



Northern Illinois Conference Edition of

The United Methodist

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Bishop's Column

Put legs to our prayers



Bishop Sally Dyck

One of my spiritual heroes is Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907–1972). I began to read his works after I became a bishop because I was looking for people throughout history who have sought to bring new life to old institutions.

Born in Warsaw, Heschel was reared in a devout Jewish family and studied at the University of Berlin. He experienced the rise and terror of Hitler and in July 1939—just before Germany invaded Poland and the outbreak of World War II, he obtained a teaching position at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Rabbi Heschel spent the rest of his life both trying to restore faith in a devastated Jewish community after the Holocaust and interpreting the prophets to both Jews and Christians throughout the major historical events of the 20th century. Rabbi Heschel has been an inspiration to me as a religious leader who seeks to inspire, encourage, and connect people with a deep and abiding faith, including a sense of justice in the midst of tragic and pervasive injustice.

As about 400 United Methodists gathered on May 18, 2013—a day declared by the mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel, as United Methodist Day in Chicago and part of the United Methodist Change the World weekend—for our Urban Summit, I challenged all of us to pray for the city of Chicago.

Pray for a city that we all love but where there were 506 homicides last year and already there have been 112+ in 2013.

Pray for a city that has the third highest rate of extreme poverty in this country after Philadelphia and Phoenix.

Pray for the children and the school system of Chicago (as well as the students and administrators) who face serious challenges.

Pray for the city...but I challenged everyone to “put legs to their prayers.” This is a phrase that Rabbi Heschel used when he participated with Martin Luther King, Jr. in the Selma-Montgomery march in 1965. He wrote, “I felt a sense of the Holy in what I was doing...Even without words our march was worship. I felt my legs were praying.”

We need to put legs to our prayers for the city of Chicago—those who live in the city itself as well as Chicagoland and beyond. Many at the Urban Summit were from Chicagoland and beyond, coming to support the efforts of the Chicago churches and their people as we begin the process and support each other in putting legs to our prayers by reaching out into our communities in active involvement around Community Safety, Education and Literacy,

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Bishop Dyck encourages churches to mobilize for a Chicago urban strategy.



Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel listened in during several group sessions as participants shared ideas how to solve some of the city's major issues.

United Methodists begin an Urban Strategy for Chicago

By Anne Marie Gerhardt

On Change the World weekend, more than 400 United Methodists gathered at a high school on Chicago's south side to start a movement.

“This is just the beginning,” said Bishop Sally Dyck at the Chicago Urban Strategy Summit at South Shore International College Preparatory High School on May 18. “Churches have already been involved in their communities but people get weary. But when they know other people are supporting them, partnering with them and learning from each other, that's what creates a movement.”

The summit began with music, praise and worship. Bishop Dyck then challenged each church in Chicago and beyond the city limits to take action, mobilize and begin to develop a comprehensive plan to address the city's problems. Participants divided into sessions to identify and list resources around four key issues that impact Chicago residents: community safety, restorative justice, education and literacy, and food security.

Chicago 8th ward alderwoman, Michelle Harris

attended the summit and said the gathering is a great start to making a difference in the city. “I am grateful and honored to be here at a time when the church said we're going to embrace communities and make them a better place to be,” said Harris. “When you bring God into the mix, some wonderful things are going to happen.”

Bishop Dyck met with Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel in January to start building a partnership with the city. The mayor stopped by the Summit and listened to some of the many ideas generated during the group sessions. He thanked United Methodists for coming together and working on the many issues he says he is also passionate about changing.

“You're building a plan,” he told the crowd. “You're taking the spirit of your church—not just what goes on on Sundays—outside those doors to bring the warmth, affection and love to our city and community and most importantly to the kids.”

In honor of the Urban Strategy Summit and acknowledging the United Methodist Church's

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Institute of Congregational Development Class ready for new beginnings

Twenty-three clergy and laity from across the Northern Illinois Conference completed their intensive two year training with the Institute of Congregational Development (ICD) in May. The Rev. Davide Lago-Fonseca, one of the participants, said while the training is over, this is just the beginning for this class.

"We've been building relationships, learning new things and strategies together," he said at the last session. "We are leaving each other for new beginnings. We can leave the old patterns of thought and ways of doing church behind and embrace the new and be a different kind of church."

This is the fourth class to join the more than 120 others who have gone through the ICD two-year program. The training provides support, professional growth and leadership skills and exceptional speakers from all over the country. They meet once a month for two days.

Director of Congregational Development and Redevelopment, the Rev. Martin Lee says the goal is to create a pool of prepared ministers to lead the Conference in missional growth. Many lay participants have gone on to become local licensed pastors. "We hope to change the DNA of the conference," said Rev. Lee. "Whether it is planting new churches or doing something new, we need to change the way we do ministry to change lives."

The Rev. Mike Jones completed the training in 2011 and returned to help lead the 2013 class. "This is hands down the best training I have received for practical ministry," said Rev. Jones who has been implementing what he's learned at First UMC Dixon. "It's really changed how I look at



23 clergy and laity graduated from the Institute of Congregational Development in May.

ministry. We are focusing on looking outside the church and reaching new people for Christ." Rev. Jones says he's seeing it make a difference. So far this year, he's baptized four adults, the most they've had in the last 11 years.

The Rev. Irene Taylor of Living Faith in Waukegan, wasn't sure she was in the right place when she joined ICD. "For me and at my age, I thought it was about congregational development,"

she said. "I had to move my age out of the way and just listen to what's going on. It really challenged me to go back and reclaim my initial call. It's given me the tools and resources to go out in the community and network."

