christmas.

The Northern Illinois Annual Conference Program Council's grant afforded us the ability to

record ChildServ’s professional staff’s educational, Trauma-Informed best practices and skills presentations that can be distributed to local churches. A substantial increase in direct service participation and financial support from congregations and individuals created opportunities to expand our missional partnership that reached our children, teens, and families by refreshing our Group Homes, providing mentors, teachers of knitting, and developing foster friendly churches.

We are also excited about our growing collaboration with Wespath. Throughout the past decade, Wespath’s generosity has also been demonstrated closer to home through their employees’ donations of gifts at Christmas, as well as backpacks and supplies for ChildServ’s Back to School Drive.

### Impacting Our Future

Since 2016, ChildServ has been working with the State of Illinois and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to help those in Illinois’ juvenile justice and child welfare systems build better lives through placement in safe, supportive foster homes.

For more information about ChildServ or learn how you can get involved in helping children at risk to build better lives, visit [www.childserv.org](http://www.childserv.org) or contact our Director of Faith and Community Relations Kim Coffing at (773) 239-8710 or [kcoffing@childserv.org](mailto:kcoffing@childserv.org).

Respectfully submitted by Kim Coffing, March 27, 2018.

### **400.20 - United Voices for Children**

2017 Report  
Northern Illinois Annual Conference

*United Voices for Children (UVC) is a coalition of congregations, agencies, groups and individuals in the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church that speaks and acts on behalf of children, youth and families in need.*

The UVC board waded through several hours in 2017 assessing “who” UVC needed to be in this era of overt racism, sexism, violence – especially gun violence on our streets and in our schools, bullying, opioid crisis, Congress’s destructive cuts of life-sustaining resources for poor families of educational, food and medical care resources, and rising death rates among children and teens by their own hands. Yet, UVC resisted surrendering to these oppressive actions and chose to speak and act on behalf of what is *good*: To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God...*and kids*. (Micah 6:8+)

In August, UVC lead an educational event, *Skin in the Game: Equipping Congregations to Challenge Racism*. Partner sponsors were the First United Methodist Church of Elmhurst and the Northern Illinois Annual Conference. Panelists were from local churches: Maple Park United Methodist Women (UMW) discussed the book, *Dear White America*, by Tim Wise, with the UMW from the Geneva UMC; Northbrook UMC’s Racial Awareness in the Northshore (RAIN) facilitated community discussions at their local library on the PBS series, “Race: The Power of an Illusion”; and, representatives from the Urban Village Church and St. Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church shared how the antiracism training consultants, Crossroads ROAR, impacted their

congregations. Keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy brought her prophetic voice, resources, and challenge for each of us to be antiracist activists along with the commitment to learning how white privilege distorts our souls and social policies. 100 persons attended with 45 congregations represented!

Other noteworthy items:

- A “first” for UVC was being a benefactor from of the Nancy Culbertson Bequest.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Appeals in 2017 generated an amazing 34% increase from the year before!
- UVC’s missional partnerships and networks continue to expand our advocacy ministries. NIC/UMC Urban Ministry Coordinator, Rev. Robert Biekman and United Methodist Women’s Representative, Nellie Winters, add enriching connections and insights to UVC’s mission. ChildServ, MYSI Corporation, and Rosecrance representatives inform the UVC of the status of their services as well as policy issues that are impacting the at-risk populations they serve.
- Our board met in supportive United Methodist Churches in each District: Maple Park, LaGrange, Downers Grove’s First, Elgin’s Epworth and First, DeKalb’s First, and Wilmette’s Trinity UMC. From each congregation, we heard how their mission outreach offered life-supportive opportunities to the children in their community.

United Voices for Children will continue to advocate for at-risk children, teens and families throughout the northern Illinois area as well as affirmed our commitment to challenge churches in addressing how racism impacts children in their communities throughout 2018-19.

Respectfully submitted:

S. Kim Coffing,

President, United Voices for Children

#### **400.21 - GBHEM GENERAL AGENCY REPORT - 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

GBHEM launched a new mission and vision in August 2017. The updated mission and vision simplify GBHEM’s role as the primary leadership development agency for The United Methodist Church.

**Mission:** Build capacity for United Methodist lay and clergy leaders to discover, claim and flourish in Christ’s calling in their lives, by creating connections and providing resources to aid in recruitment, education, professional development and spiritual formation. **Vision:** Generations of thriving, diverse and compassionate Christian leaders for The United Methodist Church and the world.

#### **OUR WORK THROUGHOUT 2017 AND 2018**

GBHEM hosted **Exploration**, a biennial event for young adults ages 18-26 to hear, discern, and respond to God’s call to ordained ministry as a United Methodist deacon or elder. More than 350 attended the event in November 2017.

The **Young Clergy Initiative (YCI)** funded **34 innovative projects** across the church in 2017 to attract young people to ordained ministry. Since its inception, more than 100 projects have been funded.

GBHEM works with the **Commission on Central Conference Theological Education (CCTE)** to distribute grants for the theological education of pastoral leaders in the Central Conferences. In 2017, the CCTE awarded **67 grants totaling more than \$1 million**.

The **Publishing Ministry**, established to engage, nurture, and advocate for the intellectual life of The United Methodist Church, released **13 books in 2017**.

In 2017, GBHEM's Office of **Loans and Scholarships** awarded **2,000+ students with \$4.1 million** in scholarships and **350 students with \$1.4 million in low-interest loans**. More than **\$1.6 million was awarded to 200 recipients of the Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship**, which helps United Methodist clergy avoid excessive educational loan debt, minimize financial stress and build financial acumen.

To aid pastors in their ministry journey, GBHEM's **Candidacy Office** introduced **EM360**. A formation guide to help pastors and congregations meet mission and ministry goals, EM360 is a tool to help clergy leaders **identify and gauge pastoral effectiveness**. In 2017, **1,438 candidates enrolled in UMCARES** to seek certified candidacy for licensed or ordained ministry. A total of **589 candidates were certified**.

