

Northern Illinois Conference  
of The United Methodist Church  
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Members of the Judicial Council participate in the Feb. 23 morning of prayer at the 2019 Special Session of the United Methodist General Conference in St. Louis. File photo by Kathleen Barry, UMNS.

## Judicial Council Rulings: Court OKs part of Traditional Plan, exit plan By Linda Bloom

The United Methodist Church's top court has found that while some provisions of the newly adopted Traditional Plan remain unconstitutional, the rest of the plan is valid as church law. That was the Judicial Council's ruling on a requested review of the Traditional Plan, which was approved during a special denomination-wide legislative session in February to strengthen enforcement of bans on "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy and same-sex weddings.

In a separate ruling, legislation to provide an exit strategy for local churches wishing to leave the denomination over issues related to human sexuality was upheld since it meets minimum requirements "when taken together with the consent of the annual conference" as outlined in the *Book of Discipline*, the court said.

Both decisions came at the conclusion of the Judicial Council's April 23-26 closed-door meeting in Evanston, Ill. In Decision 1378, the top court said it applied "a severability test" to determine if the unconstitutional provisions of the Traditional Plan could be severed from what remained.

"Unless it is evident that the General Conference would not have enacted those provisions that are within its legislative powers without those that are not, the invalid parts can be separated if what is left is not inextricably linked and can function independently," the decision said.

The Judicial Council has now ruled three times on the Traditional Plan petitions it has found unconstitutional. Affirming previous rulings from October and February,

the April decision following the adoption of the Traditional Plan still finds seven of its petitions to be unconstitutional, including four that were amended during General Conference 2019. Decision 1378 also declares all seven petitions to be null and void.

Three amended petitions that were ruled unconstitutional — 90033, 90034 and 90035 — still would allow the Council of Bishops to place any bishop on involuntary leave "in the retired relationship with or without their consent" without a specific right to appeal. That "constitutional infirmity" cannot be solved by arguing that other parts of the denomination's lawbook would give "an accused bishop the right to appeal the findings of the Council of Bishops," the court said in Decision 1378.

Petition 90037, also amended by General Conference, was still held unconstitutional by the court. It would have required any individuals up for nomination to an annual conference board of ordained ministry to certify to the bishop their willingness to comply with The Discipline in its entirety, "including but not limited to" all ordination requirements.

Such an "open-ended and unconstitutionally vague certification requirement" violates the principle of legality, the Judicial Council said in its ruling.

Petition 90038, which requires the board of ordained ministry to "conduct an examination to ascertain whether an individual is a practicing homosexual," also is unconstitutional, as well as Petitions 90039 and 90040,

which require annual conferences to make certifications related to homosexuality or face financial penalties.

The second sentence of Petition 90045, which requires a just resolution to include a commitment from the respondent not to repeat an action or actions, also remains unconstitutional, the court said.

The first part of Petition 90045 — "Just resolutions shall state all identified harms and how they shall be addressed by the church and other parties to the complaint" — is constitutional, the court said in Decision 1378, along with seven other Traditional Plan petitions that "can be upheld independently."

Petition 90032 adds a footnote to Paragraph 304.3 to more fully define the term, "self-avowed practicing homosexual."

Petition 90036 prohibits bishops from consecrating bishops who are self-avowed homosexuals, even those elected by a jurisdictional or central conference. It also prohibits bishops from commissioning or ordaining those determined to be self-avowed homosexuals, even if recommended and approved by the clergy session or board of ordained ministry.

Petition 90042 sets mandatory penalties for pastors convicted by a trial court of performing same-sex wedding ceremonies or conducting ceremonies to celebrate homosexual unions. Those penalties are a year's suspension without pay for the first offense and termination of conference membership and church credentials for a

*continued on page 2, see From the Cover*

## INSIDE THE ISSUE



River Flood Relief... 2



Annual Conference News... 5



Bishop's Column... 4



Youth Health Corps... 7

second offense.

Petition 90043 prohibits the recommendation or approval of any person who does not meet the ordination qualifications found in Paragraph 304.1-3. That section includes the language that “homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching” and that “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” cannot be certified as candidates for ministry, ordained or appointed.

Petition 90044 sets a timeline for the referral or dismissal of a complaint, and Petition 90046 adds a sentence to four disciplinary paragraphs on securing the agreement to a resolution from the complainant(s).

Petition 90047 allows the church to have a right of appeal from trial court findings “based on egregious errors of church law or administration,” but not from findings of fact.

The new legislation does not take effect in the U.S. church until Jan. 1, 2020. In Africa, Europe and the Philippines, the legislation will take effect 12 months after the next General Conference in May 2020. The disaffiliation plan went into effect immediately, but expires December 31, 2023.

The Judicial Council rejected the argument from some of the briefs it received that Judicial Council Decision 1210 “is a precedent” for declaring the entire Traditional Plan unconstitutional. That decision — regarding a proposal called Plan UMC adopted by General Conference 2012 to overhaul the denomination’s structure and organization — found the constitutional defect “affected every part of the plan.”

In contrast, the court said, the Traditional Plan “consists of a series of petitions that were separately numbered, dealing with completely different paragraphs of The Discipline. One petition does not affect the other.”

The Judicial Council also said it could reasonably conclude that General Conference 2019 would have enacted the constitutional parts of the plan anyway. “The legislative history contained in the record supports our finding that the delegates voted to adopt the TP fully cognizant and in spite of its constitutional flaws.”

Judicial Council member Beth Capen pointed out that inherent problems — related to constitutional authority or conflict with The Discipline — remain in some of the petitions. “Presumably these matters will end up before the Council again in one form or another,” she wrote. “Hopefully, General Conference will be proactive in reconciling these problems.”

In Decision 1379, the Judicial Council reviewed an amended version of Petition 90066, one of the petitions designed to provide “a gracious exit” for local churches that want to leave the denomination.

The council previously found 90066 unconstitutional, but it has now determined that any General Conference legislation permitting such an exit must meet three minimum requirements:

- Approval of the disaffiliation resolution by a two-thirds majority of the professing members of the local church present and voting at the church conference.

- Establishment of the terms and conditions, including the effective date, of the agreement between the annual conference and the exiting local church by the conference board of trustees in accordance with applicable church law and civil laws.
- Ratification of the disaffiliation agreement by a simple majority of the members of the annual conference present and voting.

The amended version of Petition 90066 led to the creation of a new paragraph, 2553, in The Discipline. That paragraph deals specifically with the “limited right” to disaffiliate for reasons related to church law on homosexuality.

That new paragraph “satisfies the first two conditions” for the disaffiliation legislation while a provision elsewhere in The Discipline “supplies the missing requirement” for annual conference action, the court ruled.

