

Illinois Conference Annual Celebration & 55th Anniversary



Registration Information Booklet

June 7-8, 2019
Elmhurst College
190 Prospect, Elmhurst IL
(630) 617-3500

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Delegates and Friends,

This is your invitation to join us at the Conference Annual Celebration June 7 and 8 at Elmhurst College. In this exciting time of new possibilities, the Conference Council extends a wide welcome to the full Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ. I firmly believe that the presence of God is most immediately available when good people gather together to celebrate our covenant relationship.



We will gather together to worship and to be inspired. We will enrich and encourage each other as we dream and take the actions that will define the next Chapter of life as the Illinois Conference UCC.

You will hear from the Interim Conference Minister, Rev. Justo Gonzalez, II, who is working diligently to free the Conference from its moorings, and move us boldly into the open waters, enabling us to bring the love of God to an anxious world, in new ways that the world can hear.

You will be exposed to the energy and enthusiasm of the Sustainability Committee, and you will have a chance to inspire them with your dreams, and guide them with your feedback. If we would move purposefully into the future, we count on the gathered community to discern God's will. We desire action, but we are most effective when we are moving together and speaking the truth with love.

This year the Annual Celebration Banquet requires pre-registration, there will be no at the door admissions. These are the kinds of changes we have to accept if we would be efficient and respectful of each other.

We need you, and we need you to be present and alive to the possibilities that are before us. Please join us as we give life to our motto; "Love in Action: Life Together."

God's Peace be with you always,
Charles "Chuck" Maney
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 2019 Annual Meeting of the Conference will be held at the Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois June 7-8, 2019



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.

We look forward to seeing you!!

It is our hope that every church will be represented by its clergy, lay and youth delegates, and visitors at this 55th Annual Celebration:

Elmhurst College
190 Prospect
Elmhurst IL 60126

COSTS THIS YEAR:

Registrations Fees: NOTE *after May 24 all registration fees will be \$25.00 higher, including walk-ins, and banquet tickets will not be available for purchase.*

Full Conference with Banquet	\$135.00
Full Conference without Banquet	\$100.00
One Day Conference with Banquet	\$85.00
One Day Conference without Banquet	\$50.00
Exhibitor Table with Banquet	\$70.00
Exhibitor Table with Electricity with Banquet	\$80.00
Exhibitor Two Tables with Banquet	\$90.00
Exhibitor Table without Banquet	\$35.00
Boundary Training, Full Conference with Banquet	\$185.00
Boundary Training, Full Conference w/o Banquet	\$150.00
Boundary Training ONLY	\$50.00
Banquet ONLY	\$35.00

DORM PRICING

Rooms are set as quads (2 separate sleeping rooms with 2 beds per room)

1 night - \$33 per person
2 nights - \$52 per person

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)

TENTATIVE AGENDA

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

Clergy Boundary Training 101 (Frick Center Lower Level)
Clergy Boundary Training 201 (Frick Center Lower Level)
Fitness Review Response Team Training (Frick Center Blume room)

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

10 - 1 PM	Registration (at Dorm)
10 - 12 PM	Dorm Check-in (at Dorm)
10 AM - 12 PM	Conference Choir Rehearsal (Chapel Sanctuary)
11 AM - 12:30 PM	Retiree Clergy Luncheon (Frick Center—Prospect room)
	LEAPP Luncheon (Frick Center—Alexander room)
11 AM—12 PM	Resolution Hearings IF Needed (Chapel Energizer Rooms maybe)
11 AM - 12:30 PM	On-Your-Own Lunch
12:45 PM	Welcome from Elmhurst College President Greetings from Great Lakes -Area Conference Ministers
1 - 2:30 PM	Opening Worship (Chapel Sanctuary)
2:45 - 3:45 PM	Sustainability Team Presentation
4 - 6 PM	Business Meeting Called to Order - Session I
6 PM	On-Your-Own Dinner (if not attending Banquet)
6:30 - 7:30 PM	Cocktail Hour at Banquet Hall/Meet and Greet Rev. Justo

TENTATIVE AGENDA

FRIDAY, JUNE 7 (con't)

7:30 PM	Dinner at Banquet
8 PM	Program Starts
10 PM	After-Hours Hospitality at Marriott Courtyard

