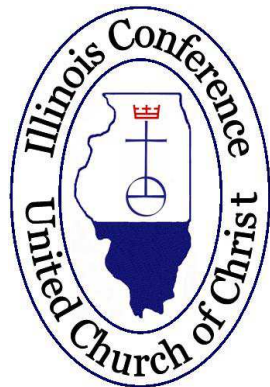


Illinois Conference
Annual Celebration
and 54th Anniversary

Theme: “Love in Action:
Life as Neighbors”



Registration Information Booklet



June 8-9, 2018
Elmhurst College
190 Prospect, Elmhurst IL 60126
(630) 617-3500

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Delegates and Friends,

On behalf of the Conference Council, I invite you to attend the 54th Annual Celebration of The Illinois Conference, United Church of Christ, June 8 and 9, 2018 at Elmhurst College. I urge each congregation to send delegates, and I extend the invitation to include all authorized ministers of the Conference, our Members in Discernment, and other interested members and guests. The planning committee has strived to make this time together meaningful, and more celebratory than in recent years. As in past years, we will worship together both days.

The Illinois Conference is in a time of transition. As you are likely aware, Conference Minister, the Rev. Dr. Jorge L. Morales submitted his retirement notice effective May 31. Well in advance of the Annual Celebration, we will have an Acting Conference Minister to introduce to you, and we will describe the next steps in calling a new called Conference Minister in due time. The business portions of the weekend will include the election of a new President and Vice President as well as other important positions. Delegates will also vote to ratify a series of amendments to the UCC Constitution that were voted by General Synod last July 2 and 3. These amendments center on making the governance structure of the National Church more adaptable to change. Delegates are urged to study the Constitution changes available online at <http://www.ucc.org/ucc-constitution-and-bylaws>. Please note that the bylaws changes do not require ratification by the Conferences; we will only be voting on the Constitutional Amendments.

The Annual Celebration Planning Committee is bringing back the Friday night banquet, where we will dine together in one large banquet room. This we will give us all a chance to meet our Ministry Partners, and we will also recognize our Chalice Award recipients at the banquet. Delegates and friends will have ample time to socialize with friends old and new.

At the 2017 General Synod, the United Church of Christ kicked off a new initiative, A Just World for All to be achieved by practice of Three Great Loves: Love of Neighbor, Love of Children and Love of Creation. In this first year of the initiative UCC has put primary emphasis on Love of Neighbor, we have adopted that as the Conference theme, and you'll find the worship, energizers, and the keynote presentation by Bishop Yvette Flunder all highlight the Love of Neighbor.

I look forward to seeing you in Elmhurst June 8 and 9

God's Peace be with you always,

Michael Linder,

President, Illinois Conference

In accordance with Article VI of the Constitution and Article II and III of the By-Laws of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, notice is hereby given that the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Conference will be held at the Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois June 8—9, 2018



The By-Laws, Article II provides:

1. Every local church which has standing in an Association of the Conference shall be entitled to representation in the Conference by **one voting lay delegate**, and in addition thereto, each such church shall be entitled to representation by **one voting youth delegate** (a person at least 14 years of age, but not older than 22.) A church of **800 or more members** shall have **one additional delegate and one additional youth delegate**.
2. All **ordained, commissioned and licensed ministers** who have standing or recognition in an Association of the Conference shall be **voting members**. The **members of the Conference Council** shall be voting members of the Conference during their term of office.

It is our hope that every church will be represented by its clergy, lay and youth delegates, and visitors at this 53rd Annual Celebration:

Elmhurst College
190 Prospect
Elmhurst IL 60126

DORM HOUSING: Dorm rooms are set up as quads (2 separate sleeping rooms with 2 beds per room \$43/person/night.) There are a few rooms with one bed for \$62/night (call the Conference office at 708-344-4470 to reserve). Please fill out the registration form at www.ilucc.org to reserve your room.

COSTS THIS YEAR:

Registrations Fees: NOTE *after May 21 all registration fees will be \$5.00 higher, including walk-ins*

Ordained, Commissioned and Licensed Ministers	\$100.00
Lay Delegate or Visitor	\$100.00
Conference Council Members	\$100.00
Youth Delegate or Visitor	\$55.00
Member in Discernment	\$45.00
Exhibitor	\$60.00
Retired Clergy	Complimentary
Attending Energizers only	\$25.00

Meals:

<i>Meal Package</i> (Banquet, Sat. Breakfast & Lunch)	\$60.00
<i>Banquet only</i>	\$40.00
<i>Conference Council Members meal package</i>	\$50.00
(Banquet, Saturday Conference Council meeting Breakfast & Lunch)	

OPTIONAL Hotel Reservations:

If you elect to stay at a local hotel rather than the dorm you will need to reserve directly with the hotel. The two hotels listed have shuttle service to the college, confirm with the front desk. Indicate you are with Elmhurst College for the discount.

