



While sanctuaries remain empty, churches throughout the Northern Illinois Conference find creative ways to worship and reach out to the community during the state's "stay-at-home order." (Left) Libertyville UMC's Sunday school class participate in a "Kindness Parade" through the neighborhood spreading cheer and positive messages. (Right) Good Samaritan UMC in Addison decorated the altar on Mother's Day with photos of mothers and mother-like figures in the congregation.

ReTurn Team Plan Phasing in a return to church

By Anne Marie Gerhardt, Dir. of Communications

For three months, church leaders have moved worship and ministries outside the building and into the realm of the online world, providing hope and reassurance in these difficult days since the COVID-19 pandemic surfaced. While many are anxious to return to the sanctuary for in-person services, Bishop Sally Dyck says congregations must stay the course and follow state guidelines to make sure we "do no harm" and do our part to help stop the spread of the virus.

In late May, the number of deaths from the virus surpassed 100,000 in the U.S., more than 5,000 in Illinois. At that time, the number of cases reported exceeded 1.7 million across the country according to the CDC.

"Churches are called to a higher standard of safety and health," said Dyck. "We are keeping the bar high for the welfare of all our people so we must continue to take all the necessary precautions. Overall, be clear about what's at stake: the very health, safety, and lives of those in your church, families, and communities."

To help churches prepare for reentering their buildings safely, Bishop Dyck assigned a group of clergy to the ReTurn Team to research and develop a comprehensive plan in cooperation with the Cabinet. The team's document is based on the state's five-phase "Restore Illinois" plan.

"We will need to address difficult questions to match the various phases that our region is in, our level of infection, and even our own comfortableness in being with others (given our ages and health issues)," said Dyck.

The ReTurn Team says the document is intended to

provide best practices within each phase so local churches can assess their current situation. It raises many questions for churches to consider depending on congregation size, the size of the building, their community, and more. However, the most critical aspect of the plan is that churches need to develop a health team consisting of people who know the church building and represent the church's ministries. If possible, the team should include someone with a health science background.

"We worked to create a document that would be comprehensive enough for any setting, understanding that the geography and demography of the NIC is so diverse," said ReTurn Team member Rev. Lisa Kruse-Safford. "Of course, some details may not be relevant for every setting, therefore, the work of a local church health team to guide the congregation forward is crucial for each church setting."

On May 29, Governor JB Pritzker lifted the stay-at-home order and moved Illinois into phase 3 of the state's reopening plan, which allows for gathering of less than 10 people. While drive-in and outdoor worship with social distancing guidelines in place are allowed, Bishop Dyck says the safest option is still remote services, per the governor's guidance.

"If churches are planning drive-in services they need to carefully observe social distancing guidelines and people should not leave their cars or park too close to another car," said Dyck. "We're still at less than 10 people and anything outdoors is preferable but face masks must be worn. And

no singing, which has been shown to spread the virus!"

Best practices listed under Phase 3 of the ReTurn document include:

- Limit handling of microphones and equipment; speakers should wear face shields
- Limit office hours and access to office
- Gather in spaces with open airflow and prop open doors where groups are gathered
- Continue to emphasize online giving
- Encourage online participation among vulnerable populations
- Create an online VBS experience for families
- Organize lay people to make weekly phone calls and to provide digital companionship when possible

Two questions to consider throughout this phase: "Has anyone visiting the facility or known to have been in contact with the church community tested positive for COVID-19 in the last two weeks?" and "Can the building be kept sanitized?"

The Team says there's no magic timeline or specific dates when Illinois will move to the next phases. If the number of cases increase, we could revert to Phase 1 or 2. Keep informed and look for updates from state officials for guidance at [coronavirus.illinois.gov](https://www.coronavirus.illinois.gov). To read the full ReTurn Team document and find other helpful resources visit, [umcnic.org/returnteam](https://www.umcnic.org/returnteam).

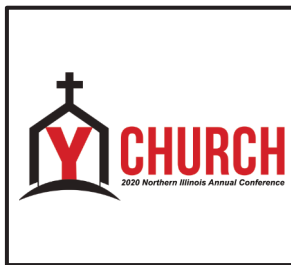
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From the Bishop: Who will be the bridges?

Demonstrations against racism and injustice in our country are growing in numbers in many cities including Chicago, sparked but not confined by the recent police violence against black people. It's good for them to be there, but during the weekend of Pentecost, May 30-31, the scene turned toward violence. The route was my daily running route every morning—along Wacker Drive and into the Loop.

On that Sunday morning, my husband Ken and I went for a walk. I wanted to see my running route. But as soon as we got to the river, we saw that all the bridges along the Chicago River were up. There was no way to get across the river. We couldn't get into downtown or along the south side of Wacker.

When a bridge is up, there's a loud clanging sound with a flashing STOP sign. As we walked along, there was a continuous, out of sync clanging of the bridges. The clanging sound resounded down the canyon of the city—the canyon made by the tall skyscrapers. The clanging called out its warning: pay attention to what is going on!

We walked into the River North area for a while before circling back toward our neighborhood. All along we saw the effects of the night before but it was the clanging that haunted me.

I've seen people write that the time we're in is an apocalypse; and this was before this week or weekend. We've done such a poor job teaching about the Book of Revelation that it's hard to go against the stream of how it has been interpreted popularly in our culture. But let me just say this: an apocalypse is an

unveiling, a revealing for all to see. The Book of Revelation is a revealing of evil being overcome by good until there is:

A new heaven and new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away. (Rev. 21:1)

We are in an apocalypse. But the apocalypse is not an economy that has plummeted to depths unknown since the Great Depression. The apocalypse is not the unemployment figure. The apocalypse is not that we can't come together and worship, singing our hearts out. The apocalypse is not the higher rates of illness and death of COVID-19 for people of color and those who are the most economically stressed in our society (often essential workers). The apocalypse is not police shootings. Hear me out!

The apocalypse is the unveiling, the revealing that all these things—as much suffering, death and loss that they have caused—the revealing of all the inequities and racism and poverty and poor health care that exists in our society. It has been starkly revealed just who we are as a society. That's the apocalypse: the revealing.

Some say that religion is really a way of seeing. If anyone has any religion right now, we cannot but help but to see what has been revealed. And what has been revealed is now up to us to address.

While out walking this morning on the north side of the river, I saw a woman sitting at a bus stop. You have to understand: neither the buses nor the trains were running because they couldn't get across the river. But this woman was sitting at a bus stop that was about 50 feet from a

bridge that was up. No bus was going that way! But there she sat.

Why was she sitting there? Maybe she was just tired. But to me, it seemed symbolic that we can sit down and pretend that everything is normal. We can refuse to see. The question is: What do we do with an apocalyptic time? Well, we can't just sit down and close our eyes and not see what we have seen in these last couple of months and now last couple of days.

The Book of Revelation ends in a vision of a new heaven and earth; nothing less. We must work for a new economy for all and not just for some, a better America that is judged by how it treats the most vulnerable among us, a new way of being church that values the realm of God's justice and mercy, a new way of loving that transcends—or bridges—our many divisions. On this Pentecost Sunday, with all our various experiences and perspectives and expressions of faith, let us join our voices with one heart to live and work and love into a new reality that is made possible by this time of revealing.

