

400.01 - Historic Report – Annual Conference Shepherding Team

In spring, 2018 the Annual Conference Shepherding Team began work on a strategic plan for the Northern Illinois Conference with the assistance of consultant Helen Chang. Helen came to this work as a member of a United Methodist Church and a gifted consultant in strategic development and implementation.

Over the course of the year the ACST met 8 times, for full-day sessions totaling 48 hours. In order to understand the scope and breadth of the Northern Illinois Conference, the team met on all six districts in the conference, varying the meeting sites from small town, to new faith communities, to well established churches, to struggling congregations.

The ACST assumed a learning posture receiving reports, presentations and information concerning; finances, clergy, programs, local church support, demographics, statistics, congregational development, and staffing. Early in the process our consultant led us through a SWOT analysis. Identifying our areas of strength, weakness, opportunities and threats further focused the ACST on the scope of the work. These conversations were challenging and insightful as we heard from one another and began to see the conference through each other's lens.

In the summer we began to frame goals. Over the course of the fall we developed 24 goals with detailed focus and strategies. The goals included:

Develop a Strong Positive Culture

1. Strengthen relationships between congregations, clergy, and staff to build trust and transparency at all levels
2. Develop a stronger sense of collegiality and collaboration within the Conference
3. Recognize, celebrate, and empower diversity and *inclusion*; reinforce a culture of '*anti-racism*'; identify and address racial injustice within our Conference
4. Create a sense of shared sacrifice among all entities and levels of the Conference
5. Create a stronger sense of ownership and accountability for decisions and actions; develop clarity in roles, responsibilities, and scope of authority
6. Create a culture that celebrates and rewards effective and efficient stewardship of all local and conference resources
7. Enhance a culture of giving

Resource all Local Churches

1. Develop Cohort Strategies – provide appropriate guidance and support to each district to work towards an optimal resource solution in the regional community for long-term strength and sustainability
2. Central Admin Infrastructure – strengthen administrative infrastructure to be as efficient and effective as possible in its role managing the conference budget, staffing, programs, supporting clergy; and more strongly align with the Conference mission and vision.
3. Program Ministries – evaluate all ministries to determine their effectiveness and alignment with the Conference mission, vision, and identify; prioritize and resource those that are most impactful

Develop Clergy

1. Develop clergy roles and responsibilities in cultivating and reinforcing Conference culture goals

2. Clearly define clergy skills and competencies needed for the changing needs for the 'church of the future'
3. Enhance and support clergy professional development throughout their careers to prepare for the future

Vitalize Connections

1. Develop a stronger sense of identity as a Conference by better understanding, sharing, and celebrating Wesleyan history and tradition and what it means to be a United Methodist
2. Develop a common mission outreach for all Conference members as a shared common cause that brings us together
3. Connect all ministry initiatives/mission projects to our Christian faith and United Methodist heritage providing a mechanism for churches to collaborate on ministries for peace, justice, and mercy

Help Members Grow as Disciples

1. Deepen and strengthen discipleship among members - Begin and end with prayer; meet regularly in prayer groups/email prayer, chain/prayer during worship to pray that God guides and moves us outside our walls
2. Provide strategies/training for local churches at the local level to help members grow as Disciples
3. Engage in Conference-wide covenant discipleship movement
4. Grow As Disciples Through Greater Generosity
5. Develop Discipleship of our Youth. Provide younger members with leadership roles and learn how to design worship that engages young members at their level.

Reaching New Members with New Strategies

1. Shift focus of strategic growth toward discipleship, incarnation evangelism, and collaboration
2. Develop new faith communities for those who do not have a faith foundation
3. Contextualize ministry setting; move away from the one size fits all

By November we narrowed down and prioritized the work of the annual conference for the next 3-5 years. The strategic goals under consideration are in the resolution to be acted on during annual conference.

We recognize that setting and approving goals is only the first step in the work of implementation. The ACST continues to be committed to this work and we look forward to next steps in the 2019-2020 conference year.

In Christ's Service,
Elizabeth Gracie and Rev. Myron McCoy, Co-Chairs ACST

400.02 - Board of Laity

The Board of Laity, through the district lay leaders, was active in leadership training on the district level as five of six districts held Leadership Training events this year. These training events provided a wide variety of learning opportunities for the laity of our districts. A number of the workshop topics overlapped as one reviews what was offered in each district, but many were district specific highlighting the interests and focus for ministry in each district.

Lay Servant Academies are active in each of our districts providing training to increase knowledge and understanding on the history and polity of the United Methodist Church, prayer, preaching, and conflict resolution to name a few. Peggy Hansen, NIC Lay Servant Director, has introduced the opportunity for lay people to become Lay Ministers. Her first step was to introduce the concept and needed infrastructure for providing the training necessary for laity to become Lay Ministers to conference staff. After completing this work and receiving the go ahead, she hosted information events in each region of the conference. From these regional events, it appears that we have enough interested lay people to begin classes. This will be happening in the very near future.

Two hundred fifty plus people attended Laity Convocation held on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at the Sycamore UMC. Our keynote speaker was the Rev. Junius Dotson. Rev. Dotson serves as the General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries. Dr. Dotson has spearheaded and will be speaking about Discipleship Ministries Intentional Discipleship program "See All the People." "See All the People' is not a program," says the Rev. Junius Dotson. "It really is an attempt to spur and ignite and inspire the spirit and movement of disciple-making across our denomination."

People also had the opportunity to participate in one of five breakout session to learn strategies on transforming ministry plans into action.

Co-Conference Lay Leader, Mark Manzi, Chicago Northwest Lay Leader, Donna Sagami, DeKalb District Lay Karen Bonnell, and Elgin District Lay Leader Kathy Dickerson are representatives for the laity to the Annual Conference Shepherding Team which has been working on a strategic plan and goals for the conference to be presented at Annual Conference 2019.

Co-Conference Lay Leader Jessie Cunningham represented the Northern Illinois Conference at the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders (AACLL) in 2018. The meeting was held at Epworth by the Sea-St Simons Island, GA. John Wesley and his brother Charles came to Georgia in 1735 and spent 100 days on St Simons Island. We visited historic sites on the island visited by the Wesley brothers. The theme was "Therefore Go! With HOPE through Offering Christ." The meeting is educational and informative but also an opportunity to gather with Annual Conference Lay Leaders from all over the country.

The 2019 Special Session was the top discussion at the meeting. Dave Nuckols, Lay Leader of the Minnesota Annual Conference and a Lay member of the Commission on the way Forward gave a presentation on the process and the plans that were available at the time.

Leigh Goodrich, from GCSRW gave a presentation on sexual misconduct in the church. At the end of the presentation, we had a ten minute "listening session" and we were asked to answer

several questions. The questions were "What are the struggles of lay women, the top answer at 37% was a need for more education, encouragement and mentoring. To the question, "How do we prepare women for leadership", the top answer at 68% was educate, encourage and mentor.

The association voted to meet in Santa Fe, NM in 2019.

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

400.03 - 2019 Cabinet Historical Report

Submitted by Rev. Jacques Conway, Dean of the Cabinet

The theme of the 2018 Annual Conference was "Navigating Uncharted Waters." And indeed, that was a prescient theme. We are still in those uncertain seas. The storm is raging around us and our boat has some issues. I doubt that any one of us can say for certain where the boat will land or whether we will all be aboard for the whole journey. But in this moment, we are together, and we belong to Jesus Christ. Remember what Jesus can do in a storm on the water.

