

180th Annual Conference honors past, looks to future

By Anne Marie Gerhardt, NIC Dir. of Communications



2020 General and Jurisdictional Delegation. From left-right: Lonnie Chafin, Luis F. Reyes, Jacques A. Conway, Gregory Gross, Nadia R. Kanhai, Adrian Hill, Alka Lyall, Nancy Pendergrass, Rita L. Smith, Mark Manzi, Jessie Cunningham, Rachel Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, Britt Cox, Brian Gilbert. (Not pictured: Hwa-Young Chong and Ronnie Lyall)



The West African Sankofa is a mythical bird from a tribe in Ghana and the word means "to go back and fetch it."



The 2019 Northern Illinois Annual Conference wrapped up June 4 at the Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel and Convention Center in Schaumburg, Ill., after two and a half days of worship, business, voting (and more voting), celebrating anniversaries, fellowship, speakers, and Bible study with more than 900 clergy and lay members participating.

While the theme "Back to the Future" helped us reminisce about our 180-year history, much of the conversation and legislation focused on moving forward and what's next for The United Methodist Church and our annual conference.

Presiding Bishop Sally Dyck began her Episcopal address with a question, "Back to the Future... Who do we want to be?" Dyck referenced the 1980s science fiction movie starring Michael J. Fox as Marty McFly, who is accidentally sent 30 years in the past in a time-traveling DeLorean and meets his teenage future parents with the potential of changing history.

"The movie 'fixes' the past so that the present is made perfect," said Dyck. "Maybe many of us in the church and

in society, as well as in our personal lives, think it might be a great thing to be able to 'fix' the past so that the present and even the future will be better than it seems."

Dyck said a lot has happened since the last annual conference gathering. "Uncertainty about who we will be as an annual conference and even a denomination continues to hang over us," she said. "Short of a time machine, particularly an ecclesiological time machine, we can't fix the past...but we can reclaim our future when we understand our history in order to be clear about just who we are and want to be as followers of Jesus."

The Annual Conference worship team steered away from the DeLorean car as an image for the gathering and instead chose the West African Sankofa. The Sankofa is a mythical bird from a tribe in Ghana. The word 'sankofa' literally means "to go back and fetch it." The egg in its mouth symbolizes that future of potential.

"We often have to go back to the place where we lost our way or our identity in order to regain/fetch who we have been at our best. Then we can go forward, knowing who we are," said Dyck. "I think the Sankofa is a beautiful image of

what our task is at this point in history as the UMC and the NIC. This is a perfect year for us as an annual conference to look back in order to fly forward."

Retiring Bishop Wayne N. Miller of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church Association (ELCA), returned as an ecumenical guest for the fourth time and recognized The United Methodist Church's current struggles. The ELCA adopted an inclusion policy on sexual orientation in 2009 after 20 years of debate and angst. "As you work through your present turmoil, I offer you encouragement to remember who you are and whose you are," said Miller. "Hold that we are accountable as new creations in Christ Jesus to live lives that manifest the fruits of the spirit...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, generosity, and self-control."

Bishop John Schol from the Greater New Jersey Conference delivered the message during the Memorial Service remembering and honoring the legacies of pastors, spouses, and lay members who have gone on before us.

He also used the opportunity to speak about the future

continued on page 3, see From the Cover: 180th AC

INSIDE THE ISSUE



Bishop's Episcopal Address
... 2



Celebrating our Retirees
... 8 - 9



Mission Truck Filled
... 4



Music to Philippines
... 7

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BISHOP DYCK'S EPISCOPAL ADDRESS: *Back to the Future: Where do we want to be?*

I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back . . .
~ **Philippians 3:14 (The Message)**

Some of you may remember the movie, *Back to the Future*, a science fiction film from 1985, starring Michael J. Fox who plays Marty McFly. The year is 1985 and his parents are unhappy as is Marty. His father is bullied by his boss; his mother is overweight, depressed and alcoholic; his life is miserable. Marty meets an eccentric inventor who has built a time machine out of a modified DeLorean car. Stuff happens and Marty accidentally sends himself back to 1955, where he meets his future parents, and ultimately gets them together. His efforts change history so that when he is finally returned to 1985 (after many misadventures), his parents are successful, fit and happy. And everyone lives happily ever after...until the sequel.

The movie, *Back to the Future*, “fixes” the past so that the present is made perfect. Maybe many of us here, in the church and in society as well as in our personal lives, think it might be a great thing to be able to “fix” the past so that the present and even the future will be better than it seems from this vantage point. So much has happened since we last gathered as an annual conference. Uncertainty about who we will be as an annual conference and even a denomination continues to hang over us.

Short of a time machine, particularly an ecclesiological time machine, we can't fix the past...but we can reclaim our future when we understand our history in order to be clear about just who we are. The image that we have for this annual conference year isn't that of a DeLorean car but the West African sankofa.

The sankofa is a mythic bird from a tribe in Ghana. It literally means “to return (to the past) to look, seek and fetch” that which is at risk of being left behind. The sankofa flies forward (into the future) while looking backward (at who it has been in the past) with an egg in its mouth (symbolizing that future of potential).

We often have to go back to the place where we lost our way or our identity in order to regain/fetch who we have been at our best. Then we can go forward, knowing who we are.

I think the sankofa is a beautiful image of what our task is at this point in history as the UMC and the NIC!

Studies indicate that if leaders spend time looking back at their history, what made them who they are, they do a better job of looking forward into the future. In fact, looking back allows an organization to look farther ahead than if you don't consider who you've been.

We have been and are an annual conference who has sought to be more inclusive of others, often ahead of what was happening in the church at large. We have not done all these things perfectly. At times this conference has rushed out there with enthusiasm without a sensitivity to what is needed in a more diverse and inclusive church. We have had to grow in our cultural competence related to others. We have hurt others and been hurt ourselves. Lord, have mercy upon us, but I have to give it to you: at least even in our blunders, we have sought to love kindness, do justice and (most of the time) walk humbly with our God.

This will be yet another critical year in the life of this annual conference and the denomination. The question that we will need to ask over and over again is: Who will we be?

Something significantly shifted when the Traditional Plan was approved. As I've said before, it wasn't just the affirmation of traditional marriage—i.e. a man and a

woman—it was the punitive and untraditional penalties toward those of us who differ with equally deeply-held beliefs based on scripture, reason, tradition and experience around human sexuality.

We have as a church lived under one tent, albeit not without tension. But we've been like any family on a camping trip in one tent with some shouting and struggling, but nevertheless when the rain pours and the bears circle, we have always come together as one church in mission and outreach. As I have always said, if you're a conservative church, be a fruitful conservative church. If you're a progressive church, be a fruitful progressive church! We need more points of entry into a message and community of Christ's love and grace, not fewer!

As you may know, all kinds of conversations are going on throughout the U.S and central conferences about developing “a new form of unity” that is based on our roots of Methodism but not linked in polity or at least polity related to human sexuality. Persons from NIC have been a part of those conversations.

At this point, my vision/hope is that there's a plan for affiliation. An annual conference would decide if it wanted to affiliate as the UMC under the Traditional Plan, or for instance, another affiliation like the Simple Plan. If an individual local church in an annual conference didn't want to be in the affiliation that its annual conference decided, it could join another annual conference which affiliated another way. But conversations are only beginning and there are as of now no solid proposals.

As we discern the future together, another question is raised: how will we be with each other? This is of critical importance; how we are with each other says as much about who we are as anything else! Some of us will resist the Traditional Plan and others will want to insist that it be fully enforced. Since once again it does not yet appear what we shall be, I encourage us to allow everyone to get to the future intact. Let's not be a police state where colleagues and parishioners grow in distrust of each other; this only serves to diminish our mission. Let's not unduly provoke one another but instead let us do no harm! As it says in Hebrews 10:24: “let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.”

There is much to do this year as an annual conference. But in the meantime, there are people who need us to be in ministry and mission. Some of them care about our stance on human sexuality but many don't, especially those who are hungry, homeless, flooded or burned out of their homes, or dying from preventable diseases, addiction, or suffering from incarceration, violence, warfare or gun violence. We cannot take our eyes off the goal of caring for our neighbors!

The Annual Conference Shepherding Team (ACST) presented three strategic goals identified as essential in making vital churches that can impact vital communities. The first goal that all local churches need to address in some new ways is to grow in discipleship, practicing the spiritual disciplines of our faith. We can't have vital churches that impact vital communities if we don't have vital Christians who are growing in their faith, able to articulate and share their faith, and seek to live as followers of Jesus in these challenging times.

A second strategic goal is to live into the conviction that racism is truly incompatible with Christian teaching. How are we as followers of Jesus repenting for and turning from racism which is called the “original sin” of America? How are we “spreading scriptural holiness throughout the land” as John Wesley commissioned us to do, specifically in the communities where we live? His definition of spreading scriptural holiness was to grow

in love of God and our neighbor; no matter who that neighbor is!

And the third strategic goal addresses our capacity and sustainability as local churches and an annual conference. Friends, our financial capacity and sustainability as an annual conference is vulnerable, starting with many of our local churches. All of these strategic goals, if embraced by all local churches with help and resources from the districts and annual conference, will make us strong and vital Christians, with strong and vital congregations, that make us a strong and vital annual conference. There is no magic pill that does this work; it's the work of every United Methodist and local church with the help of the District Shepherding Teams and ACST.