The **Black College Fund** distributed **more than \$9.68 million in 2017** to the Historically Black Colleges and Universities related to The United Methodist Church for faculty development, infrastructure maintenance, academic programs and scholarships.

**Clergy Lifelong Learning** led African-American, United Methodist pastors who lead predominantly white churches in **cross-cultural diversity training** in South Korea in 2017. Continuing education and coaching opportunities are available through the innovative, multilingual platform, UMC Cyber Campus.

In partnership with Discipleship Ministries, GBHEM provides e-readers to theological schools in remote areas of Africa and Asia, offering access to the latest textbooks and references books. The **E-Reader Project** distributed **667 e-readers in 2017** and nearly **2,500 devices to 22 theological seminaries** since the program inception in 2013.

In 2017, GBHEM and the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools (AUMTS) hosted two **academic theological colloquies**. Initiated in service to the intellectual life of the church, the colloquies are intended to be a resource for the church.

## 400.22 - BETHANY METHODIST COMMUNITIES

**MISSION AND HERITAGE:** Celebrating 128 years of ministry, Bethany Methodist Communities (BMC) serves seniors and vulnerable adults of all ages at two campuses and through multiple outreach projects. BMC's mission is offer exceptional medical, residential and ancillary services and meet physical, social and spiritual needs across the continuum-of-care.

### **SITES AND SERVICES:**

Chicago Campus: **Bethany Retirement Community (BRC)** and **Methodist Hospital** are located on Chicago's north side. Licensed by the State of Illinois, BRC is home to 120 seniors, with independent apartment living and supportive care for residents needing assistance with such daily functions as dressing, bathing and medication management. Numerous services and amenities include: twenty-four-hour nursing and security; social, spiritual and cultural activities; a day program for persons with cognitive challenges; housekeeping; and transportation. Residents have access to medical care provided by physicians at Methodist Hospital, which is located under the same roof. The Hospital offers comprehensive medical, surgical and intensive care, an emergency center, outpatient service, adult mental health, and hospice. Board-certified physicians represent many specialties, and a full-service dental office is on-site. The Hospital consistently achieves highly-rated accreditation status.

Glenview Campus: **Chestnut Square at The Glen (CSG)** and **Partners In Home Healthcare (PIHH)** are located on the site of the former Glenview Naval Air Station - now called The Glen - in Glenview. CSG offers active older adults gracious apartment living just steps away from parks, shopping, a senior center, fine restaurants, and theaters. Bethany's hallmark hospitality is complemented by gourmet dining, social, cultural and spiritual events, a library, gardens, exercise studio, and scheduled transportation. In-home care is available if needed, and residents may choose to have services provided by Partners In Home Healthcare. PIHH offers nurses, caregivers and companions to assist at times of special need, such as during illness or following surgery. A full range of care is available, from short-stay help with dressing and bathing to 24-hour, live-in support, enabling individuals to remain and thrive in their own homes.

**RAINBOW COVENANT MINISTRY:** Foundational to Bethany's mission, the **Good Samaritan Program** provides medical care, housing and spiritual nurture for indigent, abused and neglected adults, and also assists Bethany employees in crisis situations.

**RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NIC:** Bethany Methodist Communities is blessed to serve as an extension ministry of the Northern Illinois Conference and grateful for its relationships with congregations and clergy. BMC's professional staff will arrange no-cost workshops and education about all aspects of health, aging and caregiving; organize health fairs; and create one-time or long-term volunteer opportunities. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to visit for tours, training and mutual ministry projects.

Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Dahl  
Chief Executive Officer  
Bethany Methodist Communities

#### **400.23 - 2017 Historical Report of the Northern Illinois Conference's Credit Union-Land of Lincoln Credit Union**

The year 2017 marked the 78<sup>th</sup> year that the NIC has participated in making a credit union available. Due to a merger in 2014 the Northern Illinois Conference's official credit union became Land of Lincoln Credit Union. It is available to all United Methodists (laity, clergy, or employees) in the state of Illinois for a wide variety of financial services, including personal and auto loans, VISA credit cards at very reasonable rates, savings and money market accounts, checking accounts, IRAs, etc. Land of Lincoln CU offers online banking options, as well. Its accounts are insured by the NCUA (National Credit Union Administration).

The contact number is 309-827-8636 at the Bloomington branch or toll free at 844-222-7788. The website is [www.llcu.org](http://www.llcu.org). The address of the current office of the Bloomington branch is 115 Susan Dr., Unit 1, Normal IL 61761.

Though based in Decatur, Land of Lincoln CU also participates in Shared Banking with credit unions throughout Illinois, which means that your account in Land of Lincoln can be handled by visiting any other credit union near you that participates in Shared Banking.

Methodist related credit unions date back to John Wesley's involvement in the 1700s. They provide a service-oriented cooperative financial resource to people in a wide range of economic circumstances.

#### **400.24 - 2017 Conference Committee on Native American Ministries Historical Report**

We support our **Native American Ministry of Presence** on the north side of Chicago. Bill Buchholtz continues to coordinate this ministry. He works with many Native organizations and Chicago schools as a musician and mentor to children and youth. He is also present at powwows in the Midwest, dedications, worship services, special events and memorial services.

We continue collaborating with **The Kateri Center** by supporting the educational and cultural programs of their elders, participating in the All Nations Prayer Circle, occasional worship services and leadership meetings, and providing resources for language events. We also

supported the center in its transition of its leadership and celebrate the new co-coordinators are Jodi Roy and Lisa Franqu. Gene Green and Bill Buchholtz have been in regular attendance at the meeting, with Michelle Oberwise Lacock in attendance by phone and once in person. Important to the work was in assisting with the one-day Pow Wow that Kateri held. It was well attended and meaningful for all.

