



United
Women
in Faith

INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

January 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

05 --- PN District Leadership Team
06 --- NIC Leadership Team
[07 --- Winter Mission u opening](#)
08 --- LS District Leadership Team
11 --- PC District Leadership Team
15 --- PS Leadership Team
20 --- NIC Virtual Women's Retreat
23 --- NIC Leadership with National
[28 --- Winter Mission u closing](#)

February

10 --- UMC Laity Convocation
12 --- LS District Learning Event
24 --- PC,PN,PS Combined Districts
Sharing and Learning Event
19 --- PS District Leadership Team

March

01 --- PN Leadership Team
[02 --- NIC Leadership Team](#)
03 --- World Prayer Day - Church Women
United
07 --- PC Leadership Team
09 --- World Federation of Methodist and
United Church Women
11 --- LS Leadership Team
18 --- PS Spiritual Growth Event
23 --- Day of Giving - Legacy Fund

[View Google Calendar](#)

UW Faith NIC website and email
uwfaithnic.org

uwfaithnic@gmail.com

Mailing address for the United Women in Faith National office:

United Women in Faith
Church Center for the United Nations
777 United Nations Plaza - 11th Floor
New York, NY 10017
212-870-3900

Introducing the 2024 Leadership Team

United Women in Faith-NIC Elected Slate Leadership Team 2024

President	Barb Farley (PC)	1st year, 1st term
Vice President	Peggy Hansen (PC)	2nd year, 1st term
Secretary	Lois Voss (PC)	1st year, 2nd term
Treasurer	Janeen Hamack (PC)	1st year, 3rd term
Communications Coordinator	Shelly Davenport (LS)	2nd year, 1st term
Spiritual Growth Coordinator	Yvette Harris-Black (LS)	1st year, 2nd term
Membership Coordinator	Tania Barrett-Smith (LN)	1st year, 2nd term
Mission Resources Coordinator	Karen Messley (PN)	1st year, 2nd term
Social Action Coordinator	Kathy Tiffin (LN)	1st year, 1st term
Chairperson of Nominations	Robbie Moultrie (LS)	Class of 2025

Committee on Nominations

Binny Christian (LN) class of 2024
Charlotte Musser (PS) class of 2024
June Neumann (LN) class of 2026
Vivian Green (LN) class of 2026
Phyllis Pepiot (PC) class of 2027

Nominees for National Board of Directors from the United Women in Faith – NIC

Lois Moreland-Dean (LS) - Chicago: St. Mark UMC
Beth Jayapalan (LN) - Buffalo Grove: Kingswood UMC
Paulette Myrie-Hodge (LS) - Chicago: Wesley UMC - ALTERNATE

Nominees for National PAG (Program Advisory Group) from the UWFaith -NIC

Catherine Inserra (LN) – Park Ridge: First UMC
Diana Davis (LS) – Chicago: First UMC (Temple)
Marlene Stratton (PC) Elmhurst: First UMC

Voting Delegates to represent the Northern Illinois Conference, North Central Jurisdiction Gathering, May 31—June 2, 2024

Barb Farley (PC) - Carol Stream: St. Andrew UMC
Karen Messley (PN) - Rockford: Grace UMC
Lois Voss (PC) - Cary: Cary UMC

President's Word

By Barb Farley

I, Barb Farley, would like to introduce myself to all the sisters and brothers in the United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference. I have served this conference as Vice President 2017-2021 and have served at the district level as E&I Coordinator (title back then!) and as a unit President. Dave and I have three

sons and two daughters-in-law. I am a professional musician and teacher by trade and extremely passionate about learning ways to connect with God to turn UWFaith NIC's mission into action on behalf of women, children, and youth in our hurting but beautiful world. I feel the need to be ever present with those I meet - to develop better listening skills and always a more flexible mind and heart. I hope to further these skills and enable that thought process to keep all of us putting one foot in front of the other as we grow and experience freedom as whole and beloved persons through Jesus Christ.

Happy New Year to you all and let us keep our hearts and minds focused on the being present!