During this past year, Bishop Sally Dyck appointed Rev. Brittany Isaac as District Superintendent of the Chicago Northwestern District and Rev. Jeffry Bross as District Superintendent of the Aurora District. The Bishop is consistent in reminding the Cabinet that a District Superintendent is the chief missional strategist of their district as well as a conference superintendent as the Cabinet makes strategic appointment decisions together. Our Northern Illinois Annual Conference Cabinet consists of the Bishop, six District Superintendents, the Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Connectional Ministries, and the Director of Congregational Development and Redevelopment.

The Cabinet views its work as a sacred trust; its leadership is based upon a holy discernment process modeled by the Bishop. We began that process with a four-day retreat that was inspired by studying Leadership on the Line by Ronald Heifetz and Marty Linsky. Conversations around the themes of the book were filled with insight for the various ministries of our annual conference. "People don't resist change, they resist loss." "Look from the balcony and listen on the floor." As we lead in uncharted waters, we acknowledge that every district is its own unique mission field. Indeed, every congregation and conference-related ministry is its own unique mission field. God calls baptized people to transform this world, celebrating in action, Jesus' proclamation in prayer training, "Thy Kingdom come." Everything that we do rides upon leadership. Leadership is a partnership between clergy and laity. There are a thousand manifestations of effective leadership in our annual conference from the small scale to the grand.

In this past year, every district leadership training event that was offered witnessed strong participation and generated enthusiasm and positive energy. We have seen new possibilities arise from the inspiration of these events as people take a new passion for ministry back to their mission fields. The Cabinet is working to equip leaders, to equip servants and to equip new leaders. Last year's season of Church/Charge Conferences focused on building discipleship

systems in every church conference using Discipleship Ministries (GBOD) materials. This fall, we will provide follow up discipleship systems training in every district. Our primary goal is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through increasing the number of highly vital congregations and new church plantings. We are celebrating the chartering of Itasca: The Center New Faith Community on May 12, 2019. Through church planting we are reaching out to new people, more diverse people, and younger people. In doing so, Conference leadership is focused on bringing excellent quality leadership training as close to the local church as we can. A good example is the TeamWorks events held in the Chicago Southern District in 2018 - 2019.

The Cabinet was also pleased and honored to host the New York Annual Conference Cabinet here in Chicago on September 10- 13. We shared several of our ministries sites with them and talked about specific challenges we each face. Because of our similar size as well as common urban-rural interests, we had a fruitful time of learning different ways of doing ministry from one another.

The Cabinet has worked closely with the Annual Conference Shepherding Team (ACST), both in offering resources and in shaping a strategic planning process to establish clear goals for the annual conference. We will continue navigating this amazing, inclusive, and diverse annual conference by learning and listening to the people of God. The Cabinet consistently seeks input and insight from all people around the annual conference. Listening sessions and other forms of engagement are essential to drawing together to work with a common purpose. It is especially important in our current struggle that we continue to add new channels of communication as we discuss challenging issues and experience pain as people are hurt and marginalized in the conversation.

The Cabinet is grateful for the Conference Ministry and Building Assessment Team, which was formed two years ago by action of the Annual Conference session to provide professional assessment for the effective use of our church buildings for the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. Their consultation aids congregations, pastors and the Cabinet in seeing new possibilities for utilizing our property assets to connect with the needs in the communities we serve.

The Northern Illinois Annual Conference had the privilege of hosting the Council of Bishops meeting last May, and we are anticipating hosting again in May of this year. We celebrate Bishop Sally Dyck's leadership and love of this annual conference. We are grateful for her strong, steady leadership, guiding us through a new structure, establishing a visioning process, and opening lines of communication through listening sessions as the denomination we all love struggles with issues of great importance. Even in a moment of her own personal crisis in her family, she participated in the Cabinet meeting through video conference.

After the Special Session of the General Conference in February, we are praying for God's love and grace with even greater intensity. For the sake of the LGBTQI+ community, families, friends, and churches, we pray for a pathway that follows a path of grace towards inclusion. In the midst of the storm, we are taking hands to bear one another up in the strength of unity. We will overcome this storm together. We belong to the Reign of God where everyone is welcome, and every person is celebrated as a sacred gift.

Together we can make a difference! Thanks be to God.

400.04 - Northern Illinois Conference 2019 Pension Appointment Categories and Guidelines

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

2019 NIC Average Compensation: \$64,527 (Base plus housing factor or/and housing allowances but does not include reimbursable)

Full Time	3/4 th Time	1/2 Time	1/4 th Time
+\$43,500	\$30,885	\$24,795	\$18,705 or below
<i>2019 min. recommended salary + housing factor</i>	<i>(salary plus housing factor)</i>	<i>(salary plus housing factor)</i>	<i>(salary plus housing factor)</i>

This chart will be recalculated annually using the CAC as a guideline.

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 1/2 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 1/2 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 1/2 day in worship leadership
- Pastoral care, teaching ministries and outreach as setting dictates

Implementation:

- Categories of 1/4th, 1/2 and 3/4th 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.

400.05 - Office of Connectional Ministry

Adaptive leadership continues to be the watchword for connectional ministries in the Northern Illinois Conference. 2018-2019 was a year focused on developing a strategic plan for the coming years through the work of the Annual Conference Shepherding Team. Our vision is “Making and supporting vital Christians in vital congregations that engage with their communities and the world for peace, justice and mercy.” At the conference programming level we strive to do what the local church cannot do alone.

The work of the Director of Connectional Ministries is designed to integrate the vision of the conference into the work of all areas, support our program areas, connect our conference administrative and ministry areas with one another and link our conference to the work of the wider church through general church boards, agencies, commissions and committees. It is also through the connectional ministries office that we devote a significant amount of time and staff resources in coordinating the work of design and implementation for the Annual Conference Session.

A key component of this work has been resourcing and guiding the unfolding nature of the Annual Conference Shepherding Team (ACST). The Shepherding Team is a learning organization and the Director of Connectional Ministries (DCM) has been key in providing information while linking the ACST to the active, ongoing life of the conference. March 2019 saw this work come full circle when the ACST hosted an all-day event with the District Shepherding Teams to share strategy and goals for the coming years. This was a historic meeting. It brought to the table leaders in the conference who have never previously coordinated their efforts. Out of this work, we have hope for greater alignment of purpose, resources and outcomes in all our work to support vital Christians in vital congregations.

The connectional ministries staff is a small but essential part of the ongoing work of the conference. Anne Marie Gerhardt serves as our Director of Communications. Now in her 8th year, Anne Marie has brought consistence to our communications while also pushing us into the new realms of social media. Have you signed up for our Tweets?

The support staff includes Laura Lopez, Events Manager and Administrative Assistant and Diane Strzelecki Communications Specialist and Administrative Assistant. We welcomed Diane in February 2019 and are grateful for her inquisitive mind, communication skills and fresh perspective. Laura has been with us for two years and is growing in her position. This year Laura took on the role of Annual Conference coordination, rather than outsourcing the event to an independent planner. Laura’s keen attention to detail keeps us on track. In addition to managing annual conference, during 2018 Laura coordinated the registration for 50 events involving 3,098 registrants. Always mindful of budget constraints we are working on ways to offer quality communications and events with limited funds.

The conference also owns two camps; Wesley Woods located in Williams Bay Wisconsin and Reynolds Woods in Dixon, Illinois. Jeff Casey is our Director of Outdoor and Retreat

Ministries. He has worked diligently on upgrading, marketing and balancing the camping budgets so they can move toward self-sufficiency in their operations. We are proud to have the camping ministries focus on youth as the Bishops Appeal for the 2019 annual conference session.

Rev. Martin Lee (whose report appears elsewhere) also works closely with the office of connectional ministries on leadership development and shares the support of the office staff for his work.