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

7 - 8:15 AM	Council Breakfast
7 - 8:15 AM	On-Your-Own Breakfast
8:30 - 9 AM	Communion Service (Chapel Sanctuary)
9 - 9:45 AM	Keynote Address—Rev. Justo
10 - 11 AM	Energizer Sessions (Chapel & Lower Level)
11:15 - 12:30 PM	Business Session II with Closing Benediction and Prayer
12:30 PM	MEETING ADJOURNED

PLEASE NOTE:

Ministry Partner Booths and Eden Book Store are available in the lower level of Hammerschmidt Chapel throughout the Annual Celebration! **That's where the cookies will be, too!!**

BUSINESS SESSIONS, WORSHIP & ENERGIZER LOCATION:

All Business Sessions, Worship and Energizers will be held in Hammerschmidt Chapel and its lower level. Please be sure your cell phone is in the silent mode during Business, Worship and Energizers. An elevator is located on the north side of the Chapel to move between levels.

Energizers

A-1: A Sure Foundation Energizer



Facilitator: Rev Elizabeth Dilley, Minister for Ministerial Support & Accountability for MESA, National UCC

Do you want some theologically grounded, practical resources that can help improve the mutual ministry of pastors and congregations? A Sure Foundation helps congregations serve God and their communities more effectively, through such resources as behavior covenants, ministry assessment, church social media guidelines and more. This workshop, led by MESA's Minister for Ministerial Support and Accountability, will provide a broad overview of this national setting resource and dive into one of the sections for a deeper look.

A-2: Psychological First Aid

Facilitator: Rev. Kevin Massey, Advocate Health Care Systems

How can we best care for our congregations and communities when tragedies such as gun violence happen? This workshop will teach the basic techniques of Psychological First Aid. Psychological First Aid (PFA) is an evidence-informed approach to providing children, adolescents, adults and families in the immediate aftermath of disaster, terrorism, tragedy, trauma or other upsetting events. In the light of continuing violence worldwide, including the February tragedy in Aurora, IL, PFA is now, more than ever, a key resource for providing help to anyone affected by tragedy and traumatic events.



A-3: Agreeing to Disagree Agreeably: Celebrating our Political and Social Diversity in an Era of Division & Discord

Facilitators: Rev. Laurie Hill, Designated Pastor at St. John UCC, Lincoln, IL and Rev Jon Prain, Pastor of The Federated Church, Avon, IL

Our country is very divided - both politically and socially. These divisions are present in our families, our communities, our local churches and even in the Illinois Conference. This energizer session will explore ways for us to embrace and celebrate our differences - instead of attacking and dismissing each other over them. Can the “Extravagant Welcome” be expanded to include those persons with whom we disagree politically and socially?



A-4: Serving in Mission with World Partners

Facilitators: Angola Partnership Ambassadors



Before the Angolan Civil War began in 1975, the educational and social mission of the church was based in “mission stations,” especially the Dondi Mission in the central highlands of Angola. At this site generations of Angolans were educated for life, faith, work and citizenship. Now the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola is working to build on the legacy of Dondi and open its own university in 2020. Members of our IL Conference Angola Ambassadors will present.

A-5: Illinois Conference 101

Facilitators: Rev. Kathy Lawes, ACM serving Prairie and Western and Rev. Kim Wood, Acting ACM serving Eastern and Western



Whether you’ve been to the Conference Annual Celebration a million times or not, the alphabet soup of acronyms, shortcuts and committee nomenclature can be more difficult to interpret than Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians!

SO! Come and join 2 of our ACM’s for an overview of the IL Conference, its structure, who’s who and what’s where. Play to win amazing Conference bling in a rousing game of IL Conference Bingo; use your knowledge of arcane Conference history to Stump the Chump; and, best of all, get acquainted with others who want to learn a little more about who and what the IL Conference is. As they say at Men’s Wearhouse — You WON’T be disappointed!!

Just a reminder:

Due to classroom sizes in Hammerschmidt Chapel, there are a limited numbers of spaces available in the Energizers.

Energizers A-1; A-2; A-4 and A-5 have a maximum of **32** participants per class. Energizer A-3 has a maximum of **70** participants.



There are 2 opportunities for worship at this year's Annual Celebration! Both services will be held in the sanctuary of Hammerschmidt Chapel.

Friday, June 7, 1 pm

Rev. Justo Gonzalez, II, Interim Conference Minister, is the preacher for the opening worship of Annual Celebration. Using Romans 12:9-21 to help illustrate our theme: Love in Action: life together, he will challenge us to think of the ways that we are called, as Christians, to live and work together to bring the kingdom of God on earth within our covenantal relationship as the Illinois Conference.

