



Navigating Uncharted Waters
ANNUAL CONFERENCE PRESENTS

2018 Annual Conference Registration opens April 2

Things to Know:

- Online registration begins Monday, April 2
- Visit www.umcnic.org/AC2018. The cost is \$80. Prices increase April 28 to \$95. Registration closes May 20. Onsite registration costs \$130.
- Hotel Registration at Pheasant Run:
Rate is: \$122 plus 11% tax. through May 11. Link found on the website.
- Gary Rand will be working with our worship team to develop worship services and lead us in worship during Annual Conference.
- The Conference will open on Sunday, June 3 at 4 p.m. with the Ordination Service. Watch for more information about clergy processional and all other related instructions.
- Clergy session, like last year, will be held at an earlier date on May 15, 2018. Bishop Sally Dyck will make the official call for that at a later time. Detailed information will also be shared in coming days.
- Among other business pieces, we will celebrate all who are ending their ministry as appointed clergy in a Retirement Service on Monday, June 4 and honor those who have transitioned into eternal life in a Memorial Service on Tuesday, June 5. Please remember to submit names of Lay Members to Annual Conference who have died since June 2017 to Megan Casey at mcasey@umcnic.org. All families, friends, and congregations are welcome to attend the service.
- We will be offering the "New Member Orientation" on Sunday, June 3. Watch for location in the upcoming updates.
- A new pictorial directory is in the works. Look for sign-ups for your photo session at Pheasant Run coming soon.

A few reminders:

- ALL historical documents and proposed legislation for the conference must be submitted by April 1, 2018 to Rev. Katie Voigt by email at ACdocuments@umcnic.org. No exceptions, please. Legislation will be posted online at www.umcnic.org/AC2018 by May 4.
- Look for more information and updates in the Conference weekly eNews and the Reporter. Remember to sign up for eNews if you have not already done so at www.umcnic.org (scroll down halfway and click on "sign up for our Newsletter").
- Childcare will be available for those attending the Annual Conference for children 12 years old and under at Baker UMC in St. Charles. May 19 is the last day to register. June 1 is the last day to cancel childcare, no-shows will be billed \$20 an hour.
- Cokesbury Bookstore and Display Tables will again share the space (selected rooms of the St. Charles Ballroom). Registration for Display Tables opens March 4. The cost is \$25 per 6ft table and \$45 with electricity.
- Our onsite Accessibility Coordinators, Kathy Wellman and Violet Johnicker and assistant Susan Harkness will be present to help with any needs (vision, movement, hearing, etc.), within our ability. Please be sure to indicate in your registration how we can extend welcome and hospitality to you during Annual Conference.
- If you are interested in ushering, greeting or volunteering during plenaries and worship services, please email Alka Lyall at pastoralkalyall@gmail.com.
- Visit and bookmark www.umcnic.org/AC2018 for updates.

DO NOT DELAY. DATED MATERIAL.

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

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #130
Homewood, IL



2018 Bishop's Appeal

Bring an Offering to Annual Conference
For the Global Migration Crisis
Over 65 million people are displaced by war, persecution, and disasters... more than at any time in history.

Let's do for one what we wish we could do for all!

75% of the Appeal offering will go to the Global Migration Advance # for assistance internationally. 25% will stay here in Northern Illinois to assist organizations and local churches working with refugees and immigrants. For resources visit www.umcnic.org/Bishopsappeal.



United Voices for Children



UVC looking for award nominees

United Voices for Children is once again seeking nominations for awards to honor extraordinary volunteer service or advocacy efforts on behalf of children, youth and/or families throughout the Northern Illinois Conference.

The three awards are the Bishop Jesse R. DeWitt Child Advocacy Award, Katherine B. Greene Child

Worker Award, and the Rev. Margaret Ann Williams Service Award. Any United Methodist member or congregation in Northern Illinois can nominate someone to receive one of these awards.

More information about the awards and the nominations form can be found at unitedvoicesforchildren.org/programs/awards.

Deadline for nominations is April 6, 2018. Awards will be given during the UVC Breakfast at the annual conference session on Tuesday morning, June 5.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Bishop's Column:
A look back 50 years... 2



Saving Boundary
Waters... 3



Laity Convocation
Asks How?... 6



Join Rally to
End Racism... 8



From Bishop Sally Dyck: 1968...a year to remember

As 2018 rolled in we began to hear 50 year retrospectives. The year 1968 was a tumultuous, pivotal, and significant year in our nation's recent history. It's impossible to reflect on all of those semicentennial events and persons that have shaped us more than we may realize.

But just to name a few...

North Korea was in the news right away in January 1968 when it captured the USS Pueblo. The crew of 82 was held captive, tortured, and starved for eleven months. They remained strong, including an act of defiance when photographed, and were released shortly before Christmas.

For many years our relationship with North Korea has been precarious but it has once again come into view as an even more tenuous peace, potentially jeopardized by both sides.

The Vietnam War was raging in 1968, marked by a disputed lottery draft and opposition to the war. While there was news that we were winning the war, it was evident to others, including an on-the-ground view and reporting from Walter Cronkite in February 1968, that we were not winning the war as had been repeatedly reported.

Many people, including religious leaders, were arrested in anti-war protests and yet others insisted that the war was essential in preventing the spread of Communism. Families, churches, and communities throughout the nation were deeply divided and in conflict.

50 years later, war (albeit in other parts of the world) continues to wrack our nation as we fight terrorist groups, determine which countries to lend military aid to or not, and continue to count the bodies. How well I remember listening to the weekly count of dead and injured in Vietnam as I got ready for school. It's almost as if now we've become inured to the casualty count of the wars waged throughout the world, including terrorism, genocide and other atrocities.

While 2018 hosts a Winter Olympics, the Summer Olympics was in Mexico City in 1968. Always the

"thrill of victory and the agony of defeat" in such events (although I guess that wasn't the theme of the Olympics), there was a silent but shocking demonstration by two black athletes on the stage as they raised their fists during the national anthem in protest against racial discrimination in the U.S. The athletes who won gold and bronze for our country were expelled from the U.S. Team two days later but were hailed by many when they returned home.



A view of the platform from the floor of the 1968 uniting conference in Dallas, where a merger of the Methodist Church and Evangelical United Brethren Church resulted in The United Methodist Church. File photo courtesy of the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History

Support and criticism of people who express concerns symbolically and "in the street" continue into 2018. "Taking a knee" may have happened in 2017 but it's reminiscent of the 1968 Summer Olympics. The effects of racism, the resistance to address it, and methods to do so are ever-present realities for us still 50 years later.