ICD is currently seeking applicants for the class of 2015. ICD seeks participants who have the following traits: (1) A passion for starting a "new thing." This does not guarantee that ICD

participants will launch a church plant. We simply desire participants zealous for reaching religious "nones." (2) Hunger for learning. We desire participants who want to learn from the presenters, book discussions, peer-to-peer sharing, and the spiritual formation process of "Incubator Covenant Groups." For more information, contact Judy Siaba, Administrative Assistant, at jsiaba@umcnic.org.

United Methodist Reporter stops presses

We are sad to report UMR Communications (UMRC) which publishes the *United Methodist Reporter* and our Conference edition has shut down the presses. The UMRC board reluctantly but unanimously voted on May 16 to close during a tearful meeting at the nonprofit's Dallas office. The board said they could find no viable plan for reversing financial losses of recent months. The last newspaper was mailed out May 31.

At one time, UMRC produced nearly 300 separate editions of the newspaper, which included national news as well as content provided by the conferences. Over the last 10-15 years, that number declined to 45 due to changes in publishing technology, the financial crisis in 2008 and the digital age.

"Local church and conference finances were also severely affected. As a result, a growing number of churches and conferences either ceased publishing *Reporter* editions or changed their publishing frequency," said Tom Palmer, board chair. "We now no longer receive enough revenue from our publishing and printing operations to sustain the overhead needed to maintain the ministry."

The *Reporter* origins date back to pre-Civil War Methodist papers in Texas (1847), and was long the main vehicle for news about Methodists in Texas and across the Southwest. The Northern Illinois Conference once printed a weekly edition of the *Reporter* before moving to a bi-monthly then monthly mailing over the past couple decades.

"I will miss working with the UMR staff and their support to publish the stories of our Conference," said NIC Dir. of Communications,

Anne Marie Gerhardt. "They always went above and beyond to make the paper look great and to help us share our news with our readers."

Closure will cost the jobs of the 26 remaining UMRC employees, including some with more than 40 years of service. Thirteen others were laid off near the end of 2012.

Alan Heath, CEO since August 2011, said the ministry had struggled financially for several years. But the late 2012 loss of a major contract—for printing, as well as for warehousing and shipping curriculum materials—reduced revenue by about 40 percent.

Since the beginning of the year, efforts to cut costs while seeking new income could not keep the ministry in the black. Mr. Heath noted that UMRC has operated as a fee-for-service ministry, with no strong donor base and no direct support from the United Methodist Church.

"There was no solution that didn't involve red ink," he told board members.

Mr. Heath added, "This decision obviously affects not only our newspaper customers, but other customers that have relied on us for printing and mailing services for many other products. We are sorry to leave our partners in ministry who have been so faithful to continue their relationship with us. We will do our best to help these ministries find a new print provider."

Mr. Heath said an appropriate home will be sought for the newspaper's print and online archives.

NIC Communications is seeking an alternative option to print the paper with a new look coming this summer. We thank UMR for its long-standing ministry and services.



Elgin Youth build home for Joplin in church basement

By Dave Gathman*

"Keith just walked in at the beginning of Sunday school one day and said, 'Let's build a house, right here,'" recalls 15-year-old Cole Krambeer. "I thought he was a little crazy. Fifteen teenagers building a house in a church basement?"

But that's what the youth group and its adult advisers are doing at First United Methodist Church of Elgin. One panel of boards at a time, meeting a couple times a week, they are constructing what will become the walls, roof and floors of a home. From June 9 to 15 they will load these all onto a rented truck. First members will drive with them the 550 miles to Joplin, Mo. There they will find a foundation already laid and will put together what in effect has become a prefab home for use by a woman who lost her original home to the 2011 Joplin tornado.

In the what-goes-around-comes-around of history, maybe a non-Christian would call this an example of "karma." In March 1920, the church's downtown building narrowly escaped being knocked down by the "Palm Sunday Elgin Tornado." That storm collapsed the floor of the sanctuary at nearby First Congregational Church, caused major damage to First Baptist and First Evangelical churches, killed four people inside those churches and even lifted a car parked in front of First Methodist off its wheels as a man sat in it. But the Methodist building lost only a steeple.

Joplin, near the Oklahoma border in far southwestern Missouri, was struck on May 22, 2011, by a multi-pronged EF-5 tornado. The storm carved a 13-mile path of destruction, similar to that of the Elgin tornado. It destroyed 4,000 homes and 2,000 businesses, and it killed 161 people.

As of this winter, according to the nonprofit group Rebuild Joplin, some 90 families were still living in trailers



provided by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). Uncounted others, the group says, still were staying with relatives or in hotels or rented apartments, dreaming of someday rebuilding the homes they had lost.

Keith Duncan, First UMC's youth director, said the disaster occurred just as the youth group was about to embark on a long-planned weeklong mission trip to an inner-city area of Kansas City, Mo. Because the tornado-struck town was so close, the 35 teens and adults on the Kansas City mission took a side trip to Joplin for two days to do what they could to help.

Nick Iwanski, 15, recalls that what used to be family homes now consisted of just stone steps and empty foundations. They saw trees with all the limbs blown off. One tree had a piece of metal wrapped around it like a blanket. An entire hospital had been picked up and moved half a foot, almost all its windows blown out.

