

# The REPORTER

Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church [www.umcnic.org](http://www.umcnic.org)



Bishop Sally Dyck

## From the Bishop: What's the forecast?

The Metho-pocalypse is coming!

At least that is the claim of some throughout the church as the anticipated ruling of the Judicial Council is released in the last couple of days in April. The Judicial Council is the arm of The United Methodist Church that receives and rules on requests for declaratory decisions and appeals, determining the constitutionality and legality of a specific action.

So what makes it the Metho-pocalypse? Last summer Bishop Karen Oliveto was elected in the Western Jurisdiction and has been serving as the episcopal leader of the Mountain Sky (Yellowstone and Denver areas) since September 1. The South Central Jurisdiction sent a request to the Judicial Council for a decision as to whether an openly gay, partnered bishop could serve.

Documents were filed and the Judicial Council scheduled an open hearing in New Jersey on April 25. They may discern whether her election is valid (since she was an elder in good standing when elected) or invalid (since clergy are not to be self-avowed, practicing homosexuals). Or they may rule something else. Due to deadlines, this is written several weeks in advance of the expected ruling, and I have no idea how the Judicial Council will rule.

I started by saying "the Metho-pocalypse is coming." And by that, I mean that there are some churches and clergy who have stated that they will leave the denomination if the Judicial Council rules in a way that they don't want. How many? It's hard to say, especially when local churches realize the cost involved for buildings and future pension liability. Clergy who leave will lose their credentials. In other denominations, about 5-10% of the churches left when faced with similar decisions. It could cause a disruption in our annual conference and the whole denomination.

But I encourage clergy and laity to not let the "forecasts" of the disruption deter us from fulfilling our mission. We often hear about the "Snow-pocalypse" forecast (hopefully no longer by the time you read this!). In Minnesota we would often have to cancel meetings the day before a single flake would fall (or not fall), according to the forecast because some people would have to travel 5-7 hours to get to the meeting. Yet many times the "snow-pocalypse" didn't amount to much of anything—a couple of inches at best. The anxiety was often greater than the reality.

We may have some rough sledding ahead but we must keep our focus on our mission to be the church in these challenging times. While it's important for us as The United Methodist Church to figure out how to live together with our differences (if it's human sexuality today, tomorrow it will be something else), I believe that God wants us to be the body of Christ in the world so as to address the injustice, human cruelty, poverty and racism all around us. And to give witness to the ancient observation of Christianity: "see how they love one another."

There is an officially sanctioned and authorized body called the Commission on the Way Forward. They are meeting 2-3 days every 6 weeks or so to discern a path forward for the denomination. This is a slow and deliberate process because it comprises many voices throughout the church. It will be accountable to the institutional bodies that created it, including the Council of Bishops and ultimately the General Conference (possibly a specially called General Conference in 2019) to enact any changes that it proposes.

I encourage clergy and laity not to get too caught up in this Judicial Council decision, but to await the work of the Commission on the Way Forward. I urge all of us to consider how it is that we could live together in our differences since we no longer live in a world where everyone is or thinks or acts or even believes or expresses their beliefs the same way. The task of our time—and this is a big test of that task—is to find a way to live together. Unity and its strength comes through diversity like the body and its many members, and harmony comes by joining together in one chord.

This fall we will have a day of conversation based on a document entitled "Wonder, Love and Praise", led by retired Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader. Mark your calendar for **September 16** and plan to attend. As part of that conversation, we will reflect on the questions that the Council of Bishops has crafted for the church as we prepare for the Commission's report:

- In our diverse and global existence, what is the shared mission/purpose of the Church?
- Is there a proactive way for us to live together in our differences that doesn't presume that we will resolve our differences? What would it be?
- What might be a form of unity that would empower us living together?
- What is our witness and what can be our witness to the world in relation to our differences?

Also, our conference will be part of the denomination's prayer vigil, "Praying Our Way Forward". Each week a different annual conference covers the hours in the days with prayer. The Northern Illinois Annual Conference has the week of December 3-9, 2017. Those elected to the 2016 General Conference delegation will be getting more information to us later in the year so we can sign up for an hour in that week.

But please be in constant prayer for the church...and in constant mission to our world. We are Easter people, called to bring hope, love, joy and peace to our world, nation, communities, families and churches in the midst of all the anxiety and conflict. Let us give witness to our risen Savior by being the church of Jesus Christ!

~Bishop Sally Dyck

## Legislation proposes conference restructuring

With proposed legislation, the Organizational Task Force is introducing a restructuring plan for the Northern Illinois Conference to streamline committee work, align resources and create an intersection between administrative, program and superintending functions.

As outlined in the legislation, the proposed organizational structure is centered around an Annual Conference Shepherding Team (ACST) and six District Shepherding Teams (DST). The ACST is an

adaptive learning team with a primary purpose to coordinate and communicate the ministry of the NIC in order to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

The primary purpose of each DST is to coordinate the equipping of local churches so that they might be faithful, Christ-centered communities of worship, prayer, witness and change, and to enhance the connection between local churches, the districts and the NIC.

DO NOT DELAY. DATED MATERIAL.

Northern Illinois Conference  
of The United Methodist Church  
77 W. Washington St. Suite 1820  
Chicago, IL 60602

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT No. 356  
PEORIA, IL

### Look Inside . . .

*Light Shines Through...*

178th Northern Illinois Annual Conference  
Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL  
June 4-6, 2017

Annual Conference Update | 2-3



Bishop's Appeal Offering | 5



25th Anniversary | 6



Camp Spring Cleaning | 4

# Light Shines Through...178th Annual Conference June 4-6, 2017

## Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL

### Registration

We are getting closer to the 178th Northern Illinois Annual Conference. Online Registration for the 2017 session ends May 19 and can be found at: [www.umcnic.org/AC2017](http://www.umcnic.org/AC2017). The cost is \$95. After May 19, registration will be available onsite only and will be \$130. Rooms at Pheasant Run Resort must be reserved by May 10 to receive the conference rate at \$119 plus tax.

### Childcare changes

Childcare will be provided offsite at Baker Memorial UMC (BMUMC), located at 307 Cedar Ave. in St. Charles. Children need to be dropped off and picked up at BMUMC. All staff are professional and have had a background check.

Childcare will be provided for infants to pre-teens, and care-givers will be assigned based on your child's age and if they are potty trained or not. There is no charge for childcare, but you MUST register for it through the AC registration link. If your plans change you may cancel through June 1. No shows without cancellation will be charged for the full cost of childcare (\$20 per hour).

### Additional information for parents using childcare:

#### Hours of operation:

Sun: 1 - 6:30 pm, Mon: 8 am - 9:30 pm, Tue: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm.

- No meals will be provided Sunday.
- Lunch and supper will be provided Monday.
- Lunch will be provided Tuesday.

If you would like to pick your children up for a meal, please let the childcare staff know. (Please provide any special instructions regarding food allergies or sensitivities.)

Parents of infants must provide diapers and wipes, bottles, blankets. We also recommend bringing a favorite toy for infant children.

Snacks will be provided for all children each day along with supervised activities including walks to the park and activities at the park (for school-age children), crafts, games, stories, and videos.

