

The Visitor

GROW, PLAY AND SERVE WITH HEARTS
FOR CHILDREN AND HANDS FOR SERVICE!

Annual Conference honors past, looks to future.

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Author: Anne Marie Gerhardt, Director of Communications for Northern Illinois Conference

The 2019 Northern Illinois Annual Conference wrapped up June 4 at the Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel and Convention Center in Schaumburg, Ill., after two and a half days of worship, business, voting (and more voting), celebrating anniversaries, fellowship, speakers, and Bible study.

While the theme "Back to the Future" helped us reminisce about our 180-year history, much of the conversation and legislation focused on moving forward and what's next for The United Methodist Church and our annual conference.

Presiding Bishop Sally Dyck began her Episcopal address with a question, "Back to the Future...Who do we want to be?" Dyck referenced the 1980s science fiction movie starring Michael J. Fox as Marty McFly who is accidentally sent 30 years in the past in a time-traveling DeLorean and has a chance encounter with his teenage future parents could possibly changing history.

"The movie 'fixes' the past so that the present is made perfect," said Dyck. "Maybe many of us in the church and in society, as well as in our personal lives, think it might be a great thing to be able to 'fix' the past so that the present and even the future will be better than it seems."

Dyck said a lot has happened since the last annual conference gathering. "Uncertainty about who we

will be as an annual conference and even a denomination continues to hang over us," she said. "Short of a time machine, particularly an ecclesiological time machine, we can't fix the past... but we can reclaim our future when we understand our history in order to be clear about just who we are and want to be as followers of Jesus."

The Annual Conference worship team steered away from the DeLorean car as an image for the gathering and instead chose the West African Sankofa, a mythical bird from a tribe in Ghana. The word "sankofa" literally means "to go back and fetch it." The egg in its mouth symbolizes that future of potential.

"We often have to go back to the place where we lost our way or our identity in order to regain/fetch who we have been at our best. Then we can go forward, knowing who we are," said Dyck. "I think the Sankofa is a beautiful image of what our task is at this point in history as the UMC and the NIC. This is a perfect year for us as an annual conference to look back in order to fly forward."

Retiring Bishop Wayne N. Miller of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church Association (ELCA), returned as an ecumenical guest for the fourth time and recognized The United Methodist Church's current struggles. The ELCA adopted an inclusion policy on sexual orientation in 2009 after 20 years of debate and angst. "As you work through your present turmoil, I offer you encouragement to remember who you are and whose you are," said Miller. "Hold that we are accountable as new creations in Christ Jesus to live

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Member News & Happenings!

Let us remember the following members in our prayers.

Scott Harr Tita Gimeno
Tom Schroeder Burton Randle

Please let us know if there is a concern in your family.
Pastor Eun-Hye: Echoi@glenviewumc.org or
Office@glenviewumc.org



Congratulations to Emma Yonkers. She is the recipient of this year's Nilson Scholarship. Emma is a long-time church member. She enrolled in the Athletic Training program at St. Louis University & has completed her bachelor's degree in exercise science. It's a 5-year master's degree program so this August she will return for 1 more year & will become a certified athletic trainer. She took a year off to work with children with cerebral palsy in Auckland, New Zealand. Her sophomore year was spent studying abroad in Madrid, Spain and shadowing a physical therapist. She's been exposed to the health care system in New Zealand & Spain. She now has a clinical rotation at a high school where she will assist & learn from the certified athletic trainer there.

Sincere Appreciation! Thanks to everyone who brought in items for the Northern. IL Conf.- Mission Challenge - (1 gal sealable plastic bags and/or 3-4 oz. bottles or tubes of shampoo)- Special thanks to Barb Galarza who put out the word to colleagues and teachers she works with. They donated funds and Barb bought and delivered LOTS of 3 oz. shampoos and Gal. bags!!! Thank you, thank you!

The Bishop Thanks You! Thank you for all the monetary donations to the Bishops Appeal for Outdoor and Retreat Ministries through Coins and Singles: \$172.53.

LIFE GOES ON Tuesday, July 16, 1pm – 3pm
meeting place: BurgerFi, 1735 Milwaukee Ave,
Glenview

Loose Coins & Singles in the offering plate will be donated to the Tree of Life Ministries.

Save the date: CROP WALK will be October 20, 2019

Once again, the Missions & Service Team will be preparing lunches for the Glenview Youth Services summer lunch program. This program provides educational and recreational activities in a safe and supportive environment for children and youth who participate in GYS's prevention groups during the year. The first of two dates to help is on Sunday, July 7th. Please join us if you would like to assist in preparing 75 sandwiches for children from our community participating in this worthwhile program. We meet in the kitchen at 9:00, and are done by the time the service begins at 10:00. Our second date is July 21, same time, same place.



Please join the Missions Committee to work on the Church's community garden on the evening of Tuesday, July 9th, 6 to 7:30 ish. We will be pulling weeds, possibly doing some

harvesting, cleaning, and laying a border around the outer fence. Please come to help or to watch and keep us company. Water and some tools will be provided. Bring gloves, small tools, chairs, or whatever else you need to "garden." If the weather is awful (that would never happen around here, would it!), we will try again Wed, July 10th at the same time. All harvest goes to the Northfield food pantry. Hope you can make it.



