

# Illinois Conference UCC E-Newsletter



## From the Ministry Leadership Team

A Pastoral Letter from the Illinois Conference Ministry Leadership Team

Feb. 24, 2017

Sisters and Brothers in Christ;

We write to you today to address the confusion and chaos that is coming out of Washington D.C. since the election and inauguration of President Trump.

We are well aware that there is a diversity of opinion among the churches and pastors of the Illinois Conference regarding this matter. In no way do we wish to convey that any individual or church should think a particular way about these things. However, we do believe that we, as the leadership team, have a responsibility to help the Illinois Conference think about how to respond to what is going on.

It is impossible to address any particular concern or event as the controversies are coming too quickly. Surely we can all agree that the beginning of the Trump administration has not gone as smoothly as anyone had hoped, and that the flood of news stories is so rapid that it is difficult to keep up with what the latest controversy is. And so, we ask that everyone take a moment to step back and consider the following.

We are called to be the Church, to care for the most vulnerable persons in our communities, to preach the Gospel, and to call anyone and everyone to accountability to that Gospel. This is our call and responsibility; no matter who is in the White House, or which political party is in power at the time. Sometimes, that Gospel is difficult to hear and stands in direct opposition to the prevailing political message or what seems to be the will of the people at any given moment. This has always been so, and in times of great tumult, the Church has often stood against the tide of public opinion, despite great pressure to do otherwise.

We are called to remember that our denominational motto is "...that they may all be one", which reminds us to be bridge builders, reaching across disagreements to seek where we have common interests and beliefs.

We are called to remember that Jesus and his family were once

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[Tower Hill](#)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETINGS

#### *Western Association*

Saturday, April 22, 2017,  
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

First Congregational UCC,  
Springfield, Ill

Rev. Bryan Sirchio, keynoter

[Click here for more info](#)

#### *Prairie Association*

Saturday, April 29, 2017,  
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Save the date;  
more info will follow.

refugees, fleeing a persecuting power. His religious faith taught him, and teaches us, that we are to welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, and care for the widow and orphan. When we do these things to the least, most vulnerable in our society, we do them to Christ himself.

We are called to remember that the race that is set before us is a marathon, not a sprint. We are called to engage in careful reflection, excellent self-care as individuals and as communities of faith, lest we risk burning ourselves out.

Lastly, we are called to remember the Great Commandment; that we are to love God with all our heart, mind and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves. This simple, Sunday-school lesson is at the heart of the Gospel, and will be the only thing that keeps us from allowing our society to tear itself apart.

We know these are stressful times; that the pressure on you is great, and that the struggle to maintain the truth of the Gospel, and the peace of the Church, while speaking the truth in love seems an impossible task. We are praying for you, and, in collaboration with the national church, are working on ways we all might find to respond more actively to all of this. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us directly to speak about these matters if you need us. We are here for you. Please take care of yourselves.

Jorge, Vertie, Tom, Kathy, Jim, David, Bill and Larry

### Report from the Interim Associate Conference Minister for Stewardship and Church Vitality

*For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. (Romans 12:4,5 -NRSV)*

As I have been traveling around the Illinois Conference visiting churches, I am struck by how true Paul's description of the church fits us today. I have seen many different expressions of church but all with one Christ at the center and one Spirit to guide and empower us all. One all too common theme in many of our churches is the persistent hope for growth alongside anxiety about the decline in attendance and/or the aging congregation.

Thank God for hope in Christ! I have also witnessed a number of our churches where re-vitalization and re-visioning are happening. Beginning with this issue of E-News, you will find a different story of hopeful vitality and spirit in a different church for each issue. Look for **ReVision Corner** in this and future issues. Another hope is the churches that are being helped by LEEAP grant funds with many different examples of renewal projects in urban and rural areas. We are also supporting new church starts that are experimenting with wonderful new ways of being the church and reaching out to the un-churched, de-churched...and "nones" (that group of over 50% of the U.S. who declare no religious affiliation).