Childcare will follow Safe Sanctuaries practices at all times. Your children will be secure and safe at all times.

### Annual Conference Guests:



Bishop John Schol

#### Bishop John Schol

Bishop John Schol was born and raised in a working class family in Philadelphia. It was here that faith and leadership were nurtured and strong values of hard work, honoring diversity, and grace were formed. He served congregations in Saugus, Mass., Philadelphia, Pa. and West Chester Pa. In each of his congregations worship grew, mission in the community expanded and new disciples were made. Schol was consecrated a bishop in 2004 after 25 years of experience as a pastor, community developer and denominational executive. He received a bachelor's degree from Moravian College and a masters and doctors degree from Boston University. Bishop Schol is married to Beverly Schol. They have three grown children, Mark, Kristin and Rebecca, and one grandchild. His hobbies and interests include family, reading, running, photography and travel.



Bishop Julius C. Trimble

#### Bishop Julius C. Trimble

Bishop Julius C. Trimble was assigned July 16, 2016, to the Indiana Conference of The UMC. Before his appointment to Indiana, he served eight years as the bishop of the Iowa Conference. Trimble is a native of Chicago and a graduate of Illinois State University. He earned a Master of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Chicago, Ill., and a Doctor of Ministry from

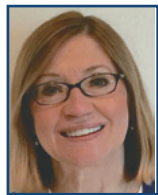
Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio. He was ordained a deacon and elder in the Northern Illinois Conference where he served two churches before transferring to the East Ohio Conference. He served churches in the Cleveland area and as the District Superintendent of the Cleveland District from 1996-2003. Trimble and his wife, First Lady Racelder Grandberry-Trimble are the parents of three adult children: Cameron, Candace, and Julius Thomas.



Bishop John F. White

#### Bishop John F. White

Bishop John F. White serves as the 130th elected and consecrated bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He was assigned by the 49th Session of the General Conference, July 4, 2012, to the Eighteenth Episcopal District, comprising the countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland. Bishop White is a native of Boynton Beach, Florida, and a graduate of Carver High School, Delray Beach, Florida. He is the recipient of a Bachelor of Science degree from Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, Florida; Master of Education from Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida; Master of Divinity from Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), Atlanta, Georgia; and the Doctorate of Education degree in Organizational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Bishop White is married to Penny Hartsfield White, a native of Tallahassee, Florida. They are the proud parents of five lovely children: Tenner, John II, Alfred, Byron and Candace. They have two daughters-in-law, one son-in-law and nine grandchildren: Erica, Dwayne, Alisha, Kya, John III, Byron Ealie, Ashton, Dorian and Joseph.



Anne C. Hampson

#### Memorial Service Preacher: Anne C. Hampson

Anne is an Endorsed Pastoral Counselor and Ordained Deacon, in The UMC. She is a Fellow level member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor in the state of Illinois, and a National Certified Counselor by the National Board of Certified Counselors. Anne's passions in her pastoral counseling practice are working with issues of grief and depression, seminary students, clergy and their families. She loves working in the Field Education program at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Anne is a Deacon in full connection with the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church where she has previously served on the Board of Ministry and is currently serving on the Bishop's Response Team. She is proud to be a PK, is married to Tom, and has two daughters, a son in law, grandson and a Springer Spaniel named Amy Faith.



Dr. Marcia McFee

#### Worship Design Leader: Dr. Marcia McFee

McFee is a professor, worship designer, author, preacher and ritual artist. Drawing on a first career in professional dance and musical theater and equipped with a Master's in Theology and a PhD in Liturgical Studies and Ethics, she understands the role of any worship artist in the church as that of creating extraordinary portals through which communities journey with the Spirit. Connecting worship professionals and volunteers to their passion and depth of spiritual leadership is her aim in teaching and consulting as well as equipping them with skills to carry this out. She travels extensively, teaching and holding worship planning retreats. Dr. McFee has designed and led worship for regional, national and international gatherings of several denominations for the last 20 years, including the last two UM General Conferences. She is the creator and visionary of

the Worship Design Studio ([www.worshipdesignstudio.com/wds](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/wds)), an online experience of coaching, education, inspiration and a design application that currently serves over 700 congregations. She is the author of *The Worship Workshop* a workbook for worship teams and, as an avid skier, wrote *Spiritual Adventures in the Snow: Skiing and Snowboarding as Renewal for Your Soul*. Her third book release last year, *Think Like a Filmmaker: Sensory-Rich Worship for Unforgettable Messages*, has become a best-seller and is utilized by churches all over the world



Margaret Ann Crain

#### Bible Study Leaders: Margaret Ann Crain and Jack Seymour

Drs. Jack Seymour and Margaret Ann Crain are fascinated with the questions of faith: What prompts us to ask questions about God? What role can the church play in resourcing and nurturing the growth of faith? How does faith shape our public commitments and vocations? Their research on these questions produced *Yearning for God: Reflections of Faithful Lives*, (Upper Room Books, 2003.) Both served on the faculty of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.



Jack Seymour

Together and separately, they often lead workshops at national and conference level meetings for United Methodists as well as other denominations. Each has written many books and articles on Christian education, interfaith dialogue, and ministry. Most recently, Jack is author of *Teaching the Way of Jesus: Educating Christians for Faithful Living* (Abingdon Press, 2014) and *Teaching for Biblical Faith: Leading Small Group Bible Studies* (Abingdon, 2015). Margaret Ann is author of *The United Methodist Deacon: Ordained to Word, Service, Compassion and Justice* (Abingdon Press, 2014). They both are members of the Religious Education Association where Jack served as editor of *Religious Education* (an interfaith and international journal) for eleven years. Both are also members of the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church; Jack, an elder, and Margaret Ann, a deacon. Jack's current project focuses on helping laity to think theologically. Margaret Ann is working on a book with co-author Bishop Sharon Rader about how the earliest women bishops changed the church. They are married with four daughters and eleven grandchildren.



Rev. Kristine Marshall

#### Artist: Rev. Kristine Marshall

Rev. Kristine Marshall loves art as an expression of worship because there are no boundaries on what can be expressed. She is teaching her four girls: Lillian 12, Sophie 9, Annabelle 7, and Rosie 4 how to express their hearts with art. When she was an art major and received a BA at Southeast Missouri State University in 1999, she was lacking passion for art. It wasn't until she began to paint as a form of worship that great colors and images began to flow. She received an MDIV at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis in 2003. In 2006 she was ordained by the Free Methodist Church while serving Living Water Free Methodist Church in St. Louis for four years. She then moved to Minnesota and became the pastor at that church in Lake City Minnesota and served for six years. It was in this pastorate Kristine found that God could use her gifts in creativity and outreach to transform a church and community. In 2014 her husband received a new job in Elk Grove Village as an agribusiness commodities trader. While in the Chicago area she served Elgin First and Palatine First United Methodist Churches as an associate pastor. Now the Marshall family is adventuring again and moving north of Indianapolis. Kristine trusts that God will open the door for ministry and art in the Indianapolis area.

continued on next page (3), see AC Updates & News

# AC Updates and News

## Display Table Information

Display tables which celebrate our connectional ministries will be set up in the St. Charles Ballroom in conjunction with Cokesbury Bookstore in the same space on Monday, June 5 and Tuesday, June 6.

