



The United Methodist Church

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Dear Members of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference:

The 181st regular session of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference will be held on Sunday, June 7th through Tuesday, June 9th. We are returning to the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel (1551 Thoreau Dr. N., Schaumburg, IL 60173). Registration will open on April 6th.

The clergy session will be held on Tuesday, May 26th at Sycamore UMC, starting with registration at 8:30 a.m. and our learning time at 9:00 a.m. The actual business of the clergy session will be after lunch but all clergy are strongly encouraged to be there all day for our time together in worship, fellowship, and learning. This will be our first opportunity to be together following General Conference 2020.

Our theme for Annual Conference this year is: “Y Church.” At this time in our life together in the United Methodist Church, as well as a religious landscape that values church less and less, it’s important for us to reflect on what it means to be church. I hope that as we reflect on “Y Church,” we’ll affirm: “that’s why church!”

Our opening worship will be the Commissioning/Ordination service on Sunday, June 7th at 4 p.m. In order to continue to recruit, credential and educate clergy in the future, we will take the Ministerial Education Fund offering at that service. I urge both laity and clergy to come prepared to contribute to the offering.

Rev. Rich Rubietta, who has been a “Circuit Riding *Musicianary*” for 20 years, and is from our own conference, will lead us in music and worship.

We will be led in Bible study on Monday morning and evening, as well as again on Tuesday morning, by the General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries (formerly the General Board of Discipleship), Rev. Junius B. Dotson. He will lead Bible study around our three strategic goals: Discipleship, Anti-Racism, and Vital Congregations.

The Retirement service will be on Monday afternoon and the Memorial service will be Tuesday morning. Mr. Woody Bedell, our NIC Director of Benefits and Human Resources, will deliver the Memorial message. He is an active member at Libertyville UMC where, among other things, he teaches adult Sunday School.



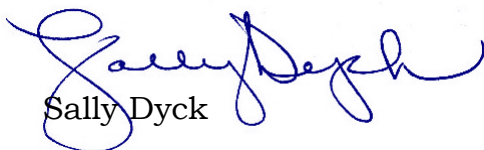
The Bishop's Appeal has become our tradition and this year will go toward our NIC global missionary, Rev. Young Seon (Christina) Kim's secondary school project in Tanzania where she serves with the General Board of Global Ministries. She has itinerated here in NIC several times and many of you will be familiar with her amazing discipleship-making, especially with young people in very rural Tanzania!

The Mission Challenge this year will be to collect bulk items for Personal Dignity Kits to send to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. Watch for the specific items needed, but they will include such things as towels, combs, adult toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant and shampoo. (All items must be new.) The trailer from the distribution center will be outside the Schaumburg Convention Center on Sunday afternoon through Monday afternoon.

Legislation will be presented throughout Monday and Tuesday's sessions, including on Monday evening. Legislation must be submitted to ACdocuments@umcnic.org by April 1, 2020. Since we keep our Annual Conference sessions as short as we can, in order to be good stewards of our resources, they will be packed full of information, decision-making, worship, Bible study, and legislation. Please come prepared (downloading or printing your materials ahead of time). All clergy are expected to be in attendance throughout the sessions.

This is my last Annual Conference session before my retirement (September 1, 2020). I look forward to seeing you at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel on June 7-9, 2020, and the clergy on May 26th for Clergy Session.

In ministry together,



Sally Dyck

SJD:mla