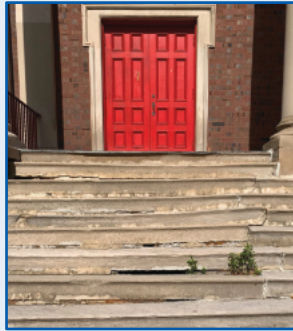


The Northern Illinois Conference OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Reporter

May 2022 Volume 168 | Issue 2 umcnic.org



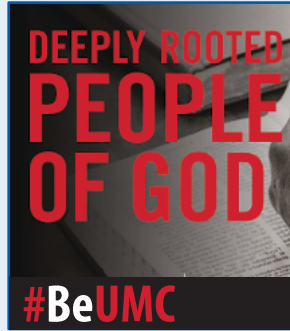
2 From Your Bishop: Love Relationship



3 Legacy of Accessibility



6 Missionaries Return Visit



8 Did You Know? #BeUMC

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Report released on church's net-zero efforts

By Jim Patterson*

It's been a year since most of the agencies of The United Methodist Church committed to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions to a point in 2050 where they are adding nothing — net zero — to cause global warming.

The most important lesson learned so far? It's an extremely complicated endeavor.

"An important focus of this work is equity and justice," said the Rev. Jenny Phillips, senior technical adviser for environmental sustainability at United Methodist Global Ministries, who is a co-convenor of the agencies' net-zero effort.

"We want to be sure that the interventions we take are ones that don't off-load more suffering on communities that are already experiencing hardship due to pollution and climate," she said. "We could all just run out and buy whatever offsets are on the market, but if they're offsets that have negative impacts on certain communities, that's not the right solution."

Offsets involve activities such as the funding of planting trees and renewable energy sources to make up for the release of greenhouse gases. An organization can purchase such offsets in the marketplace.

"We're counting emissions, but how are we also going to track and count our equity injustice impact?" Phillips said. "That's a puzzle that we don't have an answer to yet."

The net-zero commitment was announced on Earth Day in 2021 and

a report of the first year's effort was released by the United Methodist Interagency Just and Equitable Net-Zero Coalition on April 19, three days ahead of this year's Earth Day celebration.

Initiatives the first year included training on how to use the EnergyStar Portfolio, a tool that tracks energy use and emissions from buildings, and some exploratory discussions on how to keep equity and justice concerns in mind while making changes to cut emissions.

"Net-zero is an important goal that will require collaboration and innovation within the broader church and beyond," said Jake Barnett, director of sustainable investment stewardship for the church's Wespeth Benefits and Investments, in a press release.

Along with Phillips, Barnett is a co-convenor for the agencies' net-zero work. "Our agencies look forward to continuing to partner and learn from each other's differentiated expertise as we work to bring about the systemic change that will support a just and equitable net-zero future," he said.

All United Methodist boards, commissions and agencies have made the net-zero commitment, with the exception of the United Methodist Publishing House, whose bottom line was severely reduced by the coronavirus pandemic.

"The number and nature of in-person activities for all ages have been significantly disrupted for most churches and as a result, they've required fewer



Hikers make their way across Kennicott Glacier near McCarthy, Alaska, in 2021. Scientists say glaciers worldwide are projected to lose anywhere from 18% to 36% of their mass by 2100, resulting in almost 10 inches of sea level rise. Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.

worship, educational and program resources," said the Rev. Brian Milford, president and publisher of the publishing house.

Revenue dropped 43% during the pandemic, Milford said. The Publishing House also receives no allocations from the denomination. Last year, it reduced its staff from 300 to about 130 and sold its building, relocating to much smaller offices and transitioning most employees to remote work. Those changes have almost certainly lowered the agency's greenhouse emissions.

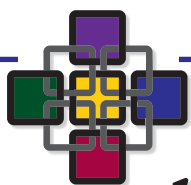
But although the Publishing House hasn't been able to commit to net-zero emissions by 2050, it is actively working on it.

"They have been participating in the trainings and in the conversations," Phillips said. "They are very engaged."

Other agencies, such as the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History, also have unique challenges. Paper files and artifacts need specific climate controls to stay preserved.

"We do rely on energy to maintain exact humidity and temperature controls in

(continued on page 5, see From the Cover: Net Zero)



*Connected
in Christ
Come to the Water*

2022 Annual Conference registration closes May 29

Members of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference have until the end of the month to register for the 183rd session that will be held in person from June 8-10, 2022 at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, 1551 N. Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg, Ill. Registration closes May 29 and a reminder there is no on-site registration. The cost is \$95

[More AC News, Reminders & Safety Guidelines on page 7](#)

Chicago church honors legacy of accessibility

By Anne Marie Gerhardt



Rev. Tom Grey (center) and UCRP members gather outside the church to dedicate the wheelchair ramp completed in September 1979.



A rusty ramp originally built in 1979 is being replaced as part of the church's renovation project.