#### **Chicago Metropolitan Association**

Saturday, May 6, 2017,  
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
University Church of Chicago  
Save the date;  
more info will follow.

#### **Fox Valley Association**

Saturday, April 29, 2017,  
8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
St. John's UCC of Waukegan  
Keynoter :  
Acting Associate  
Conference Minister  
Rev. Dr. James Olson  
[Click here for more info](#)

#### **Eastern Association**

Saturday, May 6, 2017,  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Grace UCC, Sauk Village  
Save the date;  
more info will follow.

#### **Men's Chorus Concert The Congregational Church of Park Manor UCC**

7000 S. King Drive,  
Chicago, Ill.  
Sunday, March 19, 2017, 3 p.m.  
Soloists, guest choruses  
Rev. Dr. Terrill N. Murff, Pastor

#### **[Installation Service](#)**

Rev. Dr. Susan Harlow,  
Senior Pastor  
**Celebration of Ministry  
(Retirement)**

Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling  
Sunday, March 26, 2017, 2 p.m.  
The Peoples Church of Chicago  
941 W. Lawrence Ave.,  
Chicago, Ill.

#### **[9th Annual El Pueblo Canta](#)**

Wellington Ave. Church  
615 W. Wellington Ave.,  
Chicago, Ill.  
Immigration Justice Movement event  
Saturday, April 1, 2017,  
7 p.m. concert;  
[tickets available](#)

#### **Annual Spring Tea Women of Bethel**

Bethel United Church of Christ  
315 E. St. Charles Road,  
Elmhurst, Ill.  
Saturday, April 8, 2017,  
12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
Food and one-woman show  
Tickets: (630) 834-6254

#### **FVA Justice and Witness Committee**

Hearing requests for resources and support from churches, I have developed a short, limited list of re-vitalization resources available. Contact me for more information.

- LEEAP grants for new church starts and church revitalization
- New Beginnings Assessment service, from national UCC
- Center for Progressive Renewal training and consulting services (Atlanta)
- Center for Parish Development Re-Vitalization consultation (Chicago)
- MissionInsite online demographics
- Stewardship training and consultation
- Marketing consultation
- Technology and social media consultation and training
- Evangelism consultation and training

What a challenging time! We are encouraged to reach out as 2017 missionaries to new "mission fields" all around us. May God's Holy Spirit help us transform this needy world.

*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, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' (Matthew 28:19-20)*

Rev. Dr. David Russell  
Interim Associate Conference Minister  
for Stewardship and Church Vitality

**Free Webinar**  
**What's going on with "deportation and "Sanctuary" in Illinois**

Hosted by Rev. Sara Wohlleb,  
Illinois Conference UCC  
Immigration Taskforce  
Thursday, March 16, 2017,  
12 noon -1 p.m.

[Click here to join meeting](#)

**Service of Installation**

Rev. Anthony W. Sullivan Jr. as  
Senior Pastor,  
God Can Ministries UCC  
Saturday, April 15, 2017, 12 noon  
Covenant United Church of Christ  
1130 E. 154th St.,  
South Holland, Ill.

Guest preacher:  
Rev. Dr. Yvette A. Flunder  
RSVP: Latonya Strandberry  
@ [tiarasmother@yahoo.com](mailto:tiarasmother@yahoo.com)

**Planning for Retirement**  
**Great Lakes Regional Seminar**

Wednesday, April 26, 2017,  
8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

First Congregational UCC  
235 S. Kenilworth Ave.  
Kenilworth, Ill.

Info: Sonia Santiago,  
[Santiago@pbucc.org](mailto:Santiago@pbucc.org)

## ReVision Corner

One challenge we had at First Congregational UCC, Downers Grove, was finding the right musical blend. When we combined our traditional service with a full on contemporary service, at first mixing the praise band with high liturgy organ music didn't mesh very well. One Sunday, several members stood up mid service saying, 'you're too loud!' and it felt as if the whole worship combination experiment might die right there and then. Yet, over time we felt the need to commit to a worship style that honored the power, lyrics, and storied history of our hymnity but that also brought some of the robust cutting edge praise music that spoke to new and often unchurched people visiting us for the first time.