This year we co-hosted Dr. Cheryl Bear, Nadleh Whut'en, from the Dakelh Nation, Dumdenyoo Clan (Bear Clan), [www.cherylbear.com](http://www.cherylbear.com) with Wheaton College. Her talk was on "Being Native, Being Christian: A Journey in Song and Story" was powerful and held at Kateri and at Wheaton College in January.

Important to our work this year was the "Why Water Matters" conference which was held in Minneapolis in November. It was a meaningful event, with over 100 people from across the Jurisdiction in attendance. We appreciate Bishop Dyck's powerful message at the opening dinner. Bill Buchholz, Gene Green Adrienne Trevathan and Michelle Oberwise Lacock provided leadership for the event and Craig Miller attended from the committee. Our hope is that as people returned to their annual conference they would work to understand the water concerns in their local conference, cities and church and work to develop a plan to deal with those concerns.

**The members of CONAM** have spoken at and celebrated with churches observing Native American Ministries Sunday, attended powwows, participated in worship; provided pastoral care with Native Americans, and provided learning opportunities about Native culture.

With Gratitude,

Rev. Dr. Michelle Oberwise Lacock, and Gene Green Co-Chairs  
Committee on Native American Ministries

#### 400.25 - Northern Illinois Conference 2018 Pension Appointment Categories and Guidelines

Submitted by the NIC Cabinet; Rev. Lisa Kruse-Safford, dean

Under the guidelines of the 2008 United Methodist Pension Program Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP), pension credit is accrued based on years of service in quarter increments. In order to determine the appropriate category for all persons serving in an appointment less than full time three factors will be utilized: **employment definition, salary and performance expectations.**

#### **Employment Definition:**

Persons who have employment in addition to their appointment or/and full time students cannot be considered full-time in their appointment. Employment that is considered an

extension of the ministry (i.e. teaching a class at college, university or seminary) will not be considered outside employment.

**2018 Part-Time Category Chart**

2018 Conference Average Compensation: \$64,129 (Base plus housing factor or/and housing allowances but does not include reimbursable)

Full Time	3/4 <sup>th</sup> Time	½ Time	1/4 <sup>th</sup> Time
+\$43,000	\$30,530	\$24,510	\$18,490 or below

This chart will be calculated annually using the CAC and minimum required full-time salary as guidelines.

**Performance Expectations:**

For all appointments:

- The United Methodist Book of Discipline 2016, ¶ 340 “Responsibilities and Duties of Elders and Licensed Pastors” will apply.
- The following expectations should not limit the work of ministry as a function of maintenance, as clergy are to be engaged in recruitment.

**1/4 Time:**

- Minimum of one day in administration, leadership development and evangelism
- Minimum of one day in Worship preparation, sermon preparation
- Minimum of ½ day in worship leadership
- Pastoral care, teaching ministries and outreach as setting dictates

**1/2 Time:**

- Minimum of two days in administration, leadership development and evangelism
- Minimum of one day in worship preparation, sermon preparation
- Minimum of ½ day in worship leadership
- Pastoral care, teaching ministries and outreach as setting dictates

**3/4 Time:**

- Minimum of three days in administration, leadership development and evangelism
- Minimum of one day in worship preparation, sermon preparation
- Minimum of ½ day in worship leadership
- Pastoral care, teaching ministries and outreach as setting dictates

**Implementation:**

- Categories of 1/4, 1/2 and 3/4 time will be used when designating the status of persons under appointment in less than full-time situations.
- Part-time clergy, SPRC Chair and Treasurer will sign a document each year verifying the service record of the pastor. In every instance the designation on the Compensation Form governs pension credit.
- The compensation formula and Cabinet expectations will be published each year as part of the Cabinet report in the Northern Illinois Conference Journal.

**400.26 – Congregational Development and Redevelopment 2017 Historical Report**

The Northern Illinois Conference’s mission to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God” continues to provide



the focus for the work of the ministry team of Congregational Development and Redevelopment. Training opportunities and essential resources have been made available to support this vital mission. A brief overview of our work in 2017 includes:

**TeamWorks** is an ongoing partnership between the General Board of Discipleship and Congregational Development and Redevelopment. Twenty-six churches and more than sixty persons took part in training events throughout the 2017.

**Shifts for Leadership**; a five-session training program, was launched in October. “Fellowship to Hospitality” was taught by Dr. Phil Maynard, giving attendants insight into how congregations can be radically welcoming and engaging with all persons who come through their doors.

**Lay Missioners** were commissioned during the 2017 Annual Conference ordination service. These seventeen bi-vocational passionate leaders are working on starting new faith communities as well as assisting existing congregations. Bible studies are being held by Lay Missioners in community settings with an intentional focus of making new disciples of Jesus Christ. These well-equipped leaders are providing an essential arm of outreach across the Northern Illinois Annual Conference and providing ministry support to local congregations.

**Ministry and Building Assessment Team** members are professionals with expertise in heating and cooling systems, plumbing, property insurance engineering, architecture, and not-for-profit land and building development. These persons work closely with the District Superintendent and the District Board of Location and Building to assist congregations who are struggling with deferred church building maintenance issues. Declining memberships and population shifts have birthed opportunities for properties to be reassessed for potential ministry effectiveness.

**Institute for Congregational Development** participants attended the **Vital Church Immersion Experience in South Korea in April**. Bupyeong Methodist Church generously paid for all expenses from the moment we arrived. Each day opened with a 5 am prayer service. The church planting movement in South Korea was observed through on-site visits and conversations with persons committed to the expansion of the mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**Itasca New Church Planting** initiative, under the leadership of Pastor Robert Butler, has made a significant impact in risk-taking ministry to “nones” and “dones” in the upper middle-class suburb of Itasca. This is just one of the highlights of our mission to make new disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world in 2017.

We are grateful for the collaborative work we continue to do with each District Superintendent and the District Strategy Team leaders. Each district is unique with its challenges and opportunities making partnership a crucial component of effective conference-wide strategies. Together we are making a difference.