Deadline to apply for space is May 19. The cost is \$25 per table and \$45 for a table with electrical hook-up.

Online applications can be found at [www.umcnic.org/AC2017](http://www.umcnic.org/AC2017) under the "Display Table" tab.

## Accessibility Coordinator

Our onsite Accessibility Coordinator will be present to help coordinate with any needs (vision, movement, hearing, etc.) we may have. Please be sure to indicate when registering how we can extend welcome and hospitality to you during Annual Conference.

## Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in ushering, greeting or volunteering during plenaries and worship services, please email Alka Lyall at [pastoralkalyall@gmail.com](mailto:pastoralkalyall@gmail.com).

## Journal and Directory

Sales will be separate from Annual Conference registration. A link will be available to purchase online when both are complete and published in the fall. Both will be available to download for free on the conference website.

## Meals at Annual Conference

Groups will be sponsoring meals throughout Annual Conference. We encourage you to attend any of these to celebrate and learn more about their ministries. All meal reservations must be completed by May 19, as they are not available onsite. Buffet meals will be served at every meal time on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday and can be purchased onsite. "Invitation" meals are listed for planning purposes only and not be included in registration.

\*Prices and more information on meals are available through registration on the web.

## Memorial Service remembrance

If you have a name and photo for the Memorial Service of those lay members to annual conference who have passed away in the year since last June's Annual Conference, please submit them to Megan Casey at [mcasey@umcnic.org](mailto:mcasey@umcnic.org).

## Blueprint for Wellness Screenings

Blueprint for Wellness Screenings will be held at Annual Conference on Monday and Tuesday (June 5 & 6) from 7 a.m. - 10 a.m. in the Ruby Room (Tower 2nd floor). To pre-register and for more information visit [www.wespath.org](http://www.wespath.org) and log in to your "HealthFlex/Web-Md" account.

## Agenda \*subject to change

### Sunday, June 4

- 1 - 3 p.m. Registration
- 1:00 p.m. Coat Room Open for Clergy Robes
- 1:00 p.m. Ordination Rehearsal - Mega Center
- 2 - 3 p.m. New Member Orientation
- 2 - 7 p.m. Youth Session
- 3:00 p.m. Deadline for Submitting Removal from Consent Calendar Petitions
- 3:00 p.m. Clergy Line-Up for Ordination - St. Charles II,V,VI
- 4:00 p.m. Ordination - Mega Center Reception to Follow - St. Charles II,V,VI
- 7:00 p.m. Celebration Dinner Buffet - New Orleans Ballroom Hispanic Latino Dinner

### Monday, June 5

- 6:30 - 8 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. Opening Plenary - Mega Center
- 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. UMM Prayer Line - Topaz Room
- 9:00 a.m. Bible Study - Mega Center
- 10:00 a.m. Episcopal Address - Mega Center Organizational Task Force Presentation
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Retired Clergy Association Rainbow Covenant/Global Ministries Order of Deacons GETS
- 1:30 p.m. Retirement Service - Mega Center
- 3:45 p.m. Plenary 2 - Mega Center
- 5:15 p.m. Dinner RMN/MFSA
- 7 - 9:00 p.m. Plenary 3 - Mega Center

### Tuesday, June 6

- 6:30 - 8 a.m. Breakfast United Voices for Children North Central College
- 8:00 a.m. Plenary 4 - Mega Center
- 9:00 a.m. Bible Study - Mega Center
- 10:00 a.m. Memorial Service - Mega Center
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch UM Foundation Extension Ministry Local Pastors Older Adult Ministries
- 1:30 p.m. Plenary 5 - Mega Center
- 3:45 p.m. Plenary 6 - Mega Center
- 5:00 p.m. Adjournment

## Mission Challenge

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

### Aurora:

- Hand Towels/1,500
- Washcloths/1,500

### Chicago Northwestern:

- Nail Clipper Sets/1,500
- Razors (individually wrapped)/750

### Chicago Southern:

- Combs/1,500
- Shampoo/Conditioner (4 oz.)/750

### DeKalb:

- Deodorant (2 oz.)/1,500
- Shampoo/Conditioner (4 oz.)/750

### Elgin:

- Toothbrush/ 1,500
- Toothpaste 2.5 oz or larger/1,500

### Rockford:

- Bar Soap (3-4 oz.)/1,500
- Razors (individually wrapped)/750

All items are available through Dollar Tree online except the washcloths (currently only available in the store). The trailer from the distribution center will be outside the MegaCenter on Sunday afternoon and through the day on Monday.

## Marcia McFee Worship Design Workshop

*"Sensory-Rich Worship Design: Think Like a Filmmaker"*

A special treat for Annual Conference participants as Dr. Marcia McFee will offer a worship design workshop during the Monday evening plenary at the 2017 Annual Conference. She will give you her time-tested strategies for creating and sustaining sensory-rich worship that offers unforgettable messages each and every week for churches of any size, worship style and budget.

She will share how insights from filmmakers: art directors, screenwriters, composers, cinematographers and directors, have helped her hone theories and practices that attract and ignite volunteers as they gain skills for every worship art.

Applying these lessons to vital communication of the Greatest-Story-Ever-Told has inspired clergy, staff and volunteers for their work in McFee's over 20 years of worship consulting, while invigorating congregation's excitement for Sunday mornings. This session will help you learn ways to create more deeply meaningful worship AND have less stress and more fun doing it!



Marcia McFee led a Holy Week worship experience at Barrington UMC on April 11. Following Egeris, a 4th-century pilgrim who left a journal describing Holy week events in Jerusalem, participants engaged in their own pilgrimage through Holy week, experiencing prayer, singing, candlelight and space for personal reflection.



Mike McHargue

## NIC Clergy Day Apart/Clergy Annual Conference Session

A day planned by the Board of Ordained Ministry for fellowship, renewal, education and business.

**Date:** Tuesday, May 23

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Barrington UMC, 98 Algonquin Rd., Barrington, IL

The morning will include worship and a keynote address by Science Mike McHargue, author of the book *Finding God in the Waves* and host of the podcast *Science Mike and The Liturgists*.

You can learn more about Mike at: [www.mikemchargue.com](http://www.mikemchargue.com).

The afternoon will include the annual clergy session. Watch for more information regarding the Clergy Session call and registration coming in April.

The ACST and DSTs will prayerfully focus on the following four Core Areas of priority that were identified through the Landscape process: (1) Congregational Life; (2) Clergy Life; (3) Missional Life; and (4) Connectional Resources.

The ACST and DSTs will be intentionally diverse and representative of the various ministry areas in our conference, including representatives from each of the Core Areas.

### Background

In August 2014, the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA) realized that the NIC was facing a significant budget shortfall. They realized that there was no committee in charge of helping discern missional priorities to assist in allocating resources. What actions should the Annual Conference take to deal with our new financial reality? What should we prioritize? There was no one empowered to help answer these questions while representing all of the different ministries and experiences that are a part of our Annual Conference.