"Those two days were spent mainly cleaning up debris," Duncan said. "So we scheduled a return trip in October to tear off damaged siding from a woman's house. Then we figured, 'As long as we're here, why don't we reside the house, too?' The siding was

donated by people who lived in Joplin."

The third visit came last June. Again about 35 went, including new First UMC Pastor Robert Sathuri. "We did a lot of things at three different houses," Duncan said. "We built some stairs and rewired a home and did a lot of painting."

That inspired the idea of actually building a new house for somebody. So Duncan made arrangements to do that through Rebuild Joplin.

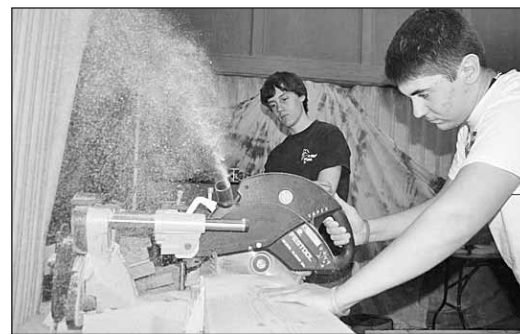
Volunteer haven

On each stay, Duncan said, they have stayed inside a nondenominational church named Abundant Life Christian Center.

"Since the tornado, they have taken this as a special mission for their church—to house visiting volunteers from all over the country," Duncan said.

Nineteen-year-old Leigh Hauserman said sleeping on the floor during their first trip has been replaced by sleeping in bunks. The church's kitchen, which the kids said is about the size of a typical home's kitchen, now serves hundreds of meals a day.

Working through Rebuild Joplin, the First UMC group has adopted a 35-year-old woman named Emily who lost her home. Adult volunteer Frank Scheid



Youth group members and volunteers work on putting boards together as they build the framework for a new house in the basement of First United Methodist Church in Elgin. They will truck down the prefabricated home to Joplin, MO and erect it for a family who lost everything in the 2011 tornado.

said Emily works for a pizza place and was making deliveries when the tornado hit. Returning home, she found that her house was completely gone.

It wasn't the only time a Joplinite skirted disaster by near-miraculous coincidence, Scheid said. He said a high school in Joplin was scheduled to hold its 2011 graduation ceremony at the time the storm hit. But because there were too many kids to fit into the school gym, that ceremony was moved to a Joplin college. While hundreds of graduates and their families sat in that safe college gym, the tornado smashed the high school into rubble.

"If they hadn't moved the graduation ceremony, hundreds more people would have been killed," Scheid said.

Duncan said other volunteers or contractors working through Rebuild Joplin will have installed a foundation for the woman's home before the Elgin group arrives in June.

After the Elginites assemble the walls, floors and roof they have been prefabricating at the church, other volunteers or contractors will add plumbing and electrical service to make the home livable.

The new home will be a modest one—a one-story 36-by-24-foot

structure.

The teens' and adults' level of construction expertise varies considerably, Duncan notes. Some have lots of do-it-yourself experience. Others have had to practice even how to drive a nail, and the group's little practice board—covered with dents from misaimed hammer blows an inch or more from the target nail—testifies that this practice was needed.

Financing the project

With \$45,000 needed to pay for the building materials and rented truck, fundraising remains a challenge, the youths say. Duncan, who teaches fourth grade in a Elgin District U46 school when he is not doing his church work, had his fourth-graders make up 200 tags with a different dollar amount on each, from \$1 to \$200. First members have been invited to pledge an amount and post the tag with that amount on it on one of the project's wall frames. That frame is on display just outside the church sanctuary, with numbers such as \$96, \$74, \$51 and \$21 pasted onto it.

Duncan said the disaster might actually have saved Joplin in some ways.

"One college-aged girl said that before the storm, Joplin was a town you grew up in and moved away from," Duncan said. "But she said that now the philosophy of this generation is that 'This Is Our Town.' A storm like that can bring people together, and when people like us come from all over the country to help, that creates a special feeling."

"This is not really about building a house. It's about the people and the relationships we build."

More information can be found at www.fumcelgin.org or www.rebuildjoplin.org, or on FUMC's Facebook page "JoplinHouse2013."

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A Time to say Thank You!

On April 13, 2013, flames consumed the upper level of Epworth UMC's parsonage at 5249 N. Kenmore Ave., Chicago and made it unlivable for the Rev. Amos Oladipo and his family.

Both the Epworth UMC and African Community UMC communities served by Pastor Amos mobilized to support their pastor through many acts of generosity and loving care. Compassionate donations poured in from across the Annual Conference and the larger connection to help the congregation and the Oladipo family.

An Online Account was set by the Conference to accept donations for Epworth UMC and the Oladipo family. Five weeks later, we are happy to report that many generous donations were received and have been channeled to Epworth UMC and/or Pastor Amos as specified by the donors.

While this Online Account has been closed now, donations will continue to be accepted by sending them to the Epworth UMC church office at 5253 N Kenmore Ave., Chicago IL 60640; (773) 561-6422, epworthchicago@gmail.com.

Please continue to keep Epworth UMC and Rev. Oladipo in your prayers as they rebuild and move forward.

~Chicago Northwestern District Superintendent, Rev. Zaki L. Zaki



Fire destroyed the second floor of Epworth UMC's parsonage in Chicago on April 13, 2013.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Lillian and her mom, Alison Dwyer paint a picnic shelter in Marengo, Ill. A number of bikes were given away at the Roselle UMC Bike Clinic on Change the World Day. Volunteers also helped tune up the two wheelers and others left happy with a free bike to take home. Ramon Garner, 8, helped plant flowers with his mother, Rhiannon Vazzques, at his school, Greenman Elementary in Aurora, on Sunday, May 19. They were among 65 youth and adults from Aurora's Wesley United Methodist Church who performed community-service projects in the fourth annual UMC Change the World weekend.



AL BENSON PHOTO

Many NIC churches help Change the World

More than a dozen churches across the Northern Illinois Conference registered events for the fourth annual Change the World weekend, May 18-19. Community service projects included planting community gardens and collecting food for local pantries to a free bike clinic and serving brunch to children at the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Three Marengo churches joined forces on Saturday, May 18, and Sunday, May 19, 2013 to

change the world in Marengo, by taking on clean-up and maintenance projects in the Marengo Parks.

Saturday and Sunday groups from Marengo UMC worked to clear brush and overgrown trees from the easement along about a half mile of road into the Indian Oaks Park area. Volunteers worked with chain saws and loppers, while others, including children hauled it into piles so the park maintenance could dispose it. Another Marengo

UMC team cleared brush and overhanging branches from the parking area and around the Park District's main building. A third team painted a picnic shelter.

A group from Marengo Assembly of God Church power washed the swimming pool bath house and pulled all of the weeds out from around the pool area.

Several people from the Marengo Presbyterian church pulled weeds and trimmed bushes at

Renwick park in Marengo.

Sunday after worship member of the three churches shared a picnic lunch at the park before going off to complete the work started on Saturday. The lunch was provided by the mission team that will be going to Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota in July. That team includes members of the Marengo UMC and the Woodstock UMC. They accepted free-will offerings to defray travel expenses.

Summer Camps are filling fast!

More than 100 campers have already registered for NIC Summer camps at Reynoldswood (in Dixon), and Wesley Woods (on Geneva Lake). Twenty-six specialty camps from Sailing to Horseback Riding, Night Owl to Sports 1 & II and even a new Survivor Skills week ensure an exciting experience for youth grades 2 through college freshman. More information and online registration at www.niccamp.org, or e-mail orm@niccamp.org.



The Northern Illinois Annual Conference is now accepting nominations for the Harry Denman Evangelism Award for clergy, lay and youth, which recognizes a person whose life and ministry exemplifies the teaching of Christ and the Great Commission.

Recipients of these awards, nominated by individuals, churches, or districts and selected by the Annual Conference, live their call to "Offer Them Christ" daily as modeled by Dr. Harry Denman, founder of the Foundation for Evangelism that sponsors these awards.

To learn more about the award or to download nomination forms visit our website at www.umn.org/denman or call Rev. Brian Channel at 815-248-2461 or email blchan1969@gmail.com. Nominations must be received no later than September 16, 2013 to be considered for the 2013 rewards. Please send forms to: Rev. Brian Channel at 102 E. Main St., Durango, IL 60124.

Churches work together at food bank

By Rev. Diana Otterbacher

Fifteen of us left our three church buildings on March 23 and drove to Loves Park to serve at the Northern Illinois Food Bank Warehouse where we unpacked hundreds of cans of donated College Inn chicken broth, removed their misprinted labels, attached new labels, repacked and stacked them ready for distribution to local Food Pantries. We had fun working together and learned more about the far-reaching efforts of the NI Food Bank.

The participating youth from Hampshire/Zion UMC, Burlington UMC, and Hampshire/First UMC were: Dominic Pearson, Anna McCoy, Grace Tamms, Kylie Cork, Jessica Smith, Andrew and Matthew Marchine, Kayla Sorenson, L.T. and Crimson Prinner. The adults were: Gina Pearson, Frank & Cathy McCoy, Pastor Gavin Brandt and Pastor Diana Otterbacher.

During lunch, we talked about how important it is to have our three nearby UM churches working together and wouldn't it be great to share projects like this several times throughout the year?

On another mission project, the Zion United Methodist Women of Hampshire recently collected material donations for the Africa Container Project that will provide requested supplies for Joy in the Harvest in Tanzania, led by United Methodist missionaries, Lowell and Claudia Wertz. They were our dinner guests on May 30 and afterwards they gave a report of their work. Other nearby UM churches which have supported this project were invited to the event.

Zion UMC of Hampshire is also coordinating efforts to sponsor a Mobile Food Pantry from the Northern IL Food Bank on June 11 at the local grade school parking lot. This is our gift to the community.

We are a small church doing mission in God's big world!



Youth and adults from three United Methodist Churches worked together stocking the shelves at the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

Confirmands play hide and seek in medieval castle



Youth from several churches had fun at a retreat in a medieval castle in Illinois.

'I know the plans that I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope.'

Jeremiah 29:11

We can run, but we cannot hide from the love and grace given to us by God! Yet, hide and seek in a medieval castle sure is fun! Trinity UMC Wilmette (Catherine Inserra Petersen), Disciples of Christ Mt. Morris (Pastor Doc Newcomb), Trinity UMC Mt. Prospect (Jacki Bogolia), Glenview UMC (Linda Duback) and Oregon UMC (Nancy Crandall) partnered to bring confirmands and teen leaders together for an INSPIRING and MEMORABLE retreat experience at Stronghold Retreat Center in Oregon, IL from April 26-27, 2013.

Fifty confirmands, teen leaders and adults explored the theme of talking with and listening to God through small group discussions, games, food, midnight worship, quiet time and music.

Three essential prayers borrowed from Anne Lamott's new book—Help. Thanks. WOW adorned T-shirts and quickly became the shout outs for the weekend! Interested in partnering for Team Stronghold 2014? Contact Catherine Inserra Petersen at cath@trinitywilmette.org.