1968 was a bloody, violent year overall. We witnessed the assassinations of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy. Both were young leaders in our country: MLK was 39 and RFK was 42. What might have they contributed to bringing a nation farther down the road of racial reconciliation if they had lived out their lives among us?

On April 4 in Washington, D.C., hundreds will gather for a rally at the Mall on Capitol Hill sponsored by the National Council of Churches which will give witness and launch a campaign to work toward racial justice in our country, beginning in our churches.

As the Northern Illinois Annual Conference, we are participating with the Illinois Council of Churches and sponsoring a Pan-Methodist (African Methodist Episcopal, Christian Methodist Episcopal, and African Methodist Episcopal Zion) bus. We believe that participating with our Pan-Methodist brothers and sisters magnifies the witness of racial reconciliation. All United Methodists (and other Christians) are invited to attend (April 3-5 if riding the bus) and certainly to pray for racial justice and reconciliation. See pg. 8 for more information on registration.

Another 50th anniversary that we will recognize at our annual conference session in June is the merger between the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church in Dallas, Texas on April 23, 1968. We especially want to recognize churches, laity and clergy who have roots in the EUB tradition, but also to think about some of the connections between what was happening in our denomination then and now.

Also, UM Communications wants to interview people who were at the uniting conference in Dallas in 1968. If you were there, please let our Communications Director, Anne Marie Gerhardt, know by email at agerhardt@umcnic.org.

Our nation and our world were in conflict over many things 50 years ago...and we still are today; many of those conflicts overlap then and now. Likewise, the merger of our church wasn't conflict-free and our denomination continues to struggle with its understanding of mission and unity.

It's often said that the only thing that doesn't change is change itself and we have seen that throughout the last 50 years. Oh, yes, and the love and grace of Jesus Christ who calls us to witness to our faith, hope and love in all times and places doesn't change either. Let us put our trust in Jesus, "our calling to fulfill."

What's the Credentials Committee? By Ryan Sutton, Credentials Committee Chair

You've heard our group's name spoken at Annual Conference (AC) every year, but do you know what we do? Every AC must have the equivalent of a Credentials Committee – a group that invites the correct amount of people to attend AC each year, as well as the correct amount of lay members and clergy.

We are also responsible for any questions that deal with certification of people for the Conference and their seating on the floor. Our membership is limited to seven – we have one person (lay or clergy) from each of the Districts and the Conference Registrar. Our current group consists of: Roger Curless (Aurora), Diana Davis (interim -Chicago Northwestern), Rose Faulkner (Chicago Southern), Rev. Ryan Sutton (DeKalb - chair), Kathy Dickerson (Elgin), Rev. Christopher Druce Jones (Rockford), and Laura Lopez (Registrar). If you have questions about the Credentials Committee or your church's lay members to AC, please contact your District's representative.

Our committee meets about three times per year, and conducts other business via email. One of the challenging parts of our job is attempting to equalize the number of laity and clergy at AC. Per the *Book of Discipline*, we are required to invite the same number

of lay persons as clergy for voting purposes. With the high number of retired clergy in our Conference, we are constantly trying to find new lay persons to attend June's AC.

Back in 2014, we passed legislation that increased (per church membership levels) the amount of lay people invited per church. If you have up to 300 official members, you are invited to have one lay member attend AC besides your pastor. But for each additional level (i.e. 301-600 members), you are allowed one additional lay member. (This means your church's number of lay members can change from year to year.) This helped us gain more laity, but there are still more laity needed to attend AC. Each District is then granted an additional amount of District-appointed lay members that can come from any church to represent that District. If you are interested, please contact your District Superintendent.

The Credentials Committee seeks to do its work in the background, so you don't hear much from us. But hopefully we help the AC work smoothly by making sure people are properly credentialed for the decisions our Conference makes. We appreciate your prayers as we all work together for the ministry of Christ!



From left-right - Ryan Sutton, Rose Faulkner, Roger Curless, Kathy Dickerson, Laura Lopez, Christopher Druce Jones.

Boy Scout advocates to protect Boundary Waters By Linda Hendelman*

Canoeing and exploring in the Boundary Waters can have profound effects on those who enjoy its pristine beauty. Noting that Boundary Waters trips have been offered for over 30 years, the Rev. Lisa Telomen, pastor of First United Methodist Church of La Grange, observes that “many a formative spiritual experience has resulted from time spent in the Boundary Waters.”

Hayden Claesson, an Eagle Scout in Troop 14, which meets at First UMC in La Grange, also finds canoeing in the Boundary Waters an extraordinarily rewarding experience. Concerned with recent federal government action that would allow toxic sulfide-ore mining in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) watershed, Hayden decided to take action to raise awareness of the potential threat. First UMC was the site of a forum arranged by Hayden on the potential threat to the Boundary Waters.

Eagle Scout Project

The 16-year-old son of Erik and Susan Claesson and a junior at Lyons Township High School, Hayden says he has been going to the Boundary Waters every year since fifth grade. “I love being outdoors and exploring the wilderness of the Boundary Waters,” Hayden explains. He and his fellow Scouts visit the Boundary Waters regularly.

When he learned from John Lorenzen, an expert who has been leading Boundary Waters trips for a decade, that mining in the area adjacent to the Boundary Waters would cause problems, Hayden decided to undertake a year-long Eagle Scout project to make others aware of the potential threat of toxic-ore mining in the BWCAW watershed. He does presentations for his Scout Troop on the BWCAW on a regular basis.

In early December, Hayden organized a forum at First UMC as part of his Eagle Scout project to raise awareness of the threat from potential toxic-ore mining in proximity to the BWCAW. He credits First UMC as having been “super-helpful” in his project. Supported by The Save the Boundary Waters organization in Ely, Minnesota, Hayden presented an informative introduction to the BWCAW and its value to him, scouting, and as a natural space for the enjoyment of all, according to Pastor Telomen.

Also on hand at the forum were Dave and Amy Freeman, named Adventurers of the Year in 2014 by *National Geographic*. The Freemans discussed their two-year efforts to save the BWCAW and answered questions from the approximately 75 in attendance at the December forum. As part of his Eagle Scout Project, Hayden also has sent emails to various groups in the Chicago area that use the BWCAW, including an organization that works with refugee children who invited him to talk about the importance of the wilderness.

Potential Threat

Studies show that sulfide-ore mining used to extract copper and nickel pollutes waters with acid, arsenic, mercury, and lead. Hayden emphasizes that this type of mining has

resulted in sulfuric waste contamination that has never been avoided. The Obama Administration placed a 20-year moratorium on mining leases near the BWCAW and planned to conduct a two-year comprehensive study (Environmental Impact Statement) on mining leases until potential damage could be determined.