As a result, the NIC underwent the Landscape process to ask leaders and church members all over the Conference about best ways for the Conference to operate and which resources the local church needed. The process involved hundreds of people participating through surveys and listening sessions from all over our conference.

From it we learned that there was a desire for leadership with a common vision and mission, consistent priorities, and that coordinates resources and communication. Through this process we heard consistently that the Conference's highest priorities included equipping leaders and churches with strategies for reaching new members, growing spiritually as disciples of Christ, and being more effective in community outreach; resourcing struggling churches; rethinking how to be vital churches; and cultivating trust within the conference. Additionally, the feedback showed our Conference values include: being focused on mission; evaluation, accountability and support for growth; experimentation and risk-taking for the purpose of learning; transparency, honesty, and graciousness with each other; safe spaces for sharing; building relationships; provision of resources/services closer to the local church; and fostering and celebrating diversity.

In summary, the feedback suggested that the Conference could use some kind of body that was empowered to facilitate decision making processes for the Conference between June Annual Conferences, and to execute the Annual Conference's vision throughout the year.

Legislation to create a plan for such a body was passed by our whole community at the 2016 Annual Conference and 27 people from all over the Conference spent the last year creating such a plan. The Organizational Task Force explored theology and theory on organizational structure, reviewed structures of other Annual Conferences, and used our own creative ideas, along with the vision, mission, values and priorities discerned through the Landscape

process, to develop a new structure for the NIC. This plan is being presented for a vote this Annual Conference on June 5, 2017.

### Diversity and Advocacy

As diversity is one of the NIC's values, the new structure will seek to ensure diversity throughout the leadership of the NIC and its committees, including on the ACST and DSTs. Since diversity alone does not ensure advocacy, three members of the ACST will be representatives of ethnic caucuses. Beyond these three positions, our deep commitment to diversity and advocacy can be attained through an intentional, prayerful nomination and leadership selection process for all membership positions in the structure. Diversity and advocacy for those who are often underrepresented is essential in order to have ministry that includes, nurtures and seeks justice for all in the name of Jesus Christ.

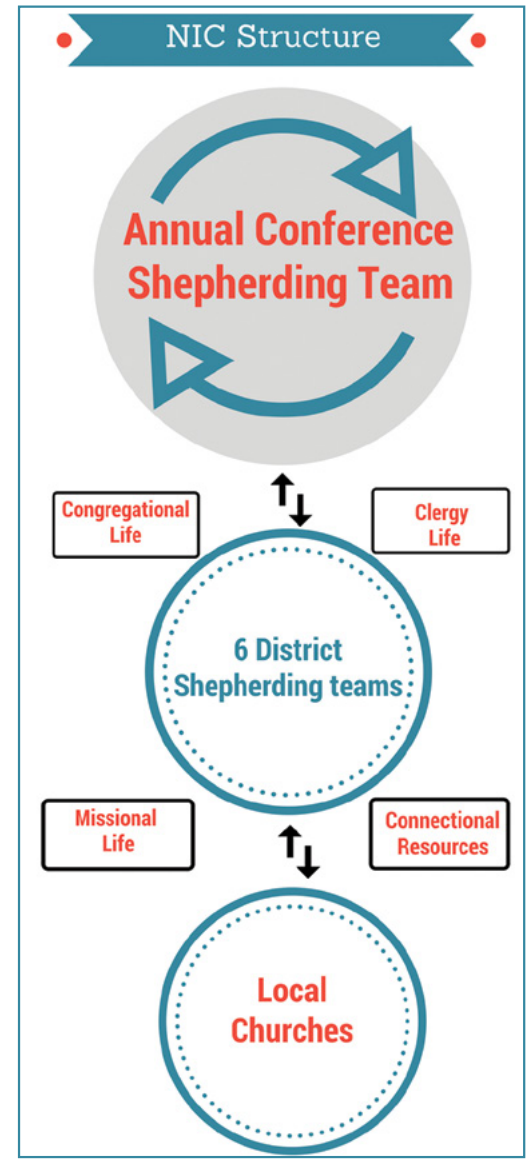
The ACST is intended to be a learning team that encourages and facilitates the learning, critical thinking and experimentation throughout the Conference. As a learning team, it will evaluate and discern the learning from experimentation, and it will communicate new knowledge and insights throughout the NIC, so that it can be incorporated into ministries of the districts and local churches. It will also continuously transform itself in order to adapt to the challenges and opportunities for ministry in the NIC.

As we learn and adapt, the structure itself is expected to adapt over time. The proposed organizational structure addresses the equipping, coordinating and communicating functions essential to the NIC. However, the underlying committee structure still needs to be evaluated to see if there are more efficient ways to organize our work as a Conference. This year we will begin evaluating the existing committees and propose a streamlined committee structure as well as appropriate adaptations to the ACST and DSTs to the Annual Conference in 2018, with potentially additional changes in 2019. Future adaptations may also be needed as our ministry environment changes over time, new priorities emerge, or as we learn and grow.

### Moving Forward

So, what does all of this mean for you? If you love the conference or district ministry in which you are involved, you will be able to continue the work! The only conference committee that will immediately change is the Program Council, which will no longer exist. The work and budgetary decisions that have been made by the Program Council will now happen through the various designated ministry core areas under the guidance of the Office of Connectional Ministries. Otherwise, the work of most committees should remain similar to the past at this time.

What will change is that you, along with the other committees in your Focus Area, will have a representative to the ACST and will work directly with your DST, and you will have the opportunity to bring before those teams your priorities and what additional resources and conversations are



needed for your ministry.

What we hope will change is that 1) when you have questions about how the conference can serve you, it should be much clearer where to go; 2) if you notice something in your area of ministry that it would be strategically helpful for the district or conference as a whole to consider or take into account (for example, "We need to put more resources into ministry for retired folks" or "Local churches need more resources on how to get creative with prayer"), there will be one clear place to take this information that then can act on it; and 3) you will feel more informed about what is happening in NIC, have access to new ideas, learnings, and trainings, which can be used in ministry at your local church.

To download and review the legislation visit: [www.umcnic.org/AC2017](http://www.umcnic.org/AC2017) and click on the "Legislation" tab.

## Outdoor and Retreat Ministries Happenings



Early bird registration for Summer Camp ends June 1, 2017. To find the listings and descriptions of camps go to: [www.umcnic.org/camps](http://www.umcnic.org/camps).

### Spring Cleanup Parties in May

Come volunteer with spring cleaning at Camp Reynoldswood on Saturday, May 6 and Wesley Woods on Saturday, May 20 and earn a \$20 summer camp credit toward the camper or NIC church of your choice! Continental Breakfast starts at 8 a.m. Work on projects from 8:30 - 12 p.m. Fellowship over lunch at noon.

Opportunities to help include: cleaning cabins, cleaning gutters, door hanging, gathering kindling, minor plumbing, mowing painting (inside & out), raking paths, weeding, wood splitting, assembling bunk beds, placing mattresses, removing limbs and leaves from culverts and paths, testing and replacing light bulbs, replacing batteries in smoke detectors, and various other minor repairs.