Rev. Dr. Cecelia Harris

Chair, Congregational Development and Redevelopment

Rev. J. Martin Lee

Director, Congregational Development and Redevelopment

#### **400.27 – Spiritual Formation Committee**

In 2017, the Spiritual Formation Committee had continued to provide opportunities and tools for the laity and clergies to learn spiritual practices and cultivate a life-long journey of formation in Christ for the sake of others. The Committee has met in seven regular meetings throughout the year and hosted events/programs as follows:

- One day retreat, Drawing Closer to God, was held on November 4 at Barrington UMC. Rev. Dr. Regina Davis was the keynote speaker and gave the lecture on Personality Type & Spiritual Pathway. The retreat also offered a time of worship and workshops on spiritual practices. Total 49 people participated, and the Committee received a very positive evaluation.
- Judy Pohlman and Barbara Miller offered a laity training program in Elgin District as a part of committee's efforts to reach out to the local congregation and nurture the strong laity leaders in spiritual formation work. This group meets five times over the course of about 3 months. New spiritual disciplines are learned and practiced at each session.
- Bi-monthly e-newsletter had been communicated to the participants of recent spiritual formation events that had been hosted by the committee. Becky Potter has continued to faithfully serve this role.
- The Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation leadership team of 2016 met in March and discussed on the next Academy and the potential leadership. Norma Lee Barnhart is the point person as the team leader of the previous Academy.

We have had more conference calls than actual meeting and are working on making a transition to a video conference to get more active participation from the committee members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Pohlman and Mi-Sook Yoo

#### **400.28 – Rosecrance**

At Rosecrance our mission is to offer help, hope and recovery to children, teens, adults and families who need treatment for substance use or mental health disorders.

#### **2017 Highlights**

In FY2017, we provided critical substance abuse and mental health services to more than 30,000 children, teens, adults and families. Our programs and services span over three states at 48 locations. We provided support to 10,082 adults and 6,393 youth in mental health programs and 7,140 adults and 1,338 youth in substance abuse programs.

Through the Rosecrance Kinley Fund we provided charity care to reduce financial barriers to treatment to 684 families in FY2017. This was made possible because of the generous support from individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations such as; Northern Illinois United Methodist Conference and United Voices for Children. Philanthropic support also helps fund substance abuse and mental health programs to support our most vulnerable clients.

## **Expansion of Adolescent Programs**

### Open Access Counseling Program

Rosecrance launched this program in schools. Behavioral health issues, when caught early-on, can be effectively addressed and mental health crises can be averted. The Open Access Child and Family Counseling program provides early intervention services with the intention of reducing the need for emergency mental health services, academic fallout and complex, expensive and disruptive hospitalization stays.

### Expansion of mental health program

In July of 2017, we launched a mental health residential services program at Rosecrance Griffin Williamson. This new program is for adolescent clients with a primary mental health diagnosis. The 30-45 day program includes treatment for primary mental health diagnosis, including mood disorders, bi-polar disorder, depression, anxiety, PTSD, suicidal behaviors, co-occurring disorders and more.

### Expansion of Experimental Therapy Program

We've added a play therapy room at the Berry location and a sensory room to the Rosecrance Berry and Griffin Williamson locations. "Play and sensory therapy will allow us to more effectively engage clients, help reduce or prevent crises from occurring, and provide a near limitless range of tools to help children and adolescents more effectively express how they are truly feeling." says Steve Smith, Rosecrance Administrator of Child and Adolescent Services.

## **Rosecrance Lakeview Campus in Chicago**

The Rosecrance Lakeview Campus, our newest site in Chicago, which specializes in serving young adults, is thriving thanks to the support of the Northern Illinois Conference through the 2016 Bishop's Appeal. As of March 2018, we have served a total of 72 clients in our short and long-term recovery setting and our outpatient programs have been full since the day we opened. We've served a total of 496 clients through our counseling center. Most recently the site has begun hosting 12 Step meetings.

Our gratitude goes out to the members of the Northern Illinois United Methodist Churches and United Voices for Children. We truly appreciate your partnership and support that help us continue to offer the gifts of hope and recovery to those who seek our care. Rosecrance is a proud member of the United Voices for Children Board.

**For more information, please visit [www.rosecrance.org](http://www.rosecrance.org) or contact Emily Lipinsky, Director of Development at 815.387.5628.**

3/29/2018

#### **400.29 - NIC-HIV/AIDS Task Force**

"Our mission is to inspire, educate, advocate, and provide spiritual support to those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS, in our congregations and in the surrounding community."

June, 2017, The NIC- HIV/ AIDS Task Force Bishop's Initiative Raised \$70,085.43; July 2017, Rev. Dr. Daniel Diss represented the NIC- HIV/ AIDS Task Force at a camp which is part of the California- Pacific Conference ministry with persons with HIV and AIDS. The camp, called Strength for the Journey, has been providing opportunities for persons with HIV and AIDS to experience a time of refreshment, renewal, learning and celebration. The camp is offered four different times for a week in a different location throughout the geography of the Cal-Pac Conference. While there, Dr. Diss learned how the camp is operated, the fund-raising activities needed to support the ministry, and joined with the other clergy present to provide a chaplaincy to the 80 plus camp participants. Strength for the Journey is inspiring! It provides the needed space for the participants to reconnect with both self and with God.

December 1, 2017, we celebrated World AIDS DAY and a Vigil of Remembrance, Hope, and Gratitude at Hartzell Memorial UMC, Chicago, IL. Bishop Julius Trimble was our speaker. and Evan Bruno, Manager of Choral Presto Ensemble Children's Choir. Lincoln Park/DePaul Neighborhood Choir provided the music.

The NIC- HIV/ AIDS Task Force is offering small grants of \$300.00 to support the ministry work of churches in our districts and conference, we believe that through our churches we can impact health outcomes for persons living with, and most risk for, HIV and increase access to care services. (ALL are welcome to apply for the GRANTS). Our thanks to Bishop Dyck for her support.