In November 2017, H.R. 3905, introduced by Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minn., passed the House. Among other things, the bill would allow copper and nickel mining on the edge of the Boundary Waters and stop the critical environmental study on the potential risks of copper mining to the Wilderness. The bill is now in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Although a Chilean mining company, Antofagasta PLC, has held leases for mining in the area since the 1960s, no mining has ever been done at the site. In December, reversing the Obama Interior Department and U.S. Forest Service, the Trump administration renewed the Antofagasta leases to allow copper and nickel mining operations on the border of the BWCAW by Twin Metals Minnesota, Antofagasta’s subsidiary. On January 26, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke reversed the Obama comprehensive study and instead called for a more modest environmental assessment.

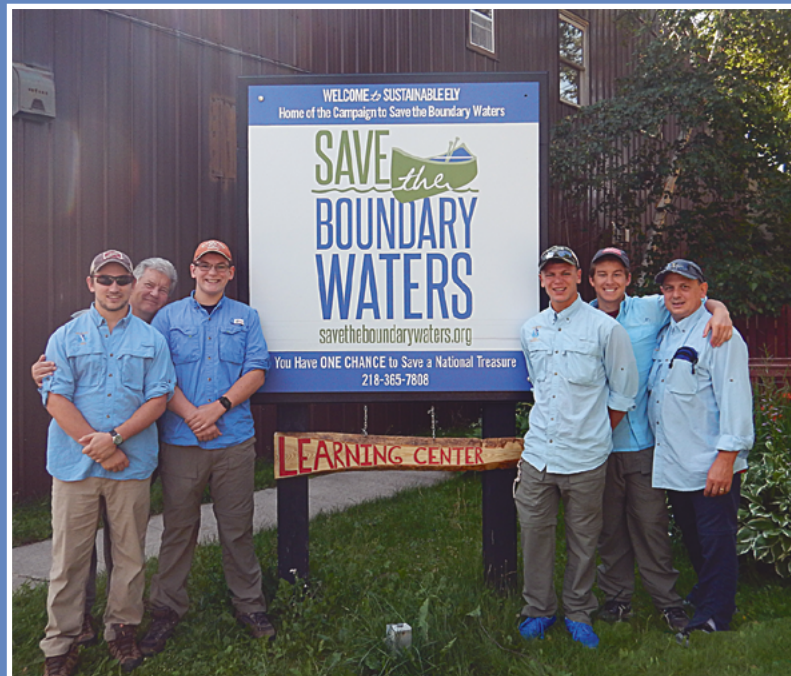
Additional Information

Pastor Telomen noted the importance of potential threats to the BWCAW from toxic-ore mining. The issue is important “to preserve God’s creation and these spaces for human renewal and animal survival,” she observed, “and for future generations’ survival and appreciation.” Additionally, First UMC has an environmental justice task force involved as leaders in the nearby Salt Creek Watershed Preservation and Restoration Board. Decisions made about the BWCAW, she said, may set precedents for the work at Salt Creek. More importantly, she declared, “the poisoning of the Boundary Waters will affect an even greater watershed in Minnesota, Canada, and Wisconsin.”

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is some 1.1 million acres located in the northern third of the Superior National Forest in northeastern Minnesota and is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service. Set aside in 1926 to preserve its primitive character, the BWCAW was made part of the National Wilderness Preservation System in 1964. Formed from the melting of glaciers that left rugged cliffs, crags, canyons, gentle hills, rocky shores, and sand beaches, the BWCAW includes some 1,200 miles of canoe routes and 12 hiking trails in addition to 2,000 campsites.

To learn more about how to protect the BWCAW, see savetheboundarywaters.org. For information and further details about the Superior Forest and the Boundary Waters, see the USDA Forest Service website at www.fs.usda.gov.

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



Hayden Claesson (3rd from left) has attended Boundary Waters in Ely, Minnesota since fifth grade.



Hayden Claesson shares information on his Eagle Scout Project. He’s part of Troop 14 which meets at First UMC in La Grange.



Photo courtesy Dave Freeman.



A growing display of flowers, candles, and photos surround 17 glowing statues of angels at Pines Trails Park amphitheater in Parkland, Fla., in remembrance of the shooting victims at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Photo courtesy Todd Dittman

Pastors, churches respond to Florida massacre

By Sam Hodges, UMNS

The Rev. Vance Rains expected that his church's Ash Wednesday evening service would be just like the noon service. But in-between, a mass shooting occurred at nearby Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in Parkland, Florida. So evening worship at First United Methodist Church of Coral Springs, became a time for grieving, consoling and praying, with Rains improvising a new message.

"I talked about Jesus calming the storm and basically said that Jesus obviously doesn't calm all the storms, but he's with us in the storms, and he's bigger than the storms," Rains said.

Authorities have accused 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz, who had been expelled from the school, of using a semi-automatic AR-15 rifle in a Feb. 14 massacre that claimed 17 lives, including students and teachers.

Rains said no church members were killed or wounded but one of the shooting victims had participated in youth programs at First Church Coral Springs.

"We had a lot of students and teachers there, lots of deep connections," Rains said. "Our families were waiting to get notice that their child was fine. ... People are still in shock."

A youth member of Bethesda Haitian United Methodist Mission in Tamarac was among the Douglas High student survivors.

"We heard the guns shooting. We were so scared," said Judeland Norceide, a 12th grader.

The youth recalled a frantic, harrowing evacuation, and a tense two-hour wait to learn that a cousin of hers, a fellow Douglas student, was OK. Though no friends of hers were killed or wounded, she's mourning the death of a beloved school staff member.

The Rev. Cheryl Jane "CJ" Walter, pastor of Cokesbury United Methodist Church in nearby Margate, opened the church to offer prayer stations on Feb. 15, and planned an evening prayer vigil.

"Basically, it's just listening to people at this point and helping them find something

to hold onto, and we're so grateful that God's holding onto us," Walter said.

The Rev. Cynthia Weems, superintendent of the Florida Conference's South East District, noted the United Methodist pastors near the shootings are part of a highly effective covenant or support group.

"They are positioned particularly well to lead their congregations and communities in this time of tragedy due to their strong friendships with one another and the years of shared ministry they have modeled to their larger community, including church-school partnerships that are a priority for the Florida Conference," Weems wrote in an email.

Bishop Kenneth Carter, who oversees the Florida Conference and also is the incoming president of the Council of Bishops, offered a statement, which read in part:

"In light of (the Feb. 14) shootings, we repent from our participation in a culture of death; we acknowledge the harm we do to others; and we claim the power of the cross that breaks the cycle of violence and retaliation. We also grieve with the communities of Parkland and Coral Springs," he said.