Furthermore, this is not the time to weaken our local churches or the annual conference in our response to GC19. In our strength we will have more options as the denomination itself continues to find a way forward into the future.

We have much to do this year! We will undoubtedly have gatherings to discuss who we want to be, including at our special Annual Conference session on November 16.

Visit www.umcnic.org/2019acresources for the full text.

Commemorating 180 Years of Ministry

- 1825** Jesse Walker appointed missionary to Pottawatomini Indians
- 1839** Organization of Methodist Protestant Church, Evangelical Association Church, and United Brethren Church
- 1840** Rock River Conference established with 26 charges and 7 church buildings
- 1845** Rock River Conference takes a firm stance against slavery
- 1853** Garrett Biblical Institute, the first Methodist seminary in the Midwest, established. Later becomes Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
- 1852** Two German districts from Iowa and Wisconsin assigned to Rock River Conference
- 1869** Chicago District of Lexington Conference began organizing as a separate conference for black Methodists
- 1888** Rock River Conference members vote for Miss Frances Willard as a lay delegate to General Conference
- 1920s** Charles A. Parkin begins NIC's first Hispanic ministry
- 1923** Rev. Change Joon Kim holds NIC's first Korean language worship service and First Korean UMC established
- 1926** Good Shepherd becomes NIC's first Hispanic ministry
- 1933** Merger of all “language conferences” begins
- 1939** Racially determined Central Jurisdiction created
- 1944** NIC Committee on Status of Women formed
- 1956** General Conference votes for dissolution of Central Jurisdiction and full ordination rights for women
- 1965** Legislation passed to permit Lexington Conference to merge with NC Jurisdiction.
- 1968** Northern Illinois Conference officially created by name
- 1969** Black Caucus recognized as program area
- 1976** Edsel Ammons becomes one of the first African American bishops elected by North Central Jurisdiction from the NIC
- 1984** Wheadon UMC (Evanston) becomes NIC's first Reconciling Church
- 2004** Hee-Soo Jung becomes NIC's first ethnic bishop
- 2012** Sally Dyck becomes NIC's first woman bishop

**This timeline was designed to be thematic touching on topics that continue to point to the diverse work we are doing as an annual conference and is not intended as a detailed history.*

In cooperation with Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary's Styberg Library, the NIC Committee on Archives and History has digitized the nearly 400-page typescript of the Rock River Conference Journals from 1840-1852 into searchable pdfs. To read, visit www.umcnic.org/historyarchives.



Gary Rand and The Many Band lead the music for each worship services for a second year.



Clergy line up for the procession into the Ordination and Commissioning Service, which opened the 2019 Annual Conference.



Rev. Dennis Oglesby, Jr. shares the impact of the Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) in the NIC over the last 50 years.



Wespath leads participants in a stretch break following several rounds of voting.



of The United Methodist Church. "God wants to make us whole again but it won't be by fixing it. We're not going to change a few disciplinary paragraphs and everything will be fine," said Schol. "God is looking to do a new thing in the United Methodist Church. Our church needs to be renewed. We are no longer connecting with the people in our communities who are hungering for a word of hope and resurrection. So, let's all work together, not to fix the UMC but to renew it."

Laity Address

One of the three NIC Co-Lay Leaders Jessie Cunningham delivered this year's Laity Address lamenting the decisions made at the February Special Session. "If you are like me, you are going through the five steps of grieving," said Cunningham. "We know we have to move on but where do we go from here? We can't go back. We must always look and go forward." Cunningham encouraged laity to continue the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and remember our professing vows as members of The United Methodist Church.

Year of Anniversaries

While we looked to the future, we also celebrated 200 years of mission in The United Methodist Church through the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), 50th anniversary of the Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) in the NIC, and 150 years of ministry and mission with United Methodist Women (UMW).

Harriett Olson, UMW's General Secretary, was this year's Bible study leader looking to women in the Scriptures who persisted and followed God's call despite barriers. See pg. 6 for more. Dr. David W. Scott, director of Mission Theology for GBGM remembered the UMC's first missionaries and the contributions from the NIC. Our conference currently supports four missionaries and gave nearly \$240,000 last year for disaster relief in the U.S. and around the world.

2020 General and Jurisdictional Delegation Elected

After mastering the voting electronic keypads and a total of 20 ballots, annual conference members elected three clergy and three lay delegates to the 2020 General Conference and three clergy and three lay delegates for the Jurisdictional Conference, along with two clergy and two lay alternates.

The equal and diverse delegation includes some new faces and some who are serving again. The delegation is made of 50% female and 50% male delegates, 50% new and 50% experienced delegates, including four new laity and four new clergy. Three delegates are under age 35, two of whom are new to the delegation.

In order of election, the delegates are:

- **General Conference Lay:** Lonnie Chafin, Nadia R. Kanhai, Adrian Hill (Vice Chair).
- **General Conference Clergy:** Alka Lyall (Chair), Luis F. Reyes, Gregory Gross.
- **Jurisdictional Conference Lay:** Rita L. Smith, Jessie Cunningham, Ronnie Lyall.
- **Alternates:** Nancy Pendergrass and Mark Manzi
- **Jurisdictional Conference Clergy:** Hwa-Young Chong, Jacques A. Conway, Brian Gilbert.
- **Alternates:** Britt Cox and Rachel Birkhahn-Rommelfanger

The delegation's Chair Rev. Alka Lyall of Broadway UMC in Chicago said there's a good representation of the conference among the group, but they have work to do starting this summer.

"On behalf of the delegation, I would like to thank all the members of our Annual Conference for showing your faith in us and for supporting us in this work," said Lyall.

"It is not a surprise to many that our denomination is in a very fragile place. The church is fragmented, so the work that we as delegates are called to do is more crucial than ever before. We will do our best to do the right thing. As the delegation of Northern Illinois Conference, we are committed to the work of justice and full inclusion of all persons."

The delegation's goal is to be as transparent with our work as they possibly can and will be sharing dates of their future meetings.

General Conference will be held in Minneapolis, Minn., May 5-15, 2020. The North Central Jurisdictional Conference where Bishops are elected will be held in Ft. Wayne, Ind., July 15-18, 2020.

The delegation covets your prayerful support and you can follow them on Facebook for updates and news at www.facebook.com/NICDelegation.

Ordination and Commissioning Service

Bishop Sally Dyck ordained seven elders and two deacons and commissioned four for the work of a deacon and two for the work of an elder. In her sermon "Take Off Your Coat...and Light a Fire," she encouraged all of us "to go and love, forgive, share our faith, reach out to others to make something happen in the name of Jesus." Bishop Dyck also baptized two babies, Brielle Somang Lee, daughter to the Rev. Esther and John Lee, and Landen Scott Paul Garcea, son to the Revs. Tiffany and Joseph Garcea.

Legislative Action

Much of the legislation that passed at Annual Conference reflected the disapproval of the Traditional Plan adopted at February's General Conference Special Session, which emphasizes the current policies around homosexuality in the Book of Discipline for ordination and same-sex marriages while strengthening enforcement of those rules. Approved legislation included suspending payments to the General Administration Fund, which underwrite the General Conference and Judicial Council, until changes are made to the structure and practices of General Conference and an investigation into voting irregularities is completed. Also approved was a call to form a task force to explore a way forward for the NIC, including the possibility of a new Methodist expression.

Offerings

Churches and individuals gave a total of \$53,437 to this year's annual conference Bishop's Appeal for the NIC youth camps. The Aurora District came in first for most giving per capita, edging out last year's winner, the Elgin District, to take back the coveted traveling trophy! (Aurora came in first in 2017 and 2015.) With this money, we will be able to help send many kids to camp! During the ordination service, attendees gave \$4,129 in the offering designated for the Ministerial Education Fund (MEF). This fund supports the ongoing work of the NIC's Board of Ordained Ministry in the work of recruitment, education, and deployment of pastors. Thank you! See pg. 5 for more.

2018 Statistics

NIC's membership stands at 77,682, down 2,850 from the previous year. Worship attendance stands at 26,701, down 1,765. Church school attendance stands at 6,521, down 353. Professions or reaffirmations of faith was 875, down 59. The number of adults and young adults participating in small groups was 27,759, up 465. The number of worshippers engaged in mission was 758, up 73.

Next year's Annual Conference will return to the Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel and Convention Center from June 7-9, 2020.

To watch a wrap-up video and find more resources, visit www.umcnic.org/acresources.

Legislation seeks more inclusive church



ACST Co-Chair Liz Gracie outlines the top three strategic goals for the NIC.



Anna Voinovich (at microphone) proposes that the annual conference take a non-binding straw poll to gauge which direction this conference would like to move forward with for its future. Photo courtesy Aquilino Javier.

Much of the legislation that passed at the 2019 Northern Illinois Annual Conference reflected the disapproval of the Traditional Plan adopted at February's General Conference Special Session. The Traditional Plan, upheld by the Judicial Council, the denomination's top court, emphasizes the current policies around homosexuality in the Book of Discipline for ordination and same-sex marriages and strengthens enforcement of those rules.

The Annual Conference first approved the Consent Calendar, which included 10 pieces of legislation to be sent to the General Conference in 2020 for consideration. Most of the legislation supports the Simple Plan and the removal of discriminatory language against LGBTQ persons in the *Book of Discipline*.