Current members of United Church of Rogers Park stand cautiously on the deteriorating front steps leading to the church's main entrance. A capital campaign will help create a state-of-the-art front entrance and make the church more accessible and welcoming to all.

The concrete steps leading up to United Church of Rogers Park's (UCRP) front doors are crumbling. An accessible ramp built more than 40 years ago is deteriorating and no longer meets city codes. The front entrance's dilapidation is more than an eyesore, but church leaders say it's a barrier to the church's longstanding mission to be an accessible place for all.

"We believe that making our physical space more accessible and welcoming will have a spiritual impact on our community," said Rev. Hope Chernich, UCRP's co-pastor. "God's grace is made real through the material world. Welcoming our neighbors into a beautiful and accessible space is a testimony of God's love for Rogers Park."

For several years, church leaders have been planning and preparing to find a way to make the repairs. In March 2021, they launched the Uplift Accessibility Campaign to raise \$300,000 to cover the costs.

"The project will create a new state-of-the-art entrance on our southwest corner, build an interior accessible ramp to our library and classroom, and make space for a mechanical lift to take people to our main floor for worship services," said Chernich. "These changes will open much-needed access to our sanctuary and community services."

UCRP has been serving the Rogers Park neighborhood on Chicago's Northside since 1872, and the original three-story building was built at the corner of Morse and Ashland in 1905. The church has been a vital part of the Rogers Park community and has a legacy of being committed to accessibility.

The Rev. Tom Grey served UCRP in the 1970s after it merged with the Congregational congregation and when many city churches were struggling to survive as suburban churches were growing.

"The previous pastor made an assessment that the congregation would not be able to sustain ministry in the building," said Rev. Grey. "But I saw it as a church in a city neighborhood that was just waiting to be used for ministry with the community."

At the time, the building's structure presented many accessibility obstacles, especially for people using a wheelchair, said Sue Davies, who joined the church with her husband in 1974 as a young family just starting out in Rogers Park.

"The church dining room and kitchen were located on the third floor with no elevator access," said Davies, who said while it gave the congregation a view of Lake Michigan, it was difficult to access. "The problem was people had to climb two flights of stairs to get to meeting rooms and three flights of stairs to get to food or coffee."

Another lack of accessibility was getting into the front of the church. A long set of solid concrete steps with no handrails led up to the church entrance. Then, to make matters worse, there was no level way into the Narthex and Sanctuary, Davies added.

Rev. Grey, Sue Davies' husband Tom, and a friend of theirs Tom Hickey, who generously

donated his architectural skills pro bono, (coincidentally, all are named Tom), came together and began making plans, which included a new elevator, wheelchair ramp, and the expansion of the storefront thrift shop.

Rev. Grey said the project was not a hard sell and required no committee meetings because of the three 'Toms' excellent planning and presentation, which the church embraced.

"Once it started, the pieces just started to fall into place," said Grey. "It was a tangible project to say that we are alive and well at 1545 Morris and in ministry to the community we are in."

The construction changes opened doors for many groups to meet and new members to come and worship – and to this day, the building provides a safe haven for the community and physical space to gather. UCRP hosts the Care for Real food pantry, Transformative Law Center, Refugee One, a daycare center, yoga classes, depression groups, AA and NA groups, and more. Ministries include an after-school program, a summer program, a learning garden, Community Feast, the New To You Thrift Shop and inclusive spaces for worship and spiritual growth.

Past meets present needs

More than four decades later, United Church continues its mission of serving the constantly changing Rogers Park neighborhood. Today's leaders say they continue to be inspired and supported by the congregation who had the forethought to make the building accessible to all in the 1970s. In 2022, members of the former congregation donated \$50,000 towards the campaign to honor the initial accessibility work.

UCRP leaders say the donation gave the campaign a great boost and say it's not only a reinvestment in the physical structure of the building but will bear fruit for generations to come.

"(The project) will allow people to enter the building in all seasons of their life," said Rev. Lindsey Joyce, co-pastor at UCRP. "All of us go through seasons of more ability and less ability. If you just had a baby and need a stroller, come into the building recovering from illness or surgery, or are disabled and use a walker or wheelchair, not only are we saying are you welcome and want you in our building – it's actually possible. It's so critically important to who we are."

Rev. Grey, who is retired and living in Washington State, says the congregation's concerns today mirror what he heard when he pastored at UCRP. He believes the Uplift campaign is an investment in the future and says he's happy to see his former church keeping the mission alive.

"Making the building accessible gives you access to your neighborhood, and your building becomes the ministry," said Grey.

The Uplift Accessibility Campaign is close to reaching its goal but still needs to raise the last \$70,000. The committee is looking for individuals or organizations to donate to help complete the project. If you would like to help or learn more, visit ucrogerspark.org/uplift.



Kids Above All Diaper Drive



Date

Kids Above All's annual Diaper Drive continues through May 15. Donate diapers of all sizes and wipes so our parents, caregivers, babies, and toddlers have the essentials they need for a happy and healthy start to their lives together.