Many United Methodists took to social media to express horror and outrage at the nation's latest mass shooting, one of six to occur in schools in the last two years.

The United Methodist Church supports legislation to curb gun violence, and endorses a ban of large-capacity ammunition magazines and weapons.

"We must lift the words from our United Methodist Church and turn them into action by advocating with lawmakers," said the Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe, Board of Church and Society's General Secretary.

Meanwhile, Pastor Rains used his blog to acknowledge his own struggles in the massacre's aftermath.

"I'm torn between wondering if the church is making any difference in this world at all, and knowing Christ, working in the church, is the only hope we have," Rains wrote.

Sam Hodges, a writer for United Methodist News Service writer, lives in Dallas.

NIU remembers and grieves 10 years after school shooting

Students and faith leaders gather and light candles at the Grace Place Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University on Feb. 14 to remember victims of the gun violence.



As bells tolled and wreaths were placed in remembrance of the 10th anniversary of the Valentine's Day shooting which killed five students at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, news of another horrific school shooting was breaking in Florida.

Feelings of shock, fear and disbelief reemerged for the families of victims, survivors, students, University staff, the community and faith leaders who were gathering for the memorial service at the garden outside Cole Hall, where a gunman opened fire in a lecture room the afternoon of Feb. 14, 2008 taking the lives of Rianne Mace, the granddaughter of two retired pastors from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, Gayle Dubowski, Catalina Garcia, Julianna Gehant, and Daniel Parmenter.

"It was very hard day for all of us who were there not only because what happened to our campus (10 years ago), but because we were thinking something like this should not be happening again," said the Rev. Rosa Lee, who is the Wesley Foundation's Campus Minister at Northern Illinois University and participated in many of the week's remembrances.

Pastor Lee said as she arrived at church for Ash Wednesday services at 5:30 p.m., the updated news was even more grim reporting 17 people killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. By the 9 p.m. service at Grace Place Campus Ministry at NIU, Lee said the day's message shifted.

"We were prepared to talk about forgiveness of the shooter (at NIU) and light a sixth candle, but we could not talk about it since anger and fear from the Florida shooting had come over those attending," said Lee.

United Methodist pastors and churches have been and continue to be a source of comfort for the NIU community grappling with these feelings of anger, fear and grief over the years.

After the shooting in 2008, local United Methodist pastors offered counseling, comfort and help at area hospitals, churches held prayer vigils and reworked sermons to offer message of healing.

"I cannot imagine how they dealt with all the fear, sorrow, and anger from that shooting, especially First UMC in DeKalb and Sycamore UMC where many NIU staff and faculty worshiped," said Lee.

In the following years, candlelight vigils were held, services changed gears and new students came, but the effects of the trauma remained fresh. United Methodist pastors continued to reach out to NIU staff with words of comfort and hope and area churches knitted over a thousand prayers shawls, which were passed out to participants at NIU events around the anniversary.

As the 10th anniversary approached, Lee and student leaders at the Wesley Foundation decided to provide a positive influence and share the love of Christ to comfort and encourage the community. Lee served as a clergy volunteer at an appreciation service for first responders and provided support in reflection rooms. On the day of the anniversary, students shared candy on campus.

"As we passed out the chocolate with the sign of Jesus' love, we met survivors," said Lee. It was great for us to see that they came back to comfort and encourage us and at the same time, it was really good for them to see that the next generation was doing something to comfort and encourage our community."

Despite the horror brought about by continued gun violence once again on our schools, the United Methodist faith community remains steadfast in providing hope.

"We as one community have moved forward TOGETHER by recognizing our love and support for each other as well as our sorrow and loss," said Lee. We also believe we are stronger than our past and We are stronger than our fear."

Commission moderators emphasize mission as key to way forward

The moderators of the Commission on a Way Forward are urging United Methodists to engage in reflections on where they see mission at the heart of the denomination as well as seeing mission as significant for resolving conflict. The following statement is from Bishops David Yemba, Sandra Steiner Ball, and Ken Carter:

"At the conclusion of the recent meeting of the Commission on a Way Forward, the members were asked to share three words that expressed their prayer for the church in the present moment. The 32 persons reflect the global nature of the church and a profound diversity of gender, age and theological perspective. They are laity, deacons, elders and bishops. The three words each shared then helped to create a word cloud. The more often a word is named, the larger it becomes in the word cloud (picture).

In the Mission, Vision and Scope given to the Commission by the Council of Bishops, we are seeking to "design a way for being church that maximizes the presence of a United Methodist witness in as many places in the world as possible." This vision is deeply rooted in the movement of the gospel from a small village in Bethlehem to the ends of the earth. The revelation of the Christ to the Magi (the gentiles) in Matthew 2 signals the church's calling to share the good news with all people. At our best, this has been the vocation of a missionary church and is the root of a global church, where we are sent "from everywhere to everywhere" in the name of Jesus."

For reflection:

- What does it mean that the commission sees "mission" at the heart of the way forward for our denomination?
- Could it be that we discover our unity as we are in mission together?
- What if mission became the primary framework for our work in resolving conflict?
- How are we called to be in mission together more fully with our brothers and sisters in the LGBTQ community?
- And what three words would express your prayer for the church in the present moment?

The Commission will present their final proposal to the Council of Bishops (COB) meeting in May 2018. The COB will then decide on the proposal to be sent to the General Conference Special Session in February 2019 where delegates will vote on it.

About the Commission: The 32-member Commission on a Way Forward was appointed by the Council of Bishops to assist the bishops in their charge from the 2016 General Conference to lead the church forward amid the present impasse related to LGBTQ inclusion and resulting questions about the unity of the church.

For more information on the Commission on a Way Forward, visit umc.org/wayforward.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/umcforward

Twitter: @UMCForward

Instagram: www.instagram.com/umcforward



Rosecrance partners with Northern Illinois Food Bank: Solving hunger in the community

Recently Rosecrance hosted one of Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Pantry trucks at their Ware Center location, 2704 N Main St., Rockford, IL. More than 20 Rosecrance employees handed out nutritious meals to almost 300 individuals.

Rosecrance Recovery Coach Bonnie Gilmore coordinated the mobile pantry distribution with the Food Bank. "We are very grateful for this opportunity," said Gilmore. "The goal of this event aligns with the Rosecrance's mission-to build healthier communities."

The mobile pantry was open to Rosecrance clients and the Rockford community at large. Nutritious meals were served on a first-come, first served basis, while supplies lasted.

"Many of the individuals we serve have a difficult time getting to the pantry, especially during the winter months," says Annie Fridh, Rosecrance Administrator of Adult Mental Health Services. "This mobile pantry enables those we serve and those living on the Northwest side of our community to receive the hearty nutrition they need to stay healthy this winter."