After some debate, the Annual Conference (AC) voted to suspend payments to the General Administration Fund until changes are made to the structure and practices of the General Conference, particularly in light of questions over voting irregularities at the February Special Session. The General Administration Fund underwrites General Conference and the Judicial Council. This legislation was amended to add that the decision to withhold funds and whether to continue into 2020 will be reviewed at the 2019 NIC Special Session on Nov. 16.

The AC also approved legislation to "do no harm" by limiting complaints and trials, to call on the restructuring of The United Methodist Church to be more inclusive, and to form a task force to explore a way forward for the NIC, including the possibility of a new Methodist expression.

A late motion by Anna Voinovich, associate pastor at First UMC in Downers Grove, called for a non-binding straw poll to gauge the annual conference on which direction it would choose for its future. The two choices included: 1) a conference whose policies allow for clergy to officiate at same-gender weddings, allow for consideration of ordained ministry people of varying

sexual orientations and gender identities, and in which appointments are made with consideration given to the full range of contextual realities, or 2) according to the *Book of Discipline* as amended in 2019.

"The straw poll would give us an opportunity to know where we are and give direction to the task force deciding what we will do for the future," Voinovich said, explaining the legislation's rationale. "It also sends a message to our Jurisdiction and other annual conferences so they know where we stand, and if they take similar votes, we will know who we may be in connection with in the future."

After debate late into Monday's plenary evening session, Bishop Dyck called on it to be considered as legislation in the morning. The annual conference approved the legislation in the final plenary and the straw poll was taken via the electronic voting pads. The result: 441 for option #1 and 79 for option #2.

The Annual Conference Shepherding Team (ACST) presented three top goals for the Conference that were approved with no debate. These strategic goals will be implemented over a two-year plan: 1) To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ, 2) To Live Out the Conviction that Racism is Incompatible with Christian Teaching, and 3) To increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregations.

"These three interrelated goals are intended to have the greatest impact on the sustainability and future ministry of our annual conference," said ACST Co-Chair Liz Gracie. Visit www.umcnic.org/shepherdingteam to read more.

The closings of four churches, Elmwood Park, New Hope in Chicago, Pilgrimage Protestant Church in University Park, and Lindenhurst Trinity were also affirmed. We celebrate and bless the faithful ministries, witness, and legacies of these churches, pastors and members down through the years. The cabinet celebrated new beginnings, too, with the recent chartering of The Center in Itasca. See story pg. 5.

Mission challenge fulfilled: Kits bring hope



Youth from Our Saviour's UMC in Schaumburg help sort items donated for personal hygiene kits for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

Many people around the world and around the corner will have a new clean towel, soap, a toothbrush, and many other personal hygiene items to help them through a disaster or humanitarian crisis thanks to Northern Illinois United Methodists.

NIC's Secretary of Global Ministries Rev. Shirley M. Pulgar Hughes said the Annual Conference mission challenge to collect dignity kits for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center was a huge success.

"We celebrate four big victories this year and the tremendous generosity of our churches in the NIC," said Pulgar Hughes.

Those victories include:

- Nearly 50% of NIC churches participated.
- Two districts nearly tripled their goal, two districts more than doubled their goal, and another district nearly doubled theirs.
- We graduated from a trailer to a real truck that was completely packed with about 50,000 items or 5,271 pounds – up 200 pounds from last year!
- Two districts achieved 60% or greater participation.

The only snag in this friendly competition– this year there was a tie! Rather than take it up for a vote on the electronic keypads, the title of the mission challenge winner will be shared between the DeKalb and Chicago Southern Districts!

Kits bring hope

Nearly 20 volunteers helped collect the donations, including youth from Our Saviour's UMC in Schaumburg, as well as leaders from Faith UMC in Downers Grove and Redeemer of Calvary UMC in Chicago. Besides the thousands of personal hygiene items, 75 cleaning buckets, seven large sewing machines, two bicycles, school bags, and diapers were also donated. The Midwest Distribution Center will sort the items at its warehouse in Springfield, Ill., within a month so they're ready to be distributed as quickly as possible to those in need.

Chantel Corrie, Midwest Missions' Executive Director, said the kits bring joy and those who receive them are so grateful. "I recently received a voicemail from a man in North Carolina who received a cleaning bucket and said 'thank you for blessing us in this way' and he just kept saying 'thank you' even after a tree fell through his roof and his minivan was flooded," said Corrie.

The Midwest Mission also prays over the donated items and sends prayer cards from The United Methodist Church with each kit. "Hopefully, we are giving them hope beyond their understanding," said Corrie. "If they don't know Jesus yet, maybe it's a way for them to get to know Christ, too." Watch a video as volunteers pack the truck at vimeo.com/339905814.



BISHOP'S APPEAL . . . Offering benefits youth campers

Thanks to the generosity of NIC churches, more children will be able to experience camp and grow closer to Christ. This year's special Bishop's Appeal offering at Annual Conference totaled \$53,437 to help support Outdoor and Retreat Ministries,

which operates two camps, Wesley Woods in Williams Bay, Wis., and Camp Reynoldswood in Dixon, Ill. The money will go toward "camperships" to help send children to camp who otherwise would not financially be able to attend.

The Aurora District took home the coveted traveling trophy for the most giving per capita, edging out last year's winner the Elgin District! (Aurora came in first in 2017 and 2015).

Outdoor and Retreat Ministries Executive Director Jeff Casey said the money will also be used to expand camps and reach out into the community. "The easiest outreach is to send a kid to camp," said Casey. "In addition to the money, we want to challenge each church to find and send five unchurched youth to camp, and one of their own "churched" youth to camp as a chaperone who will be trained."

Casey said one goal is to expand the J.O.Y (Jesus, Others, and You) camp model, which has been successful and self-sustaining in the DeKalb and Aurora Districts for several years, to youth and adults throughout the conference via District networks.

Other goals include building up the Chicago Metro Camp, encouraging campers to participate in the spring and fall work parties alongside adults to receive a discount off camp fees, creating a youth winter weekend retreat, and starting a new Rockford District summer camp.

Chuck Rea from First UMC in Hinckley and the co-chair of the Outdoor and Retreat Ministries board, said they are grateful for the continued support and ministry from so many of NIC's congregations. "Your help with work parties, supplies, and other volunteer opportunities is deeply appreciated, said Rea. "In these days of close attention to budgets, we offer you many mission opportunities close to home. Yet, these are not items reflected in our annual budget."

Rea said costs to operate the camps include \$150,000 per year on deferred maintenance, which covers the \$20,000 for the swimming pool's parts, pumps, and repairs and \$10,000 for removal of dying trees that pose a risk to buildings and camper play areas.

"The Bishop's Appeal is not just about money," said Rea. "It's about relationships. It's about boots on the ground ministry. It's not about the camps, it's about you, the local

church, and your ministry in your community and amongst yourselves."

Beyond the Bishop's Appeal, churches may donate to the camps through the Rainbow Covenant. To find more info on the programs and camps offered, visit www.niccamp.org.



Memorial Service

In his message at the Memorial Service, Bishop John Schol, Greater New Jersey Conference, honors those who've gone before us and served faithfully in the church.



We honored and remembered those pastors, spouses, and lay members to annual conference who have touched our lives and passed away in the last year with a message from Bishop John Schol from the Greater New Jersey Conference. "Jesus was at work through each of your loved ones and we give thanks for their commitment and sacrifice for the church," said Schol.

We especially remembered the lives of the Rev. Bruce and Eugenia Johnson, who were killed 50 years ago on September 29, 1969, in their parsonage at Armitage Avenue United Methodist Church in Lincoln Park. The murders remain unsolved.

During the service, participants wrote names of loved ones and friends on pieces of fabric, which were then tied together and placed on a large loom in remembrance and as we gave thanks for how their lives contributed to God's vision for the world.

In Memoriam

Active Clergy

Carol M. Madalin, December 21, 2018

Retired Clergy

Alan Anderson, September 3, 2018
Kathleen Brinkmeier, February 23, 2019
Phillip Henry Burke Jr., December 23, 2018
Russell Coats, September 11, 2018

Evans E. Crawford Jr., February 16, 2019
Wm. Gehl Devore, February 5, 2019
Lowell William Eckberg, January 30, 2019
Mary Willis Mayes, October 30, 2018
John R. Porter, April 8, 2019
Frederick L. Rickleff, October 21, 2018
David E. Scott, January 19, 2019
Leonard Lloyd Sukut, August 5, 2018
Richard D. Tholin, March 12, 2019
Robert L. Vaughn, December 16, 2018
William R. Wentworth, June 5, 2018

Surviving Spouses

Marna Carney, February 11, 2019
Dorothy M. Combs, July 15, 2018
Nancy Ness Esty, February 23, 2019
Mary Betty Holland, March 17, 2019
Molly Holtsford, May 2, 2019
Ida M. Wells, March 3, 2019

Spouses of Retired Clergy

Vida J. Furnish, December 9, 2018
Carol Lynn Kingery, May 13, 2019
Joseph C. Klimson, June 4, 2018

Lay Members of the Conference

Miriam Lois Lehman, May 28, 2018
Dorothy Evelyn Jones, October 28, 2018
Emma Jean Pritchett, October 11, 2018
Dr. Curtis Carl Verschoor, January 17, 2019

UMW General Secretary teaches at AC 2019

By Diane Strzelecki, NIC Communications Specialist



United Methodist Women's General Secretary Harriett Olson leads two Bible study sessions at Annual Conference.