“When taken together with the consent of the annual conference pursuant to Paragraph 2529.1(b)(3), Petition 90066 as amended meets all three requirements and is constitutional and provides a means for the disaffiliation of a local church,” said Decision 1379. To read the decisions, visit [www.umc.org/who-we-are/judicial-council](http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/judicial-council).

*\*Bloom is an assistant news editor for United Methodist News Service and is based in New York.*



## BISHOP'S RESPONSE TO JUDICIAL COUNCIL RULINGS

Following the Judicial Council’s rulings released April 26, I want to say again (as I did after the Special Session of the General Conference concluded) that I am deeply disappointed that The United Methodist Church has become less inclusive of all people. The harsh penalization and limitations set within the Traditional Plan give little space for those of us who have deeply held convictions based on scripture, tradition, reason, and experience that includes all God’s people.

I fully recognize that many in our annual conference are relieved that traditional marriage has been affirmed and that there are restrictions on who can be in ministry. And while we may disagree, I am still in ministry with you! Our

agreement on human sexuality is not the basis of our faith, ministry, or mission; the basis of our faith, ministry, and mission is in Jesus Christ.

This is a challenging time for us as a denomination and as an annual conference. A handful of petitions that will be introduced at our annual conference in June intend to give direction to our future. There are some in our conference who are working on determining “what’s next” for the Methodist/Wesleyan tradition on both sides of the Traditional Plan. We will have robust conversations about where we are as a denomination and an annual conference at both the clergy session on May 21 and the annual conference sessions June 2-4.

I agree with those who say it has become clear we need to find a different way to be together so that we no longer harm each other. Therefore, I urge that we do not do anything that will jeopardize the ministry of others as we move toward a more gracious place and future with one another. The verse that comes to mind for me is: “Beloved, we are God’s children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be...” (1 John 3:2).

Let us pray for one another and for our church at this critical time in our history, drawing upon our long tradition and deepest resources of faith.

In ministry together,  
~Bishop Sally Dyck

## Shepherding Team introduces top Conference goals

After months of deep dive conversations, assessments, studies, analyses, strategic planning and visioning, the Northern Illinois Conference Shepherding Team’s (ACST) work has culminated in legislation with a recommendation of three top goals for the Conference. Years before the recent Special Session of General Conference, the NIC began a process that has led to strategic planning, which is more important now than ever.

The primary three goals for a five-year strategic plan narrowed down from more than 30 are:

### Goal 1: To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ

- By encouraging individuals in the life-long practice of developing and strengthening a personal relationship with God;
- By supporting congregations in fostering discipleship in all of their ministries; and
- By sharing the Good News with people who do not know Jesus.

### Goal 2: To Live Out the Conviction that Racism is Incompatible with Christian Teaching

- By encouraging individuals to engage in ongoing self-reflection, cross-cultural sharing, and growth;
- By challenging the structures, practices and policies of the NIC and instituting necessary changes to ensure equity; and
- By educating and equipping congregations, districts and the NIC to be prophetic leaders pursuing equity in society.

### Goal 3: To increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregations

- By actively and intentionally practicing stewardship of the NIC’s ministry resources;
- By conducting a comprehensive assessment of ministry resources and the future potential of every congregation; and
- By creating and executing a plan with each congregation, in collaboration with the district, for its future.

By focusing on discipleship, we will strengthen our faith as individuals, and we will nurture and grow our faith communities in love of God and love for our neighbor. By pursuing anti-racism, we will build upon our history of diversity and inclusion, hold ourselves to a higher standard of equity and challenge ourselves to prophetic witness in our communities. By exercising stewardship over our ministry resources, we will position ourselves to move forward into a new expression of United Methodism.

Pursuit of these goals will be challenging and will require discipline, self-evaluation and self-sacrifice, mutual support and strengthened connection. This pursuit will be transformational for individuals, congregations and our Annual Conference.

The legislation will be voted on by the Annual Conference in June and the work to implement the goals will begin immediately. Visit [www.umcnic.org/AC2019](http://www.umcnic.org/AC2019) and click on the “Legislation” tab to read the summary and rationale.

## Worshiping through service By Kandace Taylor\*



Kandace Taylor (top row, left) and fellow Northwestern University students load a truck full of household necessities for refugee families in the community as part of the Stock the Shelves ministry.

This year, one of my goals as seminary intern at University Christian Ministry at Northwestern (UCM), an NIC campus ministry, is to learn how to worship while serving. When I think of my future serving as a religious professional (either as a pastor or as something else), I think of how easy it would be to get caught up in the tasks that are required to conduct a worship service and get taken out of a worshipful headspace.

I experienced this as a youth when I served on the junior usher board at my home church. I loved welcoming visitors, collecting offering, and directing people to their seats, but after church I would not always feel like I had actually worshiped. I had to be alert during the prayers, the songs and the scripture readings so that I would not miss someone's request for a program, an offering envelope, or something else. My service ironically disconnected me from the worship experience.

Thankfully, one of the projects at my field education site unites my desires to worship God while I serve people. This project, called Stock the Shelves, serves refugee families in Chicago. Through the support of the NIC United Methodist Foundation, UCM participates in this

ministry in partnership with one of its sponsoring nearby churches, First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette.

The role the UCM students and I play is pretty simple: we help church and community members load a large truck with consumable household items that First Presbyterian Wilmette has collected in their on-site storage unit. We form an assembly line to fill the truck with hand soap, detergent, dish soap, shampoo, diapers and other necessities that are not covered by food stamps. The next morning the truck goes to the Warren Park neighborhood, where the items are distributed to refugee families in the area.

The spirit of the people at First Presbyterian Wilmette is always kind and welcoming. The gratitude they express at having extra strong bodies to help always affects me, no matter how hard my day is. I am grateful that through Stock the Shelves I am able to leave the halls of the seminary for a while and connect with real people in the Chicago area. The relationships the students and I are building with the people in the community are an example of worshipful service to me.

*\*Taylor is a seminary intern at UCM and a 2nd year MDiv student from Florida at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.*

## Church responds to rising river By Tim Mulhall, Administrative Assistant, McConnell United Methodist Church



During the very early hours of the morning of March 15, the Pecatonica River, which runs just outside of McConnell, Ill., reached flood stage and began to threaten the small village of roughly 250 residents.

By daylight the river had risen even higher and it began spilling over the dike, which was built to help protect the town from more severe flooding. The surge of water into the community resembled something out of a movie or the image of the Colorado River with whitewater rafters being tossed by the current. The surge destroyed house foundations and basements and even the first floors of some homes and commercial buildings. Yards turned into vast wastelands containing cornstalks washed away from the fields, peoples' belongings, and even vehicles that had been stuck or submerged in water on the streets and in driveways.