We celebrate the fact that the conference and her churches have been the recipient of several grants to further our work, offered by general agencies and commissions. Two examples: Urban Village UMC received funding for education and training in anti-racism and our Hispanic/Latino Ministries Team received funding for their priorities from the National Hispanic Plan. We are grateful for these and other gifts that help us stretch our local resources in new ways.

A significant witness to our mission can be found in the work of our campus ministries. Two of our ministries are ecumenical: University Christian Ministry at Northwestern led by Rev. Julie Windsor-Mitchell and the Inclusive Collective at University of Illinois Circle, led by Rev. Rich Havad. We continue to support a campus ministry position with North Central College through Rev. Eric Doolittle and celebrate the work of Rev. Rosa Lee at DeKalb: Northern Illinois University. Our newest campus minister is Rev. Woo Min Park who is doing great work reestablishing the UM campus presence at the University of Chicago.

The 2019-2020 Conference year will be filled with new challenges as we live into the turmoil of our denomination, the changing reality of our finances and the newly coordinated focus of our leadership. With God's help and the gifts of many lay and clergy leaders, our witness will prevail.

In Service,

Reverend Arlene W. Christopherson

Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Connectional Ministry

400.06 - Historic Report - Program Ministries

The Office of Connectional Ministry collaborates with the Director of Congregational Development and Redevelopment on the work of resourcing, training, and leadership development for laity and clergy. In addition, program ministries include the work of missions, social justice, and faith formation at all age levels in the Northern Illinois Conference. There are over 50 committees, boards and taskforces active in our conference. The work of programmatic ministries is centered on three major areas in our conference design:

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, and 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 21st 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 the Status and Role of Women, Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns, Committee on Native American Ministries, and Committee on Restorative and Transformative Justice.

These ministries are represented at the Annual Conference Shepherding Team table by connectors: Meg Park (Age Level Ministries), Laura Wilson Underwood (Church Development and Revitalization) and Mary Rawlinson (Justice and Mercy Ministries).

The design is still growing in implementation and effectiveness. As the Annual Conference Shepherding Team firms up its work of strategic planning, each of the areas will be encouraged to align their ministry and mission with the goals of the annual conference.

Budgeting for these areas has taken on a new look as the small core team receives funding requests and deliberates on the best uses of the conference's resources.

New to their volunteer roles this year are: Colin Monk, taking on leadership for Disaster Response coordination. Colin is a lay member of the Morris United Methodist Church and a keen advocate for disaster preparedness. Larry Dunlap-Berg and Kris Aves are co-chairing Our Volunteer in Missions ministries. Kris is a lay member of Kirkland United Methodist Church and brings a deep heart for missions to this work. Larry is a United Methodist pastor who has dedicated his ministry to mission work and educational opportunities.

Reports from program ministries can be found throughout these pages.

With gratitude for the service of our leaders,

Reverend Arlene W. Christopherson

400.07 - 2018 NIC Council on Finance and Administration Historical Report

Throughout this past year of ministry, CCFA has worked to be good stewards of our Conference resources, act as the fuel for the energy of the work of the Annual Conference Shepherding Team to address the resource challenges of our annual conference, and grow into our work of the tasks of the Equitable Compensation Committee and Personnel Committee.

Our Conference ended 2018 having received \$5,609,228 in apportionments from Northern Illinois Churches. 181 of our 360+ churches paid 100%. However, this is a record low amount of receipts. As a Conference, we were \$450,000 below budget. This translated into only able to pay 90% of our apportioned amount to the World Service Fund and only 50% of the remaining General Church Apportioned Funds. This also means ministries of our Annual Conference were not funded in full. It remains clear to CCFA that local churches are struggling with declining membership and giving, maintenance issues, and connectionalism. In order to shore up apportionment receipts and support local churches in their challenges, at the time of writing CCFA has granted over \$300,000 in apportionment appeals to 26 local churches. This is a higher number of appeals than usual. The strategic goals of the ACST have the potential to help strengthen local churches, which will, in turn, strengthen our conference as a whole instead of using apportionment appeals to carry out this task.

CCFA still struggles to accommodate reductions to our ministries as we face the emerging reality of becoming a \$5 million dollar Annual Conference. In fact, in September 2018 CCFA recognized that our usual budget process would not be realistic given the above factors in local

churches and the uncertainty of the outcome of the February 2019 Special Session and its impact on local churches, so CCFA requested a special session of our Annual Conference to address the 2020 budget when more was known from the impact of the Special Session of General Conference to local churches. Additionally, in September 2018 as an act of prudence and stewardship, CCFA voted to accrue 2019 General Church apportionments until after the results of the Special Session were known and CCFA could give guidance to local churches on how to remain connectional while also being faithful in their convictions. To be clear, CCFA will not permanently retain General Church apportionments except through the resolution of the Annual Conference.

In our work as the Conference Personnel committee, we've begun editing the Conference Employee handbook. As a function of Personnel Committee, CCFA discloses that a Conference employee misused Conference resources and funds. CCFA has instituted new policies and audit procedures that seek to prevent this kind of action in the future and CCFA initiated disciplinary action against the employee. While recovery of losses is still ongoing, over 65% of the misused funds have been recovered. Additionally, after receiving disciplinary action, the employee also made ethical allegations against other officers and employees of the Conference. CCFA conducted an investigation of these allegations and deemed them to be unfounded. At the time of writing, CCFA is exploring the process by which CCFA can shift Conference investments at the Foundation to the Foundation's new Ex-Carbon 200 fund in our commitment to be the best stewards of the Earth that we can be.

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; Rev. Scott Christy; Rev. Tammy Scott

400.08 - 2018 Historical Report for the Northern Illinois Conference Board of Trustees

During 2018 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 2018 were Rev. Harry Nicol, President, and Martha Rudy, Vice-President. Connie Augsburger, Walton Davis and Rev. Timothy Biel Sr. served as additional members of the executive committee. Jim Loeppert, Connie Augsburger and Tim Biel serve on the Insurance Committee. 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 Jon Stewart, George Wentworth, Jr., Rev. Nancy Blade, Rev. Violet Johniker, Garry Archie, and Rev. Sarah Hong. During 2018 the Board met nine 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 16 conference owned properties as of December 31, 2018 which includes housing for the Bishop, the Assistant to the Bishop, the 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, San Pablo UMC Waukegan, and a residence on South Michigan Ave Chicago. The former Christ UMC Lockport was sold during 2018. We took possession of the San Pablo UMC Waukegan during 2018.

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 2018 no new bequests were received.

Current challenges facing the Board of Trustees include:

1. assisting local churches with risk management related to property and finances,
2. managing and maintaining the current property owned by the NIC given the current budget constraints, and
3. 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 2018 these distributions were made from two permanent funds:

1. \$49,355.45 from the DORM Endowment Fund to the Board of Outdoor and Retreat Ministries, and
2. \$28,593.00 from the Keagy Fund to ministries in the Rockford and DeKalb Districts.

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

400.09 - United Methodist Foundation of the Northern Illinois Conference, Inc. Historical Report
- Spring 2019

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 Foundation’s corporate members (members of the Annual Conference) to serve three three-year terms. In 2018 there were seven new directors nominated to the Board. The current Board of Directors with full voice and vote are the following 21 individuals:

Rev. Kelli Beard, Parish of the Holy Covenant, Chicago
Rev. Robert Biekman, Maple Park UMC, Chicago
Brad Colby, First UMC of La Grange, La Grange
Veronica Davenport, Sherman UMC, Evanston
Rev. Kimberly Lewis-Davis, Chaplain
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
George Groves, Community UMC, Naperville
Debbie Gruetzmacher, Faith UMC of Orland Park
Denny Hackett, First UMC of Morris, Morris
Rev. Violet Johnicker, Brooke Road UMC, Rockford
Lynette Rice, Grace UMC, Lake Bluff
Marta Rodriguez, Humboldt Park UMC, Chicago
Jim Stoddard, Sycamore UMC, Sycamore
Tom Sumner, St. Mark UMC, Chicago
Larry Thomas, Sycamore UMC, Sycamore
Arnie Uhlig, First UMC of Palatine, Palatine
Gene Williams, South Shore UMC, Chicago

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 & Secretary, David Foster
 Treasurer, Sach Diwan
 President, Rev. Chris Walters

The full-time staff members of the Foundation are Rev. Chris Walters, President, and Carolyn J. Cook, Executive Assistant.