Beginning with a look at the Old Testament, Harriett Olson, General Secretary for United Methodist Women (UMW), led Bible study Monday evening and Tuesday morning during AC 2019. Monday evening's study focused on Numbers 27, where Zelophehad's daughters—Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milka, and Tirzah—step out to claim their father's inheritance in the absence of a son.

"We know the Bible doesn't always name the women," noted

Olson, "so we pay attention when they are named."

In the reading, the daughters petition Moses, who brings their case before God in prayer, and God upholds their claim. Olson noted that Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milka, and Tirzah were women committed to being part of God's community and spoke up for themselves as moral agents.

"The daughters of Zelophehad have a lot to tell us about engaging systems as they are being developed," Olson said. "The story tells us we have to stay alert. That not every decision is a final decision. That things once offered can be retracted; the things we once thought were incorporated into law, were part of the Book of Discipline, that were settled, can be carved away."

Olson also noted how their story connects with the 150-year story of UMW and highlighted Methodist women of note, such as Dr. Clara Swain, Isabella Thorburn, and Lizzie Hoffman who, over the years, followed God's call despite barriers. However, Olson cautioned that UMW's history is more than a collection of colorful characters.

"It is the history of women in congregations around the country and around the world coming together to hear God's call, to learn about the places beyond their experience, and to work together to make a difference for women, children, and youth," she said. "UMW's history truly demonstrates the power of organization and connection."

Tuesday morning Olson turned to the New Testament to reflect on the teachings of Jesus to the crowd, a crowd that included women. She noted that Matthew 25:31-46 echoed Monday night's theme of inheritance, explaining that Jesus taught that people are qualified for their inheritance in the Kingdom not through their natural lineage, but their actions and how they saw and responded to Jesus as they encountered persons in the word.

"This passage, and stories like that of Tabitha (Dorcas) in Acts 9:36, a woman whose life overflowed with good works and compassionate acts on behalf of those in need, is the sort of text that has inspired Methodist women all around the world," Olson said. Between early UMW women's efforts to bring healthcare and education to India and today's mission work for women in prison, Olson emphasized that working in compassionate ministry to and with people is needed more than ever as churches seek ways to reach their communities.

"As we think about how we go from here, Scripture compels us, compassion leads us, and advocacy calls us to a public place to stand for Jesus and the love of God in the world," she said.

Day of Giving

With over 3,500 individual gifts received, UMW's Day of Giving commemorating UMW's 150th anniversary and celebrated on March 23 shattered all preceding giving records by raising \$496,451! That is 84 percent more than was given in 2018!

These generous donations to The Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign bring campaign totals to \$26,543,021. That means 43 percent of the targeted \$60,000,000 has now been raised! We are on the way to reaching our half-way mark, which will propel us even further toward achieving the campaign's goal by the end of 2020!

So how did Day of Giving generate almost half a million dollars in 2019? It was done by you, whether it was a local unit tea, a district mission project, a conference sponsored at a National Mission Institution event, a Legacy Fund-Raiser or just a good old-fashioned party. Each member found their own special way to celebrate the 150th Birthday of United Methodist Women and to contribute to The Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign.

150th celebrations



Women from across the NIC participate in celebrations commemorating UMW's 150th anniversary.

Celebrations of UMW's 150th anniversary were held across the country this spring. In the Northern Illinois Conference, women gathered at Rochelle UMC on May 10 in the DeKalb District. The celebration opened with the singing "We Are Called" and then DeKalb District President Jan Hayes-Stocking welcomed everyone and asked God's blessing on the day.

More than 50 women joined together at Cary UMC to celebrate 150 years of women in mission on March 23. Past and present leaders of national, conference, district, and local units were recognized along with all supporters of UMW. Northern Illinois Conference president Lois Moreland-Dean led the group in cheering loudly for UMW's bold and generous acts of advocating for women, youth, and children around the world. Other celebrations were held in First UMC in Park Ridge, at St. Andrew UMC in Carol Stream, and Channahon UMC.

In Boston, the New England Conference sponsored a celebration event just three miles from Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church, where the mission work of United Methodist Women began 150 years ago. People from 16 states, as well as a missionary from Brazil, attended the event. The festivities were livestreamed, so viewers from the United States, Mongolia, the Philippines and Japan could watch. North Central Jurisdiction UMW President Rita L. Smith from the NIC joined in the celebration. As Dean Mary Elizabeth Moore stated in her welcoming remarks, "The founding women were not asked to change the world—they, because of their deep faith commitments, chose to change the world."

These anniversary celebrations are just a sample of the gatherings that brought together United Methodist Women members as they worked, prayed and served in meaningful, inspiring and creative ways.



United Voices for Children President Rev. Robert Biekman (left) and Bishop Sally Dyck (right) honor Rev. Norval I. Brown for receiving the Bishop Jesse R. DeWitt Child Advocacy Award.

The following awards were given during the 2019 Northern Illinois Annual Conference.

Bishop Jesse R. DeWitt Child Advocacy Award:

While serving as our bishop from 1980 to 1988, Bishop Jesse R. DeWitt led by example as he participated, represented and spoke out for children, youth and families who did not have a voice. One of his greatest passions was speaking out to educate and inform local churches about legislation and issues impacting the lives of children.

Presented to: Rev. Dr. Norval I. Brown, Deerfield: Christ

An elder in NIC for more than 30 years, Rev. Brown has advocated for the unique needs of children in a variety of leadership roles within the congregations he has served and within the greater Chicagoland community. Over the years Rev. Brown has served as president of the board of directors for United Voices for Children, as a board member of ChildServ, as a camp counselor for children at Camp Reynoldswood (1978-1986) and as the director of Chicago Southern District Campus Ministry at University of Chicago and University of Illinois - Chicago (2003-2007). Rev. Brown consistently supports the youth members and children of his appointed congregations with appearances at concerts, contests, and plays. Currently, he serves as the vice-chair of the board of directors of MYSI and as dean of the Maceo D. Pembroke institute for Ministerial Recruitment and Leadership Development. He is the pastor of Christ UMC in Deerfield, Illinois. This award honors Rev. Brown's lifelong commitment to bold leadership and cumulative service with children and families.

Katherine Greene Child Worker Award (co-honorees)

Presented to: Ann Daniels, Rockford: Christ

Ann has worked as a volunteer in children's ministries at Christ UMC Rockford since 1978. She has taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School and is now a "Counseling Teacher" who trains other teachers. She is the current chair of the Children's Council and has served on the board of the Christ Preschool. Recognizing that children's ministry is not just on Sunday mornings, Ann works with Jesus And Me (JAM) on Wednesday nights, a growing program of families, especially single mothers, from the community who gather for a communal meal, worship, games, and fellowship. In the Rockford community, Mrs. Daniels volunteers at Saturday Kid's Club where she works with neighborhood children doing crafts, games and story time. During the summer, Mrs. Daniels is part of the "Hi Neighbor" summer outreach program, an ecumenical effort to provide children a place that they can "drop in." Throughout all of these years of ministry, Ann has tirelessly taught children what it means to be children of God, saved through Christ, and upheld by the Spirit.

Conference Awards



Baker Memorial UMC in Aurora and Rev. Mary Zajac are one of six recipients of the One Matters Discipleship Award this year.

Katherine Greene Child Worker Award con't Presented to: Leigh Anne Piper, Lanark

A long-time member and leader at Lanark UMC, Leigh is someone who takes action when she encounters a problem. As a nurse and lifelong resident of Carroll County, she was well aware of the high number of infants and children at risk for critical early development resources in this rural community. In 2007, as part of a project to fulfill an advanced degree requirement, Leigh Anne created the Pitter Patter Pantry. It began as a project where a few churches provided needed supplies for infants and children enrolled in the WIC program and has evolved in a large, volunteer-run organization that provides an alternative site for low-income families of Carroll County to purchase essential items for their preschool children. Pitter Patter Pantry is a light-filled, retail environment where program participants shop with their "Baby Bucks" which they have earned through participating in Health Department-identified programs. Through Leigh Anne's visionary leadership, this program is having a real impact in fighting the devastating effects of childhood poverty.

Rev. Margaret Ann Williams Service Award Presented to: Sharonda King, Rockford: Christ the Carpenter

Sharonda joined Christ the Carpenter as a teenager and has been a faithful presence and leader in the congregation ever since. She served as a junior usher and as a lead singer in the choir. She also was part of a weekly Christian-based activities night, where her spirit and energy helped the pastor provide inspiration for the 20 to 30 children and youth attending. From a young age, Sharonda has been a role model for other young persons. Now a single mom with two children in preschool and another starting high school, she works two jobs and still finds time to lead two praise dance teams. The younger team has 10 to 12 members who are three to five years of age, and the Anointed Movement team consists of 5 to 7 teenagers. Sharonda has organized two city-wide praise dance concerts. She has instilled a spiritual discipline and desire to give praise to God in these children and youth.