We have a dynamic Task Force, we have been called to serve and help those who are infected and affected with HIV and AIDS.

Our Task Force:

Rev. Arlene Christopherson  
Rev. Lora Zink  
Rev. Charles Straight  
Rev. Rodney Walker  
Rev. Mary Rawlinson  
Rev. Annie Gonzalez  
Mrs. Sylvia Oglesby  
Rev. Dr. Daniel Diss  
Dr. Irma Clark

#### **400.30 - 2018 Cabinet Historical Report**

The Northern Illinois Conference Cabinet's shared work is year round with distinctive seasons: "appointment" in winter and spring, "clergy interview" in the summer and fall, and "church conference" in the fall. In moving through these seasons this past year, we have done so keeping our NIC priorities in mind: equipping leaders and churches; resourcing struggling churches; rethinking how to be vital churches; and cultivating trust in the annual conference.

### Equipping Leaders and Churches

A large portion of the work of the cabinet is about equipping leaders and churches for ministry. The most obvious element is the appointment of clergy to churches. Our appointment year begins in December when we receive retirement notices, requests for moves and other information that informs this work. For the last three years, we have invited clergy who are open to a new appointment to engage in a conversation with two cabinet members in early January. This has now become a regular practice as it helps more cabinet members be in conversation with clergy to hear their stories and circumstances.

Appointment-making begins in January and continues until all the churches have a clergy appointed to them. We take this work very seriously, bringing as much information to the discernment process as is possible. Every appointment is steeped in prayer, discussion, and information as well as invitation to the Holy Spirit to guide us and give us clarity of discernment. These past few years we've encountered increasing complexities in making appointments as more clergy claim limited itineracy and more clergy compensation packages decrease around the conference.

In addition to equipping churches through clergy appointments, the Cabinet is also committed to providing particular training events which help equip both clergy and laity:

- The annual Pastoral Transition workshop with cultural competency is offered twice at the end of the appointment season and invites clergy and laity to learn practical information for healthy transitions.
- District leadership events are held to train church leaders in leadership and their work areas.
- The "Rule of Christ" which began three years ago has trained multiple trainers to be deployed to churches where there has been a new appointment made. This training teaches a healthy model for dealing with disagreements and misunderstandings. Understanding that this training has an ongoing need, the cabinet has committed to continue this program for another 3 years. Related to this topic, the cabinet has read, studied, and discussed the book, "The Anatomy of Peace" by The Arbinger Institute. We highly recommend the same to clergy and congregations.
- Boundary training is part of our covenant life together, helping clergy maintain healthy and professional boundaries in ministry. The required quadrennial training took place in the fall of 2017 and from it, the cabinet recommends the book, "Saying No to Say Yes" by Olsen and Devor for clergy and SPRCs. We take seriously the upholding of the sacred trust that clergy have with their congregations and hope this is the case in every ministry setting.

### Resourcing Struggling Churches:

In addition to offering trainings and seeking to make effective appointments in every local church, the cabinet uses part of its yearly budget to help support our local churches. We allocate funds in one of three ways:

- UM presence – these churches are in neighborhoods where we want to maintain a United Methodist presence and ministry; funds are allocated to help with a pastor’s compensation.
- Redevelopment – these churches have identified a necessary process to re-development themselves and this support will last for three years to support the transition.
- Equitable compensation – are funds used to support clergy who are guaranteed a full-time appointment.

Our annual conference reality is that we continue to see a decline in the number of full-time appointments. Our commitment to helping develop and implement effective and life-giving yoked, merged, or cooperative full-time ministries is not diminished. This work involves a high concern for churches to be in a position to pay their clergy benefits and apportionments in full, as serious arrearages hurt us all.

### Rethinking How to be Vital Churches

During the past year, the cabinet practiced connectionalism at a higher level by sharing our cabinet retreat with the New York annual conference cabinet. We learned from their re-development efforts as well as shared with each other best practices that work for each of us.

The cabinet also supported and helped to resource the Clergy Day apart/Clergy Session in 2017 and are doing so again in 2018.

Along with the new annual conference structure of the Annual Conference Shepherding Team and District Shepherding Teams, we are learning about adaptive leadership for this new day of being church in America.

Through our appointment work and fund allocation, we support “beyond-the-box” and risk-taking clergy and congregations as they live out God’s call to be in ministry in new and vital ways - all to the glory of God!

### Cultivating trust in the AC

While so much of our work is confidential, we do strive to be as transparent as possible. For example, explaining how the appointment process is carried out and answering questions during times of transition. Additionally, we are present in conflictual situations, with churches and pastors in practical ways, helping and offering support toward reconciliation. Our commitment also extends to being responsive to the needs of our clergy and congregations in a timely manner. And regarding the priority of building trust, we want to mention our appreciation and gratitude for the work of the conference staff who answer questions, offer guidance, and provide expertise and services to our clergy and churches.

Finally, during the past 5 years, we've worked to make the annual local church conferences more of a time of common conversation and discernment and not for just the fulfillment of administrative tasks. In the fall of 2017, the superintendents made a commitment to do as many of their district's church conferences as possible so as to engage in conversation and raise awareness about the time of Kairos we are in as a denomination, about the work of "The Commission on a Way Forward," and about the upcoming Special General Conference in 2019. We learned a lot from these conversations with you. The reflections from the church conferences were shared this spring with our NIC General Conference delegation.

Beloved NIC, it is an honor to serve you! And it is an honor to serve with my colleagues:

- Arlene Christopherson (whose knowledge and expertise on many topics helps perfect our work together)
- Jacques Conway (who reminds us all that our name isn't The Solo Methodist Church, but The United Methodist Church)
- Martin Lee (who leadership consistently offers opportunities to help us achieve our priorities of learning and development through ICD, Academy, Team Works, Break Through Prayer, etc)
- Darneather Murph-Heath (who without hesitation proclaims the Lordship of Jesus and speaks the truth with love)
- Young-Mee Park (who is always calling us forward in our cultural awareness which makes us stronger as God's children)
- Dick Wisdom (whose encouragement, humor, and love for the church and the Gospel will now be a blessing to Plainfield: First UMC as we thank you for your 7 years of service on the cabinet). And we welcome Jeffry Bross to share in the work of the cabinet as the new Aurora District superintendent.
- Zaki Zaki (whose passion for those on the margins always raises our awareness)
- And last but not least, to Bishop Sally Dyck - thank you for your love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord, your faithfulness to the Church, and your tireless leadership in all seasons!