To schedule a drop-off time for your donation, Faith and Community Partners can contact our Manager of Faith & Community Relations, Deaconess Catherine Inerra, at 847-224-2870, or at cinserra@kidsaboveall.org.

Donation Drop Off Address:

8765 W. Higgins Rd., Suite 450, Chicago, IL 60631

Times:

Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Camp Sheilah sign-up

Kids Above All's Camp Sheilah Program, an annual bereavement camp founded by the Sheilah A. Doyle Foundation in 2011, helps children ages 7-17, whose parent, legal guardian or sibling have been victims of homicide, on their healing journey.

Campers who attend the three-day event participate in fun activities like rock climbing and zip lining that challenge them to do things that they normally wouldn't do, building resilience and helping them learn how to navigate difficult situations. They also take part in small group discussions and art therapy to help them remember and honor their family member, as well as assist them in working through the trauma they've experienced.

In-Person Camp Dates:

Fri., Sept. 9 – 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Sat., Sept. 10 – 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Sun., Sept. 11 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

-Free to All Participants

If you're interested in registering a child as a camper*, contact Jeri Laureano at jlaureano@kidsaboveall.org, or visit kidsaboveall.org/camp.

*Youth eligible to participate must be between the ages of 7-17 and have experienced the loss of a parent, sibling, or legal guardian to homicide.

Camp Sheilah volunteers needed

Volunteers empower young people by supporting them throughout their healing journeys.

Orientation Dates: In Person

Volunteers are only required to attend ONE of these two orientation dates.

- June 18, 2022
- July 16, 2022

Volunteer Schedule

Fri., Sept. 9, 2022 - Sun., Sept. 11, 2022

To sign up as a volunteer at this year's Camp Sheilah, please visit kidsaboveall.campintouch.com/ui/forms/application/staff/App.

For more information, please contact Angie Hernandez at 312-468-7502, or at ahernandez@kidsaboveall.org.

United Methodist Association of Communicators



Northern Illinois Conference Communications wins three peer awards

The NIC Communications team took home three awards from the United Methodist Association of Communicator's Virtual Awards Gala on March 31 with the theme "Embrace Faith," which acknowledged the challenges the pandemic created as communicators embraced new technologies, working environments and complex rules, while still embracing the faith they're called to communicate.

Awards:

- **First Place in Print Publications in the Newspaper Category** for the Reporter. Look at issues at umcnic.org/Reporter. Judge said "nice use of type and color."
- **Second Place in Video News Story Category** for NIC News Today with Liz Gracie and Myron F. McCoy. Judges said they "loved the concept." Watch the video at vimeo.com/577697818.
- **First Place in the Photojournalism Category** for 2021 Social Distancing Ordination Service photo, which was the cover photo in the May 2021 Reporter.

So many talented and amazing communicators across the denomination are also deserving of accolades and have worked so hard, especially during the last two years during the pandemic. Congratulate and read a list of all the winners at umcommunicators.org.



Lay Leader Letters: Easter is not over yet!

By Eugene Williams, NIC Co-Lay Leader

What a blessing to experience another season of Lent and Eastertide. The 40 days journey plus the seven Sundays which is each a mini-Easter themselves, is always fulfilling.

Yes, 47 days to renew our baptismal covenant so we can move even closer to the cross. We've celebrated Lent, Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Resurrection Sunday (and soon the Day of Pentecost).

But as Easter People, we can never relax in our work for the Lord because Satan never, ever takes a vacation. And as we bask in the warm glow of those 47 days of the Easter season, we are to be reminded that we are still in the early stages of the Eastertide Season.

Sisters and Brothers in Christ, Easter is not over! The Eastertide Season is really only fully consummated in the book of Revelation. So we must continue to read His word, pray, repent, forgive and love one another just as Christ loves us. There is no need to look in the tomb, for you will not find Him there! For He has risen! He has risen indeed! Let us stay on mission just like Christ did, because only what we do for Christ will last. With the storms of life raging around us, we must be very sure that we have an anchor that grips a solid rock. Jesus Christ is the solid rock upon which we can build our faith.

Your Co-Lay Leaders, Connie Augsburger, Mark Manzi, myself; and the entire Board of Laity encourage you to continue to engage in the life of your church; working with our clergy partners through prayer, worship, small groups, and service to our greater communities. Please let us know how we can be a resource to you on your walk of faith as we prepare for and await His triumphant return. Blessings to all.



Full communion plans with Episcopalians on hold

By Heather Hahn*

The third postponement of The United Methodist Church's legislative assembly not only has disrupted plans for a formal denominational separation but also for an interdenominational accord.

With so much uncertainty within the United Methodist fold, a proposed full-communion partnership between the denomination and The Episcopal Church remains on hold. The Episcopal Church has no plans to vote on full communion when it gathers for its General Convention this July in Baltimore.

Instead, Episcopalians are considering a resolution that commends the ongoing work of the Episcopal Church-United Methodist Dialogue Committee and its proposal for full communion, "A Gift to the World, Co-Laborers for the Healing of Brokenness."