One Matters Discipleship Ministries Award

The One Matters Discipleship Award was created by the Discipleship Ministries (GBOD) in 2015 with the purpose of lifting up churches who have in recent years moved from 0 baptisms and 0 professions of faith into positive numbers as they redirected their focus toward intentional discipleship. In addition to the One Matters Discipleship plaque, each church receives \$1,000 to encourage the continuation of their work in discipleship. The Northern Illinois Conference is one of the most diverse conferences in The United Methodist Church, so instead of recognizing one congregation, we



The Golden Cross awardees this year are Gail Barth of Bethany Retirement Community in Chicago, Sewit Tesfamichael of Chicago Methodist Senior Services, Holly Briggs-Finn of Wesley Willows in Rockford, and Dawn Aves of Oak Crest Retirement Center in DeKalb.

have the opportunity to offer six awards, with the help of the Office of Connectional Ministries and apportionment dollars. Most importantly, as we celebrate these churches and hear their stories, we are invited to ask "What are they doing differently that is helping them to turn things around, by God's grace?" And when we discern an answer to that question, we can ask ourselves, "What can we do to make a difference?" Each person matters to God! This we celebrate!

Presented to:

Aurora: Baker Memorial (Rev. Mary Zajac)

Chicago Northwestern: United Church of Rogers Park (Rev. Lindsey Long Joyce and Rev. Hope Chernich)

Chicago Southern: First UMC at the Chicago Temple (Rev. Myron McCoy and Rev. Wendy Witt)

DeKalb: Mendota: Zion (Rev. Hogun Kim)

Elgin: La Luz de Cristo/El Mesias (Pastor Ruben Rivera)

Rockford: Shannon: Bethel (Rev. Michael Jones)

To read their stories, visit www.umcnic.org/onematters.

Questions about One Matters? Please contact Rev. J. Martin Lee, Director of Congregational Development and Redevelopment, at mlee@umcnic.org or 312-346-9766, ext. 708.

Rainbow Covenant

The Philip Otterbein Award: "Highest Total Rainbow Covenant Giving" Libertyville: \$36,726

The John Wesley Award: "Highest Rainbow Covenant Giving per Member" Chicago: El Redentor/Redeemer of Calvary: 67.6%

Golden Cross Awards

The Council for Older Adult Ministry (OAM) of the Northern Illinois Conference (NIC) awarded the Golden Cross Award to four individuals at a luncheon held in connection with the 180th NIC Annual Conference in Schaumburg on June 4. The awardees included Gail Barth of Bethany Retirement Community in Chicago, Sewit Tesfamichael of Chicago Methodist Senior Services, Holly Briggs-Finn of Wesley Willows in Rockford, and Dawn Aves of Oak Crest Retirement Center in DeKalb.

Each year the OAM receives nominations for the award from NIC-related senior service agencies that serve our older population. The nominees must exhibit extraordinary care and compassion in their jobs to serve this segment of our population as basic criteria. A monetary award, the Golden Cross Fund comes from the annual Golden Cross Sunday Offering received from local congregations in NIC.



Zoie Sheets, Director of Leadership Development for the Inclusive Collective at UIC, shares her testimony how campus ministries led her back to God.

Students Thrive, Succeed through Campus Ministries

Rich Havard, Campus Minister for the Inclusive Collective at the University of Illinois at Chicago, began his presentation at AC 2019 by thanking conference attendees for their attention and generosity. "We cannot do what we do without your support, without your gifts, without your energy and your churches," he said. "We are grateful for you and all that you do for Campus Ministries to make sure it not only exists but thrives in this conference."

With groups at University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), University of Chicago, North Central College, Northwestern University, and Northern Illinois University (NIU), campus ministries touch a diverse range of young people. Havard called upon attendees to answer the question: "How many of you were impacted by campus ministry? How many of you experienced campus ministry as a student?" More than half of the attendees raised their hands.

The multifaceted presentation featured 'holy listening' with UIC'S Inclusive Collective member Gigi Baker at the piano playing a meditative piece to center and calm a crowd that had just weathered the storm of voting machines and elections. The presentation included a video of East Ohio Conference Bishop Tracy S. Malone, who spoke about the value of campus ministry in her life at North Central College and the lives of so many other young people. And current and former campus ministry leaders were there to testify about how campus ministries impacted their life and their faith.

During her testimony, Zoie Sheets, Director of Leadership Development for the Inclusive Collective at UIC, noted that the churches she grew up in had taught her that she was wrong in so many ways—and she had said goodbye to God.

"I'm absolutely certain that if it weren't for meeting Pastor Rich [Havard] in a Peet's Coffee Shop during my junior year and being told that there is another way to engage with Christianity, I would not have said hello to God again," Sheets said. "Because of the power of this community, because of its commitment to being a representation of God's radically inclusive love, I have said 'yes' to a God who made me exactly who I am."

You can see the video of Campus Ministries presentation at the 2019 Annual Conference of Northern Illinois UMC channel on YouTube (Plenary 3). Visit www.umcnic.org/2019acresources to view the PowerPoint.

NIC 2019 Retirees | "We give thanks to our nine retiring pastors who served a combined 261 years of ministry."

Scott Field - 41 years



I served as Pastor of Wheatland Salem United Methodist Church in Naperville for 33 years and First United Methodist in Crystal Lake for six years, plus two years back in the day when we were "Appointed to Attend School."

One of the highlights of my ministry was the opportunities to serve with visionary, risk-taking people with a passion to introduce

others to Jesus.

What will I miss most? My wife and I will miss the ready-to-go community of believers; now Lynda and I will experience "church shopping" up close and personal. We are excited about the next chapter of our faith journey together and finding a "church home" with whom to worship, serve, and witness.

In retirement, we plan on some of the usual things like travel and more time for children and grandchildren, but I'm also very excited to be involved with developing the network of the Northern Illinois Wesleyan Covenant Association as well as serving as a volunteer on behalf of children within the judicial system.

Beth Galbreath - 13 years



I was called to ordained ministry after careers in journalism, social service administration, and software development. I created and supported software for the Northern Illinois Conference in the years before the UMC created its own systems, and helped train NIC folks in computer use.

Commissioned 2006, ordained 2009, I served two years in pulpit supply with wonderful folks at Malden UMC, DeKalb District, and in secondary appointments at Princeton, Woodridge and now Brookfield: Compassion church plant. I also supported LLP Linda Walker, in the now-closed, but important, prison ministry.

My primary appointment has always been Galbreath Digital Culture Ministries (bethgalbreath.com), "helping the church move from print culture into 21st Century digital culture": technology consulting, biblical storytelling (performing and teaching here and internationally), and teaching through the Richard and Julia Wilke Institute for Discipleship (beadisciple.com). I'll continue teaching online: theology, United Methodist studies, storytelling, leadership, liturgy, spiritual styles, and interfaith understanding. I also authored *The Story and the Feast*, UM-patterned Communion liturgy connected to all weekly lectionary texts.

My husband Rev. James Galbreath and I settled in Woodridge after his retirement in 2014. My ministry will continue; it is a joy to mentor folks of all ages both online and in NIC who are answering God's call to serve God and the world in the Wesleyan tradition. I'll also continue leading Prairie Wind Guild: Tellers of Sacred Stories (prairiewindguild.org). I expect to increase time spent in NIC and civic efforts for eco-sustainability and solar energy (econetnic.org).

Donald Francis Guest - 37 1/2 years



Since July 2017, I have served as the senior pastor of First UMC, Sunnyvale, California. First Church is the downtown church for this Silicon Valley suburb of San Jose. From July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2017, I served as senior pastor of Easter Hill UMC, Richmond, Calif.

After serving Glide church for five years, I served as a consultant on Urban Affairs for Bishop Warner Brown of the California-Nevada Conference (2011-2012). From 2006 to 2011, I served as lead pastor of the famed Glide Memorial UMC, Glide Foundation in San Francisco, Calif. This was the highlight of my ministry—serving a truly authentic 21st Century church, one where we lived "the eschatological-tomorrow-life-of-Christ" today.

Prior to this, I served as superintendent of the Northern Illinois Conference's Chicago Southern District (1999-2006). I also served United Methodist pastorates in the Chicago area from 1981 to 1999 — Chicago: Julia Gay (1981-1984) Chicago: Washington Heights (1984-1988), Chicago: St. Mark (Associate) (1998-1990), Chicago: Gammon (1990-1994), and Hartzell Memorial (1994-1999). I also served as the staff assistant for Black Christian Education, General Program Council, RCA (1978-1981), and the Executive Director, Douglass-Tubman Center in Chicago, the Reformed Church in America (1974 to 1978), and St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal in Chicago (interim) - in 1974. As of July 1, 2019, I have been appointed by Bishop Dyck to serve the people and community of Epworth UMC in the Chicago Northwestern District.

Kye Ile Hong - 33 years



During my ministry, I served Cosmopolitan UMC (2009-2019), First UMC of Franklin Park (2017-2019), Elmwood Park UMC (2017-2018), Korean Central UMC in Prospect Heights (2004-2009), Salem Korean UMC in Schaumburg (1999-2004), Korean UMC in Buffalo, NY (1991-1999), and Peoria Korean UMC (1986-1991). In South Korea: (1974 -

1985), Seok-Kyo Methodist Church, Keum-Ho Methodist Church, South Korean Army Chaplain, and Young-Pyung Methodist Church.

