

Dear NIC Annual Conference Members and Guests:

Welcome!

Thank you for being part of the 185th Northern Annual Conference as we join in holy conferencing. We look forward to gathering to celebrate the work of our conference committees and volunteers, lift up laity and clergy called to ministry of all Christians as well as set apart ministry, celebrate our retirees, honor those we have lost, and consider the legislation before us addressing administrative, church life, and discipleship.

We gather around the theme “Yield”. This theme connected to John Wesley’s Covenant Prayer reads in part “I freely and heartily yield all things to Thy pleasure and disposal”. We gather for this session of the Annual Conference fueled by our hopes and needs. We come to turn our cup upward so we might receive God’s message and come to know what God is calling us to in the years to come.

We frame our gathering around the Annual Conference Strategic Goals:

1. To grow and reach new disciples of Jesus Christ
2. To live out the conviction that racism is incompatible with Christian teaching
3. To increase the number of highly vital congregations

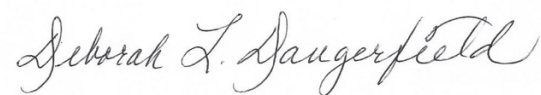
These goals are the foundation as we “yield” during worship, prayer, study, and legislative over the next few days.

We invite you to invest energy and focus on the agenda for our conferencing. Take advantage of this time to make contacts, forge connections that will reinforce your experience here as well as nurture relationships with colleagues and friends whom you can reach out to even after you return to your own congregations. May this be a time of joy, renewal, excitement and even a bit of sadness as we celebrate the lives of those lost and those moving on.

As your bishop and annual conference chair, we extend our sincerest gratitude to the staff and volunteers for dedicating their energy and creativity to provide a top-notch event for us to enjoy – and to you for devoting your time and focus as we practice yielding to Christ.

The full agenda is printed in your conference program books, which you will receive when you check in at the registration desk. On the back of this letter, you will also find a list of hotel food options for your refreshment during meal breaks.

We look forward to the opportunity to be showered with Christ light and drawn into the power of the Spirit as we “yield” for the newness God is bringing.



Deborah Dangerfield
Annual Conference Committee Chair



Bishop Dan Schwerin
Resident Bishop, Northern Illinois Conference

First Day Agenda - Sunday, June 16

More agenda details will be in the Program booklet you will receive when you receive your credentials.

10:00 a.m.	Mission Truck Opens	Next to Conference Center Parking Lot
Noon	Doors Open and Credentials Available	Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer
2:00 p.m.	Late Legislation Deadline to Chair of Daily Procedures with 75 Copies	
	Display Tables Open	Upstairs Hallway
2:30 p.m.	Laity Session	Nirvana Ballroom
	Celebration of Minstry (Ordination) Service Rehearsal	Schaumburg Ballroom
4:00 p.m.	Opening and Plenary 1	Schaumburg Ballroom
5:00 p.m.	Dinner Break	
	Mass Choir Rehearsal for Celebration of Minstry (Ordination) Service	Schaumburg Ballroom
6:00 p.m.	Mission Truck Closes	Next to Conference Center Parking Lot
6:30 p.m.	Clergy Robing and Line Up for Service	Euphoria
7:00 p.m.	Celebration of Minstry (Ordination)	Schaumburg Ballroom
	- Post Ordination Reception	Schaumburg A-D
7:30 p.m.	Display Tables Close	Upstairs Hallway

General food options at the hotel

- Food Cart outside of our conference area (7 a.m. - 7 p.m.) Coffee, Sandwiches & Snacks
- RENdezvous Cafe (Starbucks) (6 a.m. - 4 p.m.) Breakfast, Lunch
- Gather Lounge (4:30 p.m. - Midnight) Dinner
- Schaumburg Public House (6:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.) Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner