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To: Illinois Conference Council and
Members of the Illinois Conferences

I greet you in the name Jesus the Christ, head of the Church.

I want to thank the people of the Illinois Conference for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Illinois Conference Minister for the past eight (8) years. This ministry has in many ways been a blessing and satisfying journey in my life.

The ministry, health and future of our Conference are not charged to the care of its Conference Minister, but to its churches, elected leaders and general membership. Our Conference has very capable and able leaders that are presently discerning the future that God is calling us to. When I was called in 2010 it was around the theme "Building Trust in Changing Times" (from the search Conference profile) and following the adoption of "A New Conceptual Framework for Staffing".

The time has now come for Conference to have new Conference Minister Leadership. Our Conference being in the midst of discerning sustainability, its mission and structure, lends itself to opportune time for significant and important change.

I am currently ending a second four year term as Conference Minister and will not be seeking a third term. At Conference Annual Celebration 2017, I had stated the importance of discerning the right time to "step-up or to step aside". My role as Conference Minister will come to an end on May 31st, 2018 including taking some vacation, prior to the end of May.

My ministry with you has been done with much dedication and great love for our Illinois Conference, United Church of Christ. It has been greatly rewarding to have worked with beloved, capable colleagues, the Ministry Leadership Team, administrative staff and wonderful local church pastors and lay Conference leaders. I am deeply grateful for the love and support I have received from so many servants of Christ and the Church while with you in Conference Ministry.

Throughout my ministry in the Illinois Conference, I have been blessed by working with many gifted, talented and generous persons. I shall hold you and our Conference, its ministry leadership, and all clergy and local churches in prayer. To all with whom I have shared this time, I want to express my deepest gratitude as I embark on a new path and journey. My prayers for all and particularly our elected Conference and ministry leadership is God's continued guidance.

With you serving The Christ,

Jorge L. Morales