One of the highlights of my ministry was during the time I served the Buffalo Korean United Methodist Church from 1991 to 1999. When I was appointed to the church, the District Superintendent told me that my mission was to get a new building for the church. The church prayed for a new building for six years and finally we were able to buy a church building. The building had a 500-seat sanctuary, 12 classrooms, and a fellowship hall. It was so wonderful to see God answer our prayers so that we could continue to grow our ministry.

What will I miss most? Being surrounded by so much love is what I will miss the most. Throughout my years of ministry, I have experienced the love of Jesus in such a tangible way through the church members. They have shown me love and kindness – and have shown me how precious the fellowship of God's community can be. I have also experienced a closeness to God by loving the members of the church with my best. In my retirement, I plan to find volunteer opportunities.

Mario Mayer - 16 years



I am from Collipulli, Chile. I graduated as an Engineer in Construction from the Technical University of Temuco and received a Bachelor in Theology from the Evangelical Theological Community of Chile. I began my ministry in the Chilean Methodist Church in 1980 and in 1985, due to the destructive effects of an earthquake, I felt

compelled to devote part of my time to work as Engineer in Construction to help rebuild temples, schools, and parsonages throughout the country.

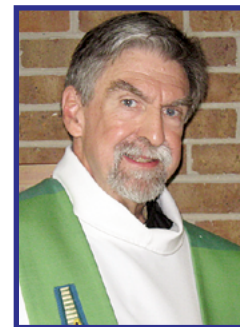
I served in different capacities in the Methodist Church in Chile, among them, pastor of seven different congregations, National Director of Connectional Ministries, National Youth Advisor and District Superintendent for the Southern District.

In 1997 I emigrated to the U.S. and served as a Pastor in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference at Beecher City UMC, Shumway UMC, and Newton: Grace UMC. In 2010 I moved to the Northern Illinois Conference and served at Elgin: El Mesias UMC, Carpentersville: Trinity UMC and Rockford: Beth Eden UMC.

I have three adult children by my first marriage: Natalia, Constanza, and Mario Ignacio. In 2010 I married the Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer and we are the parents of 6-year-old twins, Pedro and Paulina.

I give thanks to God for the opportunity I've had to serve Him in Chile and in the U.S. I will miss being in ministry as a full-time pastor and will miss the smiles of my parishioners, but I feel ready to dedicate my full attention to our younger children and to be of support to the ministry of my wife Fabiola.

J. Stephen Mindrup - 49 years



I have been privileged to serve the church in a variety of settings: urban, multi-cultural, suburban, small town, and chaplaincy. Choosing a "highlight" after more than 45 years is an impossible task! Each appointment I've had is full of wonderful memories and genuine encounters with the Holy Spirit.

Having said that, probably the most formative experience was being able to serve one church for almost 20 years. Shepherding Grace Church in Rockford through a dramatic renewal, building program and relocation was a process in which God was powerfully present.

In retirement, I hope to continue to serve as a pastor in some capacity as long as health and strength allow. I give thanks to God today for parents who brought me to the waters of Baptism in 1947, for the Sunday School teachers of Morgan Park Church who introduced me to Jesus, for colleagues who mentored me and kept me accountable, and for the people of God at Embury, Christ the Carpenter, Grace Rockford, Cherry Valley, Wesley Willows, West Dundee, and Sandwich – my friends and partners in ministry.

Soong-In Steve Moon - 33 years



Though ordained as a deacon/probationary member in 1986, I was appointed as a Local Pastor to start a new congregation for Koreans in West Chicago area in 1984. After serving West Chicago Mission Congregation for two years, I was appointed to Shin-II UMC in 1986. I was ordained as an elder/full member in 1988. I was appointed to Bethany UMC

in 1989. In 1995, Bishop Duecker appointed me to start another congregation for Koreans in Arlington Heights, which is Hallelujah UMC. Then, I served Hebron UMC from 2004 to 2005. I moved to Church of the Incarnation in 2005. Then, I moved to North Northfield UMC in 2009 and have served the church until today.

Some of the highlights and privilege of my ministry include the opportunity to start two new congregations, running the Marriage Counseling Program with my wife, the Rev. Sung-Ja Moon, for 10 years at the Korean Broadcasting System, and saving many families. I also started and hosted a new group for Koreans in the church. I also enjoyed organizing the music ensemble wherever I went and having them lead the services and programs.

What will I miss most? I will miss preaching the word of God and singing with the congregation as a pastor, creating new and different styles of worship for God's people, and decorating and beautifying the sanctuary according to the liturgical calendar.

In retirement, I will enjoy playing racquetball, guitar, singing, camping, and traveling. But I would need to wait to fully enjoy all those things until my wife Sung-Ja retires.

Kathy Medina Reeves - 39 years



My name is Kathy Medina Reeves and I was ordained in the Northern Illinois Annual Conference in 1980. Throughout my years of service, I provided pastoral ministry in the following parishes: Chicago: Gammon Memorial (1980-1982) as Associate Pastor, Harvey: First UMC (1982-1984) as Associate Pastor, Oak Park: Frances Willard Memorial (1984-1991) as Pastor, and Oak Park: Euclid Avenue (2000-2006) as Pastor.

Other ministerial responsibilities include my work as an Executive Secretary at the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries in the area of Health and Welfare/ United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) from 1991-2000. While in New York City, my responsibilities included advocacy for people with disabilities. This position also provided a springboard into national and international volunteer positions including the President's Committee on Disabilities and the Task Force on Employment and People with Disabilities during the Clinton years in Washington D.C.

For close to a decade, I served as the North American Coordinator of the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network (EDAN) World Council of Churches (WCC), in Geneva, Switzerland and Nairobi, Kenya.

In retirement, I hope to continue global advocacy for accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities. I am legally blind, born with a visual birth defect and now travel with my trusted companion and seeing eye dog, Cupid. One of my core beliefs is that ministries must represent the full body of Christ. For me, this includes rights for all people regardless of their orientation. Therefore, I will

continue to work to eradicate barriers of exclusion and discrimination for as long as I live.

Kirk C. Scott (part-time local pastor)



I was called to be a local pastor and completed Licensing School in July 2005. I was appointed to Millington UMC upon completion of Licensing School.

I started working in Millington August 2005 and have been there ever since. We have had many successes at Millington and I will just mention a few. None of these could have been completed with

just the pastor, I had to get out of the way and let ministry happen.

Our children's Sunday school coupled with our annual Vacation Bible Schools have been a highlight in service to the community, along with our semi-annual rummage sales that provide revenue for the church and a place for the community to get reduced-priced goods. Over the years we also hosted roast beef dinners, which were a great success and featured our social center as a great gathering place for the community. We have two groups that are still meeting today: a women's Bible study group and a sewing group that makes dresses for underprivileged girls all over the world. The Bible study group has grown to 17 members, some from neighboring churches. The sewing group has made over 2,000 dresses.

I will miss the Holy Spirit guiding people in the church. My current plan is to assist in my local church in the Naperville area and continue to assist in helping my daughters with childcare for our grandchildren, which is great fun!

Board of Pensions announces new HealthFlex Exchange

This year's Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP) presentation at annual conference focused primarily on the news that NIC will institute a new medical insurance program for clergy and lay participants effective January 1, 2020. Conference Human Resources Director Woody Bedell introduced the HealthFlex Exchange, a lineup of six medical plans offering participants more choices and allowing the Conference to control overall costs.

Bedell noted that 90% of participants are currently enrolled in the B1000, which had increased in cost by 15% in 2019. "By using another plan as the default plan—no cost to participants—we were able to reduce our annual cost," he noted. "In addition, participants will be able to select a plan that best suits their anticipated medical expenditures, elect dental and vision coverage, and save money for future medical expenses."

Distinctions between plans center mainly on the amount of deductible and coinsurance and how they are applied. All plans will provide different variables on the current prescription program.

Despite the upcoming changes, Bedell noted that some very important features of the current plan will remain the same. "Regardless of the plan you select, you will receive the same high quality vendors, the same excellent customer service, and the same important and integrated wellness programs and their initiatives – like WebMD, Virgin Pulse, EAP, MDLive, Weight Watchers and more," he said.

In September Wespath will open up ALEX, an online diagnostic tool to help participants select the most appropriate plan for their expected medical expenses and budget. NIC HealthFlex Exchange workshops will be held this fall — dates to be announced in upcoming eNews and at www.umcnic.org. In November participants will elect a plan and cards will be received in December. The new plan will go into effect January 2020.

Visit www.umcnic.org/2019acresources to see the entire AC2019 CBOP presentation - scroll down under "Presentations" to Board of Pensions.



Bishop Sally Dyck announces retirement

After 41 years of active ministry, serving in three annual conferences as a pastor, district superintendent or bishop, and living near I-90 from Massachusetts to Ohio to Minnesota and Illinois, Bishop Sally Dyck is looking forward to moving to sunny California. During her Episcopal Address at Annual Conference, she announced her retirement effective Sept. 1, 2020.

"While I never strayed far from I-90, I've seen many faces of the church in urban, rural and suburban communities. While I've seen some heart-breaking stains upon the witness of Christ in the world, more often than not I have seen the best of God's people at work in the world. My own world has been expanded by all I have encountered and had the privilege to serve, including you! Oh, the places I have gone and the people I have met! Thanks be to God!"