Northern Illinois Food Bank has two Mobile Pantry trucks which act as "traveling food pantries" to distribute perish-

able and non-perishable food directly to hungry neighbors across its 13-county service area of Northern Illinois, which includes Winnebago County.

"Our mobile pantry program is so important to the work we do at the Food Bank," says Jennifer Nau, Director of Communications at Northern Illinois Food Bank. "Mobile pantries not only allow us to deliver food directly to the highest need areas of our communities, but also provides the healthy, nutritious foods our neighbors need to lead healthy lives."

Seventy-seven percent of households the Food Bank serves had to choose between paying for food and utilities in the past 12 months, and 62 percent had to choose between food and paying for medicine/medical care in the past 12 months.

"We are grateful for the support of community partners like Rosecrance, who are not only helping us solve hunger, but are helping us build healthy communities," says Nau. "Our goal is to ultimately provide every meal, every day, for every hungry neighbor in every community."

In 2017, the Food Bank held more than 400 mobile pantry distributions, which provided more than 40,000 households with nutritious meals. For more info visit: solvehungertoday.org.

Grant Deadlines

The Keagy/Town and Rural Committee wishes to invite rural congregations to apply to our annual Keagy and P.A.C.K. Grants by March 15, 2018.

Eligibility: Applicant churches must be set in a rural community or small town. "Rural" is defined as communities of 10,000 or less that are a part of farming communities.

Those seeking grants for ministry opportunities ranging \$100-500 are encouraged to apply for a P.A.C.K. grant.

Those seeking grants for ministry opportunities ranging \$500-3,000 are encouraged to apply for a Keagy Grant.

For a brochure and to download a copy of either application visit www.umcnic.org/calendar/keagytown-and-rural-grants-deadline.

Save the date for Peace with Justice Sunday

As one of the six churchwide Special Sunday offerings of The United Methodist Church, Peace with Justice Sunday helps support advocacy work through the General Board of Church and Society and right here in the Northern Illinois Conference.

The date for this year's Peace with Justice offering is Sunday, May 27, 2018. Half of the offering receipts remain within the conference for the local Board of Church and Society and its work to address issues of injustice.

Special giving envelopes and posters can be ordered by visiting shop.umc.org. Let us give thanks to God for how the United Methodist Connection utilizes the Peace with Justice offering to address issues of injustice both at home and around the world!

NIJFON offers Citizenship Workshops

Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors (NIJFON), a part of The New Americans Initiative, can guide your community members on their path to citizenship. Free citizenship workshops are being held in the Buffalo Grove (new location), Rockford, and Aurora.

At the workshops eligible legal permanent residents who qualify to apply for citizenship will receive free legal help with the application process, applying for fee waivers, and other steps to successfully become U.S. citizens.

Anyone who qualifies to apply for citizenship or has questions can call the Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors for more information and to make an appointment at 773-609-4401 or email appointments@nijfon.org.

The New Americans Initiative is coordinated by the Illinois Coalition for Refugee and Immigrant Rights and funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services.

For more info on NIJFON visit nijfon.org.



Discipleship Ministries General Secretary Rev. Junius Dotson shares the initiative #SeeAllThePeople with laity and clergy at the 2018 Laity Convocation.

Laity Convocation welcomes Discipleship Ministries General Secretary

One year after laity and clergy pondered the “why”, participants at the 2018 Northern Illinois Conference Laity Convocation focused on the “how” local churches carry out the mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

About 270 people gathered at Sycamore United Methodist Church on Feb. 17 to learn strategies for transforming ministry plans into action.

General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries Rev. Dr. Junius Dotson delivered the keynote challenging local churches to move from the ‘why’, (the purpose), to the ‘how’, (seeing all the people.) Dotson calls it “missional engagement.”

“For a long time we thought revitalizing churches meant looking for a quick fix (i.e. a new program), but we cannot quick fix our way back to vitality,” said Dotson. “It’s going to take ordinary people who are passionate about Jesus, who are willing to engage with people outside the church, who are willing to develop and cultivate relationships, and be willing to share their faith with others.”

Dotson introduced Discipleship Ministries grassroots initiative, #SeeAllThePeople, which provides a variety of resources to help shift the conversation from fixing churches to true discipleship.

“Engagement is more than outreach,” said Dotson. “It’s about building relationships because you cannot disciple people who you are not in relationship with and I’m talking about building authentic, organic and consistent relationships.”

Dotson says he’s inspired by the many stories of ways churches across the denomination are engaging in the community and seeing all the people. He used South Shore UMC in Chicago as an example. The congregation last August went outside its church to pray for people passing by in buses and cars and workers in the schoolyard across the street. They even served communion to people at a bus stop along-

side police officers who stopped their car to observe what was going on.

The church’s pastor, Rev. Adonna Davis Reid, wrote in an email to Rev. Dotson, “Since encouraging the congregation to persevere in prayer and fasting, we have begun to move in ways not previously experienced, or at least not in anyone’s memory. And we’re trying new ways of engaging with the community by encouraging people to see all the people in line with your new initiative.”

Reid says the following week she baptized 12 people, some who experienced the outdoor communion, in Lake Michigan – another first for the church!

“#SeeAllThePeople is one of many ways Discipleship Ministries is working to bring clarity, focus and renewed energy to our mission as an agency to challenge and support local church and annual conference leaders for their task of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” Dotson said.

To find short film conversation starters, a free downloadable version of the *Developing an Intentional Discipleship System* booklet, social media opportunities, worship resources, and to sign up for updates by email visit:

www.seeallthepeople.org.



Rev. Adonna Reid and members of the congregation at South Shore UMC in Chicago stepped outside the church to pray for people passing by and across the street last August.

Apportionments Paid

We are thankful for the 189 churches who paid 100% of their 2017 apportionments. “It is because of our wonderful churches continuing their support for The United Methodist Church, that the Northern Illinois Conference was able to pay 90% of our apportionments to support the General Church apportioned funds. We value and treasure, not only our 100% churches but all of our churches who work year-round to raise funds to support the mission. We thank you, and we look forward to a blessed 2018,” said Lonnie Chafin, NIC Treasurer.