Ecumenical leaders in both denominations agree: United Methodists should be the first to vote on the proposal itself.

"It was viewed as appropriate that the future direction of the UMC be clarified and hence its attitude toward the full-communion agreement be decided before it was voted on by The Episcopal Church's General Convention," said David N. Field, ecumenical staff officer for the United Methodist Council of Bishops.

Field added that significant parts of The Episcopal Church would not support full communion if United Methodist bans on same-sex weddings and "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy remain in effect.

Rising debate and defiance of those bans has led to multiple submissions to the coming General Conference for some kind of separation. But with The United Methodist Church's top legislative assembly now postponed until 2024, a theologically conservative group that seeks to maintain those restrictions has decided not to wait for General Conference action. The group moved up the launch date of a breakaway denomination, the Global Methodist Church, to May 1. Whatever comes next will take some time to shake out. The United Methodist Church has a method for most things, including disaffiliations.

The General Conference postponement also has delayed consideration of the proposed Christmas Covenant — legislation that would give more autonomy to different regions of The United Methodist Church and potentially leave questions related to LGBTQ ministry up to each region.

What The United Methodist Church will look like in the next few years remains to be seen.

Field noted that it will be up to the Global Methodist Church to develop its own ecumenical relations in accordance with its teachings.

The Rev. Margaret Rose, deputy for ecumenical and interreligious relations for The Episcopal Church, told Episcopal News Service that any plan for full communion would be with the portion of The United Methodist Church that is LGBTQ-affirming. For now, she sees The Episcopal Church's resolution submitted to this summer's General Convention as an assurance to those United Methodists "that we want to continue in the struggle for justice with you."

As it stands, the proposal for full communion between Episcopalians and United Methodists makes no mention of LGBTQ inclusion. The document describes itself as "an effort to bring our churches into closer partnership in mission and witness to the love of God and thus labor together for the healing of divisions among Christians and for the well-being of all." Full communion is not a merger where denominations become one, such as what happened when The United Methodist Church formed in 1968.

Rather, full communion means each church acknowledges the other as a partner in the Christian faith, recognizes the validity of each other's baptism and Eucharist, and commits to work together in ministry. Such an agreement also means Episcopalians and United Methodists can share clergy.

The United Methodist Church already has full-communion agreements with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Uniting Church in Sweden, five historically Black Pan-Methodist denominations and the Moravian Church in North America. Each of these full-communion partners has varied teachings related to homosexuality. The United Methodist-Episcopal dialogue, which dates to 2002, aims at drawing together two churches with historic ties to John Wesley's Church of England.

A full-communion agreement between the two also would complete a sort of ecumenical square. Like United Methodists, Episcopalians already have full communion with the Lutherans and Moravians. The only line missing in this church quadrangle is between the two denominations with arguably the most shared heritage.

The two churches owe their separation less to theological differences than to the disruption of the American Revolution. John Wesley remained a Church of England priest until the end of his days. But in the aftermath of the war, he took the momentous step of appointing clergy leaders to serve in the new nation just as many Church of England priests in the U.S. were heading to Britain. Wesley's efforts led to the 1784 birth of a new U.S. denomination that eventually would become The United Methodist Church, with nearly 13 million

members across four continents.

The Episcopal Church, which retains its close ties to the Church of England, officially got started in the U.S. five years later. Today, The Episcopal Church has about 1.8 million members — mostly in the United States but also in the Caribbean and parts of Latin America.

At this point, there is no set timeline for when each denomination's ecumenical leaders expect to see full communion finally approved. The Episcopal Church's General Convention typically meets every three years and the United Methodist General Conference typically meets every four. The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown off the schedules of both big meetings.

The United Methodist Council of Bishops submitted the proposed full-communion agreement to the coming General Conference, then scheduled for 2020. What legislation will still be before the postponed General Conference, now set for 2024, remains uncertain.

But even amid uncertainty, ministry continues. That includes opportunities for United Methodists and Episcopalians to cooperate more fully in serving God and neighbor.

"We would encourage local UMC congregations and annual conferences to continue to develop and deepen relationships with their Episcopal counterparts in this interim," Field said. "We are planning to continue our dialogue discussions with our Episcopal counterparts to deepen our relationships and plan for the future in the time between now and GC2024."

*Hahn is a multimedia news reporter for United Methodist News.



United Methodist Bishop Gregory Palmer (right) and The Episcopal Church's presiding bishop, Michael Curry, discuss full communion between the two denominations in 2019. The proposed agreement is on hold for now after the postponement of the United Methodist General Conference to 2024. File screenshot from video courtesy of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church.

From the Cover: Net Zero

order to preserve our repository, but also we do not actually own our building," said Ashley Boggan Dreff, chief executive. The commission is located on the campus of Drew University in Madison, New Jersey.

"This year, Drew is installing a new (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) and humidity control system, which should be more energy efficient," Dreff said. "We're continually working with our board and Drew to come up with creative ways to offset our carbon footprint while ensuring that our disciplinary mandate of preservation is met."