Has this worked at First? For the most part yes. People have been empowered spiritually- had the freedom to start new ministries and missions and have changed over time into a very different, much more visible form of discipleship. Numerically? Ehh? Holding our own I suppose we take in anywhere from 35-80 people in a given year, but we lose our fair share as well. But again, if our primary goal is discipleship, making new disciples and fueling older ones then the numbers may not really reflect whether or not we have been a success in the eyes of God.

Most ministers will undoubtedly feel the pressure of trustees and finance committees to fill the pews with greater attendance and fill the offering plates with heavier giving..."After all we do need to keep the lights on..." how many times have we heard it? I've always been of the opinion that when we begin with the transformative power of the Gospel to unlearn what we think we know about God and to have our lives truly opened to the amazing beauty of life in Christ the church will grow, it just may not always be in the ways we expect it to.

At First Congregational UCC in Downers Grove, I'll admit our style is a bit maverick. We don't shy away from blending a lot of things Evangelical Christians do to bring in new people. We use technology (screens, webstream, broadcasts) during worship and throughout the week. We blend

use of traditional hymns and worship music familiar to people who have grown up in the church with modern Christian songs and secular music with a message that ties into our weekly worship theme in an effort to find music that during the service tries to speak to as many people as possible.

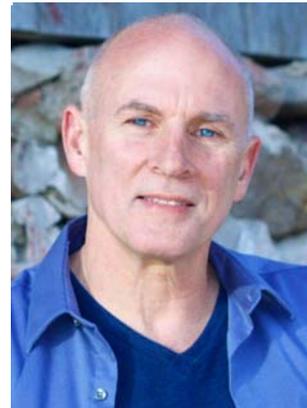
But perhaps most importantly, we try to live into our God given strengths for this congregation. Ours have been social justice and mission. We have tried to live into the vision of being the church in town that is known for putting the love of Christ into daily action. We are, I hope, that church, the one that welcomes the homeless, cares for the marginalized, speaks in advocacy for the immigrant and wounded and provides more than a spiritual home, but a spiritual family who loves one another.

Build on what God has blessed you with. Don't try to be a church that you are not. Use the gifts and strengths that make your congregation the church it is. And for God's sake (pun intended) don't worry about your financial and membership survival-sustaining the institution is not why Jesus calls us to be church. The church is and always has been God's ability to work within and amongst its people. So take risks. Be bold for Jesus and live into the calling that God gives you. Faithfulness should never be compared to earthly measures of success. You can be rich in the latter, and never truly be the church.

--Rev. Scott Oberle  
First Congregational UCC, Downers Grove

## Western Association Spring Meeting in Springfield

The Western Association will gather for its Spring meeting at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Springfield on Saturday, April 22. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with Opening worship to begin at 9:00 a.m. The theme for the day is "Expressing the Joy of Following Jesus," which will feature our keynote presenter, the Rev. Bryan Sirchio. Bryan will be sharing during morning worship a bit of his worship music as well as his mission work in Haiti. In his afternoon session, we will have the great opportunity to have a wide sampling of his musical repertoire.



*Rev. Bryan Sirchio*

"Bryan has traveled extensively since 1987 offering concerts, leading worship services and retreats, and offering keynote addresses at various regional and national conferences. He has also worked extensively with grass roots organizations among the poorest of the poor in Haiti since 1991. In 2012, he published a book called "The 6 Marks of Progressive Christian Worship Music." In 2015, he joined forces with well-known author Brian McLaren and Rev. Cameron Trimble of the Center for Progressive Renewal to form a new worship music company called The Convergence Music Project."