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary names new president

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary Board of Trustees unanimously elected Dr. Lallene J. Rector to be the next president of Garrett-Evangelical. Currently serving as the seminary’s vice president for academic affairs and academic dean, Rector will succeed Dr. Philip A. Amerson, who will retire on December 31 after nearly eight years as president. Rector, an extraordinary scholar and practitioner, shares a deep love for the church and possesses the perfect mix of skills, education, experience, and faith to further Garrett-Evangelical’s mission to prepare bold, spiritual leaders for the church, academy, and world.

As the first woman president in Garrett-Evangelical’s 160-year history, Rector will join the seminary’s legacy of remarkable women who have served the institution, including: Eliza Garrett, who founded Garrett Biblical Institute in 1853; Lucy Rider Meyer, the first principal of the Chicago Training School in 1855; Georgia Harkness, the first woman to be named professor of theology in the United States in 1939; and Rosemary Skinner Keller, the seminary’s first female academic dean appointed in 1993.

As the first layperson to be appointed president, Rector will bring a creative perspective to the seminary’s commitment to train bold leaders. She is a person of profound faith and is devoted to theological education in the ecumenical church and the building of strong interfaith alliances. She is a member at First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple in Chicago, Illinois. Her background as a United Methodist who brings expertise in pastoral psychotherapy makes her an invaluable asset on

the Ministerial Assessment Specialists Advisory Committee on Candidacy and Clergy Assessment for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Additionally, she is a convener for the United Methodist Theological Schools academic deans and regularly represents the seminary at denominational conferences.

A search committee of trustees, faculty, and administrators unanimously recommended Rector to the board. In her remarks to the search committee Rector said, “I believe that if Garrett-Evangelical understands itself, first and foremost, as a *servant* to the church and to the world, then we will not stray far from God’s purpose for us. My own personal call to service, along with my experience in the seminary for the last 27 years, has well prepared me to become the next President.”

In response to the board’s decision, Mr. Jerre Stead, Board of Trustees Chair, said, “I am thrilled with the work of the search committee and their recommendation. When I speak with faculty and administrators at other theological schools, Lallene’s reputation precedes her. She is considered one of the top-tier talent in theological education and we are blessed to have her as president elect.” Stead further shared his confidence that Rector will be a visionary leader advancing the school’s mission.

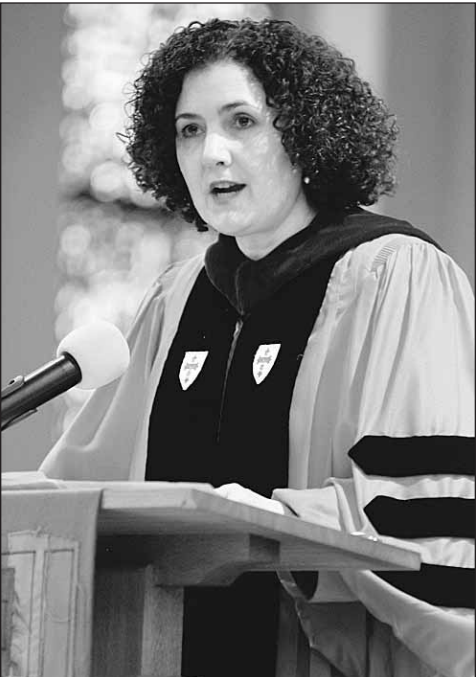
Rector has been a member of the Garrett-Evangelical faculty for 27 years, with the last seven spent in her current role as academic dean. Some of her more recent achievements at the seminary include developing and implementing the seminary’s strategic plan, chairing the budget

reduction task force, initiating curriculum review, and negotiating the seminary’s charter membership in the Seminary Stewardship Alliance.

Her influence at the school can be further witnessed by looking at the student body. Rector is committed to creating a diverse community, which has driven her to develop strong relationships with the Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE), Advanced Latino/a Theological Education Program, and the Center for African American Studies program.

Rector’s influence expands far beyond her work at Garrett-Evangelical. Locally, she has convened the academic deans of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS) and served as the secretary for the ACTS Common Council. Nationally, she is a member of the Association for Theological Schools (ATS) Advisory Committee for Chief Academic Officers. Further involvement with ATS includes serving as member or chair of several re-accreditation teams since 2005 and being a panelist or presenter at various ATS meetings and conferences.

Rector’s educational background includes a bachelor of arts in psychology and religion from Texas Christian University, a master of theological studies from Boston University’s School of Theology, and a doctor of philosophy in psychology of religion from Boston University’s Graduate School for the Arts and Sciences. She holds memberships in the American Academy of Religion; has served on the Steering Committee for Person, Culture and Religion Section; and has been a member of the American Psychoanalytical



Dr. Lallene J. Rector

Association and the Chicago Society for Psychoanalysis. As Garrett-Evangelical celebrates its 160th anniversary in 2013, we give thanks for the outstanding leadership of Philip A. Amerson and look forward to the leadership of President-Elect Lallene J. Rector. In the coming months we will share more news related to how the seminary will honor our 160-year history, the service of President Amerson, and the installation of President-Elect Rector.

May Appointment Announcements

Bishop Sally Dyck announces the following clergy appointments for the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church. All are effective July 1, 2013 unless otherwise noted.

Min Chea (Provisional Elder, Pending final approval) to Rockford: Christ, Associate (Rockford District).