With the clanging and looking up at the gaps between the raised bridges, I kept wondering, who will be the bridges? Who will be the bridges? Who will be the bridges?

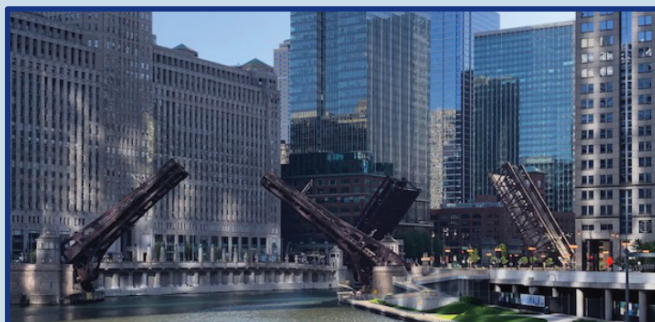
Will it be you?

Will it be me?

Will it be us?

May it be so.

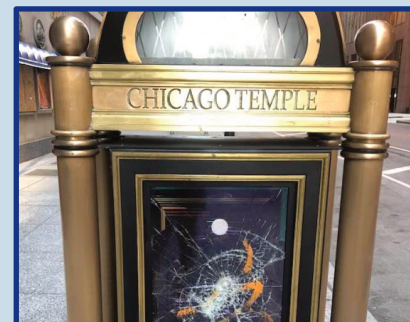
~Bishop Sally Dyck



The city raised the bridges over the Chicago River to limit access into the Loop after demonstrations turned violent the weekend of May 30-31. Photo by Ken Erhman.



Bishop Sally Dyck took this photo along her morning run route in the Fulton River District neighborhood just northwest of the Chicago Loop.



First UMC at the Chicago Temple located in the Loop received minor damage during the disturbance.



Northern Illinois Annual Conference postponed until fall

Y CHURCH

2020 Northern Illinois Annual Conference

We want to begin by hoping that all of you are doing well

and staying safe at home as we learn to live with this new virus, until we find a vaccine for it.

I also want to thank you all for being patient with your Annual Conference committee, as we have journeyed through these last couple months, discerning the best format for our 2020 Annual Conference session. We have taken this time because we wanted to be sure we were doing the right thing and would do all we can to not put anyone's health at risk.

So, given the uncertainty of how long we will need to maintain safe distancing, and how long before gatherings of about 1000+ people will be permissible, the Annual Conference Committee and Bishop have approved to hold a **'virtual 2020 Annual Conference session' on Saturday, November 14, 2020.** While so much has changed and our buildings remain closed, this year's theme "Y Church?" still seems relevant as the church continues to be a presence (while not necessarily in-person) in our communities by meeting people's spiritual, emotional and physical needs.

While we do not have all the details figured out yet, here are some things we can tell you:

- It will be a teleconference (audio only), not a Zoom call (no video).
- A toll-free number will be provided for us to dial in.
- It will be a maximum of a 4-hour call with a break.
- Web trainings will be available prior to the call to help us understand the process to use this phone service.
- Given the nature of this call, and in consultation with our chancellor, only necessary actions will be taken, which means fewer reports and legislation. Everything that is not essential for 2020 will be acted upon at the 2021 AC session.
- Worship experiences incorporating traditions important to our annual conference will be recorded and offered either before or after November 14. Episcopal and Laity addresses may also be delivered in the same format.
- **A virtual Clergy Session will be held on Monday, June 29 from 10 am - 12 noon.** Registration and more information will be made available soon.
- The AC Committee is still looking at options for the Ordination Service for the class of 2020 ordinands.
- Webinars/Zoom meetings will be scheduled to discuss: the budget and legislation ahead of time to answer questions and for clarification.

- Historical reports and legislation will be available on the conference website by **October 14.**

Friends, if this seems overwhelming, please know that we feel the same. We are all learning as we go along. We do hope to get some guidance from other Annual Conferences who are using similar platforms to hold their Annual Conference session before us.

We humbly ask that you help us make this session successful by **making sure the conference has the correct names of your lay members to Annual Conference and alternates.** Please enter the information in the Conference Portal or contact your District Administrative Assistant. This will help the Committee on Credentials with the credentialing process.

Please check our website at umcnic.org/AC2020 and eNews for dates, deadlines and details on all of these plans as they are finalized. And once again, thank you for your patience and your support in these very uncertain times.

Stay home friends and be safe!

Rev. Alka Lyall, Chair of Annual Conference committee,
Rev. Katie Voigt, Chair of Daily Proceedings,
Rev. Ryan Sutton, Chair of the Committee on Credentials,
Rev. Melissa Meyers, Chair of Worship Planning



▲ Rev. Jan Comerford (right) of South Elgin Community UMC leads an outdoor service in May celebrating high school graduates who missed out on a traditional graduation ceremony because of the pandemic.

◀ Rev. Grace Imathiu from First UMC in Evanston performs a socially distant backyard baptism with a garden hose in hand at the home of a young church member.

Churches are adapting in creative ways

While it was a big learning curve in the beginning for many pastors and worship leaders, roughly 95% of NIC churches are sharing worship experiences online. Internet access or lack of technology knowledge remains a concern for reaching some church members, but clergy and laity are finding unique ways to stay connected to their members, such as providing ways to call in or mailing sermons and devotions. Others are keeping up their letter and card writing efforts, as well as making personal phone calls to check in with members.

Some churches are coordinating creative ways to gather. The Center UMC in Itasca recently held a drive-in service in the parking lot of the Itasca Country Club. Six different churches participated and nearly 50 carloads of people showed up. They listened to the service on their car radios through an FM transmission.

"It was awesome," said Rev. Bob Butler, pastor at The Center. "We used prepackaged communion cups and wafers and gave away small flags and books." Butler said they're looking for a bigger parking lot to offer the service to more people.

Some churches are coordinating curbside pick-up from their food pantries, others are delivering meals to essential workers, and many are sewing and donating face masks to those who need them.

Joy Hayag, Deaconess and Director of Children's and Family Ministries at Christ UMC in Rockford, said their United Methodist Women (UMW) hunted down fabric and elastic and have been producing a weekly donation of masks to the community and local organizations, including ChildServ and Rosecrance.

"In this day of upheaval and sheltering at home, it takes all of us to be the 'hands and feet' of Jesus," said Hayag. "The work of UMW gives the underlying strength of missions of the church as we face the problems in the world and in our communities, reaching out to those who need us."

Marking milestones and traditions

The pandemic put on hold many celebrations and services, including weddings, funerals, baptisms and Confirmation. While many weighed the pros and cons of conducting an online Confirmation service, some congregations moved forward in creative "virtual" ways to honor this important rite of passage.

The Rev. Katherine Paisley, senior pastor at First UMC in Oak Park, continued Confirmation classes as the pandemic unfolded, hoping to provide her youth with a sense of normalcy, and with the idea of celebrating Confirmation in a virtual setting.