The Western Association extends the invitation to anyone in the Conference who would like to join us for this wonderful opportunity to be inspired through Bryan's witness and presence. [Download registration materials here.](#)

## Eastern Association Spring Meeting convenes in Sauk Village

The Spring Association Meeting of the Eastern Association will be held at Grace United Church of Christ in Sauk Village on Saturday, May 6. We look forward to the hospitality of one of our newer church starts as they host us for this important business and relationship building meeting. The day begins with Registration at 9 a.m. and will conclude by 3:00 p.m.

Much of our day will be focused on the viewing and conversation groups around a film entitled "Cracking the Codes." This is a film presented by Shakti Butler and will engage participants in an important conversation and dialogue about the causes and consequences of systemic racial inequity in America. The Eastern Association Council feels a strong commitment to continuing to address ways to open dialogue across racial lines to learn from one another ways to transform our communities. We hope that you'll want to be a part of this opportunity to build new foundations through guided conversation and action. Watch for registration materials to be available soon.

Again, the invitation is extended to all Conference members to join us!

### Rev. Lorrie Reed is installed in Sauk Village

The Eastern Association was proud to share in the recent Ordination/Installation service for Rev. Lorrie Reed, newly called Associate Pastor for Christian Education at Grace United Church of Christ in Sauk Village. We gathered at Grace on Feb. 12 to share in this important moment for Lorrie and the members and friends of this congregation.



*Rev. Lorrie Reed*

### In Memoriam



*Rev. Harold Harmison*

Former President of the Illinois Conference, Harold Harmison, passed away on March 3, 2017. Harold served in the Wider church by first serving as Vice Moderator and Moderator of the Eastern Association and later being invited to serve as the 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, President, and Past President of the Illinois Conference. Harold served during the transition years between Conference Ministers when Rev. Phil Hart served as the Interim Conference Minister. Harold also served at the National Church on the Board for the Office of General Ministries.

Harold became a Licensed Minister following several other career paths and served a yoked congregation in the Illinois South Conference prior to his current ministry as Pastor of Lake Fork UCC in Atwood, Ill., where he served since his installation in 2013. Two memorial services were recently held to honor the gifts he shared with many, one service at

First Congregational UCC in Decatur and one service at Lake Fork UCC in Atwood. "Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your Lord."

### From Fox Valley Association

Dear Friends;

I thought I would use my column space this month to give you all an update of what is going on around the Fox Valley Association, particularly since I began my tenure as the Acting Associate Conference Minister. It has been a busy time, learning the highways and routes around the Association, finding churches, and working on both the technical aspects of learning this job, and the relational aspects of getting to know everyone.

I have been regularly attending the standing committees of the Association. The Committee on Ministry in particular has been working very hard to maintain excellence in its work. The Justice & Witness Team continues to offer multiple opportunities for churches and individuals to be involved in the work of making the world a better place. The Committee on the Church is busy visiting various churches of the Association, to re-establish excellent relationships and to provide and opportunity for churches to get to know what else is going on in the Association. And the Association Council is busy planning for the Spring Meeting, April 29, at St. John's UCC in Waukegan, where I will be the keynote speaker, and new pastor Rev. Selena Blackwell will be the host. Stay tuned for more information.

So far, I have visited with and preached at nine Association churches:

First Congregational UCC, West Chicago

St. John's UCC, Hampshire/Harmony  
St. Paul UCC, Barrington  
First Congregational UCC, Naperville  
St. Paul's UCC, Elgin  
Congregational Church of Batavia, Batavia  
Millburn Congregational UCC, Lake Villa  
Immanuel UCC, Streamwood  
St. Paul's UCC, Downers Grove

I am scheduled to visit several more in the upcoming weeks. I do plan to visit and preach at every Fox Valley Association church within a year or 18 months. So, if you haven't been in touch with me about visiting with you, please do so!

We have held successful Ecclesiastical Councils for the following individuals.

Melissa Riely 9/25/16  
Jan Remer-Osborn 9/25/16  
James Fisher 1/22/17

We have Ordained the following individuals.