If you would like to volunteer, gather your team (family, men, women and/or youth group), adopt a project, or projects for your team's talents and desires, RSVP to 800-NIC-CAMP, or [info@niccamp.org](mailto:info@niccamp.org).

### Camp Reynoldswood Annual Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 14, 11a.m. - 2p.m. Please remind your friends and neighbors! Reservations needed for groups of 8 or more. Please call 815-284-6979, or email: [info@reynoldswood.org](mailto:info@reynoldswood.org).

**Cost:** 2nd Grade - Adults - \$10.00, K - 2nd Grade - \$7.50  
Pre-school and younger - Free  
Camp Reynoldswood is located at 621 Reynoldswood Rd, Dixon, IL.

### Chicago Southern District offer mini-summer camp August 13 - August 16 (Grades 4 - 12+)

Early Bird: \$229 by 6/1  
Full price: \$249  
\$50 non-refundable deposit

Chicago Southern District Superintendent Jacques Conway's contagious enthusiasm for this new minicamp (Sunday through mid-morning Wednesday), has everyone excited to "Unmask Jesus" through archery, swimming, canoeing, Bible study, team building, campers, and so much more!

# Bishop's Appeal Global AIDS FUND

This year's Bishop's Appeal special offering at Annual Conference will go towards the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (UMGAF). Bishop Sally Dyck encourages each congregation to take a special offering or to do some type of special fundraising to help support the appeal and bring it to Annual Conference.

Our special guest Bishop Julius Trimble of the Indiana Conference, who serves as the UMGAF chairman, will speak and be present for the offering on Monday, June 5.

"Our call to action is a call to do justice and show mercy," Bishop Trimble told United Methodist Communications after being selected to the UMGAF committee in 2016. "It's a call to support the work of abundant health and advocacy; a call to educate and get involved in your country and your particular conference. Let us commit to end the stigma, educate and prevent the spread of HIV around the world."

According to UNAIDS, more than a million persons died from AIDS-related causes in 2015 and 36.7 million people are living with HIV. About 5,700 new infections per day were reported last year, for a total of 2.1 million adults and children. About two-thirds of those were in sub-Saharan Africa and nearly half were women. According to the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, over 43,000 people in Illinois are living with HIV/AIDS. The majority of those persons live within the boundaries of the Northern Illinois Conference. HIV/AIDS is both global and local. Your giving to the Bishop's Appeal for the 2017 annual conference session helps both those who are far away and those who are close to home.

With this quadrennium, 2016-2020, the work of the Global AIDS Fund Committee is undergoing a shift from a fundraising emphasis to a greater focus on providing resources and training to engage annual conferences and local churches in HIV/AIDS education and advocacy.

Global Ministries will provide oversight and administration of the United Methodist Global AIDS Advance Fund #982345, which

provides financial support to global maternal and child health initiatives that address HIV and AIDS.

Some of the functions of the Global AIDS Fund Committee will include:

- Helping United Methodist conferences and churches create partnerships for HIV and AIDS ministry
- Advocating for increasing funding for HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria
- Working to reduce stigma and discrimination
- Providing training and networking opportunities to resource United Methodists

The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund was established in 2004, and includes representatives from the General Board of Global Ministries, the Council of Bishops and Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, the General Board of Church and Society, the Division on Ministries with Young People, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Communications, and three at-large members chosen by the committee for expertise and diversity.

In years past, the Bishop's Appeal has raised \$45,000 and greater for the causes selected. UMGAF is seeking a total of \$50,000 in support for 2017. Can we, the Northern Illinois Conference, step up to make sure the UMGAF is fully supported and funded through the Bishop's Appeal? The NIC HIV/AIDS Task Force believes this is more than achievable when we all work together. Twenty-five percent of the funds donated will stay in our annual conference for local projects.

Please make sure to indicate UMGAF's Advance Special number #982345 on your contributions whether made at the annual conference session or at another time.

Please act courageously, give generously, and love boldly that we can help put an end to a disease which continues to devastate families, communities, and countries. For more information and resources for your fundraising efforts visit:

[www.umcnic.org/bishopsappeal](http://www.umcnic.org/bishopsappeal).



Kim Coffing (right), Director of Advocacy and Church Relations at ChildServ, presents Lurie Children's Hospital with the Lucy Rider Meyer Courage Award.

## ChildServ honors Chicago hospital

ChildServ, a nonprofit dedicated to building better lives for children at risk, held its Legacy Banquet on Sunday, March 5 in Elk Grove Village. At the event, Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago received the Lucy Rider Meyer Courage Award in recognition of the hospital's partnership with ChildServ and its dedication to the health and well-being of children.

"Lurie Children's Hospital has hosted holiday parties for the youth in our group homes, provided car seats for families in our early childhood learning program, and developed a trauma-informed curriculum to help faith communities interact with children at risk," said Dan Kotowski, President and CEO of ChildServ. "Their impact and support have been tremendous, and we can't thank them enough for helping our kids reach their potential!"

"We are honored to receive the Lucy Rider Meyer Courage award from ChildServ, an exceptional organization that leads us all in listening to and meeting the needs of children in our communities," said Tara Gill, PhD, Psychologist at the Center for Childhood Resilience at Lurie Children's Hospital. "We at Lurie Children's Hospital are so proud of our collaborations with ChildServ and committed to continuing our courageous work serving children and youth."

Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago is the first recipient of ChildServ's Lucy Rider Meyer Courage Award, which recognizes the determination, fortitude and spirit of an outstanding local, national or international leader, organization or corporation who demonstrates a commitment to the agency's founding principles: alleviating suffering, eradicating injustice, and facilitating the development of full human potential.

ChildServ's Legacy Banquet celebrated the nonprofit's 123 years of building better lives for children at risk, featuring testimonials from former residents of the Lake Bluff Children's Home, a forerunner to ChildServ, artifacts from the Lake Bluff History Museum, as well as the award presentation.

For more information about ChildServ, visit its website at [www.childserv.org](http://www.childserv.org).



Rev. Virginia Lee

## UVC Breakfast at Annual Conference

The Rev. Dr. Virginia Lee will be the featured speaker at the United Voices for Children's Annual Breakfast on Tuesday, June 6, 2017. Dr. Lee is Associate Professor of Christian Education and Director of Deacon Studies at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Lee is also the co-executive director of the Garrett-Evanston Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools Program, a partnership with the city of Evanston, Evanston-Skokie School District 65, and other community groups including faith communities.

At the Annual Breakfast UVC will honor the many congregations and individuals who are supporting its mission. In addition, UVC will present three awards to honor extraordinary volunteer service or advocacy efforts on behalf of children, youth and/or families in Northern Illinois. Learn more about UVC and its programs at [www.unitedvoicesforchildren.org](http://www.unitedvoicesforchildren.org).

The UVC Annual Breakfast will be held at 6:45 a.m. at the Pheasant Run Resort, in St. Charles, Illinois, during the session of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference. Advance reservations are requested to [unitedvoicesforchildren@gmail.com](mailto:unitedvoicesforchildren@gmail.com) by May 24, 2017.