Courtyard by Marriott: 630-941-9444; 370 IL 83, Elmhurst IL (\$89/night + tax)

Spring Hill Suites: 630-782-6300; 410 W. Lake St., Elmhurst 60126 (\$94/night + tax)

FRIDAY:

June 08, 2018

TENTATIVE AGENDA

10:00 am	Registration, Displays, Bookstore	
	Hammerschmidt Chapel	
NOON	Lunch on your own	
1:00	Worship	Hammerschmidt Chapel
	Rev. Dr. Vertie Powers preaching	
2:15	Break	
2:30 pm	“A” Session Energizers	
	See pages 7 and 8 for descriptions	
3:30 pm	Break	
3:45 pm	*Business Session I	Hammerschmidt Chapel
	President’s Report	
	Financial Report	
4:15 pm	“B” Session Energizers	
	See pages 9 and 10 for descriptions	
5:15 pm	Break	
6:15 pm	Cocktail hour at the Diplomat West	
7:15 pm	Dinner	
	Chalice Awards	
	Church giving acknowledgements	
	Necrology	
	Mission Partners	

SATURDAY

June 09, 2018

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- 7:00 am **Breakfast** Frick Center cafeteria
- 7:00 am **Executive Committee/Conference Council Meeting**
Meet in Alexander Room Frick Center Lower Level
- 8:45 am **Music**
- 9:15 am **Keynote Speaker** Hammerschmidt Chapel
Bishop Yvette Flunder “Preparing to be Sanctuary”
- 10:00 am **Break**
- 10:15 am ***Business Session II** Hammerschmidt Chapel
Elections
Outdoor Ministry Presentation
Ballot presentation and Election
Report of Acting Conference Minister
- NOON **Lunch** Frick Center cafeteria Lower Level
- 1:15 pm **Music** Hammerschmidt Chapel
- 1:30 pm **Closing Worship** Hammerschmidt Chapel
Rev. Kathy Lawes and Rev. Tom Norwalk preaching

FRIDAY “A” Session Energizers 2:30—3:30 p.m.

**A-1: Strengthening Small Churches Through Loving
our Neighbors***Facilitator: Rev. Jon Prain, Pastor, Avon Federated Church in Avon, IL*

Many smaller congregations are struggling for survival. As attendance and giving shrink, there is a tendency to focus limited resources inward (on survival) instead of ministering to the wider community. Some smaller congregations are discovering that they can slow (or even REVERSE) this decline by shifting their focus outward into the community and by showing more love for their neighbors. The presenter will share successes and struggles and encourage participants to do likewise.

A-2: Discovering Gifts Through Appreciative Inquiry*Facilitator: Rev. Brandyn Simmons, Pastor Christ Church in West Rogers Park, Chicago and Professional Certified Coach*

Using Appreciative Inquiry, a congregation can discover the real heartbeat and gifts within. As the findings of the AI process are learned, the congregation can identify the compassion-based needs that exist in the community in which they serve. This coaching-based approach allows the congregation to discover what it is they are passionate about based on the narrative that has existed through its history.

**A-3: Love in Action: A Refugee Shares A Life Saved By
Neighbors/Strangers****SORRY, THIS ENERGIZER HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

FRIDAY “A” Session Energizers 2:30—3:30 p.m.

A-4: Working Together to build the one body of Christ in

two different places

Facilitators: Members of the IL Conference Angola Partnership Team

“And Who is my neighbor?” Neighbors are both near and far. The Illinois Conference has had the privilege of building a partnership with the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola after affirming a resolution in 2004. In the 14 years since its beginning, this partnership has grown in significance and blessing. Let us share the story of how we are “working together to build the one body of Christ in two different places...”

A-5: Faith Formation for the College Crowd

Facilitators: Ilsa Kantora, Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser and students involved in the Campus Ministry of Community UCC in Champaign, IL

Exploring how young adults find and foster their faith, and the tools and resources that the UCC Campus Ministry at the University of Illinois uses to engage with and serve the needs of university students. Learn about our three faceted program: Small Group Work, Community Service and Breakaway – focusing on personal, communal and wider world examples of love in action.

PLEASE NOTE: A-2; A-4 and A-5 have maximum of **32** participants.

A-1 has a maximum of **70** participants

FRIDAY “B” Session Energizers 4:15—5:15 p.m.

B-1: Paradigm Shift: Doing Church Outside The Box

Facilitator: Rev. Charlene Hill, Pastor of Hyde Park Union Church in Chicago

Most of our small churches (under 100 on Sunday) are experiencing decline. As a response, these churches try to do the same things just better, more creatively. There is a growing distance between the large consumer mega churches and the small struggling community churches. So what to do? How do we find our way out of this complex maze? It’s time for a paradigm shift. You are only 5 steps away from a total makeover!!! A paradigm shift suggests we change the foundation of how we operate. Wonderful examples of paradigm shifts will be shared in this energizer. We can build small personable churches to be relevant, vibrant & strong.