"As soon as this [pandemic] hit, we realized that we couldn't finish up in person," Paisley said, noting that her three students continued their Confirmation class via Zoom meetings. "Moving into a virtual experience was fairly seamless for us, mainly because my son Donny helped me translate what we needed to do to Zoom. Our students really bonded in the process."

Oak Park's Confirmation service was held Sunday, May 4 also via Zoom. Paisley said despite the unconventional and technological service, it still was "interactive, participatory, and meaningful."

When the planned baptism for 14-year old Kirby C. from First UMC in Evanston could no longer take place in-person this spring on Confirmation Sunday because of the pandemic, Rev. Grace Imathiu brought his baptism to his backyard.

"When a 14-year-old says he wants to be baptized and when you Zoom with him and ask him the baptismal questions and unprompted he replies to each one of them 'YES I DO!' then you find a way to baptize him," said Imathiu.

On May 24, Rev. Imathiu came to Kirby's Evanston home wearing a face mask and practicing social distancing. With Kirby's parents laying his hands on him and anointing him, Imathiu used a garden hose to spray him with water and baptize him in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

"It was a most holy experience," said Imathiu. "I think we can take away from this experience that even pandemics and social distancing cannot separate us from being part of the beloved community that the love of God creates for us."

For high school and college graduates, the pandemic took away in-person ceremonies and many could not walk across the stage to receive their diplomas. So South Elgin Community UMC decided to honor their three high school graduates during an outdoor service in the church parking lot following safety guidelines.

"I have so many memories with each of our three graduates from holding one as a baby to having two in VBS and Sunday school to all of them being helpers with our children's ministries," said Connie Schweitzer, Lay Leader at Community. "We have valued these young ladies in

different ways over the years and we wanted to find a meaningful way to congratulate them."

Spreading Kindness

At Libertyville UMC, the Sunday school class, which has been meeting through Zoom using lessons on kindness, decided to hold a "Kindness Parade" through the neighborhood to uplift residents and spread cheer. Students decorated their family's cars and made signs with positive words and messages.

"The children learned that kindness is a chain reaction," said Debbie Williams, Libertyville UMC's director of children and family ministries. "Be kind and the person you show kindness to will want to be kind to someone else. The kindness grows and grows from your home, to your neighbor, your community, and the world."

Williams said the children had all participated in birthday party parades during the stay-at-home order, so doing a parade for the church's senior members and their neighbors turned into a perfect idea for spreading kindness.

"I mapped out a route within five miles of the church and called every church member to tell them we were coming," said Williams. "The response was awesome! Church members greeted the children with their own signs expressing their love for the children's efforts! It was great for the kids to see kindness in action!"

These are just a few examples of the ways NIC churches are connecting in far-reaching ways; in many cases the Internet has brought the message of Jesus Christ to people from different places and parts of the country who wouldn't otherwise be together for worship.

Bishop Dyck has said that while our church buildings remain closed until we reach a safe phase, our churches are still open for ministry. She said the phases in the ReTurn Team's plan make a lot of sense and guide us in returning safely to our ministries by giving us direction in how to prepare for the next phase.

"In the meantime, I urge you each day to look for the rainbows, like in the story of Noah: the beauty of the blossoming spring colors when you take a walk outside, the goodness of family and friends who share kind words and deeds even "from afar," the beauty of God's grace and love, and the goodness of all the modern ways of being able to connect while social distancing."

But most of all, Bishop Dyck prays for everyone to stay safe and healthy.

NIC budget adjusts with the times

Despite the pandemic, the spirit of witness, mission and social justice is alive and well in the Northern Illinois Conference. Work areas, committees, staff and ministries have adapted and continue their important work with integrity and dedication. However, like many local, national, and global organizations, the Conference is experiencing financial challenges.

In order to respond quickly to changes in economic conditions, the Book of Discipline authorizes the Conference Committee on Finance and Administration (CCFA) to develop a spending plan to adjust the conference budget between sessions of Annual Conference.

On May 22, CCFA agreed to a spending plan based upon the anticipated impacts of the pandemic on apportionment giving. The plan forecasts a 23% reduction in apportionment receipts in 2020 compared to 2019 (approximately \$1,060,000). CCFA will revisit the budget in the fall to reassess and adjust, if necessary.

The 2020 Cabinet and Program Ministries budgets were reduced by \$250,000, a 13% reduction in each area.

Those reductions include:

- Approximately \$96,500 in support for local churches
- \$135,000 in reductions to administrative items
- 10-25% reduction to most committee budgets

The spending plan does not change the budget for general funds, or monies collected by the conference and forwarded to global mission and ministry.

"We appreciate the continued support from our local churches and encourage continued faithful, generous giving," said Stephanie Uhl, CCFA Chair. "While this pandemic has caused temporary changes to how our churches operate, how we worship and do ministry, it has also shown the strength of our faith and the value of our

connection as our congregations have adapted and supported one another."

Through the vision of the Conference Council on Ministries, \$75,000 in COVID-19 response funds was allocated for a new program reaching out to the Central Conferences to support new and emerging health ministries to address the spread of COVID-19. Oversight for this mission is directed by the Conference Board of Global Ministries and chaired by Deaconess Christina Meyer in partnership with Conference Mission Secretary, Rev. Shirley Pulgar-Hughes.

Closer to home, the Conference office is working to support churches and ministries.

Most NIC program committees decreased their budgets by 10-25%. Some budget lines have fixed amounts that are contractual and couldn't be changed, such as Campus Ministries, Camping, health insurance for the staff, camp maintenance and property costs.

"I celebrate the ways in which our staff has worked tirelessly to shift their work and find ways to support and resource our local churches in this unprecedented time," said the Rev. Arlene Christopherson, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries. "From new forms of communication to Zoom training events to resourcing our District Superintendents and local churches, we have worked to fill all the gaps that emerged overnight as our churches and conference offices were closed."

The spending plan will leave vacant three staff positions through the end of 2020: a part-time Urban Ministry Coordinator, a proposed full-time Hispanic Ministry coordinator that would have been partially funded with GBGM support, and a full-time Accounting Assistant/

Office Manager.

"This is in addition to the permanent reduction from three Regional Administrator positions to two Administrative Assistants that was completed earlier this year," said NIC Treasurer Lonnie Chafin. "Further, because many camps have been cancelled, Outdoor and Retreat Ministries employees have been placed on furlough until camp programs can get back up and running.

Lonnie added, costs for General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegations will not be expended and the Annual Conference Session budget has been reduced.

"Each Conference work area is endeavoring to continue their mission in new and unprecedented ways," said Christopherson. "The strategic work of the Conference around Discipleship, Anti-Racism and Vital Congregations also continues, with task forces meeting frequently (via Zoom) and moving forward in their goals."

Some savings from the Stay-At-Home order for District Superintendents and staff have included travel and professional expenses. During this appointment season the cabinet has worked to align clergy appointments with the local church's budget. This has resulted in some formerly full-time churches receiving part-time appointments and other churches being yoked so one pastor serves two churches to alleviate the financial stresses.

"We look forward to a time when we can come together and celebrate our faith and are thankful for the strength in our United Methodist connection that helps keep us united and moving forward during this difficult time," said Uhl.