Notably during 2018, the Foundation streamlined operations through implementing new technology, yielding improved processes and online access to account statements and information. Part of the streamlining included outsourcing some processes to expert third parties, such as monthly financial reconciliations of investment pools, annual audit preparation, and operational bookkeeping.

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, invested according to the guidelines for socially responsible investing outlined in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*. In addition to screening out objectionable companies (as the Foundation has always done), starting 2018 the models now also screen in companies that rate more highly than their peers in the areas of Environmental, Social, and Governance, always optimizing asset allocation and performance.

Starting 2019 the Foundation launched a Moderate model that divests from The Carbon Underground 200™ (CU200). The CU200 is the global standard for researching and ranking the fossil fuel reserves of publicly owned companies.

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 reportable month, as of this historical report, February 28, 2019):

	YTD 2019	Last 1 Year†	Last 3 Years†	Last 5 Years†	Last 10 Years†
Aggressive Fund	9.62%	2.59%	12.79%	5.95%	11.02%
benchmark	10.16%	1.68%	12.17%	6.19%	11.99%
Moderate Fund	6.89%	2.88%	9.49%	4.56%	8.93%
benchmark	7.44%	2.25%	9.36%	5.15%	10.09%
Conservative Fund	3.93%	2.44%	5.81%	3.26%	7.12%
benchmark	4.54%	2.59%	6.32%	4.03%	7.83%

†The rates of return in these columns are annualized.

As of February 28, 2019, the Foundation had approximately \$68.4 million under management through nearly 700 accounts, owned by 117 local churches and several agencies and organizations. Nearly 250 of the accounts benefit several dozens of annuitants, trust income beneficiaries, and the charitable interests of donor advised funds.

Since 1999 the Foundation has provided several grants each year, totaling nearly \$800,000. The Foundation awarded \$30,299 in January 2019 to 18 ministries and programs.

The Foundation continues to participate in Dollars for Scholars (DFS), operated by the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation. 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. In 2018 the Foundation matched the scholarships of 14 DFS recipients.

The Foundation also continues to participate in the Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship, operated by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. This program is part of the Lilly Endowment's "Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders." If an applicant receives matches from all five partners, they can receive \$12,500; the Foundation again pledged to match up to five recipients for 2019 for \$2500 each.

In August 2018 the Foundation hosted two stewardship summits – one in Freeport and the other in La Grange – focused on how to "Set the Tone of Generosity with Testimony." The Foundation also hosted the annual clergy tax seminar in February 2018 in Sycamore.

The Foundation is celebrating its 70th anniversary in 2019!

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

400.10 - 2019 Historical Report, Congregational Development and Redevelopment

"If you can adapt an adventure, you can thrive. But you must let go, learn as you go and keep going no matter what."

From: "*Canoeing the Mountains*" by Tod E. Bolsinger

Congregational Development and Redevelopment (CodeRed) is charged with the mandate to promote the growth of new faith communities, train leaders, and support existing communities

of faith with an eye on the mission of *making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*. Piloting forward through the choppy waters of culture and changing community dynamics for the advancement of Christ's agenda in the world, is more daunting now than ever before. One of the guiding beliefs of our ministry team is the importance of tenacity in the face of challenges and seemingly overwhelming odds. The above quote captures this spirit of faith that has ignited our missional focus over the past year. The uncharted territory to which the church has been called to *make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world* has been particularly turbulent in the past year. Church growth often requires radical shifts and a form of adaptability that is particularly challenging for local churches and emerging new faith communities. One of the roles of our team is to come alongside and assist in the navigation of this uncharted territory of culture and community with a vision of reaching and promoting an agenda of community health that is transformative and representative of the teachings of Jesus Christ. Change is difficult; however, our faith compels us to trust God's spirit to propel us forward as we tap into the grace that empowers. We are passionately committed to staying focused on the goal of making new disciples amidst the sometimes hurricane forces of unprecedented challenges. A matrix of persons, processes and programs provide the momentum that fuels our faith and informs our next steps. Our past year has focused on the following areas.

Vital Merger Seminar: A Vital Church Merger Seminar was held in the spring and fall of 2018. Each event drew 40-45 persons who were committed to discovering together how to partner in ministry while facing the challenge of larger facilities that are no longer fiscally manageable and an array of maintenance issues that challenge effective ministry. Our mission and ministry goals are severely hampered when the costs of operations exceed current funding channels. The merging of ideas and methods of collaboration aligned with a commitment to embrace the Great Commission empowered persons attending to discover new possibilities that are inherent when ministries pool their resources under the flag of a common agenda. As new territory and opportunities present themselves, the persons attending began examining the power of collaboration.

Purple Cow Group (ICD 2.0): The promotional concepts in Seth Godin's book, *Purple Cow*, provide the backdrop for thinking about church growth and vitality for this group. We have been incubating the Purple Cow Group for two years. The thinking behind the group emerges from Godin's fundamental concept that says when you see a brown cow on the side of the road, you drive right by. But if you see a purple cow, you stop and do a U-turn to see it again. With this thought in mind, we want to present the Gospel in extraordinary ways that make people stop and want to see more. The goal for the leaders in this group is to discover and experience meaningful learning experiences that can generate new and creative ways of doing ministry in their varied contexts. Through the process of sharing and mentoring other leaders, we can multiply our leaders more effectively. By God's grace and the amazing leadership of the participants, every congregation was able to pay 100% of their apportionments in 2018.

SHIFT: The Imagine Possibilities workshops provided information on ways to refocus thinking and ministry initiatives to infuse new energy into congregational life. Twenty-five plus persons participated in each event which examined the themes of membership vs. discipleship, survival mentality vs. generosity, a serve us vs. service mindsets and worship as a lifestyle rather than

an event. Phil Maynard facilitated the event which ignited creative thinking around the purpose of the church and the critical factors that attend church vitality and growth.

TeamWorks: Rev. Jacques Conway, Chicago Southern District Superintendent, provides leadership to an ongoing group of 49 persons from 22 congregations within the Chicago Southern District. The goal of attracting younger and more diverse persons to their mission settings propels this group. Through a process of goal-setting and collaborative thinking, congregations discover their strengths and address their unique challenges. In this ongoing series of workshops, each congregation sets goals for themselves. At each Church Conference, there is a report on the progress of these congregations. The CodeRed Office is available to help participating congregations go deeper and move onto the next level by taking risks with the focus on next steps to achieve their goals.

Conference Ministry and Building Assessment Team: A number of congregations are working with this team to critically evaluate their effectiveness and examine new ministry opportunities. Through mergers and relocations, we are hoping to create some regional ministry centers that empower congregations to more effectively connect with their mission fields. With an understanding that the church is a mission collaboration of persons who work toward a common goal, participants are reminded that “The church is not the building, it’s the people”.

Annual Conference Shepherding Team: The Office of Congregational Development is providing the Shepherding Team with the information they require to assist in their critical work. Serving as a resource staff person, we have provided essential information on church growth best practices, areas of population growth, and congregational assessment tools.