The McConnell United Methodist Church (UMC) congregation knew they had to act—and fast. The church sits up high enough so the river doesn't affect the church building, and it has traditionally been a place the community can come to when in need. Church leaders immediately agreed to open the doors for residents affected by the flooding as temporary shelter; to use our restrooms, kitchen, gym; or as a place to relax and pray in the chapel. Officials noted that approximately 20 homes were affected and the entire Main Street was under water, including the American Legion, McConnell Area Historical Museum, a restaurant, and several other commercial buildings.

As the number of people needing help kept rising like the river, Tim Mulhall, McConnell UMC Administrative Assistant, spoke with Pastor Matthew Smith about what they could do to assist. They contacted a few agencies of the United Methodist Church, including the Northern Illinois Conference (NIC) Disaster Response Team, led by Colin Monk.

Colin responded right away by asking what area residents needed. He traveled to McConnell a few days later to assess the damage and determine how the response team could help. Colin determined that the town would need the most help with cleanup and recovery as the water receded.

McConnell UMC continued to keep its doors open 24 hours a day as the floodwaters began to go down, leaving many wells, septic systems and power supplies cut or

unusable. The church began posting on both the town and church Facebook page about a Community Cleanup Day on Saturday, March 23, to help clear all the debris in yards, scoop mud from basements, or do anything that needed to be done to help people get their lives back on track. They also began asking for donations of flood cleanup supplies and stepped up to be a central drop-off and pick-up location for anyone needing those items.

The Facebook Community Cleanup Day and Flood Relief Supply post went viral. On Saturday morning, people from the NIC Disaster Response Team, Coal Valley Disaster Team, area high schoolers, Waddams Township, Oneco Township, The Salvation Army, several area Lions Club chapters, the McConnell Fire Department, McConnell Grace Free Methodist Church, McConnell UMC, McConnell American Legion, Stephenson County Emergency Management Agency, and several local businesses showed up to help with shovels, rakes and pitchforks in hand. In total, nearly 200 volunteers from all areas of northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin came to help clean up residents' yards, basements, garages and more.

The church served as the central location of the relief effort. Volunteers from both McConnell churches served lunch and the Lions Club provided supper. Operation BBQ Relief also brought in food to help feed the volunteers. Flood buckets from The Salvation Army and NIC Disaster Response Team were handed out. One of the cleanup teams even drove to a neighboring town "downstream" in Damascus, to help residents there with cleanup! People from Winslow, McConnell, Damascus and other areas also came to the church for relief supplies, a hot meal, and just to talk about their hardships caused by the flood. In about four hours volunteers filled four very large dumpsters with debris. Tractors and dump truck loads of mud, corn stalks, and other organic materials were hauled away.

McConnell is still recovering. Some people cannot return to their homes due to water and structural damage that will require extensive work or, sadly, demolition. Some residents have returned home and continue with remodeling and cleanup efforts. In all, McConnell UMC helped about 30 households in their flood relief outreach—and they were glad to do it.



Volunteers pitch in for a community-wide cleanup day to help residents in the small town of McConnell whose homes were flooded after the Pecatonica River overflowed.



## BISHOP'S COLUMN: INTERPRETING THROUGH REASON, TRADITION, AND EXPERIENCE

On March 30 and 31, about 1,000 people gathered in three different settings across our conference to talk about what happened at General Conference 2019 and what it means for our local churches. My presentation was videotaped and can be viewed at [vimeo.com/327864947](https://vimeo.com/327864947).

In the course of the presentation, I indicated that while I believe in a “traditional marriage” between a man and a woman, my own interpretation of Scripture, reason, tradition, and experience leads me to a more inclusive understanding of marriage; that of a same-sex relationship of two consenting adults who lead a monogamous, life-long, loving, and committed relationship.

A few people (maybe more than I had a chance to talk to directly or have heard from since) wanted to know: “Then do we just throw out the Bible?” A few Scripture references were given and the implication was that some of our church leaders—clergy, laity and even the bishop—don’t “believe in the Scriptures.”

So while it’s difficult to conduct a Bible study in a monthly column, I want to raise a few points about how I understand Scripture, with a final statement about my experience as a pastor over the last 40 years.

Six passages address same-sex behaviors in the Scriptures—three each in the Old and New Testaments, respectively: Genesis 19 and Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, and Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9, and 1 Timothy 1:10. In addition to these passages, there is the underlying concept of “gender complementarity,” or the concept that God created man and woman for each other alone. I’m not going to parse these all out, but suffice to say that the passages and concept each have a cultural context. Genesis 19, for instance, is the threat of gang rape against Lot’s angelic visitors. That has to do with humiliation and domination and is about mutual caring relationships as was Abu Ghraib!

But the others all speak to various sexual practices of their times. The Leviticus passages are in the Holiness Code, which prohibits any sexual practice that does not result in procreation. I encourage you to read through all the chapters surrounding those passages and you will find that you—yes, you!—commit some unlawful acts.

The New Testament passages, written by Paul, describe same-sex behavior in the first century Roman Empire. They also weren’t about mutually loving and committed relationships, but about culturally accepted practices (which we do not accept today), such as sex with young

boys, prostitution, and sex between slaves and masters. These passages don’t refer to the kind of same-sex relationships we all know in our families, communities, and churches.

Other cultural and ecclesiological battles over the Bible are worth noting. Consider slavery, for instance. Whenever I read about the exodus from slavery, I celebrate with the Hebrews that they were free at last! The 10 commandments given in Exodus 20 are immediately followed by chapter 21, which includes instructions about how slave owners are to treat their slaves. In the New Testament times, we know that a high percentage of the population was entrenched in some form of slavery. There is no sense that slavery is wrong; it’s simply something to endure. Paul says, “Slaves obey your masters” (Ephesians 6:7). Slavery is embedded in the cultural contexts of the Scriptures.

Or consider “one man and one woman.” Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, marriage is referenced as between a man and a woman, but how many women? Jacob, David, Solomon, and other “patriarchs” of the faith had multiple wives at the same time. Polygamy was the cultural context of the day.

Or consider women and the Bible. How often have people quoted Paul when he said, “Women keep silence in the church” (1 Corinthians 14:34). Yet the context actually seems to be about bringing order to worship. Were there a couple of women who were busy gossiping and talking, disrupting the service? As a worship leader or preacher, I have also desired for some women or teenagers or ushers at the back of the room to keep silent!

Or consider the earth as the center of the universe. I’ve long been fascinated by the story of Galileo, a courageous observer of nature who promoted the untenable reality for his time that the earth is not the center of the universe. Imprisoned, threatened with torture, and condemned for heresy, Galileo maintained his devout faith even as he spent the rest of his life under house arrest. I always think it’s ironic that he was condemned for saying humanity isn’t the center of the universe!