Abruptly cutting off the use of fossil fuels at Global Ministries-supported medical facilities, which are all over the world, would be catastrophic.

"I don't, for example, want to say, 'Well, we're no longer going to provide fuel for our health care facilities,'" Phillips said. "We want to cut

emissions, but that's not an OK solution for reducing emissions."

Instead, she said, the Global Ministries brain trust is thinking long-term by assessing energy needs and current energy sources of some of the hospitals and clinics in Africa and elsewhere.

"We're ... then developing a longer-term strategy for how we're going to address those energy needs sustainably," she added.

Staff from United Methodist Global Ministries, Church and Society, Higher Education and Ministry, Communications, United Women in Faith and Wespath Benefits and Investments form the core team working on the net-zero project. There is an open invitation to other agency representatives who wish to participate.

Business travel, which was curtailed significantly during the pandemic, is a concern as annual events return to their

normal schedules.

"We're in deep discussion about ... how do we balance the missional needs for human contact and human relationship with the missional needs related to ensuring the flourishing of a healthy Earth for the church of the future," Phillips said.

While the climate crisis needs to be handled as an urgent manner, other needs have to be part of the equation, she said.

"We need to move quickly (to reach net-zero status by 2050), but we also are dealing with people in crisis right now and working to alleviate suffering right now.

"We've got to really walk that path very carefully. ... So I want you to know, we're earnest in that."

For more information, visit resourceumc.org/net-zero-commitment.

*Patterson is a UM News reporter in Nashville, Tennessee.



Northern Illinois Conference Net-Zero Summit

Sept. 10, 2022 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: Euclid Avenue UMC, Oak Park, IL
Sponsored by Wespath and Global Ministries

The event will include:

- Welcome from Bishop John Hopkins
- Panel on the United Methodist interagency net-zero emission commitment with Jake Barnett, Director of Sustainable Investment Stewardship at Wespath and Rev. Jenny Phillips, Senior Technical Advisor for Environmental Sustainability at Global Ministries
- Solar and geothermal tours
- Resource tables
- Lunch and fellowship

Register to attend in person or virtually at umcnic.org/calendar/net-zero-summit.

For questions, email Richard Alton at richard.alton@gmail.com or Rev. Nancy Blade at harvestlove2day@gmail.com, Northern Illinois Conference Co-Chairs, Eco-Sustainability Task Force.

Missionaries return for first-time visit

United Methodist Global Missionaries are encouraged to itinerate in their home annual conference every three years to visit local churches in person, but the pandemic put a hold on global travel plans for most of them.

NIC Missionaries Rev. Kyeong-Ah Woo and Rev. Jin Yang Kim, who are serving the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva, Switzerland, hadn't been back to Northern Illinois since they were commissioned in 2017, but they finally got the opportunity to return for a visit this Easter.

"We had a full two months of itineration planned in 2020, but it was not only postponed by cancelled (because of the pandemic)," said Rev. Woo. "This time is a limited itineration. We could only come for two weeks while our son Micah was on Easter break from school."

The main purpose of an itineration is to update churches on the missionary's work and ask for prayers and support. While this was a short trip home, Rev. Woo and Rev. Kim squeezed in several stops around the conference and caught up with friends they hadn't seen in five years.

"On Easter, we shared our mission work to the Sunday school class at Community UMC in Naperville," said Rev. Woo, who also preached at Wesley UMC in Sterling and Rev. Kim preached at Grace UMC in Dixon. They also had the chance to meet and catch up with the Korean clergy caucus.

The Rev. Hwa-Young Chong, lead pastor of Community UMC, said she feels it's important for the congregation to hear from NIC missionaries and was thankful to welcome Rev. Woo and Rev. Kim to share more about the WCC and the importance of ecumenical relationships.

"Both Rev. Woo and Rev. Kim shared powerful stories of world mission," said Rev. Chong. "Their commitment to justice and peace ministries was especially powerful. The congregation was deeply appreciative of their presence and witness."

While working with the WCC, Rev. Woo continues her work as the Coordinator of the World Mission and Evangelism. Rev. Kim continues his work on peace and justice issues, specifically the reunification of the Korean peninsula.

"One of my particular tasks is to organize pilgrim team visits which involve going to the most vulnerable places in the world where people

are hurting and where nature is suffering," said Rev. Kim. "I've been organizing the pilgrim team visits to the most conflict countries, including Nigeria, South Sudan, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia, the Korean Peninsula, and to the most marginalized communities."

The couple is also busy organizing and planning for the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches that will take place in Karlsruhe, Germany, from August 31 to September 8, 2022, under the theme "Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity."

As a Global Missionary, Rev. Woo says her global view has changed in the last five years. "Even though we intentionally try to include all those people who are suffering in other parts of the world in our prayers, they can seem far away," said Woo. "But now I can empathize more directly and see the importance of connectedness. We are all connected as one. When one suffers, we all suffer. I want to continue to promote that connection with local churches."