For information on apportionments, visit umcnic.org/apportionments.



Bishop Dyck retirement plans change with new dates for General and Jurisdictional Conferences

The Council of Bishops (COB) has announced new dates for the 2020 Jurisdictional Conferences in the United States, which have been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Jurisdictional Conferences in the United States will be held **November 10-12, 2021**. The days prior to and after can be used at the discretion of each Jurisdictional Conference. The North Central Jurisdictional Conference will still be held in Fort Wayne, Ind. Hotel and registration information will be available Spring 2021.

In the call letter to Jurisdictional Conferences secretaries and heads of delegations, COB President Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey noted that the dates chosen by the bishops intentionally followed the postponed 2020 General Conference, which will now take place **August 29 -**

September 7, 2021, at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minn.

As many of you know, Bishop Sally Dyck was scheduled to retire Sept. 1, 2020. After a great deal of discernment and consultation with the NIC Episcopacy Committee, the chair of the North Central Jurisdiction (NCJ) Committee on Episcopacy, the College of Bishops (the North Central Jurisdiction bishops), the Cabinet, and last (but not least), her husband, Dyck announced her retirement date will now be effective Jan. 1, 2021.

"The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted, postponed, cancelled, called into question, and overall changed so many aspects of our lives," said Dyck who will be retiring to California. "Planning for the future—even just weeks out—is precarious at best and for those of us who plan

almost every waking moment, it is particularly a challenge!"

Bishop Dyck will retain her assignment as the Ecumenical Officer for the COB.

The COB has the responsibility of assigning episcopal coverage under these circumstances and has already begun discerning what that will be for the NIC during most of 2021 prior to the Jurisdictional Conference when the NCJ Committee on Episcopacy will assign a bishop (which is the normal process).

Representatives from the NCJ Committee on Episcopacy and COB have already met with the NIC Episcopacy Committee. They will report the plan for episcopal coverage in the NIC later this summer.



Bishop's Appeal update

Missionary Rev. Young Seon (Christina) Kim is asking for continued prayers for Tanzania as COVID-19 spreads across the country.

Despite the pandemic, construction on the secondary school, the recipient of this year's Bishop's Appeal, continues and stage two resumed in early June after a short hiatus.

Churches may donate to Rev. Kim's Advance #3022281 for programs and ministry to help her provide food and sanitary supplies for COVID-19 relief in Tanzania. Please indicate your church and that the

donation is for COVID-19 relief. Checks with the Advance # in the memo line may also be sent to: Advance GCFA at P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068. Fundraising is also continuing for the construction of the school, which is slated to be completed by Jan. 2021.

"Living healthy every day is a blessing," said Kim. "I believe that the Lord will protect us."

Words of encouragement may be sent to Christina at yskim1023@gmail.com. To learn more about the school project and how to donate, visit umcnic.org/bishopsappeal.



Rev. Young Seon (Christina) Kim stands outside the Secondary School in Tanzania with two engineers preparing to resume construction after a break because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

UMC chaplains live out their calling on the front line

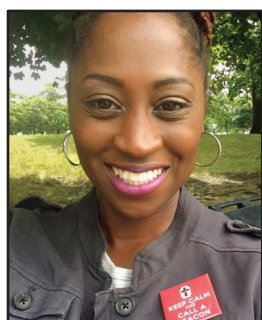
By Diane Strzelecki, NIC Communications Specialist



Rev. Dean Shapley



Rev. Deborah Hawkins



Rev. Dr. Kimberly Davis



Rev. Deborah Ingram

When the peak of COVID-19 cases caused a Boston-area hospital morgue to run out of room, security personnel were asked to transport bodies to a refrigerator truck in the parking lot.

"It was an extremely distressing duty for them," said the Rev. Dean Shapley, Director of Mission and Chaplaincy at Lowell General Hospital (Mass.) and an NIC-ordained Elder. "Our security team will do anything, go anywhere, and they are always willing—but this was a 'do' that many of them were not used to, and it really caused anxiety."

Their supervisor asked Shapley to organize a debriefing with the hospital's Critical Incident Peer Support Team, and 14 security employees attended. "These guys opened up like I've never seen people open up before," Shapley said. "They were having nightmares and they didn't want to come to work, and they were taking it home with them, losing sleep. At our debriefing they were able to talk it out and be supportive of each other."

NIC United Methodist chaplains near and far are living on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic supporting their institutions as they work in unexpected and creative ways.

The Rev. Deborah Hawkins serves Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Ill., as a resource for staff, families, patients, and other chaplains. Working in crisis and trauma, Hawkins has seen COVID-19 change how she does her work.

"We have to approach families differently, as many are not able to come into the hospital," Hawkins said. "More than ever, the chaplains have to be that bridge between staff, patients and family – and we have to do it all within the confines of boundaries and policies that have been put in place"

The ministry of presence, central to the work of a chaplain, has been upended during a time when presence often leads to illness.

"Now with the families we have to do phone ministry – that's been challenging, that's been different," Hawkins said.

Shapley agrees. "Such an important part of our work is physical presence," he said. "Having a spiritual conversation over the phone is not the same as being with somebody. It's a difficult thing to have an end-of-life visit over an iPad."

The Rev. Deborah Ingram, a chaplain at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Aurora, says her work

this past year on the hospital's telechaplaincy project helped staff adjust to ministry over the phone.

"It was good timing in that we had some of the foundation in place to get that up and running," she says, adding that telechaplaincy has been helpful in supporting people who couldn't be with family members when they passed away at the hospital.

"Our chaplains are having meaningful and beautiful encounters with people as they process the sadness and anger felt at the loss of a loved one, which is compounded by the guilt because they weren't present," Ingram said. "We are helping them to think about how they navigate this time and what resources are available to them."

The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Davis, a chaplain and sworn officer with the Chicago Police Department, said the pandemic has "changed the game" as far as ministry is concerned. Officers now attend the one of the Department's twice-weekly devotional-based Christian fellowship meetings via Zoom, and she has had to adjust her participation in funerals and wakes.

"Three officers died of COVID-19 and I had the privilege of participating in two of the services," she said. "It was different, but I was still able to participate in a meaningful way."

Chaplains have also been asked to minister through the written word. Davis rotates with other chaplains and pens a piece through interdepartmental emails twice a month. Shapley's team sends daily inspirational messages to all hospital units in the hospital, a practice they've been asked to continue post-pandemic.

Hospital chaplains also saw a greater need for staff care as the crisis unfolded. "With staff, we've had to be a more 'leaning' presence because of the things they are dealing with – fatigue, burnout, and so many are without their family support system," Hawkins said. "Chaplains try to be that one that they can lean on and talk to and find encouragement, and we're finding more and more staff are turning to prayer."

Ingram noted a similar experience. "In the midst of all of this, I'm seeing people come to us as a resource and wanting to talk things through."

Shapley's department cares for staff in practical ways, developing what they call their "Code

Lavender" carts full of back and foot massagers, chocolate, warm neck wraps, and an electric tea kettle with lots of tea.