100% Churches for 2017, *indicates above 100%

10005 Aurora: Wesley	30042 Chicago: Union Avenue	50025 Elk Grove: Prince of Peace
10006 Batavia	30043 Chicago: United Church of Hyde Park	50026 Elmhurst: Christ
10009 Carol Stream: St. Andrew	30047 Chicago: Wesley	50027 Elmhurst: Faith Evangelical
10010 Channahon	30055 Flossmoor: South Suburban Korean	50029 Fox River Grove: Community
10012 Downers Grove: First	30059 Hazel Crest: Community	50035 Hebron
10015 Geneva	30076 Chicago: Hyde Park Korean	50036 Ingleside
10018 Green Garden	30101 Urban Village Church*	50040 Libertyville
10019 Hinsdale	30108 Harvey: Transformation Community	50042 Marengo
10027 Kaneville	40001 Albany	50051 Elgin: Cornerstone
10028 Lemont	40005 Chana	50057 Schaumburg: Our Saviour’s
10029 Lisle: Faith	40006 Coleta*	50061 Wauconda: Federated Church
10034 Manhattan	40008 Cortland	50063 Waukegan: First
10035 Millington	40010 DeKalb: First	50065 Wood Dale: Community Church
10036 Millbrook	40012 Dixon: First	50073 Des Plaines: Nuevo Amanecer
10037 Minooka	40013 Dixon: Grace	50076 Waukegan: San Pablo*
10038 Mokena	40014 Earlville	50192 Mount Prospect: Sam Mool Korean
10040 Morris: First	40015 East Jordan	60001 Afolkey: Bethel
10042 Naperville: Community	40016 Elkhorn	60002 Apple River
10043 Naperville: Grace	40017 Erie	60003 Argo Fay
10045 New Lenox	40018 Esmond*	60004 Belvidere: First
10046 Orland Park: Faith	40019 Fenton	60005 Blaine
10047 Oswego: Good Shepherd	40020 Franklin Grove	60007 Capron
10049 Palos	40022 Harding*	60008 Cedarville
10051 Plainfield: First*	40023 Harmon*	60009 Chadwick: Hope*
10052 Plainfield: Sharon	40025 Hincley: First	60012 Dakota Rock Grove
10053 Plano	40026 Kingston	60014 Davis Junction
10055 St. Charles: Baker	40028 La Moille: Community	60016 Elizabeth
10059 West Chicago: First	40031 Leon	60017 Fair Haven
10063 Wheaton: Gary	40032 Lighthouse	60018 Florence
10066 Winfield: Community	40035 Malta	60021 Freeport: Faith
10067 Woodridge	40036 Malta: Northwest	60024 Galena*
10069 Yorkville: Trinity	40037 Maple Park: Grace	60025 German Valley
10071 Winfield: South Asian*	40039 Mendota: First	60026 Hanover*
10072 Bolingbrook: Crossroads of Faith	40040 Mendota: Zion	60027 Hickory Grove
10191 Flowing Grace	40041 Morrison	60028 Hunter
20003 Chicago: Berry Memorial	40042 Mount Morris: Disciples	60029 Kent
20009 Chicago: Church of 3 Crosses	40043 Norway	60030 Lanark
20010 Chicago: Edison Park	40045 Oregon	60031 Leaf River
20013 Chicago: El Redentor/Redeemer of Calvary	40048 Ottawa: First	60033 McConnell
20018 Chicago: Resurrection	40049 Paw Paw	60034 Milledgeville
20026 Chicago: Mandell	40051 Polo: Faith	60035 Mount Carroll
20039 Deerfield: Christ	40053 Princeton: First	60039 Pearl City: First
20043 Evanston: First	40054 Prophetstown	60042 Poplar Grove
20044 Evanston: Hemenway	40056 Reynolds	60043 Red Oak
20045 Evanston: Sherman	40057 Rochelle	60045 Rock City
20053 Maywood: Neighborhood	40059 Seneca: First	60046 Rockford: Aldersgate
20056 Northbrook: Northbrook	40061 Serena*	60053 Rockford: Christ the Carpenter
20066 Park Ridge: First	40063 Sterling: First	60056 Rockford: Evans
20068 River Forest	40065 Sterling: Wesley	60057 Rockford: Grace
20071 Wilmette: Trinity	40066 Steward	60061 Rockton
20080 Chicago: Indo Pak	40068 Sycamore	60063 Savanna: First
20105 Skokie: Jesus Loves Korean (NFC)	40070 Triumph	60065 Shannon: Bethel
30001 Alsip: Christ	50001 Addison: Good Samaritan	60066 Shirland
30005 Brookfield Compassion*	50002 Alden	60068 Stockton: Wesley
30008 Chicago: Chicago Lawn*	50004 Antioch	60069 Thomson
30010 Chicago: Clair Christian	50006 Arlington Heights: First	60071 Warren
30015 Chicago: Englewood/Rust*	50007 Barrington: Barrington	60072 Willow
30019 Chicago: First (Temple)	50011 Buffalo Grove: Kingswood	60073 Winnebago
30020 Chicago: Gorham	50012 Burlington	60075 Chemung
30024 Chicago: Ingleside Whitfield	50013 Carpentersville: Trinity	60065 Shannon: Bethel
30027 Chicago: Kelly/Woodlawn	50016 Crystal Lake: First	60066 Shirland
30028 Chicago: Lincoln	50017 Des Plaines: First	60068 Stockton: Wesley
30031 Chicago: Morgan Park	50022 Elgin: First	60069 Thomson
30034 Chicago: Greenstone		60071 Warren
30037 Chicago: St. Mark		60072 Willow
		60073 Winnebago
		60075 Chemung

Plumline returns this summer

After a brief hiatus of a couple of years, the Northern Illinois Conference is delighted to announce that we will be re-starting the Plumline Tour.

This 4-day New York City trip weaves together a faith-based perspective on world events with daily seminars at the Church Center for the United Nations directly across the street from the United Nations in mid-town Manhattan. It brings together youth (14 - 17) from across our conference to form relationships as well as learn, have fun and shape faith.

This year's seminar will focus on "Islamaphobia." The tour will be held Sun., July 29 - Wed., Aug. 1, 2018 in NYC. We will be visiting the United Nations, seeing a Broadway play and staying at the Hampton Inn Manhattan Grand Central. The cost is \$699. Some scholarships will be available. Space is limited. Registration opens March 1.

For a brochure and more info visit www.umcnic.org/calendar/plumline-tour.

If interested, please contact NIC Plumline Tour Coordinator, Amania Drane, at niaenterprises1@comcast.net, or 630-886-7469.



Youth visit the United Nations Building through the Plumline Tour in New York.

MARCH/APRIL CALENDAR

UMCOR Sunday

March 11

Your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) is what allows the United Methodist Committee on Relief to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days in times of disasters. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Find resources at www.umcgiving.org.

Mission Training

March 17

Open to all local church Outreach and Mission chairpersons, District Mission Secretaries, VIM, as well as any others interested in mission at the local, conference and global levels.