Rev. Kim says his concept of mission has changed from being "for" the people to "with" the people. "John Wesley said the 'world is my parish', and that's more than going out from the church, but Wesley was saying that we should go out and live with the people."

The couple's work permit has been extended, and they plan to be in Switzerland until 2023.

If you would like to support NIC missionaries, you can give through the Advance. You can pay online at umcnic.org/missionlinks or send a check with Advance #3022322 (Rev. Jin Yang Kim) and #3022319 (Rev. Kyeong-Ah Woo), to Northern Illinois Conference, PO Box 5646, Carol Stream, IL 60197-5646.

#Stillinmission

Global Ministries held virtual itineration through a series of #Stillinmission monthly Zoom meetings to hear first-hand how missionaries are still deeply engaged in sharing God's love in partnership with communities around the world. Rev. Woo was featured April 7, and Rev. Kim will be featured, June 2 at 1 p.m. For more information and to register, visit umcmmission.org/stillinmission.



Rev. Jin Yang Kim, Rev. Kyeong-Ah Woo, and their son Micah, visit with Rev. Arlene Christopherson at the NIC Chicago office on April 20. This was their first itineration back home in the U.S. since being commissioned as Global Missionaries serving in Geneva, Switzerland in 2017.



Annual Conference Mission Challenge

Help fill the truck with donations for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) at Annual Conference. The NIC Board of Global Ministries is collecting for MMDC's most needed items:

- Liquid Laundry Detergent - 32-64 oz.
- Liquid Household Cleaner - 16-40 oz.
- Liquid Dish Soap - 14-32 oz.
- Blankets - Can Be Gently Used
- Toothpaste - 2.5 oz. or larger
- Rulers (12" long with metric)
- Colored Pencils (12 pack)
- Scissors (student size)

Bring your donations to the truck that will be parked at the Schaumburg Convention Center on June 8 and 9. For more information, visit umcnic.org/2022MissionChallenge.



SPECIAL SUNDAY

PEACE WITH JUSTICE

"Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

—ROMANS 5:1, NRSV



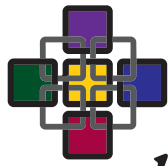
Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church

June 12, 2022

We celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday as witnesses to God's demand for a faithful, just, disarmed and secure world. Half of the donations remain in the local annual conference for social justice ministries.

Find resources at umc.org/pwjs.





Connected in Christ

Come to the Water

Registration closes May 29

While the Annual Conference committee will continue to monitor COVID-19 cases, they've set health and safety guidelines according to state, county and local, including vaccination requirements to keep the protection of attendees a top priority. The guidelines may be found at umcnic.org/AC2022.

Details and Reminders:

Legislation and documents posted online May 6.

Clergy Session/Day Apart (in person):

May 24 starting at 9 a.m. and will include lunch. Registration is included in the Annual Conference registration.

Location: New Lenox UMC, 339 W. Haven Ave. New Lenox, IL 60451

Virtual pre-conference briefings:

June 1 at 10:00 a.m.
June 2 at 7:00 p.m.
(Choose one to attend)

Laity Session:

June 8 at 11 a.m.
Location: Schaumburg Convention Center

Legislative Sections

June 8 at 7 p.m.

Bible Study with Rev. Jane Easley

June 9 - 1:30 p.m.
June 10 - 8:30 a.m.

Volunteer Opportunities:

If you would like to help as an usher, plenary page, greeter, secretarial pool member, set up and clean up, and other ways to make Annual Conference run smoothly and efficiently, please contact Laura Lopez, Events Administrator, at llopez@umcnic.org.

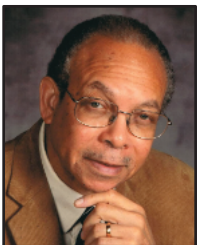
Worship Schedule:

Memorial Service - June 8 at 1:30 p.m.
Retirement Service - June 9 at 8:45 a.m.
Ordination Service - June 10 at 1:30 p.m.

For updates, visit umcnic.org/AC2022.

**Times and agenda subject to change*

Ordination Service



Bishop Jonathan Keaton

Bible Study Leader



Rev. Jane Easley

Worship Leader



Rev. Addison Shields

Music Coordinator



Rev. Dr. Tercio B. Junker

Calendar Events May - August

22 May: Asian/Pacific Heritage Month Celebration



A time to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage and raise awareness of Anti-Asian violence

Worship and Program: 4-6 p.m.

Dinner: 6 p.m.

Location: First Korean UMC,
655 East Hintz Rd., Wheeling, IL 60090

No cost.

Register at:

umcnic.org/calendar/asian-pacific-american-heritage-month.

This event is in partnership with the Northern Illinois Conference Fellowship of Asian American caucus and the ACST Anti-Racism Task Force.

23 June: Unafraid: Stand up for social justice

Time: 12 - 1:30 p.m. (CT) via Zoom

Part of the NIC Speaker Series program. Representatives from different conferences discuss what the local church and their conferences are doing to address racism.