The service features representatives from each Association, the Conference Choir and an interactive re-affirmation of baptism. The offering taken during the service will be for Outdoor Ministries (ODM) to support the needs of our 2 great camps! If you'd like to volunteer as an usher for this service, please contact volunteer Coordinator, Belinda Gross, at belindam144@gmail.com

Saturday, June 8, 8:30 am

Rev. Dr. Terrill Murff, Youth Pastor at Covenant UCC, will lead a morning service of Holy Communion. The service will be approximately 30 minutes and the bread elements will be gluten-free. If you'd like to participate as a Communion Server, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Belinda Gross, at belindam144@gmail.com.



The Annual Planning Committee invites you to join the Celebration to lift up the great ministry of the Illinois Conference churches!

What: Celebration Banquet

When: Friday, June 7

- 6:30 PM Cocktails—Appetizers & Cash Bar
*Featuring a Meet & Greet with Rev. Justo
- 7:30 PM Dinner
- 8 PM Program Begins

**Where: Diplomat West Banquets, Elmhurst
681 W. North Ave, Elmhurst, IL**

Banquet cost is \$35 per person and includes:

- * Appetizers during Cocktail hour
- * Dinner & Dessert
(Vegetarian & Vegan available upon request—please note in the special request box of the registration)

**Reserve your spot on your conference registration form!
No tickets available at the door!**

* A portion of the Banquet is sponsored by Advocate-Aurora Health!

THE CHALICE AWARD

The recipients of the Chalice Award are recognized as servants of Christ and the Church, who have 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.



2019 Honorees

Rev. Chuck Maney, Prairie Association

Ms. Juanita Bradley,

Chicago Metropolitan Association

Rev. Art Zillgit, Fox Valley Association

Mr. Bob Meinershagen, Western Association

Rev. Doug Zimmerman, Eastern Association

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE 55TH

ANNUAL CELEBRATION

June 2019 Elmhurst, Illinois



Sustainability Team Presentation

For the past couple of years the Sustainability Team has been listening and information gathering with folks throughout the IL Conference to better understand the needs of the local churches, the associations and the Conference at large. The conversations have yielded much—now we want to know more!!

Our theme for Annual Celebration is Love in Action: life together, and the Sustainability team wants to know your thoughts and dreams for the future of our life together as the IL Conference. What is your understanding of the covenantal relationship of the churches in the Conference? Where do you hear God's voice calling us forward into new and exciting ministry?

After the opening worship of Annual Celebration, the Sustainability Team will present some of the things they've been learning, and challenge us to ponder with them about how those things can help us to discern God's direction for our Conference. This time of learning will also include time for each Association to gather together to talk about the way each Association can develop deeper covenantal relationships, not only within the Association, but also as a vital part of the Conference.

Please plan to attend to share your dreams for our Conference!!

Important Information to Remember!

DORM HOUSING:

Dorms are set up as quads (2 separate sleeping rooms with 2 beds per room (\$33/per/night.) There are limited rooms with one bed in some quads for \$52/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)

ENERGIZERS LOCATIONS & TIMES:

Energizers will be in various rooms. The Energizers will be Saturday, June 8 at 10 am. Please register for each session on the meeting registration form. Participants on first come, first served basis. Descriptions for each Energizer start on page 8.

PLEASE NOTE: A-1; A-2; A-4 and A-5 have a maximum of **32** participants. A-3 has a maximum of **70** participants.

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 who attends from their church. 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.

THANK YOU

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



Mr. Jim Skogsbergh, President & CEO

www.advocateaurorahealth.org

Thank you for providing the bags for the 2019 IL Conference Annual Celebration and for sponsoring a portion of the Celebration Banquet.





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 in a Christ-like manner, 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

2019 Annual Celebration Planning Committee:

Sheryl Magee, Belinda Gross, Dianne Sherman, Bertha Condra, Aris Simpson, Rev. Roger Dart, Rev. Charlene Hickley, Rev. Eric Quinney-Burnard, Rev. Chuck Maney, Rev. Jana Chwalisz, chair.

Staff: Naomi Else, Rev. Tom Norwalk, Rev. Kathy Lawes, Rev. Dr. James Olson, Rev. Kim Wood, Rev. Justo Gonzalez, II.