Melissa Riely 10/23/16 (to First Congregational Church, Glen Ellyn)  
Jan Remer-Osborn 12/11/16 (to Penn Central Conference)  
Kimberlee Whisler-Vasko 2/26/17 (to First Congregational Church, Downers Grove)

We have Installed the following individuals.

Eric C. Fisler 9/18/16 (to First Congregational UCC, Crystal Lake)  
Richard Malmberg 10/2/16 (to Little Home Church by the Wayside, Wayne)  
Melissa Riely 10/23/16 (First Congregational Church, Glen Ellyn)  
Emily Davis 1/8/17 (to First Congregational UCC, Crystal Lake)

We have two Installations coming up.

Selena Blackwell 3/12/17 (to St. John's UCC, Waukegan, 3:00 p.m.)  
Kim Whisler-Vasko 3/26/17 (to First Congregational Church, Downers Grove, 3:00 p.m.)

In addition, the searches for several churches are underway and proceeding smoothly. I have met with several search committees.

I would like to thank all of you for your forbearance as I have come into this new position with you. I am happy to report that I no longer feel like a deer caught in the headlights. There is something new to learn most days still, and there is something different to do every day. I am truly humbled and honored to serve you as the Acting Associate Conference Minister. I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Rev. Dr. James J. Olson  
Acting Associate Conference Minister  
Fox Valley Association

### **Cleveland Chapel at Pilgrim Park is remodeled**

The Cleveland Chapel at Pilgrim Park got a complete new look this winter. Due to a large donation given through the Illinois Conference Major Gift Initiative and a contribution from St. Luke's Union, Bloomington, we were able to update the chapel.

The renovation included a new air-conditioning and heating system. This space was never air-conditioned in the past, so this will make the chapel a much more comfortable place to worship. Hardwood floors have also been a beautiful addition to this space.

If you visit our Cleveland Chapel, you will also notice a huge cross hanging in the back of the room. This cross was given to Pilgrim Park in memory of the Congregational Church of Deerfield, who closed their doors in 2016.

If your congregation is interested in having a service at Pilgrim Park, please contact us. There are no charges for the use of our chapel for worship services. If you do worship with us, consider having us host a luncheon for you afterwards.



*Renovated Cleveland Chapel at Pilgrim Park.*



*Cleveland Chapel before renovations.*

A special Thank You goes out  
to all the donors who made  
this renovation possible.  
-The Pilgrim Park Staff

## Peace Mural Project, Downers Grove, artistic call for peace

In a continuing effort to promote solidarity, mutual respect, and working together for the common good, St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Downers Grove began the Peace Mural Project in late 2016. Under the supervision of artist and designer Janyce Boss, congregation members and friends painted hundreds of 4X4 inch squares on the 5 by 10-foot canvas. This peace mural, with the words "May Peace Prevail" painted across the center, is now touring the community.

As it is displayed in community areas and events, the peace mural project is an opportunity to join together and share hopes and dreams for peace. Individuals are invited to write or draw messages of hope and peace on the 4X4 inch squares.

"We wanted to build peace together through art." remarks artist Janyce Boss, "This peace mural offers an opportunity to join together with others in sending a message of peace everywhere."

The Peace Mural is currently available for display at area events and locations. If you're interested in arranging a display, please contact the Peace Mural Project at [info@peacemuralproject.com](mailto:info@peacemuralproject.com) or contact St. Paul's United Church of Christ at [stpaulsucc@stpaulsuccdg.org](mailto:stpaulsucc@stpaulsuccdg.org).



*Peace Mural Project displayed at its first public showing on Feb. 19, at the We Are All America - Solidarity event at The Mecca Center in Willowbrook, Ill.*

Sunday worship services at St Paul's United Church of Christ begin at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday. St. Paul's is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ and welcomes people of every age, economic status, ethnic origin, gender, gender identity, marital status, mental and physical ability, political affiliation, and sexual orientation. St. Paul's is located at 5739 Dunham Road in Downers Grove. For more information, please call the church office at (630) 969-2783 or visit [thewelcomingchurch.org](http://thewelcomingchurch.org).