"We'll create an environment on any unit that needs it by bringing a cart and setting it up in a room," he said. "It's a great way to start conversations between us and staff."

The chaplaincy is a definite calling—and the pandemic can both test and reinforce that calling.

"Within the first few weeks of my internship I just knew that this is where God had been calling me," Ingram says. "I love the work."

Hawkins feels that her calling is confirmed every day. "Overall, chaplaincy can be very draining—mentally, physically, spiritually, emotionally—but yet we press on. We are truly on the front line and we appreciate the prayers and support of our church family."

Organizational support is also important. "I appreciate that our system is recognizing chaplains as essential workers," Ingram says. "I'm grateful that they value the work and the care that we offer."

"For my boss to say to me what Spiritual Care is doing is just as important as what Pharmacy is doing and what the Supply Chain Department is doing—that's huge," Shapley says.

Davis thinks about her work—and the work of others—on a broad level. "We are all essential because we all have to do our part to make this work," she says. "Our survival is contingent on us being mindful that as there was a start date [to the pandemic], there's an end date, and there's hope in that."

Lowell General has a longstanding tradition that Brahms' "Lullaby" plays over the intercom when a baby is born. The pandemic has led to new tradition: when a COVID patient is discharged, the first 22 seconds of Copeland's "Fanfare for the Common Man" fills the hospital.

"When you're walking down the hall and hear those trumpets play, it just gives you a thrill, because you know that somebody is getting better and things are moving in the right direction," Shapley says.

During the pandemic, UM chaplains have followed their calling faithfully and creatively. And whether trumpets sound in the hallway or tears are heard over the phone, they press on.

United Methodists feed their neighbors

United Methodists are meeting the need to feed people across northern Illinois during this time of crisis. With thousands of people facing unemployment and economic hard times, the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting access to nutritious food for many.

To respond to the increased need, the United Methodist Foundation (UMF) of the Northern Illinois Conference initially pledged to double donations up to \$50,000 to the three food banks serving our area during the month of May, thanks to a bequest given from a pastor who served the Conference for decades. The recipients included the River Bend Food Bank in Davenport, Iowa, the Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva and the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

By May 26, donations poured in and the match was made totaling a \$100,000 given to the food banks. Inspired by the generosity, the Foundation board quickly responded by voting unanimously to increase the match to \$75,000. By May 29, the food banks reported donations exceeding

\$75,000 totaling more than \$150,000 going to help feed our communities!

Mindy Cadogan, member of Plainfield UMC, donated to the Northern Illinois Food Bank to honor fellow church member Elmer Eddy, who has been driving his pick-up truck every month to the Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva for more than 12 years to get produce and other supplies for the Ridgewood United Community Pantry in East Joliet. Ridgewood United is hosted by Trinity UMC in Joliet and is served by several UM churches in the area.

Cadogan serves as a clinical pharmacist in a hospital and has seen first-hand the health impact of the virus. She said this was "perfect timing" for this match from the UMF because the need is so great with the rising unemployment rate. "I can't physically be there to help right now, which is hard for me, so I thought this was a great way of giving back," said Cadogan.

Elmer Eddy says on his last trip to the Northern Illinois Food Bank, he picked up nearly one ton of food in his truck.

The need has more than doubled. Typically, Ridgewood United serves about 30 families a week. Most recently they fed nearly 80 families.

UMF President Rev. Chris Walters discussed with the Foundation's grants committee in April how they could help rally the church to make a difference during this sudden and massive economic dislocation.

"With millions of people filing for unemployment, it quickly became clear a basic need for food would most immediately be met through the food bank system, which stretches dollars in amazing ways," said Walters. "United Methodists in Northern Illinois have strong ties to these three food banks, which all three are reporting an increase in demand since the pandemic hit the area."

The Northern Illinois Food Bank has increased the number of daily meals they provide from 190,000 to 220,000 and they expect those numbers to grow in the coming months.

"We know that many people who suddenly and unexpectedly lost their jobs have found themselves at one of our



Outdoor and Retreat Ministries News

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. - Romans 8:28

Youth Summer Camps

In the interest of camper and staff safety, NIC's Outdoor and Retreat Ministries (ORM) has combined all youth summer camps into one online J.O.Y. (Jesus, Others, You) Camp session June 21 - 26. The cost is \$20 per participant. Register online at niccamp.org/summercamps.

Season of COVID

This year's summer camp theme is "Seasons," and sure enough, we are experiencing a brand new season! This new season of COVID-19 is enabling us to accomplish two longer-term goals:

- Promote family retreats and family activities in self-contained, family units;
- Plan and develop off-grid solutions to make our facilities more eco-friendly and reduce recurring utility costs

Wesley Woods

While Wisconsin's reopening Phase II allows groups of up to 50 to gather, the Wesley Woods Retreat Center will reopen in alignment with the "Restore Illinois" phase plan because the vast majority of our guests are from NIC churches and Illinois' not-for-profit organizations.

Self-Contained Family Unit Retreats

Through July, Wesley Woods will rent retreat space to "Self-Contained Family Unit" groups in its five house-lodges that have their own kitchens.

We are still finalizing the DIY family crafts and activities for these retreats; check your email, the NIC eNews, and your mailbox during the third week of June for more info.

Camper Safety & Lodging Availability

Along with growing your spiritual relationship with God, your safety is our #1 priority. We are working with Conference Risk Manager Dwayne Jackson to ensure that we meet all of the safety guidelines of the CDC, Wisconsin and Illinois State-level health departments, and each camp's governing County Health Department.

One important safety requirement is to let each space sit empty for 24 hours after a group's occupancy prior to cleaning it for the next group. As a result, group rentals through July will run from Friday night through Sunday morning, and Tuesday night through Thursday morning.

Reynoldswood and Summer Day Camp

Currently, Illinois is not allowing traditional, residential camps to open under guidelines. However, Reynoldswood and the Dixon YMCA have been granted permission to run Summer Day Camp in self-contained groups of 10 with the social distancing requirements.

Since all of Wesley Wood's large, whole-camp groups cancelled their reservations, two of Reynoldswood's whole-camp groups are holding on until the last possible minute. This could happen in the last two weeks of July and the first week of August.

We are finalizing plans to host these larger (but less than 50 people) camps with social distancing to ensure everyone's safety. Please join us in praying for healthful trends and government permission to reopen in Phase IV in July. We are hopeful both camps will return to normal after July,

with weekend hosting schedules in September and October.

Staff Furlough Rumors

Yes, the rumors are true: we have furloughed all year-round ORM staff at both sites. All affected staff have been involved in the discussions and we believe this effort will best support our staff and protect the camp properties.

Half (50%) of the camps' annual expenses are year-round payroll, but 85% of the camps' income is earned May-July. With the government closure of camps for those months, there is just not enough money to pay our employees.

While the NIC does participate in Unemployment Insurance programs (UI), the Federal Pandemic Assistance programs will enable our staff to draw UI benefits—some of which expire in July. With the State of Illinois' decision to close residential camps during Phase III, it especially makes sense to furlough staff sooner rather than later. Please know that the "furlough" process protects the employees' access to health benefits and retirement plans and also makes it easier to return them to payroll.