The Conference [Hispanic] Academy for Faith Community Development: Participating in the Leadership Institute held in Kansas City provided a key learning opportunity for members of the Conference Hispanic Academy for Faith Community Development. We are so thankful to these committed Hispanic/Latino lay leaders, many of whom work full-time jobs on top of their lay leadership commitment in the development of faith communities.

New Church Planting: One of the most effective tools for connecting with and reaching new people and diverse people is by planting new faith communities. In doing so, we have faithfully done God’s work with great success. For example, the Itasca new church planting is reaching out to persons identified as “nones” and “dones”. Since publicly opening for Sunday worship in October, between 40 to 50 persons gather for each Sunday service. Although many of them do not attend every Sunday, everyone who does attend is new to the United Methodist Church except for three persons. Financially, they are projected to be strong enough to be self-supporting by next year. We are going to celebrate the chartering service on Sunday, May 12, 2019.

Another example is Emerge Hispanic, a new faith community in Belvidere. This growing new church plans to celebrate as a chartered congregation on Sunday, June 9, 2019. They are averaging 120 people now and likely will pass 150 in 2019.

In conclusion, Today’s ministry is quite different from yesterday’s. We have been saying for years that ministry is all about leadership, leadership, and leadership! We now want to add that

effective leadership requires teamwork between laity and clergy. At the same time, we must provide on-going support for the leadership team and hold them accountable in order to make a difference.

We are so grateful to serve our District Superintendents and Bishop Sally Dyck as she leads us through uncharted waters.

Navigating Forward in Faith,

Rev. Dr. Cecelia Harris
Chairperson, Congregational Development and Redevelopment Team

Rev. J. Martin Lee
Director, Congregational Development and Redevelopment

400.11 – Clergy Fund, United Methodist - 2019

The United Methodist Clergy Fund is an independent, Illinois, not-for-profit, corporation. It is organized to "procure, invest, and manage money and property, the income from which shall go toward the support of superannuated ministers, and the widows and dependent children of deceased members." The fund is related to the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church because its bylaws limit its contributions to this conference.

Founded on October 27, 1885, it was one of the first funds established to provide income for retired pastors and their dependents. In fact, it was one of the first funds in the United States to provide such assistance, and was a forerunner to the concept of pension funds. In existence for 130 years, The Clergy Fund intends to continue providing significant levels of support for retirees of the Northern Illinois Conference.

On December 31, 2017 the fund totaled \$28,549,891. As with many other entities with investments in the stock market, the Fund's portfolio value fluctuated. In spite of those fluctuations, through the stewardship of its seven member Board of Directors, and the investment management team at Wespath, the Fund honored its commitment to contribute \$1,300,000 to the Northern Illinois Conference for the benefit of its retirees. The Clergy Fund invests principle with our investment managers, Wespath, a division of the United Methodist General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. Wespath complies with the Social Principles and investment policies of The United Methodist Church. The value of the Fund at the end of 2018 was \$25,620,312.

The Clergy Fund contribution significantly funds the health benefits that the retirees receive from the conference. Because of this contribution, the Northern Illinois Conference, is able to be one of the few conferences, if not the only conference, to continue providing health benefits to its retirees, and is among the last of the conferences to continue this practice.

The Clergy Fund Board of Directors is comprised of five lay members and two clergy members. These persons are nominated and elected by the current board of directors. They serve for terms of four years. Five retired honorary Directors, the Chair of the Conference Board of Pensions, and the Conference Treasurer and the Conference Benefits Manager are regularly invited to attend the quarterly meetings of the Board.

The Clergy Fund has made annual gifts of approximately \$1 million toward retiree health insurance and retiree benefits of the Conference for more than 20 years. A policy of using a percentage of the three-year rolling average of the year-end fund value, guides the Board's annual contribution to the Board of Pensions. The Board has suggested to the Board of Pensions that they budget a contribution of \$1,200,000 from the fund for 2019.

The amount of this gift each year is not shown separately in the Conference budget. Rather, it is netted against health insurance costs in the Board of Pensions budget. Without this contribution, the Conference's annual revenue budget of nearly \$6.7 million would have to be increased by approximately 18%.

The Fund is a 501(c)(3) registered charitable organization, and welcomes contributions and bequests. The Conference office or I can provide information as to the process of making a contribution to the Fund and joining in our mission.

--Kristina Gaughan, United Methodist Clergy Fund, President
--Steve Nailor, United Methodist Clergy Fund, Vice-President
--Rev. Jamison Geiger, United Methodist Clergy Fund, Secretary
--Edward Andersen, United Methodist Clergy Fund, Treasurer
--Rev. Jane Eesley, United Methodist Clergy Fund, Board Member
--Allen Kuhlman, United Methodist Clergy Fund, Board Member
--James Loeppert, United Methodist Clergy Fund, Board Member

December 31, 2018

400.12 - Historical Report 2018: Commission on Religion and Race

The NIC CORR has worked to promote the goal of the General Commission on Religion and Race as articulated in its vision statement: to advocate for "a fully inclusive Church that is accountable for and proactive in addressing all forms of racial/ethnic oppression, and where all members strive, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to build God's beloved community."

Over the years of my tenure as Chair, we have sought to do this in several ways. The first has been our participation at Annual Conference. We offer "wellness" reports commenting on how the NIC can become 'healthier' as we move ever closer to the vision of Beloved Community that is described in the Bible and that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. envisioned. To this end, we monitor dynamics and circumstances that might impede the full inclusion of a diversity of voices and participation in Annual Conference proceedings.

We have also been involved in helping to facilitate the cause of racial/ethnic equity and justice inside as well as outside the NIC. We participated on the task force that determined the proposal for the re-organization of our Annual Conference. This included efforts to ensure that

the diversity of voices and perspectives in the NIC were heard as conversations were held in consideration of the plan that is now in place. Throughout the year, representatives of CORR have also attended various ecumenical gatherings around the NIC and the country where justice advocacy work is being done.

This has been yet another year marked by heightened racial tensions in our country and communities within the NIC, even as we remember the 50th Anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King. Our CORR team has promoted the resources of the GCORR to help congregations facilitate dialogue and educational programs in the areas of racial justice and reconciliation, intercultural competency, and institutional equity. We have begun work with United Voices for Children to help facilitate a program later this year to equip parents to discuss race relations with their children in ways that honor all of God's children as beloved.

The Commission will continue to work towards the goal of moving the NIC into relationships that will reach more people, more diverse people, and younger people to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As I transition off of the NIC CORR, I thank the team members who have worked with me on the Commission at one point or another over the last 8+ years. Thank you for your support, enthusiasm, and passion about God's call to the task of advocacy for racial and ethnic justice. May God bless those who will continue this course in faith that indeed we will all one day overcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Adonna Davis Reid, Chair

400.13 - Commission on Religion and Race Historical Report 2019

The NIC CORR works to advocate for a fully inclusive Church, proactive in addressing all forms of racial/ethnic oppression, and where all members strive, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to build God's Beloved Community. Our task is made all the more challenging in the moment by virtue of the turmoil in our denomination occasioned by deep division over the adoption of the Traditional Plan that sustains the exclusion of self-avowed, practicing homosexuals from the clergy and forbids same-sex marriages. Beyond this is the backdrop of increased racial tension in society at large, with the greater acceptance of intemperate and divisive public voices. In this atmosphere, NIC CORR is expanding its scope of action by putting forward an enriched agenda for the next two years. NIC CORR seeks to help churches and lay people move toward living in a stance of anti-racism and racial justice advocacy.

Specifically, we are arranging to use available film and video resources to open vital conversations on race and racism in clusters of churches in all NIC districts. We are seeking to revive the initiative of the NIC Cross Racial/Cross Cultural (CRCC) Task Force to offer intercultural competence training in pilot churches, and thereby foster their outreach in their communities that diverge culturally from the congregations. We will be leading structured conversations on implicit bias with congregations open to participating.