Barb Farley

bfarley3@comcast.net

UWFaith NIC President



Secretary's Report

By Lois Voss

Thanks to all local units who responded with your local unit leadership team information to your district secretary! Thanks to all district secretaries who responded with your district's unit leadership team information! Thanks to all conference leaders who helped to confirm and edit so much information! It is a big task to compile all the data for the **2024 Yearbook & Directory**. You will receive ordering information soon for a paper copy. Many of you prefer a digital copy and will soon find it on our conference website, password protected. uwfaithnic@gmail.com

Questions? Updates? Contact Lois Voss at: loiskvoss@gmail.com or 847-409-6013

As we start a new year as United Women in Faith we are encouraged by National to fully embrace our new branding. Our new logo has a variety of ways to use it: visit uwfaith.org/resources under Shopping and Downloads. Look for the Brand Guidelines. Cruise around our national website and view new and renewed information to use. There are many documents to download with useful sites, staff, officer roles and responsibilities, plus installations and UWFaith Sunday worship samples.

Please use our new name properly by starting with United Women in Faith, then state your unit or event. Examples:

- United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference secretary Lois Voss
- United Women in Faith Prairie South District Spring Meeting
- United Women in Faith Barrington UMC women
- United Women in Faith Pledge to Mission

After mentioning our full name then you could shorten it using UWFaith or UWFaith NIC, or UWFaith LN. Please, never publish with only 3 letters; save that for your personal use.

For a new year you might want to keep a UWFaith calendar or log of your activities to make your reporting easier. Put all your known dates for 2024 into your calendar so you don't miss out! Include your Zoom opportunities from National. Organize 2023 and tuck it away, but accessible.

Lois Voss

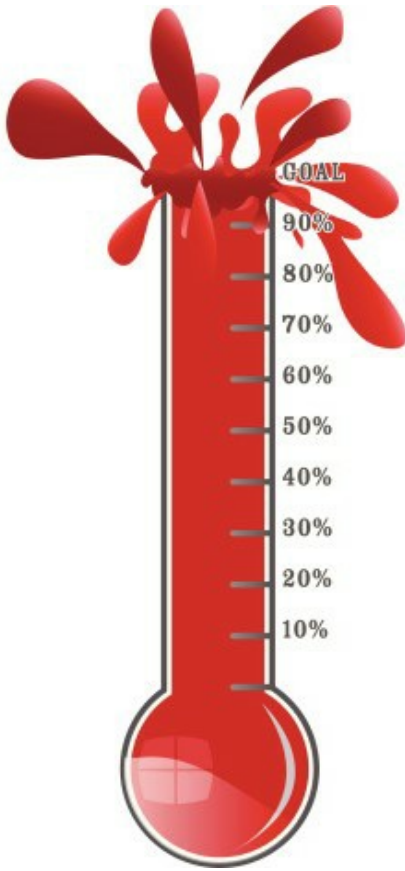
loiskvoss@gmail.com

847-409-6013

UWFaith NIC Secretary

2023 Pledge Exceeded!

By Janeen Hamack



UWFaithNIC pledged \$126,360 for 2023.

We paid \$213,780 - 69% OVER.

All districts exceeded their pledges to conference.

Congratulations on all your hard work supporting women, children, and youth in this world!



Mission Planning 2024

By Karen Messley

Your leadership team is providing this Mission Planning sheet (formerly Mission Today Goals) to help you in your annual planning for your unit of United Women in Faith. We know that our Purpose and Vision are undertaken on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world, and expanded through prayer, study, and action.

As you meet in person or by electronic means, please consider the many ways your unit can fulfill our shared Purpose. Plan your meetings and events using some of our resources. Narrate one of your stories of mission service and submit it and related picture(s) to your District Mission Resources Coordinator (E & I) or designated leadership person.

[Mission Planning Sheet 2024](#)

Karen Messley
karen@messley.com
UWFaith NIC Mission Resource Coordinator

Social Action

By Linda Osikowicz

Start the new year by letting your representatives know that the education of all children and care of our climate are priorities. Taking action will take just a minute or two of your time.



Interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline remains a key priority for all of us. Urge your federal legislators to become co-sponsors of two crucial acts:

[Ending PUSHOUT Act](#)

[Protecting Our Students in Schools Act](#)



Just Energy 4 All continues to be the second justice campaign of United Women in Faith. Even if you have sent the action item emails, you can send them again. You'll find links to three action items [HERE](#).