Or consider divorce. Jesus was pretty clear about divorce (Matthew 19:1-12). Until the 1950s, divorce was rare in the U.S., especially in “Christian” families, due to its economic context. But it became more common in the 60s, 70s and 80s, as marriage was defined more in terms of love than economics. Not only members, but clergy

and bishops are among the divorced and remarried. Imagine, if you will, if over the last 40 years that we have been arguing about homosexuality, we would have said that no divorced person could become a clergy in the United Methodist Church and no clergy could conduct a marriage ceremony for anyone who had been divorced! Again, people began to interpret the Scripture in a way that acknowledges the sadness that comes when a marriage ends but provides for remarriage.

These are all arguments plucked from the not-so-distance past that caused people of faith to fight each other, condemn one another, and insist that those with whom we disagree are without faith or respect for the authority of Scripture. And yet, we can also see that, at least with these examples, time (mostly) told the story that the Scriptures are, need to be, and even must be interpreted from within the cultural context.

I want to close by briefly giving my own experience that has led me to study the Scriptures in light of this “battle over the Bible” in our time. LGBTQ persons have been a part of my life since I was in high school. We all knew without even the words to describe it that the very talented, younger brother of one of my best friends was gay. During the 1980s he died and I would guess that he died of AIDS. Over time I came to realize that some of my good friends from high school (even my church), college, graduate school, first church and beyond were LGBTQ persons. Because of my love and respect for them, I was compelled to seek understanding in terms of Scripture, reason (science)—even what’s truly traditional—and my experience.

I know that many of you will disagree and may even be upset by this interpretation of Scripture and (pastoral) experience. I mostly want to assure you that your religious leaders, including your bishop, don’t dismiss the Scriptures but have studied them and concluded something different than you may have been taught or, for that matter, many of us were taught.

I commend to you *God and the Gay Christian* by Matthew Vines, who tells his own story of exploring what the Scriptures say (and don’t say) with his father, who really struggled with his “coming out” in light of their deep, evangelical faith. If nothing else, read the story to appreciate (or resonate) with those who have come to an understanding of their own loved one.

~Bishop Sally Dyck



## PEACE WITH JUSTICE OFFERING Sunday, June 16, 2019

Order Special Sunday giving envelopes and posters by visiting

[www.outreach.com/partners/united-methodist-special-sunday](http://www.outreach.com/partners/united-methodist-special-sunday)

# Back to the Future

## 2019 Northern Illinois Annual Conference

**REGISTER BEFORE MAY 19**

Northern Illinois Annual Conference members may register online at [www.umcnic.org/AC2019](http://www.umcnic.org/AC2019) through May 19. The cost is \$95. After May 19, the registration cost increases to \$130 and available on-site only.

The 180th session, "Back to the Future", will be held June 2-4 at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, 1551 N. Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg, IL.

### Details and reminders:

- **Hotel reservations:** Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel reservations will remain open until May 17 at 5 p.m. The rate is \$149 + tax. For the reservation link visit [www.umcnic.org/AC2019](http://www.umcnic.org/AC2019).
- **Documents:** All historical documents and proposed legislation are available online at [www.umcnic.org/AC2019](http://www.umcnic.org/AC2019). We encourage you to print or download all materials to your devices before arriving to Annual Conference. This year, amendments will be handled differently. Legislative motion forms will be available at the usher's table. Prior to offering an amendment to the Annual Conference, the legislative motion form must be filled out and presented to the secretary.
- **Delegate Elections:** Annual Conference members will elect three lay and three clergy General Conference delegates and three lay and three clergy Jurisdictional Conference delegates, as well as two clergy and lay alternates. At Annual Conference, elections are electronic and a candidate is considered elected when they have received 50% + 1 of the votes. The first three elected are General Conference delegates, the next three are

Jurisdictional Conference delegates. General Conference delegates also attend the Jurisdictional Conference.

- **Lay Reception:** The NIC Co-Lay Leaders will host a laity reception Sunday evening from 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. following the Ordination Service to meet and greet nominees for Lay Delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.
- **Clergy session:** May 21, 2019 at Faith UMC, 15101 S 80th Ave, Orland Park. Richard Blackburn, Executive Director Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, will be the morning session speaker. To register, visit [www.umcnic.org/calendar/clergy-day-apartsession-1](http://www.umcnic.org/calendar/clergy-day-apartsession-1).
- **Volunteers:** If you are interested in being an usher, plenary page, greeter, secretarial pool member, or volunteer in other areas, online form available at [www.umcnic.org/AC2019](http://www.umcnic.org/AC2019) to sign up for times available. Please contact Alka Lyall at [NILAC2019@gmail.com](mailto:NILAC2019@gmail.com) with any questions.
- **Blueprint for Wellness Screenings** will be held at Annual Conference on Monday and Tuesday (June 3 and 4) from 7 a.m. - 10 a.m. in the First Aid room near the main hall where AC will gather. For more info and pre-registration visit [www.wespath.org](http://www.wespath.org) and log in to your "HealthFlex/WebMD" account. Deadline to register is May 20.
- **New Photo Directory** will be put together this year. Active Clergy and Lay members may get their pictures taken at Annual Conference on Sunday and Monday (Tuesday if needed). No need to sign up. Just walk up - photo ready! Directories will be available to purchase. Clergy may also get their photos taken at the Clergy Session.

## 2019 Northern Illinois Annual Conference Agenda (Subject to change)

### Sunday, June 2

- 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Registration
- 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. New Member Orientation
- 2:00 p.m. Ordination Rehearsal
- 3:00 p.m. Deadline for Submitting Removal from Consent Calendar Petitions
- 4:00 p.m. Ordination (Reception to Follow)
- 7:00 p.m. Hispanic/Latinx Dinner
- 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. GETS Reception (off-site – Moretti's)

### Monday, June 3

- 6:45 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural Ministry Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. **Opening Plenary**
- 9:00 a.m. Episcopal Address & Celebration of NIC's 180th Anniversary
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. **Plenary 2**
- 11:45 a.m. Bishop's Appeal
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch: Order of Deacons, Rainbow Covenant/Global, Ministries, Retired Clergy, Fellowship of Asian Americans, Off-site – Royal Buffet

### Monday, June 3 (continued)

- 1:30 p.m. Retirement Service
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:15 p.m. **Plenary 3**
- 5:15 p.m. Dinner: United Methodist Women, MFSA/NIC-RMN, Off-site – Westwood Tavern
- 7:15 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. **Plenary 4:** Bible Study with Harriett Olson

### Tuesday, June 4

- 6:45 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. United Voices for Children Breakfast
- 7:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. North Central College Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. **Plenary 5**
- 9:00 a.m. Bible Study with Harriett Olson
- 9:45 a.m. Break
- 10:00 a.m. **Plenary 6**
- 10:30 a.m. Memorial Service
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch: Extension Ministries/ABLC, UM Foundation
- 1:30 p.m. **Plenary 7:** Global Ministries Celebration
- 3:30 p.m. Break
- 3:45 p.m. **Plenary 8**
- 5:00 p.m. Adjournment



Transform YOUR World Through NIC Camps  
Preach the Gospel always...if necessary, use words.