From 2014-2016, 11,074 people received voluntary HIV counseling and testing around the world thanks to the generous support of the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund Advance #982345. (File photo by Mike DuBose, UMNS)

## CELEBRATING



The Gumboot Dancers, a student group, entertain guests during a dinner for alumni and friends as part of the 25th anniversary celebration for Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Photo by Mike DuBose, UMNS.



The Illinois Great Rivers Conference of The United Methodist Church presents a \$1 million gift to Africa University during the school's 25th anniversary celebration in Mutare, Zimbabwe. At the microphone is Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton. Holding the check are the Rev. Beverly Wilkes Null (left) and Bunny Wolfe. Photo by Mike DuBose, UMNS.

By Kathy Gilbert

Hundreds gathered at United Methodist Africa University on March 25 to celebrate its 25th anniversary. There were gifts and memories as supporters looked back over a quarter of a century, but there was a lot more looking forward.

Bishop James Swanson, episcopal leader of the Mississippi Conference, came to Africa University with a delegation and a down payment on a \$1.3 million pledge.

In his booming voice, Swanson talked about the journey the Mississippi Conference and Africa University have been on since the beginning of the university in 1992.

“The Mississippi Conference has placed their hopes and dreams in Africa University. It is a great irony that this conference, with a history of racism, saw an opportunity here. Jesus is a transformer,” he said.

Gifts, tears and cheers flowed during the four-hour celebration. Keynote speaker and guest of honor, Tsitsi Masiyima, co-founder of the HigherLife Foundation, was one of two who received an honorary degree from the

university.

HigherLife Foundation is a nonprofit organization that invests in education for children in poverty. Since 1996, the organization has helped over 250,000 orphans. Some of those orphans are now attending and have graduated from Africa University.

Masiyima and her husband, Strive, have been quietly giving full scholarships to 10 African students a year for the past 15 years at Africa University. They have a goal of helping 2 million children become young leaders by 2020.

The Rev. James L. Waits also was given an honorary doctor of ministry in religion and transformation leadership for “distinguished contributions to Africa University and humanity at large.”

Waits is an ordained minister of the Mississippi Conference and as a young pastor he co-authored a public statement, “Born of Conviction,” protesting racial segregation in the state. The statement was signed by 28 white Methodist ministers and provoked “considerable controversy,”

said Professor J.W.Z. Kurewa, vice chancellor emeritus.

Waits was dean of the Candler School of Theology of Emory University from 1978 to 1991, and became executive director of the Association of Theological Schools in 1991. In 2012, he was elected as a member of the board of directors at Africa University and now serves on its executive committee.

“We have planted Africa University and it is limited only by our personal commitment. This institution is instrumental to our survival,” he said.

Kurewa began the celebration by saying God has been carrying the university on eagle’s wings for the past 25 years.

“This is an Africa and a God moment,” he said.

In 1984, two African United Methodist bishops, Emilio J. M. de Carvalho of Angola and Arthur F. Kulah of Liberia, challenged their colleagues at the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry to support the establishment of a university in Africa.

*continued on page 7, see Africa University*

## Thank YOU for your global ministries contributions

In 2016 contributions from the Northern Illinois Conference churches and individuals to the General Board of Global Ministries totaled \$612,781.72 towards missions! \$55,056.97 went toward mission support, \$84,613.26 went toward UMCOR emergencies, and 35,9939.69 toward the broad ministry. For a complete list visit: [www.umcnic.org/globalmissions](http://www.umcnic.org/globalmissions).

## Calendar News

### Pastoral Transitions Workshop

This workshop is being offered twice. Pick the date and place best suited for both pastor and church leadership.

May 13 at Rochelle UMC, 709 4th Ave, Rochelle 61068

August 5 at Downer’s Grove First UMC, 1032 Maple Ave., Downer’s Grove 60515

Time: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$10/person

Who should attend:

- Pastors SPRC members
- Lay leaders Interested church leaders

For more information and to register visit: [www.umcnic.org/pastoraltransitions](http://www.umcnic.org/pastoraltransitions).

### Host a community conversation

Jesus’ ministry was characterized, even by his critics, in terms of who he ate with—the prestigious (Simon the Pharisee) and the marginalized (the woman who washed his feet with her tears). And they were at the same dinner! Who Jesus ate with—and who we eat with—matters!

That’s why on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, I am inviting you to host an “On The Table” community conversation. Through our Chicago Urban Strategy, the Northern Illinois Conference is partnering with the Chicago Community Trust’s annual On the Table forum. On the Table

is designed to elevate civic conversation, foster new relationships and inspire collaborative action across the region.

On May 16 tens of thousands of Chicago-area residents will gather in small groups to share a meal and discuss the challenges and opportunities we face in our communities and nation.



This act of people coming together to discuss the issues that matter most to them has never been more important. These conversations can inspire new ways we can work together to make our communities stronger, safer and more dynamic.

When we come together as a community to learn from and with each other, we have the power to impact both neighborhoods and lives.

The goal is to host at least 20 tables throughout the Chicago and Chicagoland area. A table consists of 10-12 people breaking bread and engaging in a guided conversation. To download a host kit and flyer, and to register your church, go to: [onhetable.com/northern-illinois-conference-of-the-united-methodist-church](http://onhetable.com/northern-illinois-conference-of-the-united-methodist-church).

When you register, be sure to select “United Methodist Church” as the partner organization. Fifty dollars to offset the cost of the meal is being offered to the first 20 United Methodist sites which register.

“We need to talk...” are often the four small words that can kill a relationship. In this case, however, I believe these are the words that can renew and strengthen your congregations’ relationship with the people in your neighborhood.

~Bishop Sally Dyck

### Mark your calendars for



### UMW Summer Mission U

July 13-16, Mission U - Weekend Event (Camp Reynoldswood, Dixon)

July 22, Mission U - One Day Event (First UMC, Downers Grove)

For more info and registration visit the Northern Illinois Conference UMW’s new website: [www.umwnic.org](http://www.umwnic.org).

## Oswego girl gives back

Oswego resident Olivia Bailey-Powell, 10, gave back to Rush-Copley Medical Center in Aurora March 28.

The fifth-grader at Southbury Elementary School in Oswego helped deliver 80 items of infant clothing and stuffed animals to the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit. Olivia was a patient for 47 days in the NICU after being born three months premature. Her birth weight was one pound, 13 ounces.

Gifts she presented for newborns were collected in a third annual Pajamuary drive at Fourth Street United Methodist Church in Aurora. Olivia attends the church with her mother Bonnie, who plays in the handbell choir and with stepfather Tom Disantis.

Donations included 26 onesies, 21 sleepers, 9 blankets, 7 stuffed animals, 6 premie hats, 4 pairs of booties, 2 infant hats and a tote bag.

Olivia said she wanted to help because she knows how parents of premature babies need something comforting while they are at the hospital.

The Rev. Deborah Tinsley Taylor, Fourth Street UMC pastor, told a reporter "Olivia is an alumni of the hospital, and this is an op-

portunity for her to participate.

"We're responsible for the spiritual lives of our young people, and sometimes we believe they don't have something to offer someone else. This is an opportunity to show both gifts and graces."