United Women in Faith also has the same email tool to send a message to President Biden regarding **the conflict in Gaza**. The following email was sent December 12:

Dear United Women in Faith Leaders and Friends,

More than 16,200 people have been killed in Gaza, the majority women and children. This is a humanitarian catastrophe.

The UMC Social Principles state, "As disciples of Christ, we are called to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. We insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to work together to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them. ... We believe that human values must outweigh military claims as governments determine their priorities."

Per UN Women, 85 percent of the total population of Gaza has been displaced, including 951,490 women and girls. Fifty thousand women in Gaza are pregnant, with over 180 giving birth each day, and many are unable to receive care or access medical resources for emergency C-sections or clean water for mixing infant formula.

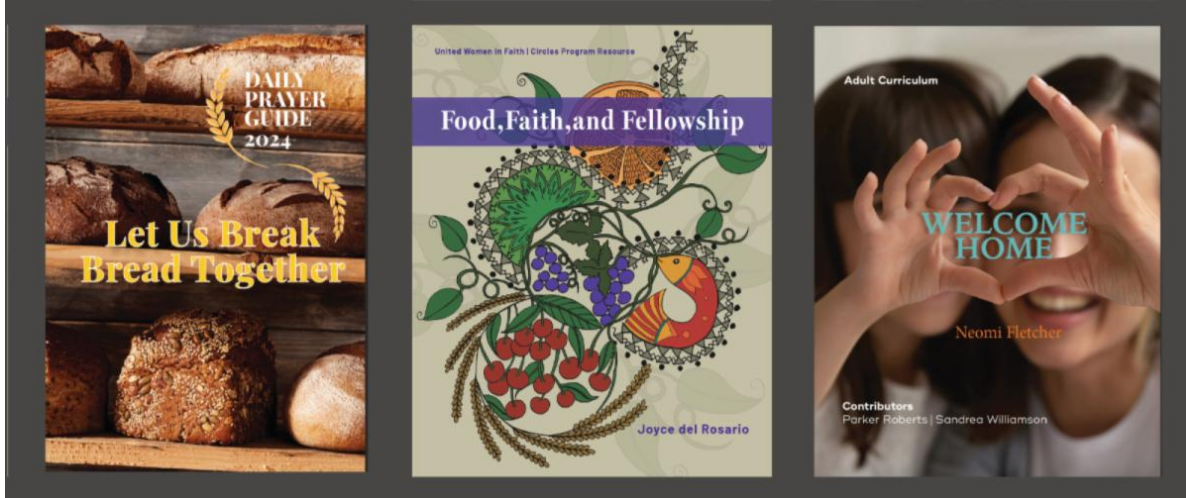
Use the email and phone tool [linked here](#) to urge President Biden and the United States Congress to press for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

[Please Read United Women in Faith's statement.](#)

Note: after sending the action item for a ceasefire in Gaza an opportunity and directions to phone your representatives will follow. If you do not wish to do this, you may just close the page.