## BISHOP'S APPEAL



### The Mission

To transform & nurture guests and neighbors into principled and passionate Christian Disciples.

### The Vision

- Camp as Evangelism Tool
- Camp as Discipleship Tool
- Camp as Missions Tool
- Camp as Leadership Tool
- Camp as YOUR Toolbox

### The Objectives

- Expand Summer Camps to Serve All NIC Districts
- Launch Inter-District Off-Season Youth Retreats
- Introduce Weekend District Family Camps
- Deliver Mobile Camps that come to your community
- Insert NIC-trained Chaperones into our existing non-Methodist Special Needs Camps (5 weeks specialized on autism, speech impediments and visual impairments.)

### The Question

You say you want children. You say you want families. But! Do. You. Fish?

### Go Fishing!

Challenge YOUR congregation to identify local, non-churched children who could not otherwise attend camp.

- Send those children, with your church's children, to a NIC Summer Camp.
- Send one Chaperone (16 or older) from your church for every 5 non-churched children you send to camp.
- Pay for those children and chaperones by donating through the Bishop's Appeal (\$360/camper; \$100/chaperone).
- Organize YOUR congregation to follow up with those children and their families during and after camp.

And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." (Matthew 4:19)

Learn more: for updates and expanded discussions, visit [www.niccamp.org/TheVision](http://www.niccamp.org/TheVision).

Bring your Bishop's Appeal Offering to Annual Conference in June to support NIC Youth Camps! Which district will take home the coveted traveling trophy this year?



## Mission Challenge

This year's mission challenge at Annual Conference will be to collect bulk items for Personal Dignity Kits for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center, our United Methodist disaster relief supply center just south of Springfield, Ill.

To find the list of items per district and answers to frequently asked questions, please visit [www.umcnic.org/missionchallenge](http://www.umcnic.org/missionchallenge). The trailer from the distribution center will be in the back docking area outside the Convention Center from noon on Sunday through 3 p.m. on Monday. Questions? Please call or text Larry Dunlap-Berg 615-945-6411 or email [ldnlpbrg@gmail.com](mailto:ldnlpbrg@gmail.com)

# One-stop resource website

United Methodist Communications is pleased to announce their new leadership-focused website [ResourceUMC.org](http://ResourceUMC.org). The site—that launched this month—was developed as a centralized portal to equip United Methodist leaders across the globe with helpful information, tools and multilingual assets.

This single web address eliminates the need to bookmark multiple denominational websites, as it provides easy access to all of the agencies of The United Methodist Church and their ministry resources. The easy-to-navigate website simplifies locating relevant and engaging content aggregated from across the connection, saving leaders precious time. The robust mix of insightful materials provided include the how-to's of doing ministry, as well as information that will motivate, encourage and inspire those in leadership roles.

"ResourceUMC helps leaders do their jobs better by connecting them with information specifically tailored to their interests and needs," says Tyrus B. Sturgis, Director of Leader Communications for United Methodist Communications, which is responsible for overall communications and marketing for The United Methodist Church. "It also uses research-based insights into leaders' needs and preferences, to make informed decisions about creating and curating content that they will find pertinent."

"Visitors to the site will find that whatever their ministry need or audience, ResourceUMC has them covered on

topics that include Christian education, church vitality, communications and marketing, spiritual formation, congregational care, stewardship, specialized ministries and others," adds Sturgis. "People in all types of leadership roles within the church body, not just clergy and church staff, will find resources here. If they serve the church in any capacity, ResourceUMC is for them. We realize that knowledge is power, so we are empowering leaders to make the biggest impact for Christ."

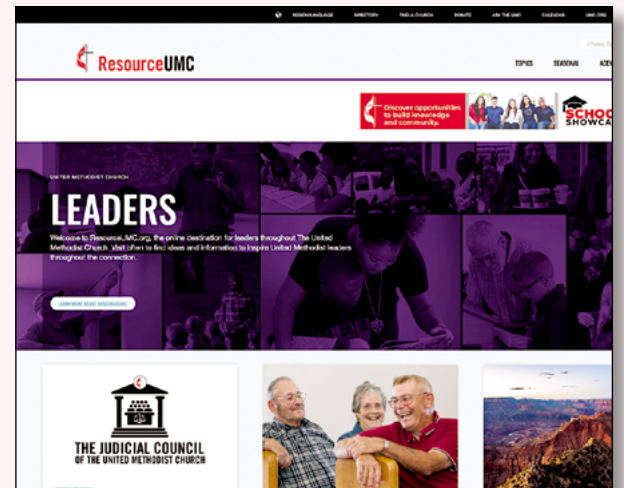
Companion ResourceUMC Facebook and Twitter channels provide a place for leaders to participate, interact, share with and learn from one another. While "The Source" e-newsletter updates users about interesting and timely content. "By offering a comprehensive experience, leaders acquire information in the way they prefer: on demand via the website, in their social feeds or in newsletter format in their email inbox," shares Sturgis.

The announcement comes on the heels of United Methodist Communications' recent launch of [UMNews.org](http://UMNews.org)—the news-only website managed by the United Methodist News Service.

"As we continue our work in communicating to and for The United Methodist Church, we are committed to evolve our delivery methods as needs demand and resources allow. We keep a keen eye and open ear to ensure that we supply valuable information in an accessible, clear and authentic way," shares Dan Krause—General Secretary for

United Methodist Communications. "ResourceUMC is a great example of the methods and tools with which we are fulfilling that responsibility and calling."

In addition to leader-focused materials, United Methodist Communications continues to produce a wide variety of content ranging from inspirational features for spiritual growth to informational resources to assist churches in their ministries, as well as providing public relations, marketing, advertising to prospective members, connectional giving, and local church communications support.



## 200 years of answering the call to mission By Linda Bloom\*

A man of mixed African and European heritage who inspired the start of a national missionary-sending society took center stage as The United Methodist Church celebrated 200 years of mission.

The fact that John Stewart was sharing his Christian faith with the Wyandotte, a Native American tribe in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, makes his an even more remarkable story.

That wasn't the only story at the April 8-10 bicentennial conference, sponsored by the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries and Emory University's Candler School of Theology at the Emory Hotel and Conference Center in Atlanta.

The focus on "answering the call" to mission in the past, present and future touched upon places, pioneers and theological understandings. The conference considered the impact of colonialism, global politics and societal upheaval.

With themes of peacebuilding, healing and visions, the vibrant, multicultural worship included songs and prayers from Korea, Lebanon, Sri Lanka and other lands, along with drumming, dancing and even painting.

The 250 participants included scholars, church leaders, current and former missionaries, mission agency staff, members of partner organizations and representatives of ecumenical and affiliated Methodist denominations.