Kenneth Foster (Local Pastor) to retirement from Compton/Paw Paw (DeKalb District).

Scott Himel (Provisional Elder, Pending final approval) to Rockford: Christ, Associate (Rockford District).

Dennis Oglesby (Full Elder) to Harvey: First Wesley Academy (Chicago Southern District) from the Minnesota Conference as a 346.1.

Avani-Cossett Christian (Elder) to Kaneville (Aurora District) from Associate Pastor at Dixon: First (DeKalb District).

George David (Retired Elder) to Ingleside ½ time (Elgin District) from Ringwood (Elgin District).

Claude King (Elder) to Olympia Fields (Chicago Southern District) from Chicago: First, Temple (Chicago Southern District).

Howard “Doc” Newcomb (Elder) to Addison (Elgin District) from Mt. Morris: Disciples (DeKalb District).

Noah Panlilio (Elder) to Malta/Northwest Malta (DeKalb District) from Chicago: Elston Avenue (Chicago: Northwestern District).

Eddie Eddy (Local Pastor, pending license) to Mokena 1/2 time (Aurora District).

Kazimierz “Casey” Fiut (Local Pastor) to

Ringwood ¼ time (Elgin District) from Chicago: El Redentor del Calvario/The Redeemer of Calvary (Chicago: Northwestern District).

Barbara Good (Full Elder) to Oregon (DeKalb District) from Antioch (Elgin District).

Karen Hundrieser (Local Pastor) to Wood Dale ¾ time (Elgin District) from Worth (Aurora District).

Hannah Kardon (Provisional Elder, Pending final Approval) to Chicago: Elston Avenue (Chicago Northwestern District).

David Lagos-Fonseca (Full Elder) to Chicago: First (Temple), Associate (Chicago Southern District) from Cary, Co-Pastor (Elgin District).

Elliott Parker (346.2) to Chicago: Fernwood (Chicago Southern District).

Shirley Pulgar-Hughes (Local Pastor) to Chicago: El Redentor del Calvario/The Redeemer of Calvary (Chicago: Northwestern District) from Cary, Co-Pastor (Elgin District).

Dwight Stewart (Full Elder) to Mt. Morris: Disciples (DeKalb District) from Transitional Leave.

Chung Nam Kwak (Full Elder) to Paw Paw/Compton (DeKalb District) from an appointment as 346.1 in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Bill Landis (Full Elder) to Antioch (Elgin District) from Sycamore, Senior Pastor (DeKalb District).

Job Openings

For the latest job openings in the Northern Illinois Conference, visit www.umcnic.org/jobs.

Last chance to register for 5 day Academy for Spiritual Formation

July 29–Aug. 3

Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House
420 W County Line Road
Barrington, IL

Featured presenters Ray Buckley and Sister Kathleen Flood

Visit www.umcnic.org/fiveday.



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Registration open for 2013 Summer Summit on Stewardship

The Summer Summit on Stewardship is coming closer! After reading Mike Slaughter's newest book, *Shiny Gods*, the staff of the United Methodist Foundation is more excited about this event than ever.

Shiny Gods is an excellent little book that is packed with practical ideas for both individuals and churches regarding financial stewardship. This book provides the basis for a new stewardship program published by Cokesbury, also by Mike Slaughter, called "First." Much of what Mike will share with us at our July 20 Summit is discussed in the book, *Shiny Gods*, and in the "First" curriculum.

This material weaves together fundamental scripture teachings about stewardship with important concepts related to family and personal finances. At the center of it all is the mission of the church, which is at the heart of Mike Slaughter's passion for financial stewardship. He says, for instance: "Remember, God supplies seed. God doesn't print money. We're the only bank account that God has to resource his purpose in the lives of other people. Our talents, gifts, and resources are what God will use to carry out his redemptive work in the world."

We especially like the passion and commitment to promoting generosity in order to support the mission of the church that is told in the pages of this little volume.

The Foundation likes this book, *Shiny Gods*, so well that it



Rev. Mike Slaughter

is purchasing multiple copies and selling them for \$5 to each person who registers for the Summer Summit either before or during annual conference. All who are at the annual conference in June will be able to register for the Summit at the Foundation's table in the display area at annual conference. If you register there you will have the opportunity to purchase this book (a \$11–12 value) for \$5. You can also purchase the book for \$5 at the Foundation's table if you have previously registered for the July 20 event.

Attendees at the July 20 event will be privileged to hear some of the keys to the remarkable success of the Ginghamburg Church where a culture of generosity has been built over the 30+ year ministry of Mike Slaughter as the chief dreamer and lead pastor at that church.

All the details related to registration can be found at the Foundation's web site, www.nicumf.org, or by calling the Foundation office. The live event will be held at Faith UMC, Orland Park, from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. on Saturday, July 20. The Summit will also be live streamed to six different churches throughout the annual conference as well as to locations in Wisconsin.

Be sure to check out the substantial discounts available when you register three or more from your local church. History has shown that the annual stewardship event is most valuable when attended by a team from each church. Please take advantage of the special incentives for "team" registrations.

Please call the Foundation office, 312-346-9766, ext. 704, and speak with Carolyn Cook, summit registrar for additional assistance.

Called to BE Conference July 18–21, 2013 at North Central College

The "Called to Be" conference will help high school sophomores juniors, and seniors, and college students consider their vocational calling to serve God and to prepare for their future. Participants will meet young adults who are fulfilling their vocations in their churches and communities.