Come learn about the Abundant Health Initiative, UMCOR and the current structure of Global Ministries

Location: Our Saviour's UMC, 701 E. Schaumburg Rd. Schaumburg, IL

Presenters: Stephen and Gail Quigg
Mission Advocates of Global Ministries
UM North Central Jurisdiction

Contact: Shirley Pulgar-Hughes
shirleymph@gmail.com.

Fee: \$10 for lunch

To register visit

www.umcnic.org/calendar/mission-training.

Shift Training Series

April 11

Location: The Augsburg Room at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American (ELCA) Churchwide Ministries Center, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago

"Membership to Discipleship"

Discover the tools and methods to move your congregation into healthy church systems that create a new way of doing life together.

Registration Fee: \$20 per workshop (includes lunch and workbook)

For more information visit www.umcnic.org/calendar/shift-membership-to-discipleship.

Questions contact: Laura Lopez 312-346-9766 ext. 724 email: llopez@umcnic.org

Sponsored by the NIC Office of Congregational Development and Redevelopment.

Mental Health Workshop

When: Saturday, April 14, 2018

Time: 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Location: First UMC Downers Grove, 1032 Maple Ave, Downers Grove, IL

Cost: \$10 which includes refreshments

The presenters are experts at assisting clergy deal with the stresses in being there for your congregations. SPRC Chairs and members should plan on attending as well. It is your responsibility to care for your pastor as you would want them to care for you.

For more information and registration visit www.umcnic.org/calendar/mental-health-workshop.

TeamWorks 2018

To Equip Leaders

Over the course of four weekends, from March to June, TeamWorks training will be offered in three Districts (Chicago Southern, DeKalb, and Elgin.)

1st Session: March 3-4

- Spiritual Life of the Leaders

2nd Session: April 21-22

- Connecting with Your Community

3rd Session: May 19-20

- Creating a Discipleship System

4th Session: June 9-10

- Futurecasting

Registration fee: \$10 (includes the guide-book) each session.

For more information and locations visit www.umcnic.org/calendar/teamworks or contact Martin Lee at mlee291@gmail.com.

44th Annual John Wesley Theological Institute

April 15 -16

Location: Sycamore United Methodist Church, 160 Johnson Ave., Sycamore, IL

Theme: The Deaconesses: "A Quintessential Embodiment of the Wesleyan Vision"

Registration Cost: \$150 - includes Sunday evening dinner and Monday lunch

Questions? - Contact Fernando Siaba, Registrar 630-414-2429 · fsiaba48@yahoo.com

Presenter: Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison Associate Professor of External Programs Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, TX

For more info and the registration form visit:

www.umcnic.org/calendar/john-wesley-theological-institute

Sustainable Youth and Children's Ministry

April 28

Time: 9am-3pm

Location: Glenview UMC, 727 Harlem Ave., Glenview, IL

Cost: \$30 for morning, \$10 for lunch, \$20 for afternoon, so \$60 for everything.

Join fellow clergy, volunteers & staff for a day of training presented by Melissa Rau of Ministry Architects.

This workshop is delivered in four parts.

- The Anatomy of Stuckness
- The 411 on Sustainable Ministry
- Working Together: Building Teams that Win
- You Are Here: Assessing Your Own Ministry

For more info and registration visit

www.umcnic.org/calendar/sustainable-youth-and-childrens-ministry

Camps & Outdoor Retreat Ministries News



It's never too early to start planning for summer camp! Registration is open for sessions at both Wesley Woods and Camp Reynoldswood. See the special insert for the 2018 camping guide.

Chicago Metro Camp

Save the Date! The Chicago Southern District and the Chicago Northwestern District are partnering up this year inviting youth to a unique camp this summer. The Chicago Metro Youth Camp will be held at Camp Reynoldswood in Dixon, IL from Aug. 5-10, 2018.

For details and on this camp and others visit www.niccamp.org.

Spring Confirmation Retreats

Spring Confirmation Retreats at Camp Reynoldswood in Dixon, Illinois and Wesley Woods in Williams Bay, Wisconsin offer meaningful Bible Studies, group fellowship, team building, games, and a whole lot of fun.

Reynoldswood Weekend Retreats April 13-14

Wesley Woods Weekend Retreats May 11-12

Each retreat begins at 7 p.m. on Friday night, and ends at 3p.m. on Saturday afternoon.

The cost of the retreat is \$75 per person and includes lodging, meals and programming.

This program is specifically designed for Confirmation groups.

Registration forms are available on the Outdoor & Retreat Ministries website: www.niccamp.org/retreats.

Or contact each respective Camp Office via telephone or e-mail:

- Reynoldswood: 815-284-6979

info@reynoldswood.org

- Wesley Woods: 262-245-6631

info@lakeretreats.org



Did You Know? "Laity are in Ministry"

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

Last month United Methodist Directors of Connectional Ministries from around the world met in Atlanta. It was an opportunity to visit the new General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) offices and meet with many of the key staff in that agency. The time was well spent as we learned more about the resources provided by GBGM for our conference and churches. I was a little puzzled however, as I looked over our agenda and saw an entire afternoon devoted to visiting the Coca-Cola headquarters in town.

The Coca-Cola visit turned out to be an unexpected highlight of the gathering. We met with four executives from various departments who not only shared the humanitarian philosophy of the organization but also wowed us with their faith witness. All four, from different faith backgrounds, are leaders in an internal, intentional Christian community at the headquarters. They lead a "Lunch and Learn" program daily, offer a weekly lunch time Bible Study, sponsor guest speakers and provide a prayer chain. All volunteers, they are also active in their own churches. These laity are preaching and teaching and discipling their co-workers with amazing stories of the community they are building in the midst of a global corporation.

Their witness made me think about the ways we equip and empower laity in our churches. The Coke speakers emphasized their nuanced approach to sharing their faith. This isn't aggressive evangelism, but it is what we are called to do as we live a life, bearing Christ's light into the world.

Thinking about their ministry drew me back to an email I answered recently from an active laywoman in our conference who was looking for guidance on what she could do next to continue growing her faith and stretching in her discipleship.

Our congregations do much to build a foundation for our faith, but sometimes we outstrip the capacity of our local church in our thirst for knowledge. The email read in part: "what else can I do, do I need to go to seminary?" Of course I would never discourage anyone from going to seminary, but there are many, many ways to continue strengthening and molding our faith to be an effective lay witness. We need effective lay witnesses! Here are just a few that I shared.

Have you gone through the Lay Servant Academy? The Academy is active in our conference offering winter and fall courses on most of our districts focused on equipping laity. One can become a certified lay servant, even taking advance courses and pursuing lay ministry certification. There is information about the Lay Servant Academy on our website at: www.umcnic.org/layservantministries. We also

have a conference Lay Servant Ministries Committee and a great coordinator Peggy Hansen (prhisu71@att.net) if you want to contact her to learn more.