Please keep all of our staff and the camps in your prayers, as these are new experiences for all of us—but please do not feel sorry for us either. As Jeff Hoxie, who serves as Food Services Director for both camps, noted: "Wow, I haven't had a summer off in 20 years! This is kind of exciting too."

For updates and changes, visit niccamp.org/summercamps.

Neighbors *(continued from page 5)*

food pantries, Mobile Pantries or Pop-Up markets for the first time and we are glad that we can help relieve some of their stress," said Hester Bury, Northern Illinois Food Bank Development officer. "We are so grateful to the UMF for this generous challenge that has encouraged so many individuals and congregations to support our work to provide food assistance to our neighbors at this time of unprecedented need."

River Bend Food Bank has seen an increased demand of about 30% in their service area and a dramatic decrease in their food donations, causing a significant impact on their expenses because they must buy food that was previously donated.

"We distributed a record 1,825,284 meals in the month of April (up 34% from the average over the previous 12 months)," said Jenny Brinkmeyer, River Bend Food Bank's Donor Relations Officer.

Brinkmeyer said the response from the community including individuals, organizations and businesses has been incredible. "Their trust and amazing generosity is vital to keeping our mission alive, and we are so grateful for all of the support we've received," said Brinkmeyer. "Thank you so much to the UMF of the Northern Illinois Conference for this wonderful match opportunity and to everyone who has participated in it to help the thousands of guests who so desperately need help right now."

In the early days of the pandemic, when schools and businesses were ordered to close, the Greater Chicago Food Depository moved swiftly to help their partners serve a growing number of people facing hunger.

"To best serve communities already facing higher risks of poverty and food insecurity, predominantly on the city's South and West sides, the Food Depository launched new pop-up distributions in partnership with faith and community partners," said Kelly Klein Senior Director of Corporate & Foundation Re-

lations with the Food Depository. "Each distribution serves between 500 to 1,000 households in need. Families receive bags of fresh produce, protein and a box filled with 20 to 30 pounds of nonperishable goods. None of this would have been possible without the outpouring of generosity from supporters like the United Methodist Foundation."

The final amount of donations will be accounted for in June, but Walters is thrilled that they've already exceeded the \$75,000 match. "Several churches raised money collectively. Several donors designated local food pantry partners of the food banks to receive agency credit. Through this match, generous Methodists will distribute many tons of food, serving nearly one million meals!" said Walters.

Jesus said, "You give them something to eat" (Luke 9:13), and Walters added, "that's what you, church, have done. Thank you for your generosity and compassion!"

For more information, visit umfnic.org/foodhelp.



A volunteer with the Northern Illinois Food Bank prepares fresh produce for distribution amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



Justice Generation

Seeking high school students for a special learning and leadership opportunity!

Why: Be part of a movement to create justice. Learn about and help fight systemic racism.

What: Join a teen learning group meeting once a month on a Sunday evening (online meetings as well as in-person at local churches when that is permitted).

Who: Rising freshman to rising seniors who are committed to this work from August 2020 – May 2021, and then afterwards will continue as Justice Generation leaders and facilitators.

How: Teens will gather along with young adult/adult coaches and mentors to experience a variety of talks, discussions, films, music and learning opportunities around fighting racism.

Cost: \$50 per student for the program year, Aug. 2020 – May 2021.

Benefits:

- Build new friendships and relationships with teens across the Northern Illinois Conference
- Develop leadership abilities
- Create a life-long commitment to combatting systemic racism
- Great exposure opportunity to learning activities, resources, and engagement
- Local field trips (when permitted)
- Strengthen your faith!

NOTE: An out-of-state field trip is planned for 2021 at an additional cost. Additional details will be forthcoming.

For more info and to apply, visit umcnic.org/justicegeneration.



What is this heaviness that weighs on you?

By Rev. Christopher Pierson

After praying and grieving over the death of George Floyd, who was killed while in police custody in Minneapolis on May 25, the Rev. Chris Pierson of Gary UMC in Wheaton shared his thoughts and sorrow in this powerful post on his blog “Just Peace Cafe.” He remembers and names the many black persons who have fallen, yet again, to violent acts of racism, including Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor.

The heaviness that weighs on you weighs on me, too.

I am, because we are, Ubuntu.

Is it the heaviness of Ahmaud, of Sandra, of Breonna, or Amadou?

Is it the heaviness of Emmett of Mamie?

Is it the heaviness of Eric, the heaviness of Erica?

Is it the heaviness of Martin, of Malcolm, of Coretta or Betty?

Or is it the weight of unsolved, unpunished, or unnoticed?

Is it the weight of unfinished, unwilling, unaddressed?

Is it the weight of St. George's, of Mother Emanuel, of 1619 or 1492?

She's my Mother too.

Is it the cumulative weight of generations of hate?

Is it the weight of LGBTQ, of #MeToo, or #ChurchToo?

Is it the weight of the eyes that watch closely as you pass by?

Is it the car with the blue lights that slow enough to keep you in sight?

Is it the purse that is clutched, the whisper, the unnatural hush?

What is this heaviness that weighs on you?

The heaviness that weighs on you weighs on #MeToo.

I am, because we are, Ubuntu.

Is it the weight of “calves like cantaloupes”?

Is it the weight of “good people on both sides”?

Or is it the weight of “the China Virus,” the “Hong Kong or Spanish Flu”?

If #BlackLivesMatter, and #BlueLivesMatter, and

#AllLivesMatter

Then you should feel my heaviness too.

You, too, could speak up, speak out, act up, and act out.

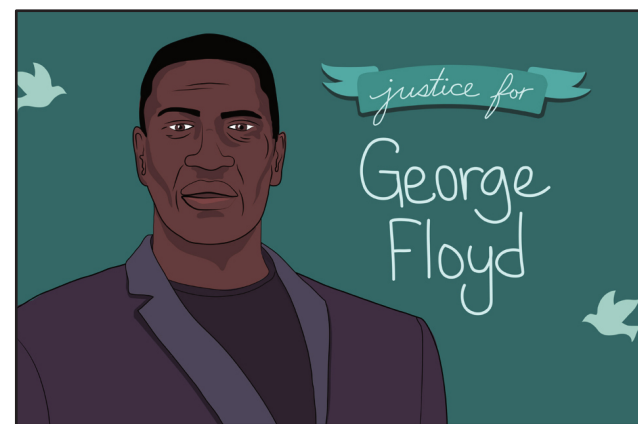
Eric can't speak, George can't speak...

Though they can't speak, their blood cries out from the ground.

With the weight of a choke hold and the heaviness of a knee they said, “I can't breathe.”

This is the heaviness I feel. “I Can't Breathe...” Can you? Ubuntu!

The NIC Anti-Racism Force acknowledges the pain and mourning within the community and invite all to be part of the healing process. They've created a sign-on letter inviting United Methodists to publicly pledge to be part of anti-racism trainings and ongoing work. Clergy may sign using their titles and to share the letter with their congregations. All who sign will receive follow up information about trainings and the work of the Anti-Racism Task Force. To find the petition, go to change.org/NICUMCantiracism.