Stewart is an indicator that the denomination's mission history is not just inhabited by white men but also filled with the contributions of women, people of color, and Methodists outside the U.S. in places like Korea and Singapore, said the Rev. David W. Scott, director of mission theology for Global Ministries and the conference's coordinator.

"For Global Ministries, this has been a really important story to tell ourselves as we're trying to rethink what mission is and, more importantly, who does mission," he explained. "Even in the broader Methodist family, mission is happening from everywhere to everywhere."

The conference's ultimate aim, Scott said, was to offer a variety of stories and perspectives to "spiritually and intellectually equip people to engage in creative Methodist mission in the future."

During the conference's opening banquet, Chief Billy

Friend of the Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma pointed out that Stewart arrived after the loss of a great chief and when he began to preach the gospel "it was a turning point in our tribal nation's history."

His efforts led the Ohio Methodist Conference to set up an official mission to the Wyandotte in 1819. But Stewart's own time with the tribe was short. In failing health, he died in 1823 at the age of 37.

Friend's mother was a descendent of Stewart's translator, but he also knows how the Wyandotte "almost lost our identity" when Native children were later forced into Christian boarding schools aimed at assimilating them into the mainstream white culture.

"I'm seven generations removed (from Stewart's time) and we've made it our mission today that we never have another generation of Wyandottes who do not know what their identity is and how important it is to know their history and their culture," he said.

Chief Janith English, principal chief of the Wyandotte Nation of Kansas, credited the Methodist Church for encouraging women "to soar and fly" and to preserve the tribe's matriarchal culture. Over centuries and decades, Wyandotte communities have been repeatedly dispersed "but not destroyed," English said. The simple act of recognizing the disenfranchised and widening the circle of inclusion "can be a powerful, powerful force for positive change."

In Africa, where the trauma against the people has included war and the stripping of cultural values and mineral resources by outsiders, mission has emerged as a tool for peacemaking, said Bishop Mande Muyombo of the North Katanga Episcopal Area in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"When you remove The United Methodist Church in my area, there will not be life," he explained. "The church took its mission to become the center of hope, the center of development and the center of the building of the national fabric through peace and reconciliation."

Creating effective mission for the future depends on involving people under 35, said Joy Eva Bohol, the program executive for youth engagement for the World Council of Churches.

For The United Methodist Church, the Global Mission Fellows program "is a testimony of how we do mission together," added Bohol, a program graduate and native of the Philippines. But many local and regional youth do not have such opportunities.

To fix that, Bohol challenged the church to create more mission programs on the local level; offer broader scholarship categories; de-emphasize the expectation that everyone needs to speak English and use technology to connect the global with the local. "As John Wesley would probably say today, the Worldwide Web is my parish," she said.

Young people, she declared, feel that the church, in general, is too comfortable and not taking enough risks. "If transformation is at the very core of the life of the church, why then are we so afraid to change?" she asked.

Today, 360 missionaries from many lands work on behalf of God's mission (*Missio Dei*) worldwide through Global Ministries.

The Northern Illinois Annual Conference will celebrate the bicentennial this June with special guest Dr. David Scott, Global Ministries' Director of Mission Theology.

*\*Bloom is the assistant news editor for United Methodist News Service and is based in New York.*



Vibrant worship was a key part of the celebration of 200 years of Methodist mission, sponsored by the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries and Emory University's Candler School of Theology, which drew some 250 participants to Atlanta. Photo by Jennifer Silver, Global Ministries.

## Lincoln UMC partners with youth health service corps to close life expectancy gap

By Linda Hendelman\*

Is your community in “the gap”? If so, a member of the Youth Health Service Corps wants to meet you, screen you, and advise you on how  $5 + 1 = 20$ . This is not the new math, but an ongoing partnership between Lincoln United Methodist Church and the Youth Health Service Corps that provides five screenings plus one healthy lifestyle change to close the 20-year life expectancy gap of students, their families, and their communities.

“Affluent and insured communities on the average live 20 years longer than uninsured communities of color,” Sara Walker, the pastor’s administrative assistant at Lincoln UMC, explained, “because of lack of access to care and health education.” Walker is on track to become a pastor and works primarily with Lincoln’s immigration ministry.

### Screenings

The youth in the Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC) are responsible for recruiting 10 family members and neighbors to attend health fairs held at Lincoln UMC, 2242 S. Damen Avenue, Chicago. The screenings are conducted by the youth themselves and are designed to look for the top five diseases that cause the 20-year life expectancy gap—diabetes, hypertension, HIV/AIDs, breast/prostate cancer, and asthma. If a recruit is identified as having one of these preexisting health conditions, the youth work with program coordinators and partnering medical institutions to link that person with proper follow-up care.

YHSC youth are trained to do screenings for the five diseases by medical and nursing students at Rush University Medical Center. Lincoln UMC partners with health organizations, including Rush and Alivio Medical Center, to provide free care

to those who are identified as at risk. In addition to conducting the screenings, the youth also advocate for a healthy lifestyle through exercise and healthy diet. Thus, 5 screenings plus 1 lifestyle change closes the 20-year life expectancy gap. Lincoln UMC received a grant from the Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Foundation for supplies used at the health fairs.

### YHSC Growth

Lincoln UMC has partnered with the YHSC since the program’s inception in 2010. The program, which began as a single after-school program, today exists and operates in 20 Chicago Public Schools and has provided thousands of health screenings. According to Walker, the program has other benefits. “The youth have grown personally and academically through the program; some students have gone on to college and then to medical or nursing school,” she said.

The Lincoln UMC congregation is inspired by the youth who take leadership of the program and volunteer when help is needed, she added. Members of the congregation are also screened at the health fairs and are healthier because of the program, Walker explained. Additionally, the church’s youth population has grown as a result of the program.

Lincoln UMC’s ministry is a good fit with the YHSC, Walker notes. “Our ministry believes that all human beings deserve adequate health care, regardless of race, gender, orientation, income, or immigration status. We also believe that the youth are not the problem; the youth are the solution. Those core principles [at Lincoln UMC] are the same core principles of the YHSC.” Another outgrowth of the YHSC is “Healthy Hood,” a collective of fitness instructors who provide low-cost

exercise classes, which also are held at Lincoln UMC, to the community.

### Future

Walker has high hopes for the future of the church’s partnership with the YHSC, “We hope to expand into more schools as well as provide this program as a model to other groups, churches, and institutions that are able to implement it in other cities, towns, and states. We believe it is a model that can be taken all over the country to address health care disparities.” On a personal note, she added, “The YHSC is inspiring to me as it puts into practice the philosophy of health care being a human right.”

*\*Linda Hendelman is a freelance writer and editor, a lifelong United Methodist and Lay Servant in the Chicago Northwestern District.*



Youth conduct health fair screenings at a Lincoln UMC in Chicago through a unique community training program between the church and local hospitals.