Historical events and activities include involvement in the Illinois Council of Churches ecumenical bus to Washington D.C. for the National Council on Churches' A.C.T. - Unite to End Racism (awaken, confront, transform) rally in April 2018. Originally a pan-Methodist bus, this was opened up to our ecumenical siblings.

In August 2018, CORR cosponsored the United Voices for Children (UVC) program, *Colors of Love: Raising Children in a Racially Unjust World*, featuring a presentation by Dr. Jennifer Harvey, professor of religion at Drake University, and a NIC youth panel addressing race.

In January 2019, NIC-CORR participated in the NIC annual Martin Luther King Celebration through prayer. Several CORR members played roles in the successful event. CORR has been asked to plan and coordinate this celebration, starting in 2020, working with Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR), the Bishop's Office, and others.

In response to our call to advocate for a fully inclusive UMC, several CORR members attended the Special General Conference in February 2019 as observers. Following the adoption of the Traditional Plan, NIC CORR published a statement calling for Beloved Community inclusive of the marginalized, specifically LGBTQ+ siblings of faith, as we continue building bridges.

In addition, we are partnering with ACST Justice and Mercy Ministry in coordinating an information conduit for ongoing activities relevant to social justice arranged by various groups throughout the conference. We have renewed pledges to continue cooperation with North Central Jurisdictional CORR in arranging an upcoming training event, and with UVC in their annual workshop for parents, clergy and educators.

Respectfully submitted,
Lennox Iton and Nadia Kanhai, Co-Chairs
Nadia Kanhai and Lennox Iton, Co-Chairs

400.14 - The Northern Illinois Conference Status and Role of Women (COSROW)

The 2018 Do No Harm: Prevention of and Response to Sexual Misconduct A United Methodist Sexual Ethic Training-October 11-13th, 2018 was held in San Antonio, TX. We began with an Opening Worship by Bishop Robert O. Schnase "A Conversion of Imagination" Mark 8:22-26.

The 2018 conference was built upon the success of Do No Harm events offered in 2006, 2011, and 2015. In January 2018, our Council of Bishops joined with General Commission on the Status and Role of Women and released a statement in response to #metoo and #churchtoo. There were four intensive training tracks introduced for training. 1. Response Teams, 2. Advocacy, 3. Administrative /Judicatory Response and 4. Integrity and Healthy Boundaries.

The Council of Bishops together with the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women reaffirm the core beliefs found in The United Methodist Church's Social Principles which clearly state, "sexual harassment must be understood as an exploitation of a power relationship and interfering with the moral mission of the Church."

Our General Rules, founded by John Wesley, direct us to do no harm and do good in every possible way at all times. The sin of sexual misconduct must be named by the Church at every level of ministry. The Church is a place for spiritual growth. Unfortunately, spiritual violence

happens every time a person experiences sexual misconduct within the Church. Nothing excuses this behavior.

Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. has released a letter to the Great Plains Conference regarding the treatment of women and the need for improved show of respect for women. Scripture records that Jesus treated women with utmost respect and dignity. He spoke openly with them and led them to faith in him (JOHN 4). He healed them in public, answered their prayers and petitions, and praised them for their faith; far from rebuking or casting them aside. He instead accepted them as His disciples then, just as he seeks them to be His disciples now (Luke 8: 1-3).

We must support and care for those who have been victims of Sexual Misconduct, it is important to have boundaries and integrity in ministry, response teams, advocacy teams, administrative response teams and integrity and healthy boundaries, Do no Harm, Do Good. Bishop Sharma Lewis gave the closing message and Communion.

Irma Clark, Chair
NIC Status and Role of Women

400.15 - SBC 21 - Strengthening The Black Church

Goal: Making and supporting black congregations in developing vital congregations that engage with their communities and the world for peace, justice and mercy.

Accomplishments: Provided capacity building toward vital congregations to:

- A. Transformation United Methodist Church
- B. St. Matthew United Methodist Church

By providing a Coach (Albert Shulter – Transformation UMC & Dr. Gloria Brown – St. Matthew UMC) to improve the capacity of their congregations to implement SMART goals and a ministry development plan that makes disciples of Christ.

Future Plans: Add an additional congregation to the program upon the recommendation of the SBC 21 committee and their District Superintendent.

Rodney C. Walker : Chair

400.16 - 2018-2019 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. We work with Jody Roy, The Director of the Center and collaborate with her and the center on many projects, such as their annual pow wow and senior luncheons. The Senior Luncheons have been well attended and the attendance has increased to over 40 participants. We also participate in the All Nations Prayer Circle, worship services and

providing resources for two Cherokee and six Lakota language classes. Gene Green and Bill Buchholtz have been in regular attendance at the Leadership Circle meetings.

Each year we support and sponsor one of the dancers, Laura Grizzly Paws at MidWest SOARRING Pow Wow, which is held each year in the fall. The pow wow was well attended and what a beautiful and important cultural event it is each year.

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 offered learning opportunities about Native culture within the local churches.

In October we hosted, along with Wheaton College Dr. Damian Costello, speaking on, "That My People May Live': the Life, Legacy, and Possible Canonization of Nicholas Black Elk, Lakota Holy Man and Catholic Catechist." He spoke both at Kateri Center and at Wheaton College each of these events were well attended.

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

400.17 - United Methodist Women Historical Report

The cold icy blasts of winter in late December and early January crippled Mission u registrations and caused our reluctant cancellation. It was warmer in February when a group of United Methodist Women (UMW) members and men took action to the streets of downtown Chicago to bring attention to human trafficking during major sports events such as the Super Bowl.

During the spring, local and districts units participated in Call to Prayer and Self Denial and Spiritual Renewal Days.

In April, several districts lobbied in Springfield with members of the Community Renewal Society. Later in the month, UMW, United Methodist Men, and Bishop Sally Dyck's Office worked together to extend hospitality as greeters for the Council of Bishops meeting in Rosemont, IL.

I was pleased to lead a delegation of approximately 150 women from across the conference to the United Methodist Women Assembly, in Columbus, Ohio, May 18-20. We were part of the nearly 6,000 women gathered in Faith, Hope, and Love in Action - The Power of Bold. A number of our women went early to participate in an Ubuntu Day of Service, while others arrived later and assisted with registration, participated worship, and led workshops. Northern Illinois Conference women joyfully witnessed Bishop Gregory Palmer of the West Ohio Conference consecrate our two new Deaconesses, Catherine Inserra and Amy Reimer, with the blessing of UMW General Secretary and CEO, Harriett Jane Olson.

In June, we had an opportunity to get up close and personal with our newly consecrated Deaconesses at the Annual Conference UMW Dinner.

During the summer, our Mission u Weekend Event was held at Camp Reynoldswood. The study leaders were superb, the study content was compelling, as was the music and worship. Our focus groups informed, challenged, and reinforced our call to mission and ministry. The One-Day Event was at Gary UMC in Wheaton where women from all ethnic backgrounds, children, and youth were in attendance. A spirit of "Boldness" hovered in the air at both sessions.

In August, we lifted our voices in song with our Korean sisters at their Annual Praise Night and filled the sanctuary of First Korean United Methodist Church in Wheeling. Fall brought annual district meetings, exciting speakers, the election of officers and leadership training. The Annual Conference meeting was in October at Court Street UMC, Rockford, IL. The theme was, "For The Love Of The Child," the speaker was Kim Coffing, past Director of Faith and Community Relations at Childserv Social Services Agency. Northern Illinois Women are actively engaged in contributing to The Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign, "Together, we are building our legacy."