First-ever Meme Contest - Everybody is a winner



From references of Superman, Xbox and even 80s pop singer Rick Astley, the first-ever Northern Illinois Conference social media meme contest was a hit. Nine youth and young adults submitted their original memes for the “What does Jesus Meme to Me?” contest held this spring.

After posting the images on the NIC social media sites, the contest opened up for voting. After nearly 300 votes, the winners were revealed on May 26 during a virtual ceremony through a Zoom video conference call attended by first place winners, their families, Bishop Sally Dyck and members of the NIC Discipleship Task Force.

Deacon Sharon Rice, youth pastor at First UMC in Belvidere and task force member, said the contest was a great way for the youth to express their faith, their relationship with Jesus and the Church, as well as provide a healthy dose of humor.

“May these memes continue to bring a smile to your face, but also inspire you to think of creative ways to share your faith and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” Rice said before announcing the winners during the ceremony.

The winners are:

8th grade & under

1st: Addyson Hill, “Blood of Jesus,” \$100

2nd: David Laird, “Vectored!” \$75

3rd: Aiden Jepsen, Resist the Devil, \$50

9th – 12th grade

1st: Sophie Tillema, “Never Gonna’ Give You Up,” \$100

2nd: Isabella Pena, “Superman,” \$75

3rd: Bryce Jepsen, “Jesus Seeing A.D.” \$50

Young adult through 21 years old

1st: Rebecca Siems, “Judge Not,” \$100

Bishop Dyck applauded all the participants and said “everyone is a winner” including all those who viewed the memes.

“Everyone who created these memes had to think about what they would say to articulate their faith, which is not an easy process,” said Dyck who added it’s a process we all need to work on. “I wish every United Methodist would figure out their own meme!”

Addyson, 12, from First UMC in Lockport said she was inspired by her meme after finding a funny photo on her camera roll of her sister underneath a larger-than-life wine glass. “I immediately thought of communion and that’s it’s really important and we all need the blood of Christ.”

Sophie, 15, from First UMC in Belvidere said she wanted to create a meme that was music related so she thought both the younger and older generation could relate to Rick Astly and his song, “Never Gonna Give You Up.”

“What I hope people take away from my meme is that especially during this time of the pandemic they know Jesus has our back and when we don’t have control over

things we really can trust in Him believing He is going to take care of us,” said Sophie.

Rebecca Siems, 20, who is a student at University Christian Ministry at Northwestern University, said her meme featuring Pam from the sitcom “The Office” shows that judging other people’s sins is sinning.

“Choosing to judge and exclude others because of their sins is also a sin, and we should invite others to sit at our table with us instead of acting like we’re too good to interact with other sinners because that’s something Jesus is adamantly against,” said Siems. “I believe that Jesus loves everyone no matter how flawed we are and should be the final and only judge.”

The contest memes received dozens of likes and were shared multiple times from the NIC Facebook page. Dyck said the memes were, in a sense, a viral blessing. “I hope everyone who received any of these memes, and we don’t know all who received them, will be blessed by them,” said Dyck. “Let’s continue to think about our faith and grow in our discipleship by finding creative ways like this context to share our faith.”

If you would like to view all nine entries, visit the NIC Facebook page at facebook.com/umcnic and click on the Meme photo album.



DYK???

Pondering the pivot

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

It's been eight weeks since we published our last print version of the Northern Illinois Conference Reporter. Even before the April edition went to press, a pandemic was declared and residents in Illinois were asked to "Stay at Home." It quickly became clear that a monthly print communication would be eclipsed by rapidly developing events and more spontaneous communication was needed. With that reality, the NIC staff did a sharp pivot.

"Pivot" is a term that can mean many things – a dance move, mechanical action, political maneuver. Now churches, clergy and the conference have all learned to pivot, to adjust quickly to our changing circumstances, while accomplishing the task at hand. For the NIC staff, this has meant utilizing all our skills while also learning new skills on the fly. It has challenged us to rethink how we support the local church, continue ministry, and administer the business of the annual conference.

Overnight, we developed a new communication strategy. Launching the Facebook resource group for clergy and church leaders, developing fact sheets and infographics to aid in tracking complicated, ever-changing information. Offering Thursday learning sessions via Zoom video conferencing on topics ranging

from best practices for online worship to filing for the Payroll Protection Program loans. Producing weekly videos from the bishop and releasing statements to address rapidly changing circumstances. Holding all our conference meetings large and small on a Zoom platform. Rethinking how we hold an annual conference in the midst of a pandemic when gathering 1,000 people is a clear danger. Working with conference committees to continue their ministry as we also received word from the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA) that a new spending plan was needed in light of the financial strain we are all experiencing. Support staff quickly adjusted to a work-from-home model and everyone has grown in their Zoom-ing skills.

Very much like the local church, few of our days are business as usual. Sadly, the pandemic came at a critical moment for our conference camps. Summer camping undergirds the budget for this ministry, and with camps cancelled, we have furloughed our full-time camp staff. Our camps will still be utilized, but in ways that are safe and comply with state policies. (You can read more about the camping program on pg. 6).

All through these pivots, we have experienced the power of the United Methodist connection. The general church providing resources, the conference resourcing

local churches, and all supporting missions beyond our boundaries.

A few weeks ago, we were invited to apply for a United Methodist Committee on Relief "Shelter in Love" grant. This initiative supports those suffering disproportionately through the COVID-19 pandemic. Within a few days of the invitation, I was able to identify a number of local church- and community-related ministries in our conference that would qualify for support. At the end of May, we were awarded \$15,000 of UMCOR funds for NIC ministries. We will share more stories as funds are distributed.

Additionally, through the vision of CCFA, the Conference Board of Global Ministries (CBGM) began a partnership with missions addressing the COVID-19 crisis in the Central Conferences. While we have trimmed back our budgets, we have designated up to \$75,000 to this mission work. Our CBGM and Mission Secretary, Rev. Shirley Pulgar-Hughes, will have more to report in the coming months as this project unfolds.

Pivot: "to adjust quickly to our changing circumstances, while accomplishing the task at hand." As we pivot, let us continue to witness to our faith in ways that provide comfort, courage and community for such a time as this.

Appointments - April/May/June Announcements Bishop Sally Dyck announces the following clergy appointments for the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church effective July 1, 2020 (unless otherwise noted):

Cerna Rand (Elder) to LaGrange: First (Chicago Southern District) from Elk Grove Village: Prince of Peace (Elgin District). Cerna follows Lisa Telomen who is appointed to Geneva (Aurora District).

Natarsha Gardner (Local Pastor) to Freeport: First (Rockford District) from Elgin: Cornerstone (Elgin District). Natarsha follows Cal Haines who is appointed to Morrison (DeKalb District).

Roger Bronkema (Local Pastor) to Elizabeth: First (Rockford District) (1/2 time) while also serving Warren (1/2 time). Roger follows Tiffany Garcea who is appointed to Erie (DeKalb District).

Don Guest (Retired Elder) to Chicago: Granville (Chicago Northwestern District) (1/4 time) while also serving Chicago: Epworth (Chicago Northwestern District). Don follows T. K. Lee who is appointed to Rockford: Christ (Associate).