I thank you all for your faith, your collegiality, for staying together at the table, and for not shying away from, but working through the hard conversations. Thank you for your support of each other and for your love of this annual conference.

- Rev. Lisa Kruse-Safford, 2017-2018 dean of the cabinet

#### **400.31 - AFRICA UNIVERSITY REPORT**

##### **2018 NORTHERN ILLINOIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Africa University is deeply thankful to the members of the Northern Illinois Conference for significantly strengthening their support, and investing in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment at 90 percent, in 2017. The generosity and faithfulness of local churches helped

the Northern Illinois Conference to achieve a year-on-year increase in giving to the AUF of 20 percent. Thank you, Northern Illinois United Methodists, for affirming Africa University's mission of nurturing global leaders who transform communities.

### **Institutional Update:**

- Currently, Africa University hosts a stable, focused, and vibrant campus community of 1,417 full-time students and faculty and staff from 31 African nations. In addition, 392 students are pursuing degree programs on a part-time basis.
- Africa University's annual operating budget of just-under \$10.5 million prioritizes student access and retention, with more than \$2.2 million in scholarships and financial aid awards disbursed in 2017.
- Amidst a transition in the governance of Zimbabwe, lectures, research, and outreach activities at Africa University have continued uninterrupted.
- A new academic structure and the realignment of programs is encouraging innovation and enhancing Africa University's relevance to The United Methodist Church and to sub-Saharan Africa. The recently-launched Institute of Theology and Religious Studies offers multi-disciplinary training and leadership formation opportunities for both clergy and laity.
- Researchers at Africa University are providing critical data on mosquitos and regional malaria control programs to aid Africa's efforts to eradicate malaria and other insect-borne diseases.
- Through teaching and research, Africa University is making trailblazing, regional contributions in migrant and refugee protection, child rights, and the harnessing of intellectual property for development.
- The first 25 years of AU's ministry have produced more than 8,000 graduates who are leading efforts to make disciples, alleviate poverty, improve global health, and better the quality of life in communities across sub-Saharan Africa.

These ministry accomplishments are made possible by the steadfast support of United Methodist congregations. The Northern Illinois Conference's engagement with Africa University represents hope and transformation for young women and men who are answering the call to service and meaningful discipleship.

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, Catarina Antonio Ngunza will graduate from Africa University with a degree in public administration. She has been equipped to make a difference in her home country of Angola because Northern Illinois United Methodists provided scholarships at Africa University as part of their global legacy. Catarina is one of more than 600 graduates from 24 African countries who make up the Class of 2018. They are returning to their home countries to offer service in fields such as agriculture, social work, health care, peace-building, and pastoral ministry. Your prayers and support made their education possible and the Northern Illinois Conference is a part of their story.

It is the university's prayer that the members of the Northern Illinois Conference will continue to work diligently to achieve a 100 percent investment to the AUF.



Thank you, Northern Illinois Conference, for your foundational role in Africa University's ministry.

*Submitted by:*

*James H. Salley*

*Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement*

*jsalley@gbhem.org*

*www.support-africauniversity.org | www.africau.edu*

### **400.32 - Conference Treasurer Historical Report**

Apportionment receipts in 2017 were lower than 2016 at \$5,988,060 (74.2%). The Conference spent \$382,854 less than budgeted on program, local church support, and administrative tasks. This permitted payment of general church apportionments above our anticipated ability; we accomplished 90% for all general church funds. General Church apportionments represent 30% of apportionment receipts from local churches.

The Red Door Fund created by an April 2013 Special Session of the annual conference has continued with no deficiencies and no delinquencies.

The Property Insurance Program Risk Manager has significantly enhanced the services we provide. Over 120 churches received some type of service, whether free audit reports, building replacement value appraisals, risk assessments reports, etc. We have re-oriented the program to one that provides technical and supportive advice to local churches.

This year we transitioned to online apportionment statement delivery and payment options. This decision has saved the conference over \$6,000 in mailing costs annually.

#### **Apportionment Formula**

Every local church shall provide the basis for their apportionment calculation with their Statistical Report, due annually by February 20<sup>th</sup>. The statistical report data is summarized into three categories of local church expenditures defined below. For each category, a data set of five years is compiled. The highest and lowest of the five years are discarded and the apportionment calculation rates are applied to the average of the three median years. When the most recent year is the lowest of the five (reflecting a trend of recent budget constriction), the apportionment calculation rates are applied to the average of the three lowest years.

#### **Apportionment Basis: Statistical Report Categories**

- 1. Senior & Associate Pastor Costs** (Basis for Support for Ordained Leadership Apportionment) The sum of these lines if multiplied by 14% to determine the local church apportionment in support of the "Support for Ordained Leadership" work of the annual conference.

