

JOY YIELD

**Retirement Service
June 17, 2024
Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center**



Northern Illinois Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Retirement Service: A Ritual to Honor Retirees and Pass the Mantle Monday, June 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Gathering Hymn

Every Praise by Hezekiah Walker

Every praise is to our God
Every word of worship, with one accord
Every praise, every praise is to our God
Sing hallelujah to our God
Glory hallelujah is due our God
Every praise, every praise is to our God
Sing x2

God my Savior
God my Healer
God my Deliverer
Yes He is, yes He is
Sing x2

Every praise is to our God
Every word of worship, with one accord
Every praise, every praise is to our God
Sing hallelujah to our God
Glory hallelujah is due our God
Every praise, every praise is to our God

Greeting and Reflections

Bishop Dan Schwerin

Call to Worship

Psalm 138, UMH No. 853

Hyo Sun Oh

Leader: I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

**People: I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and faithfulness;**

Leader: for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

People: On the day I called, you answered me, you strengthened my life.

Leader: All the rulers of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,

People: for they have heard the words of your mouth;

Leader: and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord.

People: for great is the glory of the Lord.

Leader: For the Lord is high, but regards the lowly;

People: yet knows the haughty from afar.

Leader: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life.

**People: you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies
and your right hand delivers me.**

Leader: O Lord, fulfill your purpose for me;

People: O Lord, may your steadfast love endure for ever.

Do not forsake the work of your hands.

A Prayer of Praise (Unison)

Innis Miller

Almighty God, how beautiful it is to gather in your holy name to celebrate your faithful servants who are retiring from active ministry. Gracious Lord, we are thankful for their commitment and service in your vineyard, transforming the world through your grace. Bless this holy celebration with your presence. Amen.

Scripture Reading

James 3:17-18, NRSVUE

Innis Miller

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Retirement Service (continued)

Hymn

I Surrender All

UMH# 354

1. All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.

2. All to Jesus I surrender,
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel Thy Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine.
Refrain

3. All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power,
Let Thy blessing fall on me.
Refrain

**Refrain: I surrender all,
I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.**

Recognition of the Retirees

Bishop: Retirees and spouses, please stand. Beloved friends in Christ, you came to us from congregations and ministry settings where the Spirit of the Lord was upon you. You were charged to love, serve and pray for all people among whom you worked, caring for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. These things you have done.

People: **We give thanks to God for the lives that have been changed through your faithful witness and service.**

Bishop: At your licensing or ordination, you received authority to read the Holy Scriptures in the church of God, to preach the Word, to celebrate the Sacraments, and to Order the life of the church. At your commissioning, you received authority to equip the people of God, and to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. There were times when the seas were rough and the way unclear, but God's goodness and guidance has seen you through.

People: **We give thanks to God for the courage you have shown and the steps of faith you have taken.**

Bishop: Never think lightly of the great good that God has wrought through you. And continue to be true to your calling to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with God. This is a transition, not a finale. This is an opening to new uncharted waters, not the end-of-the-road. May God's love and power be with you always. Let us pray together.

People: **God of grace, you fill your servants with vision. You empower your servants with your Spirit. We give thanks for the ministry of these women and men, and for the ways in which you have ministered to us through them as they built your Reign of justice. Give them a sense of your abiding presence that they may continue to love and serve you, and ever grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Introduction of Retirees

Arlene Christopherson



Judith Early Best (4)
Brenda Byrne (30.5)
Jay D. Carr (40)
Regina Davis-Bridges (17)
Romir Reyes Esguerra (41)
GaHyung Kim (36)
Martin Lee (31)
Paul C. Meyers (30)
Lynn Mikels (26)
Young-Mee Park (21)
Virginia Ellen Rainey (11.5)
Martha Lynne Scott (48.5)
Charles M. Straight (15)
Reuel Argamaso Talapian (13)
Richard Prugh Wagner (36)
Wendy A. Witt (37)



Retirement Service (continued)

Questions and Response from the Retiring Class

In keeping with our theme, "YIELD" based upon the Wesley's Covenant Prayer, the retiring clergy were invited to reflect on one of the three following questions:

1. How have you "freely and heartily yielded" to God's call?
2. How has yielding to God's call helped your ministry?
3. What wisdom would you share with your other colleagues as you yielded to God?

Musical Interlude

D. Josiah Montgomery

Special Music

Grace, Grace Greater than Our Sin

Korean Clergy Choir

Passing of the Mantle

Tura Foster Gillespie, Virginia Ellen Rainey

Hymn

Blessed Assurance

UMH# 369

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

2. Perfect communion, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

**Refrain: This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.**

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain

Closing Prayer (Unison)

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition, UMH# 607

Amos Oladipo

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what you wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid side by thee,
exalted for thee or brought low by thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Benediction

Bishop: For everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven. So, too, there is a time for movement, new adventure, fields of service not yet touched. With love, we send you forth in the spirit of John Wesley; may the world be your parish.

People: We leave this sacred space as we freely and heartily yield with God's command to share the message of mercy, grace, and peace. We will move throughout the world with God's calling upon our lives. Amen.

Postlude

God, and God Alone

D. Josiah Montgomery

Retirement Service (continued)

Thank you to our Participants

Bishop Dan Schwerin, Kim Chapman (percussionist), Arlene Christopherson, Tura Foster Gillespie, Korean Clergy Choir, Innis Miller, D. Josiah Montgomery (pianist), Hyo Sun Oh, Amos Oladipo, Virginia Ellen Rainey, Cerna Castro Rand, Addison Shields Jr. (worship coordinator)

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Questions? Contact Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer fgrandon-mayer@umcnic.org



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