## Angola Partnership Team welcomes visitors from Angola to Illinois

The Angola Partnership Team of the Illinois Conference is pleased to share that two of our four planned visitors to the Conference arrived safely at Chicago O'Hare airport on March 10. Dr. Chipindo and Dr. Sambalundo will be visiting in Illinois through the end of November in order to do educational pursuits in learning English and University Administration. They will be joined in a few weeks by two other colleagues who will be coming to also concentrate on learning English. All of our visitors will be also be available to visit in our Conference's churches during their time among us.



*The Angola Partnership Team welcoming our visitors from Angola arriving in Illinois.*

We are continuing to look for hosts who are willing to invite one of our visitors to be housed in their home for at least a month in order to facilitate their learning opportunities. We can share the responsibilities of this opportunity if you have interest. We also would be glad for you to be in touch with us to schedule a time for one or more of our visitors to visit in your church. We will be working on a schedule as those request are received. We will also look forward to welcoming our guests at our Annual Conference Celebration in June at Elmhurst College.

Please contact Janine Solberg if you have interest in being a host at [jmsolberg@gmail.com](mailto:jmsolberg@gmail.com) or Rev. Tom Norwalk if you have interest in inviting our Partners to your church for a visit at [ilconfm@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfm@gmail.com).

## Spring Update from Conference Environmental Task Force

*"The earth is the Lord 's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;" Psalm 24:1.*

I'm old now so I remember how it was before the EPA.

I grew up in the industrial heartland of Cleveland, Ohio and saw a river catch on fire, every kid knew that Lake water was too filthy to swim in (let alone drink!), watched smoke stacks spewing black & orange soot and then when the wind shifted I saw all the Mom's dashing out to remove sun drying clothes. Ah such memories of times we fondly remember as "good".

Before the EPA, I remember acid rain killing the trees and stripping the paint right off the cars.

Before the EPA, I remember all those floating stinky belly up dead rotting fish spoiling the shoreline when upon occasion toxic waste was dumped into the waters.

Before the EPA, I remember taking the "Good Times II" tour boat up the Cuyahoga river and watching people vomiting over the rails when the exhaust pipes of the river side Chemical Plant vented its sulfur.

Before the EPA, I even remember that Bald Eagles were nowhere to be seen because the pesticides destroyed their eggs. Imagine that, the very symbol of our country almost driven to extinction because there were no annoying environmental rules which limit the corruption that we put into the

air that we breathe, the water we drink and the soil which grows our food.

Right now, there are powers and principalities acting with the intention to destroy the EPA so we can go back to those "Good Ole Days" with the consequences noted above.

Here's the truth, I am not going to let them destroy my children's future without a fight. I hope you will fight also for on issues such as destroying God's Good Creation, we should all agree.

Wondering what to do? Consider the following action steps taken from our new series "Sustaining Creation- A Faith Journey for Small Groups".

#11. Tell Family, friends and neighbors why the Climate Crisis is an issue of real concern to you.

#14. Call your Congress Rep. and say you believe Global Warming to be an issue significant enough to affect how you will vote.

#27. Challenge your Church Responding to Global Warming is an issue of Gospel Justice. Host a Climate presentation or the **Sustaining Creation-A Faith Journey for small group** series.

--Rev. Dr. Terry Gallagher

### Participate in Illinois tornado relief effort

Many are aware of the recent tornadoes that touched down in the Ottawa/Naplate area in the Prairie Association as well as other communities in Illinois. Open Table UCC in Ottawa has been a primary feeding site for recovery workers as well as community members and have had the strong support of other volunteers from other churches and community at large.