Louise Fazio, Rush-Copley NICU clinical nurse manager, accepted the gifts on behalf of the hospital.



Oswego resident Olivia Bailey, 10, (center) returned to Aurora's Rush-Copley Medical Center March 28 with gifts for the neonatal intensive care unit where she was treated for 47 days after being born three months prematurely. (Al Benson photo)



## EQUIP your church for transformation



More than 60 participants from 26 churches took part in the first session of the TeamWorks leadership training on Feb. 4.

Three sessions remain for TeamWorks training taking place in the Northern Illinois Conference through the Office of Congregational Development and Redevelopment with Dr. Craig Kennet Miller from Discipleship Ministries. Registration is open for Session 2.

During these seminars participants are introduced to the TeamWorks material written by Dr. Miller which offers an opportunity to deepen your leadership by creating a healthy, dynamic team of leaders in your congregation. In the month following the one-day experience, the pastor and one key congregational leader will present the same material to a team of seven to fifteen people in their church who will be committed to working together throughout the year.

Over the course of a year your TeamWorks team will learn:

- how to hold one another accountable for spiritual growth using the "Spiritual Life Template"
- about your community using the "Demographics by Walking Around"
- to discover how to launch new projects using the VAP-IT Goal Setting Tool
- to wrap up their time by using the "TeamWorks Church Assessment."

Registration is ongoing for the remaining three sessions. Each will be held at the Belvidere: First United Methodist Church, 610 Bonus Ave., Belvidere, IL.

### The schedule is as follows:

#### 2nd Session:

Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

TeamWorks: "Connecting With Your Community"

#### 3rd Session:

Saturday, September 23, 2017 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

TeamWorks: "Creating a Discipleship System"

#### 4th Session:

Saturday, November 11, 2017 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

TeamWorks: "Futurecasting"

If you would like to register, register by contacting Laura Lopez at (312) 346-9766 x724 or [llopez@umcnic.org](mailto:llopez@umcnic.org). You can also register online beginning one month prior to each event by going to [www.umcnic.org](http://www.umcnic.org) and click on the conference calendar.

## Africa University (continued from page 6)

The board presented a plan for the pan-African university to the 1988 General Conference, the denomination's top lawmaking body, which voted to establish the university. The university received its charter from the Zimbabwean government and classes began in 1992.

The first 14 students went to school when it was just "tall grass and weeds," said Zimbabwe Bishop Eben K. Nhiwatiwa, who was one of the pioneering faculty members of the university.

Now, the university boasts more than 7,000 graduates from 32 African countries.

Africa University is ranked second among Zimbabwean colleges, Professor Munashe Furusa, vice chancellor, told the gathering.

"This university is a force to be reckoned with here in

Zimbabwe. Let's do better. We don't want to be second; we want to be best," said Mandiitawepi Chimene, minister of State for Provincial Affairs, Manicaland Province. Chimene was one of several officials that brought greetings and congratulatory messages.

James Salley, associate vice chancellor for institutional advancement at Africa University, said congregations, organizations and individuals are also celebrating Africa University's 25th year in the United States, many on the same day as the celebration in Zimbabwe. The goal is to ask each person to give one dollar for the 25 years the school has been open.

Bishop Jonathan Keaton, retired from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, brought an oversized check made out to Africa University for \$1 million. A local brick-making

## Grants available for vital conversations on religion and race

The General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR), The United Methodist Church's racial justice agency, announced that the CORR Action Fund (CAF) will be releasing the United States Program Grants for 2017-2020 with \$750,000 in available funding. Applications will be accepted starting May of 2017 with a deadline of August 2017.

GCORR is seeking to fund innovative and bold initiatives that will support vital conversations about race, cultural diversity, xenophobia, and systemic equity.

UMC churches and other UMC entities in the United States are invited to apply for funding to disrupt racism and xenophobia by working with a community partner or alliance to:

- Identify and change at least one racist and/or xenophobic system, policy, or practice in the wider community.
- Engage UMC people with diverse community partners in frequent vital conversations about racism and xenophobia.
- Build understanding and trusting relationships among diverse people in the wider community.

Erin Hawkins, GCORR General Secretary stated: "The CORR Action Fund is an exciting part of the ministry of the General Commission on Religion and Race and The United Methodist Church because it provides empowerment and encouragement to people working to make a difference in their local communities all around the world."

CAF Committee Chair, Rev. Stephen Handy, remarked: "As a CAF committee, we are committed to building the capacity for our beloved United Methodist Church to reach more people, younger people and diverse people by starting vital congregations that develop intercultural competent leaders who participate in building institutional equity that levels the playing field so that God's kingdom is evident on earth as it is in heaven."

Hawkins noted that especially "During this time where racial and cultural divisions run deep and racism is as visible and destructive as ever, we invite leaders in local churches, districts and annual conferences who are committed to dismantling the sin of racism and building the Beloved Community of God to apply for the CORR Action Fund grant. And while we won't be able to fund every project, we look forward to supporting as many as possible."

For more information visit: [www.gcorr.org](http://www.gcorr.org).

company in Zimbabwe pledged 10,000 bricks toward the construction of a student resident hall.

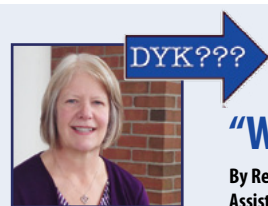
Bishop Minerva Carcaño, California-Nevada Area, will take an offering during May and again at the conference's annual meeting for Africa University.

In his benediction, Bishop David Yemba, the university chancellor, thanked everyone who had helped the university during its first 25 years. Yemba was one of the first faculty members in the school of theology and is retiring as a central conference episcopal leader.

"We follow in the footsteps of Moses; thank you for bringing us so far."

*Gilbert is a multimedia news reporter for United Methodist News Service. Contact her at (615) 742-5470 or [newsdesk@umcom.org](mailto:newsdesk@umcom.org). To read more United Methodist news, subscribe to the free Daily or Weekly Digests visit: [www.umc.org/news-and-media/daily-digest](http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/daily-digest).*

## 2017 APPOINTMENT: APRIL ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Did You Know: "We Have a Constitution"

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

The United Methodist Church as we know it today was formed in 1968. Of course we trace our roots back much, much further to the founder of Methodism, John Wesley. When two streams of Methodism were united in 1968 after more than 25 years of exploration and negotiation, The Methodist Episcopal and The Evangelical United Brethren denominations came together to form the United Methodist Church. Previously, The Evangelical Church and The United Brethren Church had merged in 1946 after 20 years of negotiation to form The Evangelical United Brethren Church. There are still churches in the Northern Illinois Conference with china patterns stamped with predecessor denominational names.

The United Methodist Church does not have a central headquarters or a single executive leader. Duties are divided among bodies that include the General Conference, the Council of Bishops and the Judicial Council. Each of these entities play a significant role in the life of the church and are required by our Constitution, a foundational document, to be part of our structure.

The General Conference meets once every four years and among their responsibilities is voting on constitutional amendments. The General Conference in 2016 passed 5 new constitutional amendments, each of which must now be voted on at every annual conference across the globe in the 2017-2018 Annual Conference season, much like the process of ratifying constitutional amendments in the United States.