Bishop Dyck reminded everyone that she will be here for another annual conference. "You're not done with me yet!" she said. "Throughout this year, we have a lot of work to do...so let's stay focused on who we are with our eyes on the goal where God is beckoning us onward."





Aquilino “Pong” Javier (right) picks up a van load of donations from Oakwood UMC in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference for a growing ministry he started to help supply churches in the Philippines with music sheets and choir robes.



A choir from a church in a Manila suburb adorn the donated robes thanks to the generosity of Pong’s ministry.

Resource ministry enhances Philippines worship By Linda Hendelman*

Aquilino “Pong” Javier, the NIC’s chair of Older Adult Ministries, says “understandably (or perhaps we may never understand why)” churches and individuals “do not throw old stuff away.” This reluctance to part with material objects may have helped launch a mission project for the 2018 National Association of Filipino American United Methodists (NAFAUM) convocation in Manila. Today it has become a full-fledged resource mission. Javier (called “Kuya Pong,” he explained, with Kuya, a Filipino term of respect for a male elder, and “Pong,” a popular name) almost singlehandedly gathered 38 cargo boxes of books and music resources from Illinois and Iowa and shipped them to the Philippines.

In 2016, as then-president of NAFAUM, Javier suggested that the NAFAUM convocation be entitled “BalikBayanihan,” which means “coming home,” and that it be held outside the United States for the first time, in Manila. He also decided to add a mission component by collecting theological books in the United States for distribution at United Methodist libraries and Christian learning centers in the Philippines, where books are unaffordable but much in demand. Donors suggested including hymnals and songbooks, and NAFAUM collected enough funds to ship 38 cargo boxes/balikbayna containers (28 x17 x18 repatriate boxes) of resources to the Philippines.

The Mission Grows

“After the dust settled from the BalikBaynihan convocation, donors continued to inquire whether I still did the ‘books’ thing and they kept storing up books and other resources,” Javier said. “Rev. Seamus Enright of Reynolds UMC in Ashton, Illinois, who was keeping boxes of music sheets and books, offered to give me his ‘treasure.’”

“When I actually saw the music materials—the largest collection I’ve ever seen—I thought the deaconesses in the Philippines would love to have those,” he explains.

Javier contacted the Rev. Paul Black and the Rev. Steve Granados, his clergy friends in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, to request they “hold those music sheets for the Philippines!” Both Rev. Black and District Superintendent

Granados, who stores hymnals in his office for the project, have helped spread word of the resource mission around the southern part of Illinois, Javier said, and Anne Marie Gerhardt, NIC Communications Director, has also been helpful in making announcements about the mission.

Boxes of music materials were transported from Springfield to Chicago. “By the look of these collections, these materials have been hiding in steel drawers, shelves, garages, and attics for years,” Javier says. “Filipinos love to sing and can learn the music,” he adds, noting that when some donors noticed choir robes that had been hanging in the church closets for years, they offered them to him as well. An enthusiastic Javier responded, “Yes!” Many donors show their appreciation for Kuya Pong’s work in finding homes and further use for their “treasures.”

Resources

Resource materials arrive from a variety of places and for a number of reasons. Some materials come from a simple desire to give, other times a donor calls to drop off materials and makes a donation for shipping, like a pastor from a Japanese congregation in Chicago recently. Others experience changes in their life situation and have little choice but to find someone to take cherished possessions that do not interest their relatives. Javier explains that he cannot “let things go to waste while there are many in the Philippines that can stretch the usefulness of God’s gifts.”

The Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) revamped its library in Chicago last year and asked Javier if he was interested in some specialty books, which were successfully relocated to Union Theological Seminary in Dasmariñas for its Center for Gender and Sexuality Studies. First United Methodist Church of Park Ridge recently offered its extensive Disciples Bible Study tapes and resource materials, which were shipped to John Wesley College in Tuguegarao City along with 40 choir robes from St. Andrew UMC of Carol Stream. Choir robes and books were recently received from Rockford. A benefactor recently sponsored seven boxes for schools

in Mindanao. Donations continue, with no end in sight, according to a grateful Javier.

In addition to books, Javier has received offers of used altar covers, communion sets, choir robes, sheet music, hymnals, songbooks, etc. He recently collected several boxes of books from a retired pastor who relocated to Wisconsin and thanked him profusely for finding a home for her books. She had collected them over time and marked them “for Pong,” hoping he would take them someday. She paid for shipping the boxes to the Philippines.

Five centers now receive, distribute, or provide area churches and learning centers in the Philippines with access to the resources. Help is needed in funding shipping costs for heavy collections of books, sheet music, hymnals, songbooks, and choir robes. The cost of gathering, shipping, and handling each cargo box is \$65. Churches can take a freewill offering to keep the cargoes moving, Javier explains, and “any amount” helps. (Make checks payable to NAFAUM.) He notes that the pool of contributors to the ministry has been faithful and expresses his appreciation for the mission’s supporters—“Maraming salamat po,” (“Thank you very much”).

Response

The response to the resource ministry in such a short time has been “tremendous,” Javier says, “and it keeps me going.” A deaconess wrote that for many years she had “to make up songs and stories to teach the children but now [the resources] are all here; it’s so easy now.”

A lay delegate to NIC from Cosmopolitan UMC (formerly United Church of the Medical Center), Javier has served in various capacities at the local and national levels. A member of general commissions of the United Methodist Church and national caucuses, Javier says, as a “preacher’s kid, church has been my life. I pray that this ministry can make a difference.”

If you have a donation, please contact Aquilino “Pong” Javier at 708.268.7003 or email at abjavierjr@gmail.com.

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

Chartered church hopes to be center of community By Anne Marie Gerhardt



The Center is a new faith community in Itasca and chartered in the NIC on May 12.

When a surprise microburst swept through the Village of Itasca in July 2017 tearing down trees and knocking out power, it was not the sign the Rev. Bob Butler was looking for to start a new church in the community.

"The microburst happens and as I come around the corner of the church to check on things, I find the electrical box ripped off the building, power lines down, a tree that fell on the roof, and it looked like something out of a movie," said Butler. "At the time I thought, maybe God's telling us we shouldn't be here."

Butler had just begun his new appointment to start a new faith community in the Northern Illinois Conference at the closed Bethany United Methodist Church in Itasca. While it was questionable first 30 days, Butler said out of the storm opportunities and new possibilities arose.

"We began creating relationships," said Butler. "We met neighbors who lent a hand with the cleanup, insurance claims provided resources, and people really rallied around to help us."

Butler, who also served as a church planter in Oswego, says The Center hasn't followed the typical church planting process.

"The Center has been about finding out where God is moving and then going to work at it. It's about listening to the community," he said. "We didn't start with Sundays. We really focused on the idea that it's about what the community is already doing and us getting involved."

A hub of activity, The Center started as a multi-use space for the community to come and take part in a variety of offerings during the week such as yoga, martial arts, a children's music program, artists-in-residence, a weekly community meal, recovery groups, and Bible studies.

"We started as a 'parachute drop' in the community without a congregation," said Butler. "We hustled up a few friends to help with a few projects and over the course of a few months, we met more people and eventually started a men's group with multiple churches represented."

Butler said it was that men's group who insisted on starting a Sunday service in February 2018. "Church is not Sunday worship. It's community gathering to create an impact for Jesus. The Kingdom is expanding in Itasca," said Butler.

Ethel "E" Bertany is the church's Financial Secretary and started coming to The Center in the beginning when there were only 14-15 people involved. Now,



Elgin District Supt. Darneather Murph-Heath, Bishop Sally Dyck and Rev. Bob Butler serve communion at The Center's chartering service.

more than 80 people are worshipping there each week. After a short 20 months since launching, they celebrated becoming a chartered church in the NIC on May 12, 2019.

"The Lord works in mysterious ways," said Bertany. "I always wanted to be involved with church but couldn't find a fit. I took this as a way to get involved and to do what God is leading us to do."

Bertany says The Center is building its presence in the community participating in many activities such as a food truck rally, the Memorial Day parade, a food drive, and a garage sale.

"We practice what we preach," said Bertany. "We are out in the community doing what God calls us to do."

While moving forward, The Center also honors its past. Memorabilia, photos, and artifacts from Bethany UMC's 160-year history, including the first Bible and lectern, are on display in the front hallway of the building, which was moved to its current location in 1922.

"We shouldn't forget those people who came before us because there was a pastor back in that day who said we should go there...that's the uncharted area," said Butler. "That's pretty much what we are trying doing again today. Looking for where it's uncharted and trying to make something happen."

Alice Beine is one of the original members of Bethany UMC who has returned to The Center. She was baptized and raised in this church and brought up her three children here. At age 85 and still active in the congregation with her husband, she's happy the church doors are back open. "I feel this is my home and I always feel good when I leave here on Sundays," said Beine.

Butler hopes many in the Itasca community and surrounding area call this church home. But, he says they'll continue searching for new ways to share the Gospel outside the four walls of the building to reach new people with the good news of Jesus Christ. "I hope we continue to keep ourselves open to what God is doing around us," said Butler. If something would happen to us such as another microburst came and leveled us, I would want the community to rally around us and say they need this space. That would be the true testament that we are the center of the community."

The Center is located at 400 North Walnut, Itasca, with Sunday worship at 11 a.m. For more information, visit their website at communitycenter.life.