The conference will include devotions, Bible study, workshops, and worship led by young UM pastors and North Central College and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary students. Participants will have opportunities to learn about their choices in higher education including a tour of the North Central College campus. An exploration of Chicago and of young adult ministry in Chicago will be a highlight of the event.

The United Methodist Church needs young adult leaders and young pastors now and in the next decades. You are invited to nominate high school or college students who have gifts for church leadership to participate in a vocational discernment conference and are encouraged to send their names and addresses to Rev. Lynn Pries, at lpries@noctrl.edu. Each nominee will receive a letter of invitation encouraging them to participate in the

conference. Each church is encouraged to pay its student's registration fee.

Conference leaders are: Rev. Dr. Lynn Pries, College Chaplain, North Central College and Rev. Becky Eberhart, Vice-President of Enrollment, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Worship and workshop leaders include Rev. Robert Hamilton III, Associate Pastor of First UMC, Geneva, Ill., Rev. Kristina Krause Androsky Minister of Discipleship, First UMC Waukesha, Wisconsin, and Matthew Gross, Deputy Director of the Midwest Office, Bread for the World.

The three-day event begins, on the North Central College campus-at 4 p.m. on July 18 and concludes at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 21. The cost of the program including meals, housing, and transportation is \$275. Payment may be made by credit card on-line or by check. Pre-registration is through the North Central College Summer Academic Camps website: <http://northcentralcollege.edu/community-and-visitors/course?cid=31403>.

For more information, contact: Rev. Dr. Lynn Pries, North Central College, 30 N. Brainard St., Naperville, IL 60540. E-mail lpries@noctrl.edu or Phone: 630-637-5104.

Mission u

*Learning Together
for the Transformation of the World*



Presented by
Northern Illinois Conference
United Methodist Women
July 18–21
Judson University, Elgin, IL

This educational event is opened to women and men, girls and boys, a wonderful opportunity to continue on your spiritual journey. July 18 is a one day event. While the adults (16+) are receiving an overview of the three studies: The Call: Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly; The Roma of Europe; and Poverty, children (7–11) and youth (12–15) will each be taking an in-depth study of Migration. An adult (21+) must register and accompany all children and youth participants.

The weekend event begins at 4:00 p.m. on July 18 and ends with lunch on July 21. Each adult participant will take the 8 hour study: The Call. They will also choose one of the other two studies to take, also for 8 hours.

On July 20, The Call and The Roma of Europe will be taught in Korean, each class is 2½ hours. The Call will also be taught in Spanish for a 5 hour class.

In addition to classes there will be time for interest groups, fun, fellowship and worship.

For a detailed tri-fold brochure and to register, visit www.umcnic.org/umw. Required medical forms for the children and youth can also be found at the website. For additional information, contact the Dean, Mari Schirmer at 630-355-8532 or ehsremle@aol.com.

2013 Creative Ministries Grant Recipients

Northern Illinois Conference Program Council awarded 28 Creative Ministries Grants totaling \$59,000 in May to help support a variety of programs from literacy to feeding the homeless.

The following received a 2013 Creative Ministries Grant:

- Kids CSA @FGUMC -Community Garden at Franklin Grove UMC (DeKalb)
- Grupo Hosanna Liturgical Dance at Humboldt Park UMC (CNW)
- School of Life at Mandell UMC (CNW)
- Leamos Literacy Program at Christ UMC Lockport (Aurora)
- Our Table to Go at Princeton UMC (DeKalb)
- Spanish as a Second Language curriculum (NIC)
- Bishop's Urban Strategy Team (NIC)
- Bethany Older Adult Ministries Initiative (NIC)
- Lena UMC Youth Outreach (Rockford)
- St. John's Cultural Awareness Program (CNW)
- Lifetree Cafe at Marengo UMC (Elgin)
- Older Adult Ministry at Roselle UMC (Elgin)
- Let's Get Moving Health & Fitness Ministries at Neighborhood/St. Matthew UMC (CNW)
- Circles and Ciphers at Rogers Park UMC (CNW)
- English Language Learners and Outreach at Our Saviour's UMC (Elgin)
- UCM Peer Spiritual Mentoring Program (CNW)
- Filipino-American UM Young People Servant Leadership Development (CNW)
- Capron Soup Kitchen at Poplar Grove UMC (Rockford)
- Park Cafe at Maple Park UMC (CS)
- LGBTQA Youth Ministries at Wesley UMC Cicero (CS)
- McConnell UMC Play Area (Rockford)
- South Shore Intergenerational Literacy Program (CS)
- Parent Mentoring Program at Friendship UMC (Aurora)
- Suicide Prevention Training Vidoe Plano UMC (Aurora)
- Sunday Night Special through Jo Davies Cluster Youth Ministry (Rockford)
- Advocacy & Empowerment Program through the Center for Changing Lives (CNW)
- Emerge Christian Academy through Mission Emerge (Rockford)



Taking the message to the streets, United Methodists marched around Rosenblum Park in Chicago calling for peace and an end to the violence.

UMs begin Urban Strategy

Continued from front page
long-standing commitment to the peace and well-being of Chicago, Mayor Emanuel declared May 18, 2013 United Methodist Day in Chicago. “For us to do what we need to do in the city of Chicago, this Methodist church and all of you will be a part of what we’re doing.”

The groups reported some of the ideas that came out of each session such as; partnering with other churches, adopting a school, rethinking second chance and zero tolerance, treating drug addiction, valuing education, creating safe zones in churches, planting more community gardens and partnering with farmers, and continuing the conversation.