Lay members and eligible clergy will vote on these amendments at our Annual Conference session, June 4-6 in St. Charles at Pheasant Run Resort and Convention Center. Since this is a global vote we will not know the outcome until sometime in 2018 when all the ballots are tallied and certified at a meeting of the college of bishops. We may debate the merits of the amendments but we are not allowed to amend them.

What do our upcoming amendments look like? They range in topic from episcopal accountability and election of Bishops, to gender equality. These amendments were submitted by a Sunday school teacher, a general commission, a lay delegate and an annual conference. These amendments grow out of the experience and best intentions of their makers and received enough votes at General Conference to put them on this path to ratification.

#### In brief the amendments address:

**Gender equality:** This amendment declares, "men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God." It asserts that the church will "seek to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large."

**Inclusion in membership:** This amendment would add gender, ability, age and marital status to the list of characteristics that do not bar people from membership in the church.

**Delegate Elections:** This amendment specifies that elections of delegates to General Conference as well Jurisdictional and Central Conference meetings will include open nominations from the floor at Annual Conference sessions.

**Bishop Elections:** This amendment states that Central Conferences (those outside the US) are to elect bishops at a regular session, not an extra session of the Central Conference "except where an unexpected vacancy must be filled."

**Bishop Accountability:** Under this amendment General Conference can adopt provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold individual bishops accountable.

The full text of these amendments will be in the resolutions released by May 4. If you want to learn more about the work of General Conference and the votes on these amendments you can find further information at: [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) under structure.

**Teresa Lafferty** (Local Pastor) to Plainfield: Sharon (1/2 time) (Aurora District) from Rockford: Evans (1/2 time) (Rockford District). Teri follows Young Eun Choi who was appointed to Medical Disability.

**Wesley Dickson** (Elder) to New Lenox (Aurora District) from Sterling: Wesley (DeKalb District). Wes will follow Jay Carr who is appointed to Libertyville (Elgin District).

**Kyeong-Ah (Kay) Woo** (Elder) to General Board of Global Ministry as Global Missionary serving as Conference Coordinator of the World Mission Conference with the World Council of Churches in Switzerland from Kirkland (DeKalb District).

**Fritz Bartels** (Elder) to Joliet: Grace (Aurora District) from Crete (Chicago Southern District). Fritz follows Daniel Diss who is appointed to Glen Ellyn: First. (Aurora District).

**Scott Christy** (Provisional Elder pending approval) to Evanston: Emmanuel (Chicago Northwestern District) from Elmwood Park following Timothy Rathod as he retires.

**Daniel Diss** (Elder) to Glen Ellyn: First (Aurora District) from Joliet: Grace (Aurora District). Daniel follows Kristen Larsen whose appointment is in process.

**Hyewon (Sophia) Hyon** (Provisional Elder pending approval) to Milledgeville 1/2 time (Rockford District) and Coleta 1/2 time (DeKalb District) from part-time at both sites.

**Taekwan Lee** (Local Pastor) to Evanston: Hemenway (1/2 time)(Chicago Northwestern District) while also remaining appointed to Chicago: West Ridge (1/2 time). Taekwan follows Richard Mosley as he retires.

**Amos Oladipo** (Elder) to Thornton/Park Forest: Grace Protestant (Chicago Southern District) from Chicago: Mandell (Chicago Northwestern District) and Lombard: Faith (Aurora District). Amos follows Norval Brown who is appointed to Deerfield: Christ.

**Ashish Singh** (Provisional Elder pending approval) to Libertyville (Associate) (Elgin District) from Chicago: First Vietnamese. Ashish follows Jamie Hanna-Williams and Steve Williams as they retire.

**Robyn Tabb** (DSS) to Chicago: Resurrection (Chicago Northwestern District) from Maywood:

Neighborhood (Chicago Southern District). Robyn follows Julie Fleurinor-Moore who is appointed to Villa Park: Calvary (Elgin District).

**Reuel Talapian** (Elder) to Evanston: Hemenway (1/2 time) (Chicago Northwestern District) from Chicago: St. Matthew (Chicago Northwestern District) while also remaining in his appointment to Chicago: West Ridge (1/2 time) (Chicago: Northwestern District). Reuel follows Richard Mosley as he retires.

**Brenda Byrne** (Elder) to Burrill (Rockford District) while also serving at Davis: Calvary and Rock City as a three -point charge. Brenda follows Larry Moody who returns to retired status.

**Ouk-Yean Kim Jueng** (Elder) to Campbell UMC in Campbell California (California Nevada Conference) as Senior Pastor (346.1) from Arlington Heights: First (Elgin District).

**Jun Yang Kim** (Elder) to appointment as a Missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries as Coordinator of Korean Peninsula Dialogue and Peacebuilding with Wold Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland from Stewart and Creston (DeKalb District).

**Kyungsu Park** (Provisional Elder) to Rockford: Evans/New Life (Rockford District) from Wheeling: First Korean and Journey Community (Chicago: Northwestern District). Kyungsu follows Teri Lafferty who is appointed to Plainfield: Sharon (Aurora District) and Mark Meyers who is appointed to Prophetstown (DeKalb District).

**Judy Sherk** (Elder) to retirement while remaining at Orangeville/Afolkey (Part-time) (Rockford District). Judy became a probationary member in 1989 and a full member in 1992. During her ministry, she served Elgin: Grace, Waukegan: First (Assoc.), Mundelein, Stewart/Creston, Libertyville (Assoc.), Wilton Center Federated and Orangeville/Afolkey.

**Chung-Nam Kwak** (Elder) to Tinley Park (Chicago Southern District) from Rockford: Brooke Road (Rockford District). Chung-Nam follows Melwyn Alagodi who is appointed to Manhattan (Aurora District).

**Robert Butler** (Elder) to Itasca New Faith Community (Elgin District) from Leave of Absence.



Rev. Molly Phinney  
Baskette

## Save the Date!

### 2017 Stewardship Summit, Saturday, August 26

**Location:** Barrington UMC, 98 Algonquin Rd., Barrington, IL

**Keynote:** Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette

Check out her recent book *Real Good Church: How our church came back from the dead, and yours can, too.*

For more information visit: [nicumf.org](http://nicumf.org)

Thank you for your past support of this conference. In response to your feedback, this year's summit will include both a plenary session and time for churches to work with their teams to begin building financially healthy congregations.

Sponsored by Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Foundation

## Stay Connected

Sign up for the weekly NIC eNews & Appointment Announcements. Visit [www.umcnic.org](http://www.umcnic.org) and scroll down to enter your email and name under "Newsletter".

Note: if you opt out of one email, you opt out of all conference emails.

## Job Openings

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

## How to Contact Us:

**For editorial content, subscriptions & address changes:**

Anne Marie Gerhardt, Dir. of Communications  
[agerhardt@umcnic.org](mailto:agerhardt@umcnic.org) 312-346-9766 ext. 766  
77 W. Washington St. Suite 1820, Chicago, IL 60062

## 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.