

# Retirement Service

Monday, June 3, 2019

**Back to the Future**   
2019 Northern Illinois Annual Conference



**Northern Illinois Conference**  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Gathering Song – *Great is Your Mercy*

Great is your mercy towards me,  
your loving kindness towards me.  
Your tender mercies I see  
day after day.

**Forever faithful towards me.  
Always providing for me.  
Great is your mercy towards me.  
Great is your grace.**

# Welcome

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# A Psalm: Psalm 121:1-4

*Adapted from The New Metrical Version of the Psalms, 1909*

**One:** Unto the hills will I lift my eyes;  
O where shall come my aid?

**All:** My help is from the Lord alone,  
Who heav'n and earth has made.

**One:** The Creator will not let your foot  
be moved, Your Guardian never  
sleeps;

**All:** With watchful and unslumbering  
care, God's own, God safely  
keeps.

**One:** Your faithful keeper is the Lord,  
Your shelter and your shade;

**All:** 'Neath sun or moon, by day or  
night, You shall not be afraid.

One: From evil God will keep you safe,  
Provide for all you need;

All: Your going out, your coming in,  
God will forever lead.

# Singing Together – *To the Hills I Lift My Eyes* *In Korean and English*

To the hills I lift my eyes  
Longing to know where,  
O where will my help come from?  
Where, O where?

**My help comes from the Lord,  
Who made heaven and earth.  
God, the creator will keep my life.  
God is my help.**

# Recognition of the Retirees

Bishop: Retirees and spouses, **please stand.**  
Beloved friends in Christ, you came to us from congregations where the Spirit of the Lord was upon you; and you were charged to love, serve and pray for all the people among whom you worked; caring for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. These things you have done.

**All:** We give thanks to God for the lives that have been changed through your faithful witness and service.

**Bishop:** At your licensing or ordination, you received authority to read the Holy Scriptures in the church of God, to preach the Word, to celebrate the Sacraments, and to Order the life of the Church.

**Bishop:** At your commissioning, you received authority to equip the people of God, and to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. There were times when the challenges were hard and the future seemed unclear, but God's goodness and guidance has seen you through.

**All: We give thanks to God for the courage you have shown and the steps of faith you have taken.**

**Bishop:** Never think lightly of the great good that God has wrought through you. And continue to be true to your calling to do justice, love kindness and to walk humbly with God. This is a transition, not a finale. This is an opening to new opportunities, new work, new relationships, not the end of the road. May God's love and power be with you always. Let us pray together.

**All: God of grace, you fill your servants with vision. You empower your servants with your Spirit. We give thanks for the ministry of these women and men, and for the ways in which you have ministered to us through them as they built your Reign of justice.**

**All:** Give them a sense of your abiding presence that they may continue to love and serve you, and ever grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray.  
Amen.

# Retiring Class of 2019

Scott Nelson Field

Beth L. Galbreath

Donald F. Guest

Kye Ile Hong

Mario S. Mayer

J. Stephen Mindrup

Soong-In Steve Moon

Kathy Nadine Reeves

Kirk C. Scott

# *The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.  
God's mercies never come to an end.  
They are new every morning,  
new every morning.  
Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.  
Great is your faithfulness.

# *The Four Questions*

1. What are the roots that grounded you during the turbulent times in ministry?

# *The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.  
God's mercies never come to an end.  
They are new every morning,  
new every morning.  
Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.  
Great is your faithfulness.

# *The Four Questions*

2. If you could go back in time, to your first days as clergy, what advice would you give yourself?

# *The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.  
God's mercies never come to an end.  
They are new every morning,  
new every morning.  
Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.  
Great is your faithfulness.

# *The Four Questions*

3. If you could go forward in time, what would you like the United Methodist Church to look like in the future?

# *The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.  
God's mercies never come to an end.  
They are new every morning,  
new every morning.  
Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.  
Great is your faithfulness.

# *The Four Questions*

4. What do you bring with you from your years of service as you move into retirement?

# *The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.  
God's mercies never come to an end.  
They are new every morning,  
new every morning.  
Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.  
Great is your faithfulness.

# A Prayer of Thanksgiving

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# The Charge

Bishop: For everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven, and today it is your time to move into a new future. We have heard the story of the Sankofa bird. It was an anxious time for her as she flew out of the nest. And there may be some anxiety in this moment for you.

Bishop: But as you move toward a new horizon, know that you move out where God has always been and will always be. And know that this community of faith, the stories of our tradition and your own experience of God's love and sustaining power, will be with you to hold you and keep you.

Bishop: With all our love and gratitude,  
we send you forth in the spirit of  
John Wesley:  
May the world be your parish.

**All: Go into the world and respond to the love of Christ in all you do. Live out the vision God has given you.**

**May God's mercy, grace, and peace be with you.**

**May you be channels for God's mercy, grace, and peace to the world wherever you may be.**

# Singing Together – *Total Praise*

*With the Conference Choir*

**Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills,  
Knowing my help is coming from you.  
Your peace you give me in time of the storm.**

**You are the source of my strength.  
You are the strength of my life.  
I lift my hands in total praise to you.**

**Amen.**

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# Closing Ritual

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# Benediction

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# Singing Together – *Stand By Me*

When the night has come  
And the land is dark  
And the moon is the only light we'll see  
No I won't be afraid, no I won't be afraid  
Just as long as you stand, stand by me

**Stand by me, oh stand by me  
Oh stand, stand, stand by me**

If the sky that we look upon  
Should tumble and fall  
Or the mountain should crumble to the sea  
I won't cry, I won't cry,  
No I won't shed a tear  
Just as long as you stand, stand by me

**Stand by me, oh stand by me  
Oh stand, stand, stand by me**

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# Liturgists (in order of appearance)

Hyesang Shin

Heewon Kim

Beth L. Galbreath

Ashish Singh

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