We look forward to celebrating 150 years in mission by increasing our contributions to leave a legacy for future generations of United Methodist Women--women who make disciples for Jesus Christ to transform the world through faith, hope, and love in action.

Lois Moreland-Dean
Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Women President

400.18 - NIC Council for Older Adult Ministries: 2018-2019

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

MISSION: The Council for Older Adult Ministries (OAM) serves to enrich the lives of older adults in 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.

Older adults are the fastest growing population in the church. In response, while there is still time, local congregations are urged to explore their potential and ensure their full participation in the church. Accordingly, their contributions 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)

OAM accomplished in the 2018 conference year (until 2019):

OAM participated in the 2018 Laity Convocation in Sycamore IL. This was an excellent opportunity to meet the laity and respond in person to concerns related to the ministry. Dr. Junius Dotson, GBOD general secretary, was the main speaker.

At the 2018 session of the NIC, OAM offered a luncheon opportunity for the conference attendees to witness the work of the council. The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Beckonchrist was featured

speaker. The event was also the presentation of the three scholarship grants to deserving staffs of the NIC-related senior care institutions, per report below, and to meet management staff of the institutions.

OAM conducted its second SIXTY PLUS retreat in the Fall of 2018 in Northbrook IL. Thirty participants heard and interacted with the speakers: Bonnie Beckonchrist, Juancho Campanano, Jacques Conway, Rebecca Fraley, Sherrie Lowly, Grace Oh, Chris Winkler, and Lora Zink. A Garrett ETS student participated.

Golden Cross Sunday and Older Adult Recognition Sunday:

Council for Older Adult Ministries is charged to administer the GCS Offering received by the Conference Treasurer 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. The employee/recipient must be pursuing further a study in care for older adults.

The 2018 scholarship grants were made to: Ernesto Ejanda of Bethany Methodist Communities, Olatunde Balogun of Chicago Methodist Senior Service, and Amanda Gray of Wesley Willows. The grant of \$1,000 each come out of the Golden Cross Sunday Offering Fund which now has a balance of \$10,484.

Budget

The 2018 budget was \$3,100; the program utilized \$2,722. The major expense was in the subsidy of the cost of attendance by the eligible participants in the SIXTY PLUS Retreat, honoraria for the retreat resource persons, and other retreat-related expenses. The 2019 proposed budget is \$3,000.

Facebook Page Reaches Church Leaders on Regular Basis

The NIC OAM Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/nicolderadultministries) keeps the ministry and possibilities alive. It provides on daily basis ideas from other local congregations, experts in the field, and the Office of Aging and Older Adult Ministries.

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

400.19 - Spiritual Formation Committee

In 2018, the Spiritual Formation Committee had continued to provide opportunities and tools for the laity and clergy to learn spiritual practices and cultivate a life-long journey of formation in Christ for the sake of others. The Committee has met in meetings or phone conferences throughout the year, in addition we hosted our annual event "Drawing Closer to God," continued to reach out with our newsletter, and planning the 5-Day academy in conjunction with the Upper Room.

- One day retreat, Drawing Closer to God, was held on November 3, 2018 at Grace UMC, Joliet, IL. Rev. Dr. Frederick W. Schmidt from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, was the keynote speaker providing the lecture on Praying for Discernment: Changing the Way We Do Church. The retreat also offered a time of worship and workshops on spiritual practices: Dreams & Spiritual Interpretations; Centering Prayer; Spiritual Journaling; Basic Labyrinth Walking; Lectio Divina; Sacred moments with Yoga; and Prayer with Beads. Total 30 people participated, and the Committee received a very positive evaluation.

- 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 have met with the following team: Alka Lyall, Team Leader; Norma Lee Barnhart; Tim Biel, Hospitality; Bonnie Rich, Covenant Groups, Catiana McKay, Registrar. The Spiritual Formation Committee have approved this team for the 2020 5-Day Academy of Spiritual Formation. It will be held at the Sienna Retreat Center in Racine, WI, September 12-17, 2020.

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, Chair Spiritual Formation Committee

400.20 - NIC HIV/AIDS Task Force

Our mission and ministry of the Northern Illinois Conference Task Force HIV/AIDS Mission Statement is to inspire, educate, advocate, and provide spiritual support to those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in our congregation and in the surrounding community.

October 25-27,2018: St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, Indiana hosted the HIV/AIDS Ministry Conference " Breaking Barriers, Saving Lives, Reducing Stigma, and Increasing Awareness, sponsored by Global Aids Committee Bishop Julius C. Trimble, Chair United Methodist Global AIDS Committee Episcopal Leader, Indiana Annual Conference.

HIV and AIDS is not over! Some believe it is. We know far too many who are newly infected with the HIV virus or unaware of their status. Others live in fear of stigma and discrimination while millions reside in areas where access to life- saving drugs is simply unavailable. We can and must do better!

The conference was sponsored by the Global AIDS Committee in partnership with the Council of Bishops, Division of ministries with young people (General Board of Discipleship) General Board of Church and Society, General Board of Global Ministries, Rocky Mountain Annual Conference, United Methodist Communications and the United Methodist Women. There were other co-sponsors.

There were great workshops and great leaders. Bishop Tracy Malone was the Bible Study Leader and Irma Clark was one of the workshop leaders "Aging and HIV/AIDS" with two other leaders from Dayton, Ohio-William Booth and Jerry Mallicoat. UMGAC has been in existence since 2004 UMGAC (Formerly known as UMGAF) is the entity in The United Methodist Church addressing HIV/AIDS in the United States and globally. Irma received one of the three Global AIDS Awards.

December 1, 2018 , World AIDS Day was a celebration at the McCormick Theological Seminary -The Center for African American Ministries and Black Studies HIV/ AIDS Clergy and Lay Leadership our guest speaker was Rev. Frank A Thomas, our Theme was "Stay on Course The HIV/AIDS Fight is NOT OVER" We still have lots of work to do we must continue our fight against HIV/AIDS .We must continue to work together to create an AIDS Free World.

We have continued to educate our congregations about our national HIV/ AIDS Awareness Days and encourage our churches to celebrate those days and World AIDS DAY.

Irma Clark, Chair
NIC HIV/AIDS Task Force

400.21 - 2018 Historical Report of the Northern Illinois Conference's Credit Union-Land of Lincoln Credit Union

The year 2018 marked the 79th 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, CDs, IRAs, etc. Land of Lincoln CU offers online banking options, as well. Its accounts are insured by the NCUA (National Credit Union Administration). With a recent upgrade in electronic services, the frequently requested ability to deposit checks using cell phones is now available.

The contact number is 309-827-8636 for the Bloomington branch or toll free at 844-222-7788 for the main office in Decatur IL. The website is 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 many credit unions throughout Illinois. This means that your account in Land of Lincoln can be handled by visiting any other credit union near you that participates in the Shared Banking system.

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.

400.22 - 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.

Rockford Work Camps continues to host church volunteers who are then put to work on needed projects throughout the city. This last summer saw twelve crews with 400+ volunteers providing 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 Twelfth Anniversary, selling mission 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 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. The building has 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 fair trade, the 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.

400.23 - The United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Report for Year 2018

1001 19th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212

As the leadership development agency of The United Methodist Church, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) builds capacity for United Methodist lay and clergy leaders to discover, claim and flourish in Christ's calling in their lives. The agency creates connections and provides resources to aid in recruitment, education, professional development and spiritual formation. Every elder, deacon and licensed local pastor benefits from our training and candidacy programs. Many young adults find help in clarifying God's call in their lives through our discernment opportunities.