## Purple Cow: funny name, essential support

By Diane Stzelecki, NIC Communications Specialist

On March 27, members of the Purple Cow group met at the Northern Illinois Conference Chicago office for their monthly gathering of support, prayer, encouragement, brainstorming, and accountability. The group takes its name from the book with the same title by Seth Godin, who wrote that “success was linked to doing things worth noticing.”

Eric Blachford (Harvard: First), Jonathan Crail (DeKalb: First), Mike Jones (Shannon: Bethel), Victor Melad (Chicago: Edison Park), Adonna Reid (Chicago: South Shore), Megan Smick (Oregon UMC), and Karl Sokol (Brookfield: Compassion) are all graduates of the Institute for Congregational Development (ICD), a two-year intensive program that provides support, professional growth, and leadership training in order to prepare clergy to start new churches and redevelop existing churches within the Northern Illinois Conference.

The group met with the Rev. Martin Lee, NIC’s Director for Congregational Development & Redevelopment, to update the group on their respective ministries and how they’re helping their congregations “stand out from the herd.” They were joined by Bishop Sally Dyck, who listened to their stories and shared some encouraging words.

Blachford says the Purple Cow meetings provide an opportunity to sit down with other like-minded leaders and be inspired. “Here we’re reminded of the importance of intentionality, which I think is the first step on the way to revitalization,” he said. “I come away thinking God’s really going to do something cool here.”

Jones credits the group for the ideas and encouragement as Bethel UMC continues to grow its Church at the Lake services in Shannon, Ill. “Anything that happened for me in my ministry came out of a Purple Cow meeting,” he noted. “It’s phenomenal to be together for support, to have a place where ideas and encouragement can happen.”

They share stories of success and stories of “failure” with equal enthusiasm, taking cues and ideas from one another

while developing ways for their churches to get noticed. Ideas flow back and forth freely.

“The Institute helped these graduates see possibilities for making more disciples and building faith communities,” Lee said. “Each month they gather to report on what they’ve done, what risks they’ve taken, how they are thinking outside of the box.”

The stories continue to fly around the table. Blachford talked about putting the emphasis on restoring joy at his small rural congregation, reaching out into the community for VBS partnerships, and welcoming young families. Reid spoke about her congregation embracing community members on election day, actively listening to concerns and joys of voters and providing prayer when requested. Melad noted that his congregation opened up their annual Easter egg hunt to the community—as well as the church building’s space, which is once again welcoming community groups such as the Girl Scouts—and seeing relationships being built in the community.

“Every month I get to meet up with my best friends in ministry,” noted Smick. “As clergy, we often get bogged down in the details and it can be easy to forget why we do what we do. These meetings are like a shot in the arm.”

Not only are these leaders adding to their communities of faith through new members, baptisms, and community partnerships, they all represent congregations that paid 100% of their apportionment in 2018. During the ICD program, they learned from their classes and books; upon graduation, they put their study into action with each other’s support.

“You can see that this group gives you the confidence and courage required to do both the new thing and the hard thing,” Bishop Dyck told the attendees. “Sometimes a group is what’s needed to see a vision and lift it up.”

Visit [www.umcnic.org/congregationaldevelopment](http://www.umcnic.org/congregationaldevelopment) for information on ICD.



Edison Park UMC opens its church building to the Girl Scouts for the first time. The scouts hold various activities including this career day with a Chicago Police Officer as their guest.



Purple Cow pastors meet with Bishop Sally Dyck to share stories of how the group supports, inspires and holds each other accountable.



DYK???

## The Three "P's" of Lay Membership to Annual Conference

By Rev. Arlene Christopherson, Assistant to the Bishop/Dir. Connectional Ministries

My mother, Martha, has spent her retirement years experiencing the joys of travel. Now in her upper 80's, she has been to Alaska, Hawaii, the Straights of Gibraltar, Spain, Panama, New England, and more. Martha has traveled by plane, cruise ship, bus, train, and even helicopter. Every trip involves months of planning and preparation. To make the most of the experience, she reads and learns about the places she will be visiting. She plans the side trips and sightseeing. She maps out the big decisions and tends to the small details.

Likewise, PREPARATION is the first step in the role of being a Lay Member to Annual Conference. Whether this is your first or 31st time as an Annual Conference member, PREPARATION for the conference gathering is key. Your important work of PREPARATION includes reading the legislation, familiarizing yourself with Robert's Rules of Order, developing a working knowledge of the Book of Discipline, understanding your role in electing Lay Delegates to General Conference, and talking with members of your church about their concerns and issues.

When my mother travels, she takes tours, tries new foods, and attends lectures. She PARTICIPATES so

she can get the most out of her experience. Likewise, Annual Conference is a participatory event. As a Lay Member, you are expected to attend the entire session from the opening Ordination Service on Sunday afternoon, June 2, to the closing litany late Tuesday afternoon, June 4. The days are long and sometimes the reports, the legislative debate, and the voting for delegates can seem endless. Yet you were chosen to represent your church at this critical moment in our life as a conference. What you see and hear, your time in worship and Bible Study, what you learn, and how you vote are part of the important work of PARTICIPATION.

Talk with others seated near you. Explore the display tables. Pick up ideas and share experiences with others to learn more about the United Methodist Church and the ways others experience church in our conference. Participate fully in anticipation of new experiences, ideas, and insights for your faith and for the ministry of your own congregation.

When you head home on Tuesday night, your job as a Lay Member to Annual Conference is not over. When my mother returns from her trips, we gather to look at her pictures and hear her stories about what she saw, experienced, and learned. She relives the

highs and the lows of her trip in the retelling of the adventure.

PROCLAMATION is the final "P" in the work of a Lay Member to Annual Conference. You will grow personally in your faith and in your knowledge of the church and the denomination, but that growth is meant to be shared! A good discipline is to journal while at conference, jotting down notes in your conference booklet about what you learn, your observations, your worship experiences, and the election of delegates. Journalling will help you prepare to share information with your congregation about your experience both formally and informally. Offer a report during worship. Write an article for your church newsletter. Share a summary of the work of Annual Conference with your church council. Find ways to engage others in what you have seen, heard, and learned. This is the important work of PROCLAMATION.

Conference staff are deep into the final steps of preparing for the 180th Northern Illinois Annual Conference. I hope those of you who have been elected to attend are already starting to PREPARE to fully PARTICIPATE and find ways you can PROCLAIM your experiences when you return home.

## Appointments & Retirements: April Announcements

Bishop Sally Dyck announces the following clergy appointments for the NIC of The UMC, effective July 1, 2019 (unless otherwise noted).

**Nancy Blade** (Elder) to Kaneville (Aurora District) from West Chicago: First (Aurora District). Nancy follows Avani-Cosset Christian who is appointed to West Chicago: First.