Leslie Stanford (Local Pastor) to Dakota: Rock Grove (Rockford District) from Rockford: Shirland and Harlem (Rockford District). Leslie follows Brenda Morris who is appointed to Shannon (Rockford District).

Solomon Sudhakar (346.1) to LaSalle: Grace (DeKalb District) from Rock Falls (DeKalb District). Solomon follows Brett Todd who is appointed to Rockford: Aldersgate (Rockford District).

Dwight Stewart (Elder) to Chicago: Transformation (Chicago Southern District) from Chicago: St. Mark (Associate) (Chicago Southern District). Dwight follows Dennis Oglesby who is appointed to Evanston: Sherman.

Christina Vosteen (Elder) to retirement from Western Springs (Chicago Southern District).

Christina became a probationary Elder in 2005 and full member in 2008. During her ministry, she served Park Ridge: First (Associate), Plano, Watermen/Cortland, and Western Springs.

Larry Paris (Elder) to retirement from Evergreen Park: First. Larry became a provisional member in 2013 and a full member in 2016. During his ministry, Larry served Lindenhurst: Trinity and Evergreen Park: First.

Ken Roh (Elder) to California-Pacific Annual Conference as a 346.1 appointed to Abundant Life Community Church at the Korean United Methodist Church of San Diego in the South District from Frankfort (Aurora District).

Roland Hayag (District Superintendent Supply) to Shirland (Rockford District) ¼ time. Roland follows Leslie Stanford who is appointed to Dakota: Rock Grove (Rockford District).

Jin-Hee Kang (Elder) to Rock Falls (DeKalb District) from Waukegan: New Hope (Elgin District). Jin-Hee follows Solomon Sudhakar who is appointed to LaSalle: Grace (DeKalb District).

Kwan Woo Park (Elder) to Mundelein: Vision Church (Elgin District) from Naperville: Korean (Aurora District). Kwan Woo follows Min Hyuk Woo who is appointed to Northbrook: North Northfield (Chicago Northwestern District).

G. Morris (Local Pastor) to Chicago: West Ridge (1/2 time) (Chicago Northwestern District) from Chicago: Chicago Lawn (Chicago Southern District). G. follows T.K. Lee who is appointed to Rockford: Christ (Rockford District).

Heewon Kim (Elder) to Rockford: New Life, Evans and Harlem (Rockford District) from Dixon: First (Assoc) (DeKalb District). Heewon follows Kyungsu Park who is moving to Leave of Absence.

Dave (DaeGyu) Yim (Provisional Elder Pending) to Savanna: First (Rockford District) from Ottawa: Evangelical and Leland (DeKalb District). Dave follows Joey Garcea who is appointed to Prophetstown (DeKalb District).

Barbara Good (Elder) to Evergreen Park: First (Chicago Southern District) (1/2 time) while remaining at Palos Heights (Aurora District) (1/2 time). Barbara follows Larry Paris who is retiring.

Delian Stone (346.2 Clergy from Another Denomination) to Chicago: Resurrection (Chicago Northwestern District). Delian follows Robyn Tabb who is appointed to Elk Grove Village: Prince of Peace (Elgin District).

Young Sun Lee (DSS: Local Pastor License Pending) to Dixon: First (Associate) (DeKalb District). Young Sun follows Hee Won Kim who is appointed to Rockford: New Life, Evans and Harlem (Rockford District).

Terri Novy (Local Pastor) to Frankfort (1/4 time) and Mokena (1/4 time) (Aurora District) from Local Pastors pool. Terri follows Ken Roh who will be appointed as a 346.1 in the California Pacific Annual Conference.

Thomas Rawlinson (Elder) to Chicago: Faith (1/2 time) (Chicago Southern District) while also serving Chicago: St. Matthew (1/2 time) (Chicago Southern District). Tom follows Audrea Nanabray who is appointed to DesPlaines: First (Elgin District).

Charlette Hoffman (Elder) to Hebron (1/4 time) (Elgin District) from Antioch upon retirement (Elgin District). Char follows Jim Wilson who will return to retired status.

Richard Carlson (Retired Elder) to Waukegan: New Hope (1/2 time) (Elgin District) from Elgin: First upon retirement (Elgin District). Rick follows Jin-Hee Kang who is appointed to Rock Falls (DeKalb District).

Kihwan Choi (Elder) to Naperville: Korean (Aurora District) from Northbrook: Glenbrook Korean (Chicago Northwestern District). Kihwan follows Kwan Woo Park who is appointed to Mundelein: Vision Church (Elgin District).

Juancho Campanano (Elder) to Western Springs (Chicago Southern District) from Extension Ministry. Juancho will follow Christina Vosteen who is retiring.

Robyn Tabb (Elder) to Elk Grove Village: Prince of Peace (Elgin District) from Chicago: Resurrection (Chicago Northwestern District). Robyn follows Cerna Rand who is appointed to LaGrange: First (Chicago Southern District).

Mary Rawlinson (Deacon) to Appointment to Attend School at New York: Mt. Sinai Health Systems, Clinical Pastoral Education Program from Extension Ministry.

Sherrie Lowly (Elder) to retirement from Northbrook. Sherrie became a probationary member of the NIC in 1999 and full member in 2001. During her ministry she served Galena, Chicago: Berry Memorial, Itasca: Bethany and Waukegan: Living Faith. Effective September 1.

Danice Loveridge (Deacon) to 4HealthyU an appointment beyond the local church from transitional leave. Effective May 1.

Lois McCullen Parr (Elder) to retirement from extension Ministry. Lois became a provisional member of the NIC in 2001 and a full member in 2004. During her ministry she served Naperville: Grace, Northbrook: North Northfield, Chicago: Broadway and in extension ministry. Effective June 1.

Janette Wilson-Howard (346.2) to Chicago: Maple Park (1/2 time) (Chicago: Southern District) while also serving Chicago: Fernwood (1/4 time) (Chicago Southern District). Janette follows Robert Beikman who is appointed to extension ministry.

Juan Pablo Herrera (District Superintendent Supply) to Melrose Park: Cosmopolitan (1/4 time) and Melrose Park: NFC (1/4 time). Juan follows Felicia LaBoy who is appointed to Elgin: First (Elgin District).

Colleen Norman (Elder) to Chicago: South Lawn (Chicago Southern District) from Oak Lawn: First and Hazel Crest: Community (Chicago Southern District). Colleen follows Dwayne Craig who has returned to his home conference.

Christian Van (Elder) to Leave of Absence from Sabbatical Leave.

Job Openings

For the latest job openings in the Northern Illinois Conference, visit www.umcnic.org/jobs.

Stay Connected

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

Visit www.umcnic.org and scroll down and click on "Sign up for our Newsletter" to enter your name and email.

How to Contact Us

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. Submissions will be edited at the discretion of Communications staff.

Submissions

For editorial content, subscriptions and address changes:

Anne Marie Gerhardt
Dir. of Communications
312-312-346-9766 ext. 766
77 W. Washington St.
Chicago, IL 60602
agerhardt@umcnic.org