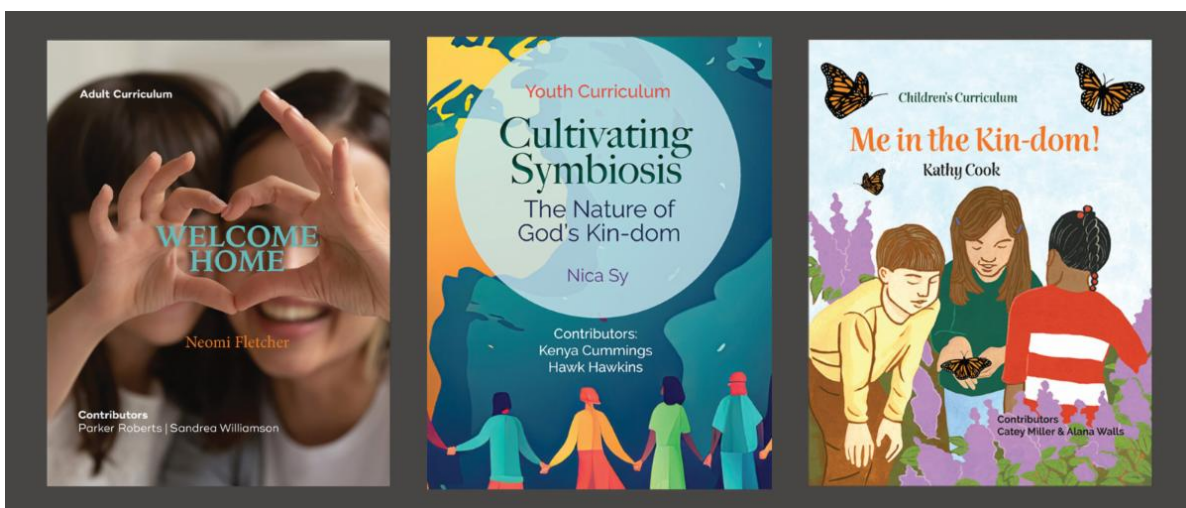
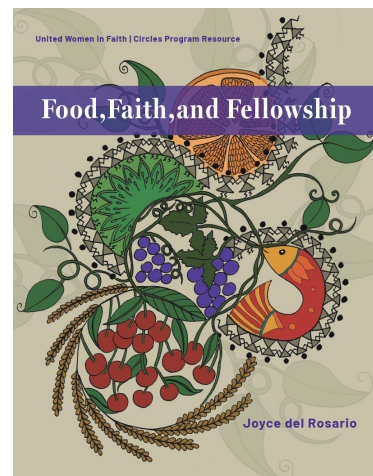
Linda Osikowicz has completed her term as United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference Social Action Coordinator and welcomes Kathy Tiffin as she begins her term.

2024 Program Resources



This year's theme, "Let Us Break Bread Together," calls to mind that we are created to be in community and welcome all to God's table. The [Daily Prayer Guide](#) connects us to our larger family, uplifting the work and impact of the worldwide outreach of [United Women in Faith and Global Ministries](#). Daily prayers and devotionals are reminders of the steadfast love of God and invite us to the table, encouraging a deeper connection with God and one another in community. (You can find a digital-only version of the Daily Prayer Guide on the [digital platform](#).)

The 2024 United Women in Faith *Program Resource* invites all to join God's banquet table at monthly gatherings. Explore through Scripture and hands-on activities what it means to be a community – not just within our circle, but with all of creation – embarking together on a journey about food, spiritual practices, and God who welcomes us. Get your free Program Resource [promotional poster](#) and share the excitement and information about your upcoming program! (Experience this resource and be part of the community with monthly gatherings on our online platform via [Mighty Networks](#).)



Introducing the summer Mission u studies!

[Welcome Home](#) is an adult curriculum that explores how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes all — encouraging us to open our hearts to embrace God's power and presence.

The explorations lead participants outward, expanding to welcome others to join us in our work as co-creators establishing God's kin-dom on earth. The sessions include Scripture explorations, discussions, activities to apply what is being learned, and two intergenerational sessions. By author Neomi Fletcher.

[*Cultivating Symbiosis: The Nature of God's Kin-dom*](#), the youth curriculum, uses the idea of symbiosis to explore relationships with others and with God. Youth will examine different kinds of relationships, understanding them as an ongoing journey — including relationships and God's kin-dom, looking at economic injustice, and how they can collectively work toward social justice. By author Nica Sy.

[*Me in the Kin-dom!*](#) is the children's curriculum that helps children explore the kin-dom of God through the lens of the Lord's Prayer. Children will experience how they are unique members of God's kin-dom and learn they are also part of a larger community that welcomes all of God's children. By author Kathy Cook.

[Click HERE for 2024 Print Resources](#)

Soul Care Retreat Manual

We also have a brand new resource for you: **The Soul Care Retreat Manual**. This manual is a step-by-step guide to design and host a welcoming event to engage new women. The retreat model is for women of all ages, ethnicities, and cultures who desire spiritual renewal, and purchase gives you exclusive access to supplemental resources, including templates, budgets, timelines, and registration buildout. Your soul care is sacred. [Click here](#) to purchase your Soul Care Retreat Manual today!