Speakers: Rev. Derrek Belase, Rev. David Lagos-Fonseca, Rev. Dana Neuhasuer, Rev. Brian Tillman, & Rev. Kathy L. Williams. Moderator: Pamela Pirtle.

Find registration for this event and future programs at umcnic.org/2022SpeakerSeries.

"Race, America, and the Church"



Unafraid and Unashamed to Tackle It!

A Speaker Series on the History, Causes, and Effects of Racism and the Role of the Church in America

19 August: Summer Mission u



Who Can We Be Together?

Building Communities of Hope and Joy

Hybrid event

Great news— COMMUNITY is God's desire for us! Please join the Northern Illinois United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) at Mission u 2022 to reflect on the community that Jesus is calling us to be!

This year, the study will focus on Luke 13. In the midst of a devastating pandemic, divisive political climate, unaddressed systemic racism, ecological crises and economic turmoil, we turn to the stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities for two millennia.

Our hope is that we will leave Mission u with a bigger and broader vision of the community Christ is calling us to be in times of loss, grief and massive disruption. What would be possible if we tend to the needs of our communities in small yet radical ways, as Jesus did in Luke 13?

Our newly designed Mission u 2022 is more flexible and intergenerational than ever— with curricula for youth, children and adults.

Watch for further details at umwunic.org.



United Women in Faith

NIC Outdoor and Retreat Ministries Summer Update



Good News...staff are back on-site after seasonal layoffs due to the pandemic and several summer camps are scheduled for 2022!

- J.O.Y Camp - Camp Reynoldswood 6/19 - 6/24
- Family Camp - Multi-generational - Wesley Woods Retreat Center 7/03 - 7/08
- Woodland Camp - Camp Reynoldswood 7/24 - 7/29

For pricing and registration, visit niccamp.org/summercamps.

Lifeguards Needed

Both camps are hiring lifeguards for the season. If interested, visit niccamp.org/employment.





DYK #BeUMC

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

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine." I have great memories of sitting in those tiny green chairs at a small table in the kindergarten room at my home church. We would all shout "NO" when we came to the phrase "hide it under a bushel, NO, I'm going to let it shine."

The more we sang, the louder we would shout until one day, the upper-grade teacher came in to tell us we must quiet down. The unabashed passion for faith in the shouts of a 5-year-old reminds us of the joy and love of God among us.

We shine our light as United Methodists in so many ways: Disciple Making, Belonging and Inclusion, Influence, Connection, Impact, and Experience of God through the UMC.

I know so many strong, faithful, deeply rooted United Methodists who love God, their church and the witness they offer. At times, we are missing an understanding of "How" we talk about our faith, our church, and our work. We more often need to channel a 5-year-old's passion. We need to stop hiding our light under a bushel so that the light can shine into our hearts, our homes and our community.

To help us better learn how to talk about faith and

witness, justice and connection – United Methodist Communications has launched a campaign called #BeUMC. The campaign introduces us to four pillars of our denomination. Within those pillars, we live out core values that inform our faith, our discipleship and the work of our church.

- Disciple Making – Christ-centered, deeply rooted, disciple-making, faithful and grounded in Scripture
- Belonging and Inclusion – Diverse, justice-seeking, resilient and welcoming
- Influence, Connection, Impact – missional, connected, world-changing and generous
- Experience of God through the UMC – committed, grace-filled, Jesus-seeking, praying and Spirit-filled

Reread these core values and see where they resonate for you. How do you give witness to Jesus' love and grace, and where does your light shine? You may not resonate with all 18 core values, but some may pop out and rise to the top of your personal list. As you think about your congregation, where do you see your church shining a light, and what values are you living out.

Once you identify your passionate places of witness and faith, I invite you to think about how your light

shines with those values. This is the heart and the core of our Wesleyan tradition, our United Methodist faith, and our reach into the world.

I was first drawn into the United Methodist Church after college through "Belonging" and "Inclusion." I found the diverse, justice-seeking, resilient, welcoming community of the UMC a place where I could grow and flourish, where I could explore God's call upon my life and feel supported. I stumbled over some traditions and practices – an open table for communion? That was mind-boggling. Yet, those differences taught me about an expansive God who welcomes all, a God I grew to love through the church's inclusion.

Almost 40 years later, I do not regret my choice. I have grown with the church and committed myself to living a grace-filled life of faith and witness. "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine."

Where are you celebrating your faith, your church? Where are you shining your light today? Share your story with the hashtag #BeUMC.

Churches can access tools and messaging at ResourceUMC.org/BeUMC.



April 2022 Clergy Appointments and Retirements

Bishop John L. Hopkins announces the following clergy appointments and retirements for the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church, effective July 1, 2022 (unless otherwise noted):

Andrea Davidson (Full Elder from another conference) to Chicago: Kelly Woodlawn (Lake South District) from Chicago: Hartzell Memorial (Lake South District). Andrea follows Michelle Taylor Sanders who will be retiring.