The Staff Parish Relations Committee is excited to announce the hiring for our new Directors of Youth, Children, and Family Ministries, Beth and Greg Peterson. In this part-time role, Beth and Greg will lead our Youth program, Confirmation classes, and other ministries that focus on Glenview families. We look forward to Beth and Greg officially becoming a member of our Glenview staff on July 1st.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” **Jeremiah 29:11**

Eleven years ago we were asked by an interim pastor to be the Children and Family Ministry Coordinators at the church we were attending. We had been volunteering to teach Sunday School but leading the ministry was not on our radar. The pastor convinced us and we faithfully served running Sunday School, Vacation Bible School with 2 other Glenview Churches and eventually the Confirmation Program. If you have heard of gym rats, well...you could say our children, Maddie and Spencer, were church mice. After Maddie’s and Spencer’s freshman year of high school, we found GUMC. And once again, a few years later, though not on our radar, fate has brought us another opportunity to serve as Directors of Children, Youth and Family Ministries.

For those of you who do not know us, I am a high school science teacher and volleyball coach. Greg works at Christian Heritage Academy and does outside sales for a custom apparel company. We are excited and honored to have the opportunity to combine our interests, skills and energy to serve GUMC as the *Directors of Children, Youth and Family Ministries*. We look to build on the long-standing traditions at GUMC and make some new ones. We look to walk alongside families, youth and children as we continue our faith journeys together. We look to serve the families of GUMC in God’s love and grace. And we hope to have a lot of fun while doing it. Most importantly, we hope that more and more youth will call GUMC their home away from home.

With gratitude,
Beth and Greg Peterson

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have you called you by name, you are mine.” **From Isaiah 43:1**

Addendum to NIC Annual Conference Report Report:

For more details and links for videos go to: www.umcnic.org/news

Attendees to Annual Conference for GUMC: Rev. Eun-Hye Choi and Rev. Eric Reniva/ Lay delegates: Don Brackey, Dick Hoffman and Ethel Doyle who are honored to represent GUMC. Two former GUMC pastors were elected as delegates to the 2020 General Conference, Rev. Gregory Gross and to the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference, Rev. Hwa-Young Chong.

lives that manifest the fruits of the spirit...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, generosity, and self-control.”

Laity Address

One of the three NIC Co-Lay Leaders Jessie Cunningham delivered this year's Laity Address lamenting the decisions made at the February Special Session. "If you are like me, you are going through the five steps of grieving," said Cunningham. "We know we have to move on but where do we go from here? We can't go back. We must always look and go forward." Cunningham encouraged laity to continue the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and remember our professing vows as members of The United Methodist Church.

Year of Anniversaries

While we looked to the future, we also celebrated 200 years of mission in The United Methodist Church through the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), 50th anniversary of the Black Methodist for Church Renewal (BMCR) in the NIC, and 150 years of ministry and mission with United Methodist Women (UMW).

Harriett Olson, UMW's General Secretary, was this year's Bible Study leader looking to women in the Scriptures who persisted and followed God's call despite barriers. Dr. David W. Scott, director of Mission Theology for GBMB remembered the UMC's first missionaries and the contributions from the NIC. Our conference currently supports four missionaries and gave nearly \$240,000 last year for disaster relief in the U.S. and around the world.

2020 General and Jurisdictional Delegation Elected

Annual conference members elected three clergy and three lay delegates to the 2020 General Conference and three clergy and three lay delegates for the Jurisdictional Conference, along with two clergy and two lay alternates. The equal and diverse delegation includes some new faces and some who are serving again.

General Conference will be held in Minneapolis, Minn., May 5-15, 2020. The North Central Jurisdictional Conference, where Bishops are elected, will be held in Ft. Wayne, Ind., July 15-18, 2020.

In order of election, the delegates are:

General Conference Lay: Lonnie Chafin, Nadia R. Kanhai, Adrian Hill (Vice Chair).

General Conference Clergy: Alka Lyall (Chair), Luis F. Reyes, Gregory Gross.

Jurisdictional Conference Lay: Rita L. Smith, Jessie Cunningham, Ronnie Lyall.

Alternates: Nancy Pendergrass and Mark Manzi

Jurisdictional Conference Clergy: Hwa-Young Chong, Jacques A. Conway, Brian Gilbert.

Alternates: Britt Cox and Rachel Birkhahn-Rommelfanger

Ordination and Commissioning Service

Bishop Sally Dyck ordained seven elders and two deacons and commissioned four for the work of a deacon and two for the work of an elder. In her sermon "Take Off Your Coat...and Light a Fire," she encouraged all of us "to go and love, forgive, share our faith, reach out to others to make something happen in the name of Jesus."

Memorial Service

We honored and remembered those pastors, spouses, and lay members to annual conference who have touched our lives and passed away in the last year with a message from Bishop John Schol from the Greater New Jersey Conference.