- Line 48: Senior Pastor base compensation (minus equitable compensation funds received from the Annual Conference)
- Line 49: Associate Pastor base compensation
- Line 50: Senior & Associate Pastor Housing Allowance (OR 25% of base compensation for parsonage appointments) + Senior & Associate Pastor's parsonage utilities and maintenance costs
- Line 51: Accountable reimbursements
- Line 52: Other cash allowances
- 2. Church Programs & Operational Costs** (Basis for Mission & Evangelism Apportionment). The sum of these lines is multiplied by 14% to establish the local church apportionment in support of the "Mission and Evangelism" work of the annual conference.
- Line 53: Deacon's compensation & benefits
- Line 55: Lay staff compensation & benefits (except custodial)
- Line 56: Church Program costs
- Line 57: Church building utilities, custodial costs, property maintenance costs, property insurance costs, other operational costs (Portion of utility, custodial and property costs incurred by space-sharing is excluded; utility, custodial and property costs per average attender above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile are excluded)
- 3. Total Church Expenditures<sup>1</sup>** (Basis for Strengthening the Connection Apportionment) the sum of all of the statistical lines itemized above and the lines specified below is multiplied by 1% to generate the apportionment of that particular local church to the "Strengthening the Connection" work of the annual conference.
- Line 35-42: Total funds sent through the Conference Office for second-mile, designated giving (Rainbow Covenant projects, missionary support, UMCOR disaster relief, Conference & District projects and Special Sunday Offerings)
- Line 43b: Community Outreach funds (costs of the local church in ministry and of service to the community)
- Line 43a: Funds given directly to UMC related causes
- Line 44: Funds given directly to non-UMC related causes
- Line 46: Clergy pension payments (CPP, CRSP)<sup>2</sup>
- Line 47: Clergy health benefits payments
- Line 48-57: Senior & Associate Pastor Costs + Church Programs & Operational Costs
- 4. Additional Considerations**
- The apportionment calculations based on the above categories are adjusted with two additional considerations called "According to Means" functions. These two functions

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<sup>1</sup> Two statistical report lines are excluded entirely from the Apportionment calculation:

Line 58: Total paid on mortgage or loan principal and interest

Line 59: Total paid for capital expenditures, major renovations, and building improvements

<sup>2</sup> Line 46 was previously categorized under 1. Senior & Associate Pastor Costs

provide fine tuning to the apportionment amount based upon a local church's access to resources from within the congregation.

- a. The local church spending on cash compensation plus reimbursements and allowances for the Senior and Associate Pastor is compared to the spending of other local churches of like size. A linear regression of the data predicts a pastoral compensation level for each church given their average attendance. The amount above or below that prediction is called the "Pastoral Residual". For each local church their individual Pastoral Residual number, capped at the absolute number of \$20,000, is cubed and multiplied by .000000001. The resultant adds (or subtracts) from the apportionment requested from the local church as summed above. The basis for the Pastor Residual additional consideration is the most recent Senior & Associate Pastor compensation data available and the most recent year's average attendance at all weekly worship services.
- b. The basis for the Budget Size additional consideration is the most recent year's Senior & Associate Pastor Costs plus Church Programs & Operational Costs (Statistical Report Lines 48-57), excluding \$60,000 and capped at \$900,000. For each local church the total is squared and multiplied by .00000004. This amount is added to the apportioned asking of the specific local church.

#### Exceptions

1. Each apportionment amount must be divisible by 12.
2. The apportionment for any year may not be more than 9% above the previous year and not less than 9% below the previous year.
3. The minimum apportionment shall be \$1,200.
4. Building costs per average attender that exceed the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile of the array of conference churches shall not be included in the calculations.
5. Up to 1% of the total apportioned can be reserved for the CCFA to respond to appeals from local churches. Appeals may only be extended by CCFA for data errors or hardship.

#### Audit

Again, the Northern Illinois Conference received an unqualified approval of our annual audit. The complete audit is part of this report. No management letter was written because no significant deficiencies were identified.

We are blessed with a talented and church-loving Treasurer's staff. I am thankful for the opportunity of serving as Conference Treasurer and apologize broadly to all who are still waiting on a return phone call.

Grace and Peace,

Lonnie Chafin  
Conference Treasurer

**TREASURER**

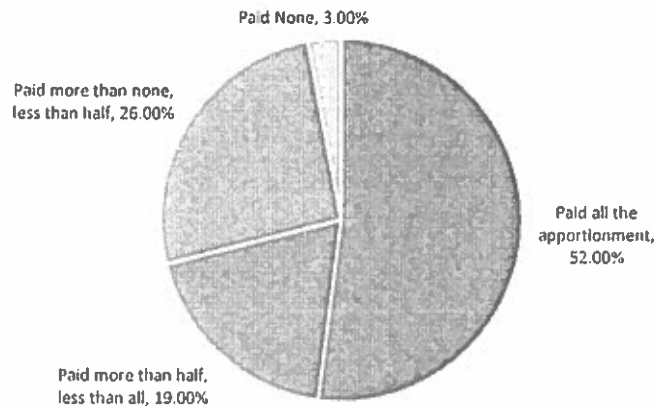
**Apportionment Receipts for 2017**

REPORT BY CATEGORY	2017 Apportionment	Receipts as of 12/31/2017	2017 % Received	2016 % Received
Support for Ordained Leadershi	2,895,623	2,111,320	72.9%	67.1%
Mission and Evangelism	4,133,241	3,057,779	74.0%	65.7%
Reconnecting the Connection	<u>1,040,288</u>	<u>818,961</u>	<u>78.7%</u>	<u>72.5%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,069,152</b>	<b>5,988,060</b>	<b>74.2%</b>	<b>74.6%</b>

**REPORT BY DISTRICT**

Aurora	2,219,992	1,747,737	78.7%	67.4%
Chicago Northwest	1,021,560	695,806	68.1%	61.7%
Chicago Southern	1,080,432	707,597	65.5%	61.5%
Dekalb	949,260	819,338	86.3%	81.5%
Elgin	1,835,604	1,306,518	71.2%	65.0%
Rockford	<u>962,304</u>	<u>711,065</u>	<u>73.9%</u>	<u>68.5%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,069,152</b>	<b>5,988,061</b>	<b>74.2%</b>	<b>74.6%</b>

**Local Church Apportionment Participation**



**Second Mile Giving**

In 2017 second mile gifts donated by local churches through the Conference Treasurer increased totaled \$699,708.