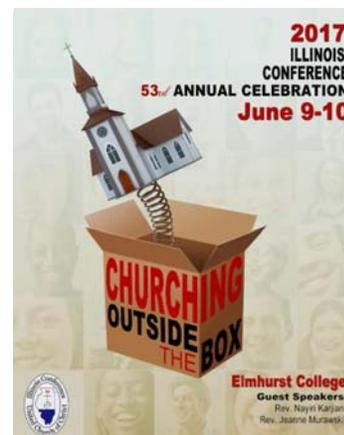
Funds to assist in immediate relief efforts as well as long-term recovery will continue to be needed in the days and months ahead. Monetary donations may be made for these efforts by making your check out to the Illinois Conference and in the notation area please write 2017 Tornado relief. Our Disaster Ministry team of the Conference will help to direct these gifts to their most needed efforts.

### Volunteer for the Conference Annual Meeting

Greetings, Grace and Peace:

A lot of time and effort goes into planning the Illinois Conference Annual Celebration! The planning of the Conference Committee is going well, but there is still so much to be done. That's why we're writing to request...to ask you if you could spare some time to work with us on behalf of this year's celebration, "Churching Outside the Box." We think of the Annual Celebration as not only a time to renew acquaintances, fellowship with our current church members and make new friends across the Illinois Conference, but also as a time of learning and of uplifting worship experiences.

There's no special expertise required to volunteer, and you don't have to have a major degree. All you need is a willingness to serve, and believe that volunteers play a vital role in the life of our church community. If you believe this, there is a place for you to be connected, and be involved! There's a lot to do, and we need your help. Our teams of need are:



Stage Hands

*Hospitality*

**Energizers**

Cookie Baking

**CHILDCARE**

**Youth Programs**

Prayer and Meditation

Look forward to receiving more details soon. To volunteer at the Annual Conference will be one of the most fulfilling things you have ever done. If you would like more information to join the cookie share program [click here](#).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm Regards,  
Sis. Marva Campbell-Pruitt  
[Marvacpruitt@gmail.com](mailto:Marvacpruitt@gmail.com)  
Volunteer/Hospitality Team

Rev. Thom Parrott Sheffer  
Team Leader

PHOTO CORRECTION: In the January/February 2017 issue, the photo on page 3, News from Eastern Association, should have been in the News from Western Association..The person being congratulated is Lisa Powell Williams, who is being installed as Pastor of Union Congregational Church, Moline, Ill. We regret the error.

Editor Jacqueline Moore

### MissionInsite information

EMBRACING OUR NEIGHBORS: Enrollment is open for local churches that are ready to use technology to embrace their local community residents. MissionInsite is a Church Demographic Program that provides information about local residents from a variety of sources. The enrollment fee to participate in this program is \$15.00 annually. Contact our Conference office, Carmen Torres, at (708) 344-4470 or [ilconfcarmen@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfcarmen@gmail.com) for more information and to enroll your church.

### Conference e-mail and website information

Listed below are the e-mail addresses and the website information:

Illinois Conference general e-mail: [ilconferenceucc@gmail.com](mailto:ilconferenceucc@gmail.com)  
Conference Minister Jorge Morales: [ilconfjorge@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfjorge@gmail.com)  
Interim Associate Conference Minister (Stewardship and Church Vitality)  
David Russell: [ilconfdavid@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfdavid@gmail.com)  
Associate Conference Minister (Prairie\Western) Kathy Lawes: [ilconfkathy@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfkathy@gmail.com)  
Associate Conference Minister (Eastern\Western) Tom Norwalk: [ilconfom@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfom@gmail.com)  
Acting Associate Conference Minister (Fox Valley/CMA) James Olson: [ilconfjames@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfjames@gmail.com)  
Associate Conference Minister (CMA) Vertie Powers: [ilconfvertie@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfvertie@gmail.com)  
Conference Controller Bill Serritella: [ilconfbill@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfbill@gmail.com)  
Tower Hill Camp: [towerhillcamp@gmail.com](mailto:towerhillcamp@gmail.com)  
Pilgrim Park Camp: [odmregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:odmregistrar@gmail.com)

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Connie Owens (Western): [ilconfconnie@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfconnie@gmail.com)  
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