Cheri Magrini (Full Deacon) to retirement from Personal Leave of Absence. Cheryl became a Provisional Member in 2002 and a Full Deacon in 2005. During her ministry she served at Northbrook: North Northfield, Glenview, Chicago: First (Temple), Bi-Polar Support Alliance Chicago Loop Chapter (President), and Woodland Spiritual Retreats for Women in Ministry, Woodstock, IL.

Gerardo Rodriguez (District Superintendent Supply) to Chicago: Emanuel (Lake North District). Gerardo follows Audrey Rochet who will be appointed to Rockford: Grace (Prairie North District)

Deborah Kang (Full Elder) to Caroll Stream: St. Andrews (Prairie Central District) from Morris: First Associate (Prairie South District). Deborah follows Michael Mann who is appointed to Lombard: First (Prairie Central District).

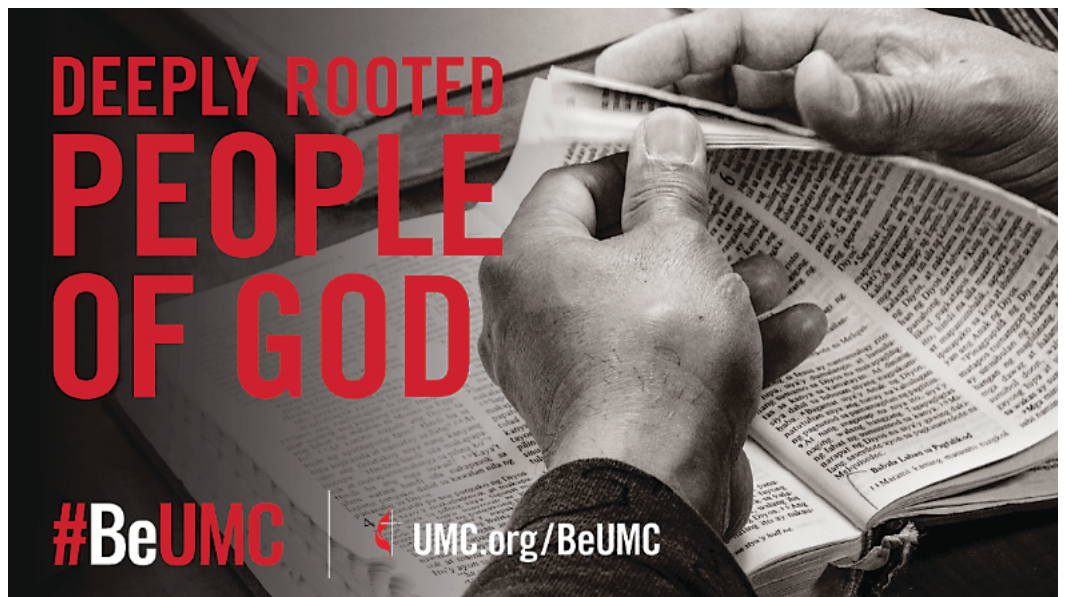
Juan Pablo Herrera (Licensed Local Pastor) to Chicago: Urban Village Church (Lake North District) from Melrose Park: Cosmopolitan (Lake North District). Juan Pablo follows Hannah Kardon who is appointed to a Sabbatical.

Jake Cho (Licensed Local Pastor) to Highland Park: Galilee Korean (Lake North District) from Waterman (Prairie South District). Jake follows Mosung Eam who is leaving ministry.

Siegfried Schwirblat (Licensed Local Pastor) to Rock Falls (Prairie South District) from Orangeville (Prairie North District). Siegfried follows Jin-Hee Kang who is moving to Galena (Prairie North District)

Deanna Mede (Licensed Local Pastor) to Kirkland (Prairie North District) from Rockford: Christ Associate (Prairie North District). Dee follows Jenny Weber who moves to full-time extension ministry at New Morning Retreat Center.

Sang Hun Han (Full Elder) to Schaumburg: Salem Korean (Prairie Central District) from Addison: Good Samaritan (Prairie Central District). Sang Hun follows Theddeus J. Kim.



The NIC Communications office has published part of the 2022 special insert explaining apportionments (asignaciones) translated in Spanish thanks to Prairie North District Superintendent Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer.

"Le invito a que comparta esta información con miembros y líderes de sus iglesias. Somos una iglesia conexional. Nos apoyamos y nos necesitamos los unos con los otros."

"I invite you to share this information with members and leaders of your churches. We are a connectional church. We support and need each other," said Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer.

To download the flyer, visit umcnic.org/apportionments.

ASIGNACIONES

Las asignaciones nos permiten hacer juntos lo que ninguna iglesia, distrito o conferencia anual podría hacer por sí solo.

MAS INFORMACIÓN EN UMCNIC.ORG/APPORTIONMENTS



Job Openings

For the latest job openings in the Northern Illinois Conference and across the connection, 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.

Submissions

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 the Communications staff.

How to Contact Us

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