"Jesus was at work through each of your loved ones and we give thanks for their commitment and sacrifice for the church," said Schol.

He also used the opportunity to speak about the future of The United Methodist Church. "God wants to make us whole again but it won't be by fixing it. We're not going to change a few disciplinary paragraphs and everything will be fine," said Schol.

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"God is looking to do a new thing in the United Methodist Church. Our church needs to be renewed. We are no longer connecting with the people in our communities who are hungering for a word of hope and resurrection. So, let's all work together, not to fix the UMC but to renew it."🔗

Legislation Passed

Much of the legislation that passed at Annual Conference reflected the disapproval of the Traditional Plan adopted at February's General Conference Special Session, which emphasizes the current policies around homosexuality in the Book of Discipline for ordination and same-sex marriages while strengthening enforcement of those rules. Approved legislation included suspending payments to the General Administration Fund until changes are made to the structure and practices of General Conference. Also, a call to form a task force to explore a way forward for the NIC, including the possibility of a new Methodist expression, was approved.

Members approved taking a non-binding straw poll to gauge the annual conference on which direction it would choose for its future. The two choices included: 1) a conference whose policies allow for clergy to officiate at same-gender weddings, allow for consideration of ordained ministry people of varying sexual orientations and gender identities, and in which appointments are made with consideration given to the full range of contextual realities, or 2) according to the Book of Discipline as amended in 2019. The result was 441 for option #1 and 79 for option #2. [Read more.](#)

The Annual Conference Shepherding Team (ACST), the NIC's coordinating and connectional group, presented three top strategic goals for the Conference to be implemented through a two-year plan. The goals approved are: To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ, To Live Out the Conviction that Racism is Incompatible with Christian Teaching, and To Increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregations.

"These three inter-related goals are intended to have the greatest impact on the sustainability and

future ministry of our annual conference," said ACST Co-Chair Liz Gracie."

The closings of four churches, Elmwood Park, New Hope in Chicago, Pilgrimage Protestant Church in University Park, and Lindenhurst Trinity were affirmed. We celebrate and bless the faithful ministries, witness, and legacies of these churches, pastors and members down through the years. The cabinet celebrated new beginnings, too, with the recent chartering of The Center in Itasca.

Offerings

Churches and individuals gave a total of \$53,437 to this year's annual conference Bishop's Appeal for the NIC youth camps. With this money, we will be able to help send many kids to camp! During the ordination service, attendees gave \$4,129 in the offering designated for the Ministerial Education Fund. This fund supports the ongoing work of the NIC's Board of Ordained Ministry in the work of recruitment, education, and deployment of pastors. Thank you!

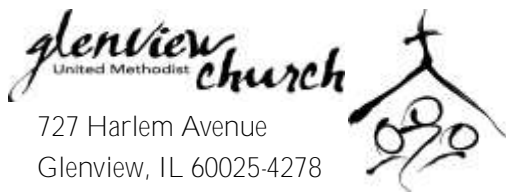
Mission Truck Filled!

NIC's Secretary of Global Ministries Rev. Shirley M. Pulgar Hughes said the Annual Conference mission challenge to collect dignity kits for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center was a huge success. Again this year, districts went above and beyond their goal. With nearly 50% of NIC churches participating, we packed about 50,000 items or 5,271 pounds on the truck, an increase of 200 pounds from last year!

Thank you to all the churches for their generosity.

2018 Statistics

NIC's membership stands at 77,682, down 2,850 from the previous year. Worship attendance stands at 26,701, down 1,765. Church school attendance stands at 6,521, down 353. Professions or reaffirmations of faith was 875, down 59. The number of adults and young adults participating in small groups was 27,759, up 465. The number of worshippers engaged in mission was 758, up 73.



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GUMC is a Reconciling Congregation

Following the loving example of Jesus Christ, we affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person as a beloved child of God. We welcome into the life and ministry of Glenview United Methodist Church all persons of every age, ability, race, gender identity, ethnicity, nationality, marital status, sexual orientation, family configuration, or socioeconomic or employment status.

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www.glenviewumc.org



With many thanks for our generous supporters—both financially and prayerfully—our ASP 2019 team is off to Knox County, in Kentucky. The team will be there the whole week, July 13-20. You can get updates on their progress at www.facebook.com/ASPKnoxKY.



We hope you'll join us for worship on July 7, when we commission our ASP team, and on July 28, when we share in worship (and afterwards) about our experience.



Please pray for our team, which includes the following youth and adults: Group Leaders: Rev. Eun Hye Choi, Ed Porrett. Bill Murphy, Chuck Potter, Lindsey Kleckner, Linda Kleckner, Mike Galarza, Andrew Duback, Chris Ernst.

Youth and College Students: Skylar Read, Elena Gonyo, Grace Murphy, Maddie Peterson, Anne Ribordy, Kayt Ribordy, John Potter, Emerine Cummings, Wyatt Cummings, Nate Meyer, Walter Meyer, Alex Ferrone, Spencer Peterson, Shelby Green, Merrick Kehoe, Abby Philips, Tim Walters, Jack Murphy.

