



Northern Illinois Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LAKE North

Rev. Brittany Isaac, District Superintendent

Town Hall Meeting

May 23, 2022

Where we have been...

- CNW and Elgin District
- Lots of Programs and lots of leadership roles—District UMW, District Youth Events, District Mission Projects, District Awards Banquets,
- Mostly filled sanctuaries for in person worship
- Most people go to church on Sunday





Where we are now...

Post"-Pandemic Fatigue

Social media (communication)
fatigue

Denominational Uncertainty

Grief and longing for what was
Know that we need to do things
differently but don't know how

Where we are now...

- Empty (less crowded) buildings than we have previously seen
- Across the US there will be tens of thousands of church closings. \$3.5 billion will sell in 2022
- Church members & givers are getting older and there are many, many funerals





God is still at work in the
United Methodist Church!

Where we are headed...

We are on the cusp of a shift in purpose and ownership of houses of worship. We want to thoughtfully steward our resources.

We will have less of our current congregations in 5 years.

We need to start new faith communities and they may look different than traditional churches



#BeUMC

Disciple Making

- First and foremost, we are dedicated to the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world in the tradition of John Wesley.
- We live out this key theme through these **core values**: Christ-centered, Deeply rooted, Disciple-making, Faithful and Grounded in Scripture.

#BeUM
C

Influence, Connection, Impact

- With more than 12 million members across the globe, we are a powerful connection, living and sharing the grace of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are committed to work for global health, education, creation care, child welfare, disaster recovery and countless other efforts.
- We live out this key theme through these **core values**: Missional, Connected, World-changing and Generous.



#BeUMC

Belonging & Inclusion

- All belong and will be loved in The UMC. All will be heard, respected and engaged. All will be free to develop their personal relationship with God and to serve fully in the ministry of Jesus Christ.
- We live out this key theme through these **core values**: Diverse, Justice-seeking, Resilient and Welcoming.

#BeUMC

Experience of God through The UMC

- We embrace a Church where we experience our triune God in personal and community relationships, transforming our own lives, the lives around us, and the entire world.
- We live out this key theme through these **core values**: Committed, Grace-filled, Jesus-seeking, Praying and Spirit-filled.

The future United Methodist Church...

- Our starting point is the unchanging truths of the gospel. Our focus is on the needs of the people around us.





The future United Methodist Church

Larger churches need to plant new communities

Friendly acquisition (adoption)

New congregation in a new community

The future United Methodist Church

- Neo-monastic communities
- Church/business hybrids
- House Churches
- Fresh Expressions
- Experiments



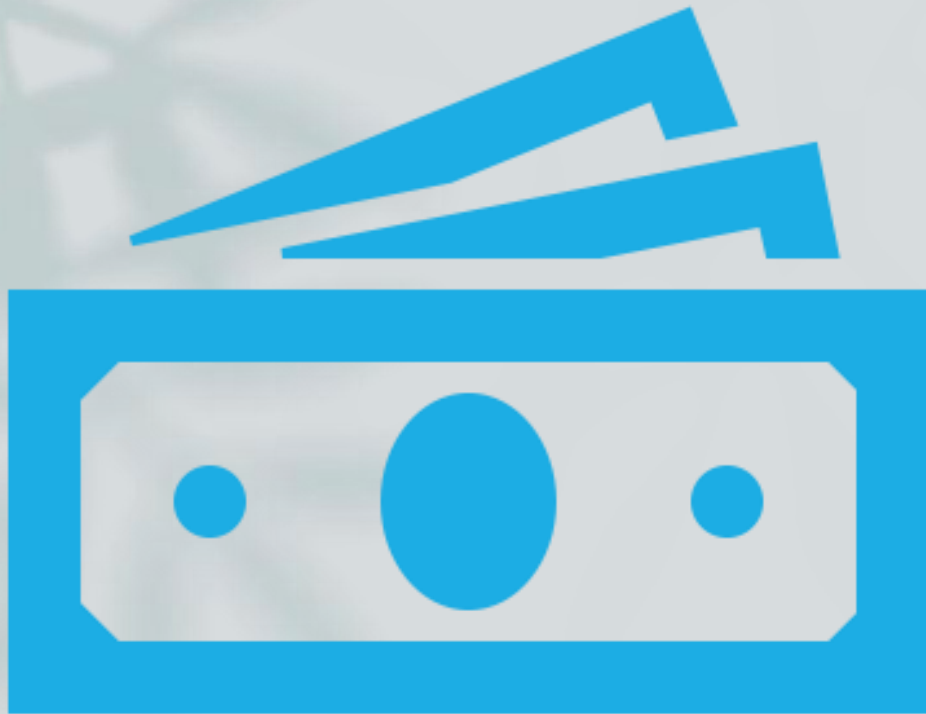
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Break Out Groups

What does your congregation need to live into this future church?

Q & A





Financial Leadership Series for Churches

**Empowering Congregational Leaders
to Talk about Money and Financial
Aspects of Ministry Confidently and
Openly**

Northern IL Conference Upcoming