JULY/AUGUST CALENDAR NEWS

NIC UMW Mission u

July 11-14, 2019 (Weekend)

Location: Carmelite Spiritual Center, Darien, IL

July 27, 2019 (One Day Event)

Location: South Suburban Korean UMC, Flossmoor

This year's studies are:

- Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship by Janet Wolf
- Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission by Ellen Blue
- What About Our Money? A Faith Response by Susan K. Taylor

Mission u is presented by United Methodist Women for all (children, youth, men and women; you don't even have to be Methodist to attend).

Visit umwnic.org/mission-u for details and registration.

ChildServ Backpack Drive

July 1 - Sept. 1

Be a contributor to ChildServ's 2019 Back-to-School Backpack Drive and help our children succeed in school and reach their potential. To learn more or set up a donation, please contact Zulma Colon, Director of Donor Engagement, at zcolon@childserv.org or 773-867-7361.

Pastoral Transitions Workshop

Aug. 3

Location: Grace UMC, 300 E. Gartner Road, Naperville

Cost: \$10/person

A workshop for clergy and laity.

For more info, contact your district superintendent or Rev. Jeffry Bross 847.962.4212. To register, visit

www.umcnic.org/calendar/transitions-workshop.

2019 College of Christian Life

Aug. 12-14

Embassy Suites, 100 Conference Center Drive in East Peoria

The speaker for the two-day retreat will be the Rev. Dr. Terry Teykl.

Cost: \$175 before July 14, and \$200 after that date until registration closes.

CEU's are available upon request.

Bishop Sally Dyck will be the opening worship preacher.

For more information and to register, visit igrc-reg.brtaapp.com/CCL2019.

Discipleship Systems Training

Sept. 10

Chicago Northwestern District 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Location: Park Ridge: First UMC, 418 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge

Chicago Southern District 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Location: St. Andrew UMC, 18850 Riegel Road, Homewood

Sept. 11

DeKalb District

9 a.m. - 12 noon

Reynolds UMC, 2496 Reynolds Rd., Ashton

Rockford District

2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Trinity UMC, 2600 W. Pearl City Rd., Freeport

Sept. 12

Elgin District

9 a.m. - 12 noon

Our Saviour's UMC, 701 E.

Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg

Aurora District

2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Grace UMC, 300 E. Gartner Rd., Naperville

You will be invited to become more intentional about making disciples in your ministry setting. Each training event covers:

- Clarifying the what, how and why of making disciples.
- Creating an intentional discipleship system (or pathway) - unique to your church's context.
- Equipping your disciples with the right heart and motivation.

For more info and to register, visit www.umcnic.org/calendar Questions about this training? Contact Rev. J. Martin Lee at mlee@umcnic.org or 312-346-9766 ext. 708.

NIJFON Champions for Justice Annual Dinner

Sept. 29, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Two Brothers Roundhouse, 2205 N. Broadway, Aurora Sponsorships available now, please visit our website at www.nijfon.org

Your sponsorship will help Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors achieve its fundraising goals for 2019 and grow its capacity to serve the immigrant community of Northern Illinois.

50th Anniversary Memorial Service

Sept. 29 at 10:30 a.m.

For Rev. Bruce and Eugenia Johnson

Location: Parish of the Holy Covenant, 925 W. Diversey Pkwy., Chicago



DYK???

Did you know? UM's on the Move

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

It happens every year like clockwork. Appointments are made, annual conference ends, and the MOVES begin. This year there will be close to 65 clergy moves as appointments take effect over the summer.

Reflecting on the theme of annual conference "Back to the Future", we have come a long way in the process of clergy deployment. Even today, retired clergy reminisce about the days when they would pack up their household before annual conference and wait with anticipation until the closing remarks of the annual conference session, when the Bishop would announce the appointments for clergy in the coming year. Families waited back home in anticipation.

Over the course of the next two weeks, churches said goodbye to their pastors and pastors prepared for a new ministry site. No introductions, no visit to the new community. If you look at the history of clergy appointments over the course of our 180 years as a conference, you can see that churches

received a new pastor, on average, every two years in the early days of Methodism.

We have since learned that good transitions make for good ministry. Matches are made based on missional gifts and church goals. Time is given to say goodbye and a smooth transition is emphasized, with the exiting and entering pastors meeting and planning together through orientation.

There are some best practices for this time of change, such as the three stages of William Bridges' Transition Model: Endings, Neutral Zone, and New Beginnings. It is a logical progression, but sometimes we only see one part of this spectrum and forget to take into account the full journey of transition.

Endings are important. Sending off your pastor in love by celebrating relationships and accomplishments help everyone prepare for what is next. It gives us time to grieve as we say goodbye and offers time to reminisce.

The Neutral Zone gives us time to explore.

Explore the community, the church, the new congregation, the pastor. This is a good time for welcome, hospitality and acceptance. It is the beginning as we establish relationships.

Once the basics are established, we move to New Beginnings, the work of crafting ministry together as pastor and congregation.

The NIC Cabinet will host a Transitions Workshop for clergy and congregational leadership on August 3 at Naperville: Grace. You can learn more and register for this workshop at on the conference website. Additional resources may be found under www.umcnic.org/ordainedministry.

When you see a moving truck on the road this summer, say a little prayer for those who are facing change. The truck could contain a UM pastor's earthly possessions. Change is hard and good transitions require thoughtful attention and preparation. Blessings to all those UM pastors on the move.

Appointments & Retirements: May/June Announcements

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

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

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

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

Kihwan Choi (Elder) to Northbrook: Glenbrook Korean (Chicago Northwestern District) from Seneca: First/Marseilles (DeKalb District). Kihwan follows Eun-Young Ko who is appointed to Elmhurst: Faith Evangelical (Elgin District).

Paul Lee (Elder) to Sterling: Wesley (DeKalb District) from Waterman (DeKalb District). Paul follows Jeremiah Thompson who is appointed to Malta/Northwest Malta (DeKalb District).

Dawn Barr (Certified Lay Minister) to Van Brocklin/Florence (Rockford District). Dawn follows Kathleen Brinkmeier who passed away earlier this year.

Deborah Percell (Elder) to Lake Bluff: Grace (Elgin District) from Elgin: Epworth (Elgin District). Deb follows GaHyung Kim who is appointed to Lockport: First and Lisle: Faith.

Karen May (Local Pastor) to Chicago: Mandell (Chicago Northwestern District). Karen follows Thoreau May.

Rich Ottens (District Superintendent Supply) to Hanover (part-time) (Rockford District). Rich follows Bonnie Davies who has been serving as interim.

GaHyung Kim (Elder) to Lockport: First and Lisle: Faith (Aurora District) from Lake Bluff: Grace (Elgin District). GaHyung follows Phil Sheets and Craig Jones who return to retired status.

Donald Guest (Elder) to Chicago: Epworth (part-time) (Chicago; Northwestern District). Don follows Lindsey Long Joyce who remains serving at Chicago: United Church of Rogers Park.

Larry Dunlap-Berg (Elder) to Transitional Leave from extension ministry to the Cumberland Science Museum.

Donna Hoffman (Local Pastor) to Pearl City and McConnell (Rockford District). Donna follows Matthew Smith who is appointed to Chana/Lighthouse (DeKalb District).

Kwang Sung Lim (Elder) to Seneca: First/Marseilles (DeKalb District) from Ingleside (Elgin District). Kwang Sung follows Kihwan Choi who is appointed to Northbrook: Glenbrook Korean (Chicago: Northwestern District).

Jaeeon (Jake) Cho (District Superintendent Supply) to Waterman (DeKalb District). Jack follows Paul Lee who is appointed to Sterling: Wesley (DeKalb District).

Jesus Molina (Local Pastor) to Franklin Park (1/4-time) (Chicago Northwestern District) while also continuing at Stone Park and Chicago: Emmanuel. Jesus follows Kye Ile Hong who is retiring.

Kim Chapman (Local Pastor) to Mt. Carroll (Rockford District) while also serving Thomson and Argo Fay 3/4-time. (Rockford District). Kim follows Donna Hoffman who is appointed to Pearl City/McConnell (Rockford District).

Jerrod Severing (Provisional Elder) to Elgin: Epworth (Elgin District) from Lanark (Rockford District). Jerrod follows Deborah Percell who is appointed to Lake Bluff: Grace (Elgin District). Effective August 1.

Marilyn Nolan (Elder) to Lanark (Rockford District) from Dixon: Grace (DeKalb District). Marilyn follows Jerrod Severing who is appointed to Elgin: Epworth. Effective August 1.

Le Mai Tran (Local Pastors License Pending) to Chicago: First Vietnamese. Le Mai follows Wesley Van who will leave the appointment.

For the 2018-19 appointment booklet, visit: www.umcnic.org/appointments.



During the retirement service, a retiring clergy, Rev. Beth Galbreath, passes the mantle to a new clergy, Rev. Ashish Singh, symbolizing the next chapters in their ministry journeys.



Chicago Southern Dist. Supt. Rev. Jacques Conway, Cabinet Dean, thanks Rockford District Supt. Lisa Kruse-Safford and DeKalb District Supt. Young-Mee Park for their faithful service as they step off the Cabinet. Elgin Dist. Supt. Darneather Murph-Heath will be the next dean of the Cabinet and Chicago Northwestern Dist. Supt. Brittany Isaac will be the secretary.

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