Mission Giving

United Women in Faith is mission giving. The understanding of the total programs of our organization as mission becomes very important as funds are received and disbursed. Without mission education, advocacy for the marginalized does not take place. Without continual spiritual growth, social action becomes shallow. Without a solid supportive community, women are unable to care for their own needs and the needs of others.

As an organization, United Women in Faith has not merely sent money from a distance. Women have always understood giving as an expression of God's grace. Members are active in ministry with Jesus. Their faith has led them to follow the gospel and support the mission and ministry of Jesus.

Women, children and youth are most often the ones who are left out of God's feast. Too often, they are the poorest of the poor. They are systematically marginalized without access to education, healthcare and decision making. The barriers of discrimination around sex, class and race make our efforts for a just world extremely difficult.

Responsible stewardship of God's gifts is a challenge for individual Christians, especially in a culture and economic system where accumulation is valued and rights of ownership unquestioned. Responsible stewardship is also a challenge for United Women in Faith. The accountability of both the giver and the receiver are required to be in giving in community. Decisions about budgets and giving are based on a strong belief in mission education, leadership development and the needs of women, children and youth.

Submitted by Karen Messley

Reading Program

The 2024 Reading List is now available at <https://uwfaith.org/read>. It includes some new

enhanced features for your enjoyment:

- An expanded selection of books offering more choice for readers.
- A larger number of youth and children's book selections, including several intentionally paired sets to facilitate intergenerational programming.
- A new virtual page at <https://bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith> where you can browse and purchase most of the 2024 Reading Program books while earning 10% back for the organization.

Look for the catalog titles in the November/December 2023 issue of **response**.

Eligible years: For 2024, books from the 2019, 2020, 2021-2022, 2023, and 2024 Reading Program lists are all eligible for Reading Program credit, if you have not previously read them. You can find the full list of eligible books in this free downloadable [spreadsheet](#).

Events: To receive invitations to book discussions and author talks throughout the year, sign up for emails from the Reading Program.

For more information, visit <https://uwfaith.org/read>.

Get Together

North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event

SEE MORE INFORMATION [HERE](#)

[Visit the UWFaithNCJ Website](#)

**REGISTER
HERE**

Please wait to make your hotel reservation, but keep in mind you will need to book that reservation through the event in order to receive the event rate.

Get Together!



United Women in Faith

NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION
QUADRENNIAL EVENT
[HTTPS://WWW.UMWNCJ.ORG/](https://www.umwncj.org/)

Come to Indianapolis, IN on May 31 - June 2, 2024

- GET TOGETHER to feel the joy of faith-filled women, uniting.
- GET TOGETHER to nurture your soul.
- GET TOGETHER to deepen your relationship with God.
- GET TOGETHER to explore the power of love to make a difference.

WHY YOU SHOULD REGISTER

What does it mean to answer the call to "love one another" (John 13:34) in 2024? Come GET TOGETHER to explore the possibilities through

FULL WEEKEND EXPERIENCE

- Inspiring worships
- Engaging workshops
- Riveting and motivating speakers
- Renewing soul care

PRICE

The North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event is a great value at the early registration fee of \$225. Few other faith-based conferences offer so much for such a low fee.

FEATURING

M. Garlinda Burton, Keynote Speaker
Amanda Powell, Music Director
Optional May 30th Experience:
Pre-Conference Soul Care Retreat

**TOGETHER we can do more. TOGETHER we can be more
TOGETHER the power of love in action can change the world.**

A Conference-Wide Opportunity for Self-Care NIC Discipleship Task Force Disciples Nurturing Action (DNA)

By Amania Drane
NIC Anti-racism & Discipleship Task Force
Project Manager

The Discipleship Task Force Disciples Nurturing Action (DNA) is planning to roll out body, mind, and spirit support groups in 2024. However, in the meantime, we want to provide offerings via our partner organizations to the NIC. One of our partners is [Intentional Energy 3](#).

Once again, we are partnering with them as they host a virtual women's retreat titled, *Wisdom For The Seasons of Life-What I Wish I Had Known*, on Saturday, January 20, 2024 from 9:00

a.m. - 12:00 p.m. with a follow-up virtual session to see how things are going on Saturday, February 10, 2024 from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. See the attached [flyer](#) for details and to register or click [HERE](#). Be sure to use the discount code, **NIC23**.