Rainbow Covenant Giving	\$759,872.80
Special Sunday Giving	\$108,930.11

In Rainbow Covenant Giving, the following five projects received the most donations:

UMCOR, United Stated	\$267,849.83
UMCOR, Undesignated	\$90,140.90
Heifer International, Living Gifts	\$29,719.28
Grace Children's Hospital	\$21,953.75
UMCOR, International	\$18,848.04

Church Name	From Apportionment Funds	Health Insurance Grants	Write-off Unpaid Pension, Health, & Property Insurance	Received from Closed Church Fund	Total Conference Support
Arabic Lanuguage New Faith Community	9,000				9,000
Aurora: Nueva Vida	12,000				12,000
Barrington: Salem		2,700			2,700
Bartlet: Good Shepherd		4,050	1,457		5,507
Belvidere	5,000				5,000
Bensenville			7,550		7,550
Bethel Hispanic	12,000				12,000
Brookfield			6,050		6,050
Blue Island Hispanic	12,000				12,000
Chicago: Adalberto	9,050		2,528		11,578
Chicago: Amor de Dios	12,000				12,000
Chicago: Ashburn Hispanic	6,000				6,000
Chicago: Berry Memorial			6,637		6,637
Chicago: Chicago Lawn			1,556		1,556
Chicago: Eastside			33,617		33,617
Chicago: Edison Park		2,700	22,070		24,770
Chicago: Elston Avenue	2,000	5,400	4,703		12,103
Chicago: Emanuel			11,590		11,590
Chicago: Englewood	8,000	7,425	48,826	5,676	69,927
Chicago: Epworth	5,500	1,350	5,474		12,324
Chicago: Faith		4,050	36,841		40,891
Chicago: Grace Calvary			8,901		8,901
Chicago: Grace of Logan Square	3,000	4,050	15,064		22,114
Chicago: Granville			1,354		1,354
Chicago: Greenstone	4,000		11,908		15,908
Chicago: Hartzell Memorial			7,110		7,110
Chicago: Humboldt Park	8,000	1,350	28,870		38,220
Chicago: Indo-Pak	5,000	4,050	2,101		11,151
Chicago: Irving Park	4,000	4,050	26,577		34,627
Chicago: Irving Park Hispanic	7,000				7,000
Chicago: Lincoln	5,000		5,864		10,864
Chicago: Logan Square			27,134		27,134
Chicago: Mandell	8,000		14,811		22,811
Chicago: Maple Park			25,918		25,918
Chicago: New Gresham			19,404		19,404
Chicago: Olivet	12,000		3,544		15,544
Chicago: Resurrection			34,637		34,637
Chicago: South Shore		2,700	2,377		5,077
Chicago: Union Avenue	5,000				5,000
Chicago: United Church of Rogers Park		2,700	45,553		48,253
Chicago: Urban Village	6,000				6,000
Chicago: West Englewood			3,550		3,550
Chicago: West Ridge	3,000	4,050			7,050
Chicagoloand: Journey Community UMC	3,000				3,000
Cicero: Wesley			6,016		6,016
Coleta		4,050			4,050
Crete		4,050			4,050
Dakota		4,050			4,050
DeKalb Campus	4,800	4,800			9,600
Des Plaines: First			6,750		6,750
Dolton: Faith			56,811		56,811
Dundee: First		4,050			4,050

Durand		4,050		4,050	
Elgin: El Mesias	6,000		9,498	15,498	
Evanston: Sherman			13,343	13,343	
Forreston/Leaf River		2,700		2,700	
Franklin Park: First			40,855	40,855	
Freeport: First		1,350		1,350	
Genoa		1,350	2,857	4,207	
Glen Ellyn: St. Thomas		4,050		4,050	
Glenbrook: Korean			11,020	11,020	
Glencoe: North Shore		1,350		1,350	
Harlem Hispanic NFC	6,000			6,000	
Harvey: First Wesley			20,128	20,128	
Hazel Crest	2,500			2,500	
Ingleside			15,629	15,629	
Itasca NFC	53,967			53,967	
Joliet: Cristo Es El Camino	6,000			6,000	
Joliet: Trinity			8,091	8,091	
Kirkland		4,050		4,050	
Lake Villa		12,664		12,664	
Leland		2,700		2,700	
Lockport: Christ			2,855	2,855	
Lombard: Faith	6,000			6,000	
Machesny Park: Hilltop UMC	222,715			222,715	
Malta/NW Malta		1,350		1,350	
Mandel			18,353	18,353	
Marseilles		4,050		4,050	
Melrose Park: Cosmopolitan Hispanic	5,000		13,212	18,212	
Melrose Park: Little White			3,463	3,463	
Milledgeville	4,000			4,000	
Mount Morris		2,700		2,700	
Mt. Prospect: Sam Mool	8,000			8,000	
Mundeline: Vision		4,050		4,050	
Naperville: Korean			35,480	35,480	
Oak Park: First			15,390	15,390	
Oak Park: St Johns	3,000	6,000		9,000	
Park Forest: Grace		2,700		2,700	
Polo: Faith		4,050		4,050	
Prospect Heights: Central Korean			20,802	20,802	
Red Oak/Wyanet		1,350	2,009	3,359	
River Forest		4,050		4,050	
Riverdale: Ivanhoe Community			7,868	7,868	
Rock Falls		4,050	3,727	7,777	
Rockford: Christ the Carpenter	10,000			10,000	
Serena	4,800	2,700		7,500	
Skokie: Jesus Loves Korean	3,000		23,394	26,394	
Sterling		2,700		2,700	
Tampico		1,350		1,350	
Thorton	4,000			4,000	
Tinley Park		4,050		4,050	
University Park: Pilgrimage			7,619	7,619	
Waukegan: San Pablo	15,000			15,000	
Wedron			1,320	(3,680)	
Wheaton: Aldersgate	12,000	8,100		20,100	
Winthrop Harbor		4,050		4,050	
<b>TOTAL Local Church Support</b>	<b>533,332</b>	<b>163,189</b>	<b>809,590</b>	<b>11,150</b>	<b>1,517,261</b>