Through its Office of Strategic Leadership, GBHEM refined plans for a center for leadership development and spiritual formation. It is drawing on research to plan the expansion of leadership training offerings to churches and communities through a range of means such as face-to-face training, online conferencing, consulting, and recommending resources and experts. The Division of Ordained Ministry (DOM), using extensive research on the components of effective ministry, introduced a new formation process, Effective Ministry 360 (EM360), which guides pastors and congregations to plan and execute mission and ministry objectives. EM360

also offers assessment modules for candidacy, district superintendents, eight-year clergy assessment and Course of Study. DOM provides introduction and orientation sessions about the process.

The Division of Higher Education (DHE) has initiated research to inform a “leadership pipeline” process for university leaders on United Methodist campuses. Among the books GBHEM published this year, “Missio Dei and the United States: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness” (book and study guide) exhibits the best of church and academy collaboration. Contributors explore how the church can reengage its Wesleyan heritage as it participates in God’s mission.

The Office of Loans and Scholarships announced an increase in the maximum amount of money United Methodist students can borrow to pursue their education. The annual maximum is \$10,000, with a lifetime maximum of \$40,000. On average, the agency distributes \$5.5 million in scholarships annually.

Partnering with churches and institutions, GBHEM has promoted projects, programs, initiatives, education and leadership development in various cultural contexts within United Methodism and in pan-Methodist relationships. The agency expanded the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development, supported the work of regional networks with the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities, and established Regional Hubs for Leadership, Education and Development. In 2018, hubs were active in nations in Africa, Asia, Europe and England, North America and South America.

400.24 – Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Inc., of Northern IL, aka Chicago BMCR: Report of 2018 Program Highlights

49th Annual Meeting & Founders’ Day Celebration took place at St. Mark Manor Senior Apartments where BMCR membership witnessed another ministry example of St. Mark UMC as one of our vital congregations.

NIC 2018 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration afforded BMCR the opportunity to coordinate and implement a successful event. Hosted by Rev. Dennis Langon and Morgan Park UMC, the event featured Civil Rights icons within Chicago and our Northern IL Conference who shared stories about their personal roles and involvement with Dr. King and the Movement. Worship participants included St. Mark’s Sounds of Judah youth and soloist Caleb Bunton.

A Clergy Open Summit was convened to address issues challenging our urban churches. The group engaged in a process of discernment, visioning and planning to determine solutions to resolve the problems we all face. Three sessions were held and agreement was reached that we must continue to come together and work to overcome the obstacles impacting our congregations. Several Lay Leaders also participated in the dialogue.

The Annual Palm Sunday Confirmation Celebration was held at Transformation Community UMC. There were 37 Confirmands from seven (7) local churches. Bishop Sally Dyck held the undivided attention of the youth with her sermon that highlighted contents from the recent popular *Black Panther* movie; the response to which was a standing ovation by the youth. Worship was again led by St. Mark’s Caleb Bunton and the Sounds of Judah, the Mayfield Brothers with Michael Tabb and Rev. Flora Robinson of Resurrection UMC. Engraved BMCR Bibles, among other memento gifts, were presented to each Confirmand with their Certificates signed by Bishop Dyck.

National HIV Testing & Community Prayer Walks is a city-wide collaborative that takes place annually. Several local churches participated in the planning and conducted health fairs, providing health screenings including HIV testing. This initiative is spearheaded by BMCR's Healthy Families and Keeping Hope Alive HIV/AIDS Ministry.

2018 Annual Worship Celebration, at Clair Christian UMC, was a joyous occasion. The theme was "Celebrating the Faithful" and the preacher was Rev. Darneather Murph Heath whose topic was *Celebrating the Faithful: Endings and Beginnings*. Those celebrated were Retirees – Rev. Harlene Harden, Rev. Dale Kelly and Rev. Richard Mosley; BMCR Life Members; Rev MAW Joy of Serving Awardees – Rev. Robert Biekman and John Burrell; and Commissioned Deacon – Rev. Debra L. Hawkins. Youth from Neighborhood UMC, Maywood, served as ushers. Music Ministry was provided by Betty Pumphrey of Christ the Carpenter UMC, Rockford.

The 46th Rev. Maceo D. Pembroke Memorial Institute, a week-long retreat for youth, was conducted at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. The theme was *Stay WOKE: Awake*Alert*Aware; TRANSFORMED!* Rev. Christopher Grimes, a Garrett Alum, from Detroit, was Pastor in Residence/Evening Preacher. Classes were held on Leadership in the UMC, Bible & Ethics, Worship, Spiritual Disciplines, Polity, Theology and Doctrine and Worship in Mime. Several workshops were added on Policing: Know Your Rights (led by Evanston Police Officers), Sharing Spiritual Gifts and See All the People; This Is How We Do It! Clergy and Lay led classes and workshops. All 18 students came forward to affirm their faith commitment during the Friday Night Commitment Service. A very moving part of the worship was when parents came forward to pray for their youth.

29th Annual Laity Awards Celebration, at Holiday Inn Matteson, honored 36 outstanding lay persons from 18 participating churches. Bishop Sally Dyck shared inspiring remarks and greeted everyone. Jeffery Burish, Tenor, and Eunice Jackson, vocalist, provided musical selections which included songs paying tribute to Aretha Franklin.

Rev. Dennis M Oglesby, Jr., Chairperson - October 2018

400.25 - Africa University Report to the 2019 Northern Illinois Annual Conference

Africa University thrives in ministry because of the steadfast support of local congregations of The United Methodist Church. Thank you to the leaders and members of the Northern Illinois Conference for prioritizing Africa University with the contribution of 50 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2018. The students, faculty and staff value every gift and the university community appreciates the sacrifices that are being made as the Northern Illinois Conference strives to invest in Africa University's mission.

Through its investment in the Africa University Fund, the Northern Illinois Conference affirm the university's core mission of nurturing leaders who help communities to know Jesus Christ and to experience peace, sustainable livelihoods, food security and abundant health. Thank you, Northern Illinois United Methodists, for your steadfast support.

Institutional Update:

- Africa University remains a top choice for African young people who are seeking a relevant and life-changing educational experience. In 2018, Africa University enrolled more than 700 new students and maintained an overall enrollment of around 2,000 students. There were 25 African countries represented in the student body. Women made up 53 percent of the student population, which is almost twice the average for African higher education institutions.
- Throughout 2018, Africa University weathered the challenges of Zimbabwe’s depressed and uncertain socio-economic environment with creativity and prudence. The university delivered teaching, learning and community service activities of high-quality without interruption, while also renewing and expanding its infrastructure. Key enhancements in 2018 included the refurbishment of three residence halls for women students and the full implementation of an ERP software system to integrate and manage all facets of the university’s operations.
- For the first time in five years, there is new construction on the Africa University campus thanks to a 25th anniversary gift from Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX. In December 2018, work began on the foundation for a new residence hall. The university subsequently broke ground for the construction of phase two of its Student Union and Cafeteria building. Both projects are progressing well and are expected to be in use by August 2020.
- With the rise in internal displacement, migration, and refugeehood in Africa, the university consolidated its position as a trailblazer by offering new graduate training and research opportunities. Africa University has also continued to provide scholarships for refugee women so that their experiences, talents and ideas are integrated into the search for sustainable solutions.
- Africa University delivered critical data for reducing malaria deaths in southern Africa and controlling the spread of insect-borne diseases world-wide. AU’s insectary – a laboratory for rearing and studying live insects, such as mosquitos – shares its findings through the Southern Africa Centers of Excellence for Malaria Research. This data informs regional policies, practices and malaria control efforts.

The students, faculty, administrators and trustees of Africa University thank the members of the Northern Illinois Conference for their prayers and support. Thank you for all that you have sown into Africa University over the past 27 years. As Africa University and the Northern Illinois Conference move forward together in missional engagement, we trust in God’s unending grace for the increase.

Submitted by:
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