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**Laity Session
June 16, 2024**

Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center



Northern Illinois Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Laity Session

Sunday, June 16, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Hymn

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Sanctuary

TFWS No. 2164

Scripture

Colossians 3: 13 – 14

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another,
forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Introductions

Announcements

Program

Yielding and Moving Forward: What's Happening in the UMC & NIC since AC 2023

- a. Annual Conference Shepherding Team
- b. Shared Bishop's Task Force
- c. Changes in The Book of Discipline, Social Principles
- d. Other

Small Group Discussion

- a. Please share your: name, local church, district and a sentence or two about how you are feeling about being here today.
- b. Name a change that you heard about in our presentation and briefly describe how you are feeling about it.
- c. How has your church responded to the changes in our denomination/Annual Conference?

The Board of Laity wants to hear from you.

You have been given a notecard on which to write joys/concerns/questions.

Notecards may be placed in the baskets as you leave or at the UMM, UWFaith, and Lay Servant ministries booths in the display areas. They will be picked up, prayed over, and shared with leadership. If you leave your contact information, we will try to get back to you with answers to questions that haven't been answered during the AC Sessions.

Prayer

Directions/ Announcements



Hymn

Break Thou the Bread of Life

UMH #599

Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
beyond the sacred pate I seek thee, Lord;
my spirit pants for thee, O Living Word!

Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace, my all in all.

Scripture

Proverbs 3: 5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge the Lord, and God will make straight your paths.

Confession

People: Renewing God, trusting in your infinite grace, we confess that we need your healing and your forgiveness.
For all that is broken in our minds and bodies, we ask your healing.
For all that is amiss in our choices and our relationships, we ask your forgiveness.
For all that works against life and blessing in our hearts, and in the world, we open ourselves to your transforming grace.
Heal us, forgive us, and make us new. Amen.

Assurance

There is no sin so terrible that God cannot forgive, no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal.
God accepts, God forgives, God sets free. Receive the forgiving love of God. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Char Hoffmann

People (Left): All praise and honor, glory and thanksgiving be unto you, Creator God.
In the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters;
and when you formed us from the dust of the earth you breathed into us the breath of life.
Even when we resisted your mercy, fell into unfaithfulness and grieved you,
O God, your Spirit came upon the prophets empowering them
to speak your word of holy judgement and steadfast love.

People (Right): In the fullness of time you gave your Child, Jesus, to be for us the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
At his baptism your Spirit descended like a dove and named him "Beloved."
Filled with your Spirit he proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives,
sight for the blind, liberty for the oppressed.
In the power of your Spirit he confronted the powers of sin and death and died,
for us and all creation, upon the cross.
But you raised him from death, and he has promised to be with us, even to the end of everything.
So he will come again in glory, to bring into being the consummation of the ages.

Leader: On the night before meeting with death, Jesus took bread,
Gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
When the supper was over Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us.

LEADER: Send your Spirit, God, on us, as on the day of Pentecost.
Like a might, rushing wind, blow through the hollow spaces of our lives, bringing new life, and power, and unity.
With dancing tongues of holy fire set our hearts aflame with love for you and all you love.

People: **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**People (Left): Remember, God, the people of your church. Heal our brokenness.
Preserve our going out and out coming in.
Gather us together as one body, sign of your new and eternal community.**

**People (Right): By the baptism of water and Spirit,
scatter us abroad as seeds on the wind,
to be your witnesses to the world.**

**Leader: Most wise and mighty God, we your children pray for the gifts of your Spirit:
knowledge and joy, peace and patience, humility and hope, faith and love, kindness and compassion.
Seek and sustain our souls.
Save us and sanctify us, for we move in fear and frustration through a world of violence, indifference, and injustice.
Let your Spirit groan with our spirits as we await the dawning of your final glory.
In all things, guide, support, and empower us, we pray. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

Receive the Break and Cup

Leave for Plenary 1

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Confession, Steve Garnaas-Holmes, Worship and Song, # 93

Assurance, Don Daniels, Worship for All Seasons, Vol 3, Thomas Harding, ed.

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Northern Illinois Conference Board of Laity

Members of the Board of Laity work in our districts and churches to build relationships and make connections between laity and clergy in order to provide support for ministry and to assist in making disciples for Jesus for the transformation of the world. The Board of Laity provides district training sessions, communications and participates in meetings with local lay leaders, lay servant academies, and a variety of other activities.

Co-Conference Lay Leaders

- Connie Augsburger, Disciples UMC, Mt. Morris, IL
- Eugene Williams, South Shore UMC, Chicago, IL

District Lay Leaders

- Lake North District
 - Ellen Feliciano, Urban Village Church, Edgewater, Chicago, IL
 - Chester Lacey, Olivet UMC, Chicago, IL
- Lake South District
 - Lisa Butler, Morgan Park UMC, Chicago, IL
 - Dawn Shires, Tinley Park UMC, Tinley Park, IL
- Prairie Central District
 - Leonard Jones, Friendship UMC, Bolingbrook, IL
- Prairie North District
 - Kris Aves, Faith UMC, Genoa, IL
- Prairie South District
 - Tom Weber, First UMC, DeKalb, IL

Members by Virtue of Office

- Peggy Hansen, NIC Director, Lay Servant Ministries - St. Andrew UMC, Carol Stream, IL
- Craig McGregor, NIC President, United Methodist Men - Good Shephard UMC, Oswego, IL
- Barb Farley, NIC President, United Women in Faith - St. Andrew UMC, Carol Stream, IL
- Marilyn Steenwyk, NIC Rep., United Women in Faith - United Church, Sandwich, IL
- Jim Loeppert, NIC Conference Scouting Coordinator - Our Saviour's UMC, Schaumburg, IL
- Rev. Dr. Char Hoffmann, NIC Clergy Representative, Hebron UMC, Hebron, IL
- Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer, NIC Director of Connectional Ministries

Annual Conference Shepherding Team


The Annual Conference Shepherding Team was created to advance the overall mission of the Northern Illinois Conference by ensuring the proper use and alignment of resources to achieve it. The ACST serves as a place for consultation, advice and decision-making. It provides connections between conference administrative, ministry areas, the Cabinet, District Shepherding Teams and local churches. It serves to build trust, collaboration, and accountability in the conference's responsibility to live out its mission.

Shepherding Team Chairs

- Mark Manzi, Laity, St. Andrews, Carol Stream, IL
- Rev. KyungHae Anna Shin, Friendship UMC, Bolingbrook, IL

Other Members

Lay and Clergy from various districts and ministry areas of the NIC



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**303 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 2020
Chicago, IL 60601
www.umcnic.org**