Stay tuned for upcoming body, mind and spirit support groups starting in 2024. Please contact DNA Chair, Katherine Howell (howellkvh@gmail.com), if questions.

Community



Where do you need peace?

By Brooke Buzard Watson, Cunningham Children's Home

In preparation for the Christmas Eve service, Cunningham's Chaplain organized two reflective activities for youth at Cunningham Children's Home, to be able to share their responses to the questions, "Where do you need peace?" and "What do you hope will happen in your lifetime?"

She collected answers about peace in a prayer concern box where all could anonymously submit what is on their hearts. Their prayer requests included:

- *That my sister will trust me and like me again;*
- *My parents not being alive*
- *Getting a family*
- *For good things to come my way*
- *I need peace with everything*
- *My family*
- *I need peace with myself and what my purpose is*
- *No wars, fighting, arguing*
- *That I have not found my dad*
- *My family to help me get though being in a group home*

Responses to "What do you hope will happen in your lifetime?" were written on stars and hung on the wall behind figures of The Wisemen. In The Nativity, The Wisemen believed the star meant something new, something big, was about to happen. They hoped to be there, be part of it, to see something miraculous unfold. They made a journey based on this hope for the future. Our youth hope that in their lifetime there is:

- *No abandonment of children*
- *Peace and relief*
- *Me going home*
- *Stop drugs*
- *To never be without family*
- *World peace*
- *Genuine, loving people*
- *Stop the shooting*
- *Stay calm and happy no matter what*
- *To get married to a wonderful wife*
- *My puppy and I to live a long life*

We are so grateful to the United Women in Faith who are helping our kids find peace and hope through your love, prayers, and support. We wish you all peace and blessings for the New Year!

Cunningham Children's Home is a United Women in Faith National Mission Institution, located in Urbana, Illinois. For more information, to schedule a speaker for your unit meeting, or for inquiries about pulpit replacement, contact Brooke Buzard Watson at (217) 337-9073 or bbuzard@cunninghamhome.org. Brooke lives in DeKalb and spends her weeks crisscrossing Illinois interstates between the Northern Conference and Illinois Great Rivers Conference.

Kids Above All believes in ensuring the safety, well-being, and education of kids above all else. In 2023, Deaconess Catherine initiated an agencywide effort to collect 500 pounds of pliable plastics to keep it from going into the landfill. [NexTrex](#), a nationwide company making responsible outdoor products, offered this community service opportunity in the effort to engage schools, companies, and other groups like Kids Above All to step up in practical ways to be more environmentally aware.

Deaconess Catherine brought together a Green Team of KAA site ambassadors to provide leadership. Today, KAA has been awarded their first NexTrex bench (see photo) and they are working on completing their second collection of 500 pounds by mid-January 2024. Thank you to Vera Miller on the Green Team at FUMC Downers Grove for organizing a collection to help KAA! In addition, Lois Voss at Cary UMC and her UWFaith unit contributed two different times. There are several other UWFaith persons who brought their collections to the Annual Celebration in October. Thank you to everyone for stepping up for all our kids by saving pliable plastics from going into the landfills. This is Love In Action! In 2024, Kids Above All will decide whether or not to continue this effort as NexTrex has changed their rules to collecting 1000 pounds for one bench over one full year. Stay tuned.



Photos submitted by Deaconess Catherine Inserra

Brand / Logo Guidelines

Just a reminder to keep United Women in Faith first in



writing our names:

United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference or
United Women in Faith NIC or
United Women in Faith Lake South District or
United Women in Faith Annual Celebration



UW Faith may be used in publication after United Women in Faith has been written.

NEVER use UWF in public writing. Save it for your personal notes.



United
Women
in Faith

Connect with United Women in Faith
NIConference:



Connect with United Women in Faith
Globally:



Submission deadline: 15th of the month

Send to: Shelly Davenport, Communications Coordinator
sdavenportarch@gmail.com

United Women in Faith NIC [email](#) | United Women in Faith NIC [website](#) |
United Women in Faith [website](#)

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United Women in Faith of NIConference | 303 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 2020, Chicago, IL 60601

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