We also offer the Academy for Faith Community Development. This intensive process provides support, ministry skill development, and leadership training in order to prepare a pool of leaders for reaching out to religious "nones." While primarily attended by Hispanic/Latino laity there are Korean and English speaking participants, too. It's a two-year program meeting over a weekend each month. Learn more at www.umcnic.org/FaithAcademy.

Or do you know about the Deaconess and Home Missioners program? This is a specialization/certification/training program coordinated through the United Methodist Women. Deaconesses and Home Missioners are laywomen and laymen who are called by God to be in a lifetime relationship for engagement with a full-time vocation in ministries of love, justice, and service. Together they form a covenant community that is rooted in Scripture, informed by history, driven by mission, ecumenical in scope, and global in outreach. We have several Deaconesses in the NIC and two more will be consecrated this spring. Deaconesses and Home Missioners are teachers, church workers, librarians, and more. This is a lay order that challenges participants to grow in their faith and acknowledges their work as lay witnesses in the world. Learn more at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/dhm.

Or perhaps you are drawn to music, counseling, or spiritual direction. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry offers a professional certification process that entails theological training, skill development, professional experience, a community of support, and accountability to the annual conference. You can learn more about this opportunity at: www.gbhem.org/education/certification.

We also have the Institute for Congregational Development a two-year program in the Northern Illinois Conference attended primarily by clergy but open to lay participants who wish to grow in faith and skills. This intensive process provides support, professional growth, and leadership training in order to prepare clergy to start new churches and redevelop existing churches. Learn more at www.umcnic.org/ICD.

Some of these are general church programs and some are homegrown. All are challenging and fulfilling and they all include laity. I'm sure I'm missing something, but this is a start. Look at some of these and think about where God is calling you to grow so you can share your faith in the world.



awaken confront transform

Join the bus trip to D.C.

The Northern Illinois Conference and our Pan-Methodist partners along with the Illinois Conference of Churches are arranging buses to Washington D.C. so Illinois residents can take part in the anti-racism rally on the national mall on April 4, the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. The memorial service in Memphis, Tenn. will be broadcast on the mall.

The theme is A.C.T. Now! Unite to End Racism. ACT stands for Awaken, Confront, and Transform. The Illinois Conference of churches is handling registration for a Pan-Methodist bus for (UMC, AME, AMEZ, CME, African Union Methodist Protestant and Union American Methodist Episcopal Churches) leaving from Suburban Chicago. It will depart April 3 and return April 5 with no overnight stop. Buses will be added in increments of 56 passengers. The rally is sponsored by the National Council of Churches and their goal is 100,000 participants.

A seat on the bus costs \$175 and includes a sack lunch, water, and a t-shirt to be worn at all times on the mall so the group can recognize each other. To register visit www.illinoisconferenceofchurches.org and choose the events tab. Registration is open until March 20. Departure times on April 3 and arrival times back on April 5 are listed on the website, along with other information.

The Illinois Conference of Churches is an ecumenical Christian organization with 13 member denominations. The buses are open to anyone who opposes racism. The buses are the project of the ICC's anti-racism team, Illinois Christians Encountering Racism (ICER).

Be part of the nationwide commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination and be part of this clarion call to the nation!

February Announcements: Appointments and Retirements

Bishop Sally Dyck announces the following clergy appointments for the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church, effective July 1, 2018 (unless otherwise noted):

Grace Imathiu (346.1 Elder) to Evanston: First (Chicago Northwestern District) from Naperville: Community (Aurora District). Grace follows Dean Francis who is retiring.

Glenna Olumstad (Elder) to retirement from Glencoe: North Shore (Chicago: Northwestern District). Glenna became a provisional member in 2007 and a full member in 2009. During her ministry, Glenna served at Joliet: Hope and Glencoe: North Shore.

Uziel Hernandez (Local Pastor) to Elmhurst: Faith Evangelical (Elgin District) from Elgin: El Mesias and Carpentersville: Bethel Hispanic NFC (Elgin District). Uziel follows George David (Retired Elder) who has been serving as interim for the appointment year.

James McDonald (Elder) to retirement from Downers Grove: First (Aurora District). Jim became a probationary member of the United Church of Canada in 1976 and a member of the NIC in 1978. During his ministry, Jim served Hanover, Libertyville: First (Associate), New Lenox (Co-Pastor), and Downers Grove: First (Co-Pastor).

CheonEui Oh (Elder) to Extension Ministry as Manager of Korean Communications with United Methodist Communication in Nashville from Sugar Grove (Aurora District). Effective April 2

Scott Himel (Elder) to Glencoe: North Shore (Chicago Northwestern District) from Rockford: Christ (Associate) (Rockford District). Scott follows Glenna Olumstad who is retiring.

Hwa-Young Chong (Elder) to Naperville: Community (Senior Pastor) (Aurora District) from Glenview (Chicago Northwestern District). Hwa-Young follows Grace Imathiu who is appointed to Evanston: First. **Vickie Hadaway** (Elder) to Leave of Absence from Cherry Valley (Rockford District).

David Holden (Local Pastor) to Retirement from Paw Paw and Compton (DeKalb District).

Claude King (Elder) to Downers Grove: First (Senior Pastor) (Aurora District) from Olympia Fields (Chicago Southern District). Claude follows Greta McDonald who is appointed to retirement.

Kent Svendsen (Elder) to Retirement from Mendota: First (DeKalb District). Kent became a probationary member in 1993 and a full member in 1997. During his ministry, he served Plattville, Reynolds, Forreston/Leaf River, Millbrook, and Plano.

Eun-Hye Choi (Elder) to Glenview (Chicago Northwestern District) from Plainfield: First (Aurora District). Eun-Hye follows Hwa-Young Chong who is appointed to Naperville: Community.

Katie Voigt (Elder) to Erie (DeKalb District) from Pecatonica (Rockford District). Katie follows Rod Dye as he retires.

To find the complete listing online which is updating each Monday visit www.umcnic.org/2018appointments.

Stay Connected

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

Visit www.umcnic.org and scroll down to enter your email and name under "Sign up for our eNewsletter".

Job Openings

For the latest NIC job openings, visit www.umcnic.org/jobs

Submit News

Please submit items at least two weeks prior to publication date. Include your name, address, email, phone number and name of local church. Space is limited. Electronic submissions are preferred with high-resolution attached jpegs.

How to Contact Us

For editorial content, subscriptions & address changes: Anne Marie Gerhardt, Dir. of Communications

agerhardt@umcnic.org

312-346-9766 ext. 766

77 W. Washington St. Suite 1820
Chicago, IL 60602