Chicago Police Commander Eugene Williams, a United Methodist, addressed the group saying this was an historic day. “This is the first time we have come together collectively, as a United Methodist church in the Northern Illinois Conference to bring our resources to bear on some of the issues that are plaguing our city,” he said adding that arresting our way out of the problem is not the answer. “I am proud of my work as a Chicago police officer but really proud to be a United Methodist on this day.”

At the end of the Summit, the Bishop led everyone outside the school to Rosenblum Park. Participants held signs with the names of the 112+ victims who were killed by gun violence in the city since January 1. The group marched around the park chanting “What do we want? Peace. When do we want it? Now!”

At each corner, the group stopped to pray for an end to violence and safety in the schools. The Bishop then dedicated a Peace Pole which will permanently be placed between the school and park.

Bishop Dyck prayed, “Oh God, we ask that you will bless this pole that stands here in all of its languages and symbolic presence that each and everyone who sees it will have hope that there will be peace in our city, peace in our country, and our world.”

As the day ended, Bishop Dyck reminded everyone that this is just the start to an urban strategy for the city of Chicago as we build upon past urban ministry efforts made by this Conference. “We have a lot of work to do,” she said. “It’s a big vision, a tremendous need to network, but that’s what it means to be United Methodist. We’re connectional!”

Put legs to our prayers

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Restorative Justice, and Food Security.

As an annual conference, we need to put legs to our prayers by developing this strategy, working together, learning from each other, sharing best practices, partnering with one another, and stepping out into our communities. We begin with the Urban Strategy for Chicago and this is just the beginning.

Eventually we will move outward to our other major urban areas, such as Rockford, and also address the needs of the rural and small towns of our annual conference. We have our work cut out for us! United Methodist Day in Chicago was not a won-and-done experience but the beginning of changing our communities to reflect our prayer for “thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.”

I invite you, no matter where you live, whether you came or not, to read the Covenant with Chicago that we shared and signed at the Urban Summit. You can find it online and also sign it in person at annual conference.

Rabbi Heschel spoke specifically to racism in this quote, but it could apply to all the problems, especially the root problem of poverty, that Chicago and Chicagoland and beyond face. It’s a good word for us:

“Racism is an evil of tremendous power, but God’s will transcends all powers. (To) surrender to despair is to surrender to evil. It is important to feel anxiety, (but) it is sinful to wallow in despair. What we need is a total mobilization of heart, intelligence, and wealth for the purpose of love and justice. God is in search of (humanity), waiting, hoping for (humanity) to do (God’s) will.”

United Methodist Day in Chicago was one of the most energizing, exciting winds of the Spirit I have seen in the United Methodist Church for a long time! And it happens here...now...as we go forth to put legs to our prayers.

~Bishop Sally Dyck



Bishops learn about life on the U.S.-Mexico border

As the United States Senate prepared to consider a major bill on immigration policy reform, Bishop Sally Dyck traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border near San Diego, where she joined other bishops from around the U.S., Africa, Asia and Europe.


The purpose of the bishops’ visit on May 7 was to immerse themselves in the reality of life at the border and sharpen their focus on how The United Methodist Church can be in ministry with border residents.

Bishop Dyck visited the border fence on the American side a few years ago. But on this trip, her group crossed the border into Mexico to the Plaza del Bordo, an open-air migrant encampment to distribute health kits to the community.

“At the Tijuana River, it’s like a demilitarized zone (DMZ); they live on the resources of the river and it’s a dangerous place for them to be,” Bishop Dyck says of the powerful experience. “Health kits for people who are displaced for whatever reason are a life-saver. We just can’t make enough of them!”

Additionally, the bishops joined for a service of Holy Communion and some hiked through the Tijuana Estuary, one of the last undeveloped areas in the region. They also visited a ministry of the Methodist Church of Mexico.

Border community leaders, leaders of the



A UMNS PHOTO BY KATHLEEN BARRY

Bishop Sally Dyck distributed health kits in Tijuana, Mexico on May 7, 2013.

Methodist Church of Mexico, and area United Methodists joined the bishops during the visit.

The Bishops also issued a statement to U.S. Senators urging them to improve the “Border Security, Economic Opportunity & Immigration Modernization Act” (S. 744).

For more information about The United Methodist Church’s ministries and beliefs regarding immigration, go to umc.org/immigration.

A Covenant with Chicago

O Chicago, Chicago! As United Methodists, we make a covenant with you on this day to do the things that make for your peace: To rise up, stand in the gap, live out our faith, and put legs to our prayers.

We commit to be good stewards of all the resources & opportunities entrusted to us as a United Methodist Church! We will share, utilize, and invest these resources to seize every opportunity to do all the good we can.

In pursuit of your Peace, Chicago, we commit to expand our capacity as a Church, and work collaboratively with other partners within and beyond our communities!

By our commitment today we say:
No more apathy!
No more low expectations!
No more isolation!
No more fear!
No more despair!
No more violence!

By our commitment today we say:
Yes to Collaboration!
Yes to Community Focus!
Yes to best practices to promote restorative justice!
Yes to best practices to promote food security!
Yes to best practices to promote community safety!
Yes to best practices to promote excellent public education for all the children of Chicago!
May our No be No and Yes be Yes!

Together we’ll put legs to our prayers and we’ll mobilize, organize, strategize and work collaboratively with one another and with all who seek to promote the peace of the City.
May the covenant we make today be ratified by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

To sign this covenant online visit www.umcnic.org/chicagocovenant.