



 **Northern Illinois Conference**
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church is a diverse, justice-seeking body of Christ followers. We invite and form disciples for the transformation of the world. Several colleges and universities, social-service ministries, and health-care institutions are affiliated with the conference. About 300 churches and new faith communities in rural, small-town, suburban, and urban settings constitute the conference. Among our members are people of Central and South American, Asian, African, and European heritage. Our episcopal leader is Bishop Dan Schwerin.



The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Congregations provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs. (United Methodist Book of Discipline)



Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church
303 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 2020, Chicago, IL 60601
umcnic.org (312) 346-9766

Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer
Director of Connectional Ministries
fgrandon-mayer@umcnic.org

Rev. Christian Coon
Director of Congregational Development
ccoona@umcnic.org

Rev. Victoria Rebeck
Director of Communications
vrebeck@umcnic.org



Who We Are

OUR MISSION (Why)

The purpose of the annual conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God. (United Methodist Book of Discipline)



OUR VISION (Where)

Making and supporting vital Christians in vital congregations that engage with their communities and the world for peace, justice and mercy.

OUR PRIORITIES (What)

1. Equip both Leaders and Churches:
 - with strategies to reach new members,
 - to help members grow as disciples,
 - to be more effective in community outreach.
2. Resource struggling churches.
3. Rethink how to be vital churches.
4. Cultivate trust within the conference.

OUR VALUES (How)

- Focus on mission
- Evaluation, accountability & support for growth
- Experimentation & risk-taking (with room for failure) for the purpose of learning
- Transparency, honesty & graciousness
- Safe spaces for sharing
- Building relationships
- Providing resources & services to local churches
- Fostering & celebrating diversity (as a conference, in our community & in the world)

Annual Conference Strategic Goals

Goal 1

To grow and reach new disciples of Jesus Christ.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19, ESV)



Goal 2

To live out the conviction that racism is incompatible with Christian teaching.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Matt. 22:36-39, ESV)



Goal 3

To increase the number of highly vital congregations.

All of you together are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of that body. (I Cor. 12:27, ICB)



Spiritual Formation and Discipleship

We are working toward the following goals: encouraging individuals in the life-long practice of developing and strengthening a personal relationship with God; supporting congregations in fostering discipleship in all of their ministries; and sharing the Good News with people who do not know Jesus.

Eradicating Racism

We have declared that racism is incompatible with Christian teaching. Committed to that conviction, the conference promotes racial justice, equity, and inclusion through the Anti-Racism Task Force, the Learning Path, racial and ethnic fellowships and ministries, and the conference Commission on Religion and Race. We create and support opportunities for Northern Illinois United Methodists to confront and resist racism.

Ethnic and Racial Fellowship, Ministries and Caucuses

- Black Methodists for Church Renewal
- Committee on Native American
- Fellowship of Asian American
- Hispanic/Latinx Ministry Team
- Korean Clergy Caucus
- NIC Filipino-American United Methodist