

Camp & Retreat Ministry Update - March 2026

Northern Illinois Annual Conference

The Camp & Retreat Ministry Task Force has reached shared alignment affirmed by the Annual Conference Shepherdling Team to move toward a **single-site, programming-focused model** for the future of camp and retreat ministry. Property ownership would remain with the Annual Conference, with renewed emphasis on sustainable, multigenerational programming.

This marks an important moment of unity across conference stakeholders.

No specific site has been selected, and significant work remains over the next few years. In this next phase, the Task Force will focus on building the governance and financial infrastructure necessary for both immediate stability and long-term health. We will continue reporting and engaging the Annual Conference as this work progresses.

Some may have heard questions regarding a recent Reynoldswood land sale. To be clear, this land sale is not part of the Task Force's recommendation.

Here is what took place: The Conference Board of Trustees, with approval from the Outdoor Retreat Ministries, sold a small strip of land that borders the street at the Reynoldswoods camp site to the Dixon Fire Department. This sale provides Reynoldswoods more security from wandering hunters and other uninvited visitors. This represents a very small section of the total acreage of Reynoldswoods and does not impact current ministry or our future direction. The agreement was reached in good faith among all parties and benefits both our ministry and the wider community.

We remain committed to transparent communication as this work continues.