

NIC Launches Camp Ministry Task Force - 8/23/2025

Many United Methodists in Northern Illinois have experienced God's love in powerful ways at church camp whether around a campfire, canoeing in our midwestern waters, or singing in the dining hall. To help ensure that future generations can encounter Christ in this sacred and set apart way, Bishop Dan Schwerin has created a new Camp Ministry Task Force.

The Task Force, chaired by Rev. Rob Hamilton, includes clergy and laity from across the conference, representatives from the Outdoor and Retreat Ministries Board, the Board of Trustees, and the Cabinet. Its purpose is to assess the current viability of camp ministry, explore ways to strengthen and improve, and discern a clear and sustainable direction for the future.

"This task force will provide recommendations that support a vibrant, inclusive, and mission-driven camp experience for all," said Bishop Schwerin.

The group will meet regularly in the coming year and present recommendations to Annual Conference leadership, with a focus on program development, financial sustainability, partnerships, staffing, facilities, and above all the spiritual impact of camping ministry as we live out our vision of forming disciples of Jesus Christ, who are empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.