**Uziel Hernandez** (Provisional Elder) to Rockford: Centennial Multicultural (Rockford District) from Elmhurst: Faith Evangelical (Elgin District). Uziel follows Fabiola Grandon-Mayer who is appointed as Rockford District Superintendent.

**Ryan Sutton** (Elder) to Princeton (DeKalb District) from Morrison (DeKalb District). Ryan follows Brian Gilbert who is appointed as DeKalb District Superintendent.

**Felicia Howell LaBoy** (Elder) to Melrose Park: Cosmopolitan (Chicago Northwestern District) (1/4 time) while also serving at Oak Park: St. John's (Chicago Northwestern District) (3/4 time). Felicia follows Kye Ile Hong who is retiring.

**Hyewon Sophia Hyon** (Provisional Elder) to Chicago: First (Temple) (Associate Pastor) (Chicago Southern District) from Coleta (DeKalb District) and Milledgeville (Rockford District). Sophia follows Wendy Witt who is appointed to Dundee: First.

**Noah Panlilio** (Elder) to Morrison (DeKalb District) from Malta/Northwest Malta (DeKalb District). Noah follows Ryan Sutton who is appointed to Princeton.

**Christian Coon** (Elder) to River Forest (1/4 time), River Forest New Faith Community (1/2 time) (Chicago: Northwestern District). Chris will also continue in ministry with Urban Village. He

follows Edgar Solis (¶ 346.1 Clergy from another Annual Conference) who will return to his home conference.

**Richard Fassig** (Local Pastor) to Millington (Aurora District) while also serving Serena, Norway and Harding (DeKalb District). Rich follows Kirk Scott who is retiring.

**Bonnie Johanson-Warner** (Diaconal) to retirement. Bonnie was consecrated a Diaconal Minister of Music in 1997. During her service Bonnie was on staff at Naperville: Grace and was a freelance composer, performer, and teacher.

**Eun Young Ko** (Elder) to Elmhurst: Faith Evangelical (Elgin District) from Northbrook: Glenbrook Korean (Chicago: Northwestern District). Eun Young follows Uziel Hernandez who is appointed to Rockford: Centennial (Rockford District).

**Taekhwon Lee** (Provisional Elder) to Chicago: Granville (1/4 time) (Chicago Northwestern District) while also serving Chicago: West Ridge (3/4 time). T.K. follows Allen Barbour (DSS) who will conclude his ministry with Granville.

**Aaron McLeod** (¶ 346.2 Clergy from Another Denomination) appointed to Chicago: Gorham (Chicago Southern District). Aaron follows Pamela Pirtle who is appointed to extension ministry. Effective April 1.

**Kathy Reeves** (Elder) to retirement from Medical Leave. Kathy became a Probationary Member in 1980 and Full Member in 1982. During her ministry she served Chicago: Gammon Memorial (Associate). Harvey: First

(Associate). Oak Park: Frances Willard Memorial. Health & Welfare, General Board of Global Ministry (Executive Secretary). Oak Park: Euclid. Most recently Kathy was on medical leave.

**Jeremiah Thompson** (¶ 346.1 Clergy from Another Annual Conference) to Malta/Northwest Malta (DeKalb District) from Sterling: Wesley (DeKalb District). Jeremiah follows Noah Panlilio who is appointed to Morrison (DeKalb District).

**Chan Ik Choi** (Provisional Elder) to Urban Village Church (Chicago Southern District) from Chana and Oregon: Lighthouse (DeKalb District). Chan Ik follows Chris Coon who is appointed to Forest Park New Faith Community, Forest Forest and Urban Village Church.

**Joel McClellan** (Local Pastor) to Coleta/Milledgeville (DeKalb/Rockford District) from Paw Paw and Compton (DeKalb District). Joel follows Sophia Hyon who is appointed to the Chicago: Temple.

**Kim Chapman** (Local Pastor) to Thomson/Argo Fay (Rockford District) as 3/4 time Local Pastor. Kim follows George Woosnam who has been serving as intern.

**Matthew Smith** (Provisional Elder) to Chana/Lighthouse (DeKalb District) from Pearl City/McConnell (Rockford District). Matt follows Chan Ik Choi who is appointed to Urban Village Church.

**Ayla Samson** (Provisional Elder) moves from part-time at Lombard: Faith (Aurora District) to full-time.

## MAY-JUNE CALENDAR NEWS

### Pastoral Transitions Workshop

**Saturday, May 11, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Location:** Rochelle UMC, 709 4th Ave, Rochelle, IL

**Cost:** \$10/person. Please register by May 7.

A workshop for clergy and laity together on starting well, navigating healthy transitions, getting to know your neighbors, and gaining skills to build strong relationships. Lunch is provided.

Who should attend? Pastors, SPRC members, lay leaders, and interested church leaders.

Visit [www.umcnic.org/calendar/transitions-workshop](http://www.umcnic.org/calendar/transitions-workshop) for more information.

### TeamWorks

**Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m. to 12 noon**

(rescheduled from April 6, 2019)

**Location:** First UMC Oak Lawn, 10000 S. Central Avenue (Central Avenue & 100th Street) Oak Lawn, IL

*Creating a Discipleship System*

**Purpose:** To develop healthy, strategic teams in local churches.

Visit [www.umcnic.org/calendar/teamworks-rescheduled](http://www.umcnic.org/calendar/teamworks-rescheduled) for more information.

### Young-Mee Park Farewell Celebration

**Sunday, June 9, 2 to 4 p.m.**

**Location:** Dixon First, 202 S. Peoria Avenue, Dixon, IL

Please come and help celebrate the Rev. Young-Mee Park's faithful service as the DeKalb District Superintendent before she moves back to the pulpit at Hinsdale UMC on July 1.

### Lisa Kruse-Safford Farewell Celebration

**Sunday, June 23, 2 to 4 p.m.**

**Location:** Freeport: First, 503 N. Lily Creek Road, Freeport, IL

Please come and help celebrate the Rev. Lisa Kruse-Safford's faithful service as the Rockford District Superintendent before she moves back to the pulpit at First UMC in Crystal Lake on July 1.

## Stay Connected

Sign up for the weekly NIC eNews & Appointment Announcements and Sympathy notices.

Visit [www.umcnic.org](http://www.umcnic.org) and scroll down to enter your email and name under "Sign up for our eNewsletter".

## Job Openings

For the latest NIC job openings, visit [www.umcnic.org/jobs](http://www.umcnic.org/jobs)

## Submit News

Please submit items at least two weeks prior to publication date. Include your name, address, email, phone number and name of local church.

Space is limited. Electronic submissions are preferred with high-resolution attached jpegs. For guidelines and to submit online, visit [www.umcnic.org/communications/submit-news](http://www.umcnic.org/communications/submit-news).

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