B-2: Telling True Stories Can Save Lives

Facilitator: Rev. Rebecca Anderson, Co-Pastor of Bethany UCC and Gilead Chicago, a church start of both the UCC and Christian Church Disciples

Storytelling isn’t a new thing, especially for people of faith. We hear and tell ancient stories of scripture and bear witness to each other about what we have experienced of God in our lives and in the world. But in some ways, it *is* a new thing. Storytelling is having a *moment*. This energizer, will introduce you to (or get to know better) this style of true, first-person narrative. You’ll get a few tools to craft or strengthen your own stories. And what’s more: we’ll think together about how this kind of storytelling changes us as listeners. It matters. We find out we’re not alone when we hear about the lives of others. We learn about the on-going work of God in the world.

FRIDAY “B” Session Energizers 4:15—5:15 p.m.

B-3: Small Churches – Great Love

Facilitator: Rev. Kay Harding and Pastor Alex Garncaz Of Zion UCC in Peru, IL

Sometimes small churches feel discouraged because they don’t have the resources to undertake big projects in their communities. However, the size of the project does not equal the love it conveys. Remember the words of Mother Teresa, “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” This energizer will present several “small projects” that smaller congregations in our Conference have undertaken to meet needs in their communities and the world. This energizer will also include time to try planning a project using the steps: Discern, Design, Do and Dedicate!

B-4: The Second Book of Acts

Facilitator: Bishop Yvette Flunder

This energizer will be presented by our Keynote Speaker for our Annual Celebration. Rev. Flunder will share her thoughts and concepts around our theme of "Love in Action: Life As Neighbors."

PLEASE NOTE: B-1; B-2; and B-3 have maximum of **32** participants.

B-4 has a maximum of **70** participants



The Annual Planning Committee invites you to join the Celebration to lift up the great ministry of the Illinois Conference churches and learn more about our Partners in Mission!!

What: Celebration Banquet

When: Friday, June 8

6:15 pm Cocktails—Appetizers & Cash Bar

7:15 pm Dinner

Where: Diplomat West Banquets, Elmhurst

Banquet cost is \$40 per person and includes:

- *Appetizers during Cocktail hour**
- *Dinner & Dessert (Vegetarian & Vegan available upon request)**

(minutes from Elmhurst College) Reserve your spot on your conference registration form!

THE CHALICE AWARD

The recipients of the Chalice Award are recognized as servants of Christ and the Church, who has demonstrated exemplary leadership, extending self to others and making a significant impact on the ministry and witness of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, as an extension of God's love in Christ Jesus, Head of the Church.



2018 Honorees

Harlette Washington

Ms Diane Herr

Rev. William Nagy

Rev. David Bateman

Rev. Timothy White

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE 54TH

ANNUAL CELEBRATION

June 2018 Elmhurst, Illinois

DORM HOUSING: Dorms are set up as quads (2 separate sleeping rooms with 2 beds per room (\$43/per/night.) There are limited rooms with one bed in some quads for \$62/night.

Items included with your room...

Linens—pillow w/case; 2 flat sheets; bath towel; blanket

Personal items you need to provide...

Soap; hair care products; tooth brush & paste and wash cloth (hair dryers are NOT provided)

CHILD CARE: Child care (between the ages of 2 year—11 years) is available on advance request basis only. Young children need to be potty trained. You will find a child care registration at www.ilucc.org. If no child care has been requested by **May 28** none will be available at the meeting. Child care will be provided during the Energizers, Worship and Gatherings only.

SUPERVISION OF YOUTH DELEGATES & YOUTH VISITORS: It is the responsibility of the local church to provide supervision of any youth under the age of 18. Youth delegates will follow the same schedule as their adult counterparts. The required youth form can be found at the Conference website: www.ilucc.org.

ENERGIZERS LOCATIONS & TIMES: Energizers will be in various rooms. The Energizers will be Friday, June 8 at 2:30 p.m. and a new set at 4:15 p.m. Please register for each session on the meeting registration form. Participants on first come, first served basis. Descriptions for each Energizer start on page 7.

PLEASE NOTE: A-1; A-2; A-4 and A-5 have maximum of **32** participants. B-1; B-2; and B-3 have maximum of **32** participants

A-3 and B-4 have a maximum of **70** participants.

BUSINESS SESSIONS, WORSHIP & ENERGIZER LOCATION: All Business sessions, worship and Energizers will be held in Hammerschmidt Chapel. Please be sure your cell phone is in the silent mode during business, worship and Energizers.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our Illinois Conference depends on volunteers to make the Annual Celebration a success. We express our heartfelt appreciation to all who extend themselves Christ-like with the words recorded in the Gospel:

“Well done good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your [God’s] happiness!” Matt 25:21

Also, many thanks to the

2018 Annual Celebration Planning Committee:

Rev. Jana Chwalisz, chair.

Ms Pamela Stallings, Rev. Roger Dart, Ms Sheryl Magee, Mr. Jim Molina, Mr. Mike Linder, Rev. Kim Wood, and Rev. Joe Ann Watson

Staff: Rev. Tom Norwalk, Rev. Dr. James Olson, Ms Naomi Else

THANK YOU

We wish to express our deep appreciation to our covenanting partner for their faithful support of our Illinois Conference .



Mr. Jim Skogsbergh, CEO www.advocatehealth.com/

Thank you for providing the bags for the
2018 IL Conference Annual Celebration.



