



United  
Women  
in Faith

# INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

October 2025

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### October 2025

03 --- PN District Leadership Team  
20 --- LS District Leadership Team  
20 --- PS District Leadership Team  
25 --- [NIC Conference Annual Celebration](#)  
26 --- [UWFaith Sunday at St. Mark UMC](#)

### November 2025

07 --- LN District Leadership Team  
09 --- Korean UMW General Assembly at  
Schaumburg: Salem  
13 --- [NIC Conference Leadership Planning Meeting](#)

### December 2025

01 --- PN District Leadership Team  
05 --- LN District Leadership Team  
08 --- LS District Leadership Team

For More Detailed Information and  
Future Events:

[View the Google Calendar](#)

## Two-Day Annual Celebration PLEASE REGISTER TODAY!

Join us for this two-day event - Welcoming in person, speaking to us for the first time, United Women in Faith General Secretary and CEO, Sally Vonner.

Saturday, October 25, at Belvidere: First UMC at 9:00 a.m.  
Program and lunch  
Cost: \$15

Sunday, October 26, at Chicago: St. Mark UMC at 10:00 a.m.  
Worship  
Cost: free

Everyone needs to register for one or both days.

Find the registration form [HERE](#).

Online registration [HERE](#).



## United Women in Faith Leadership Calendar 2026

# Planning your United Women in Faith Leadership Calendar 2026

Start with the “givens”, then add on what is regular or routine. (pages 49-50 Handbook 2025-2028)

## QUADRIENIAL ASSEMBLY, INDIANAPOLIS MAY (14)15-16-17, 2026

Next, **Conference Leadership Team Meetings** are by Zoom at 9 am on the first Saturdays of January 3, March 7, May 2, and September 5 (holiday weekend) or August 29, plus a November evening at 7 pm.

Then, your **District Leadership Team Meetings** would be as needed after the NIC LT dates.  
UWFaith NIC **Mission u Winter** dates in late January  
UWFaith NIC **Mission u Summer** dates in mid-July

UWFaith **District Annual Celebrations** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of September 19 or 26

UWFaith **NIC Annual Celebration** on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of October 24

UWFaith local unit celebrations September-November

Finally, your special events.

*Please share your district leadership team meeting and event dates and times with the UWFaith NIC secretary by November 15. These are included in the yearbook calendar.*

*Thank you for your planning,*

Lois Voss at [nicuwfaith.secy25@gmail.com](mailto:nicuwfaith.secy25@gmail.com)

## Social Action

*By Kathy Tiffin*



# CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living**FAITH** Seeking**JUSTICE** Pursuing**PEACE**

The General Board of Church and Society is dedicated to the work of living faith, seeking justice, and pursuing peace.

See current Action Alerts [HERE](#)

View the latest Faith in Action stories [HERE](#)

## In Memoriam

*By Catherine Inserra*

We are deeply saddened today to share that Nancy Duel, a beloved and long-time member of the Kids Above All (KAA) family, passed away.

Nancy served on the KAA Board of Trustees for 37 years, including as chair and secretary. Her leadership helped shape our organization's growth, resilience, and mission, and her unwavering commitment to making a difference in the community impacted tens of thousands of children and families in need in and around Chicago.



Nancy's life was defined by faith and service. She was a pillar of Arlington Heights: First, she was involved with the United Women in Faith, and joined the boards of Church Women United and the Northern Illinois Conference. Nancy also championed causes like PADS and the League of Women Voters.

In 1986, Nancy joined Kids Above All's Board of Trustees, and five years later, she was elected to lead our Board. As chair, the organization expanded programs in Lake County, merged with another child welfare agency, and achieved reaccreditation by the Council on Accreditation. Nancy's leadership, courage, and generosity inspired countless staff, partners, and volunteers to join Kids Above All's mission. Nancy helped build the foundation on which we continue our life-changing work today, and we are deeply blessed and grateful for all she did to make this world a better, safer, and more equitable place for our young people.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and our team, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Nancy's family and to all who knew and loved her. She will be missed dearly, but her spirit lives on in the lives she touched, especially those on the front lines of human services and the children and families impacted by Kids Above All's programs.

## Winter Mission u

# WINTER MISSION U



## Save the Date!

OPENING CEREMONY ON  
JANUARY 11, 2026

### District News

#### Prairie Central District

The United Women in Faith Prairie Central District met at Elgin: Journey of Faith for their Annual Celebration on Sept. 20. Our guest speaker was Prairie Central District Superintendent, Rev. Wendy Hardin Hermann. Our theme was *In the Image of God: Caring for Each Other*. She began by leading us in Julian of Norwich's body prayer, with movements for "await," "allow," "accept," and "attend." While Genesis 1:26-27 is what usually comes to mind--that we were made in the image of God--she turned it around. She shared the children's book, *In God's Name*, by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, and also led us in a visio-divina exercise, which offered us an opportunity to consider our image of God.

We elected our new leadership team:

Lois Voss, President; Linda Osikowicz, Secretary; Amy Peterson, Treasurer; and Nadia Kanhai, Social Action Coordinator. Lynda Baran was nominated for Spiritual Growth Coordinator, and she accepted the nomination! With joy, those leaders were installed by Deaconesses Catherine Inserra and Geraldine "Gigi" Mencias. We remembered those who have passed during the year. Rev. Hardin Hermann and Pastor Jason Princer, Journey of Hope, led us in communion.

We are thankful for the ladies at Journey of Hope for their lovely, gracious hospitality, those who served with music, tech, and led in the meeting, as well as the many participants who

attended.



*\*\*Photos submitted by Linda Osikowicz*

## Reading Program

We are delighted to announce the release of the [2026 Reading Program](#)! It is available on the [Reading Program webpage](#).

The Reading Program is a beloved tradition with a powerful future. Through the Reading Program, members and friends of United Women in Faith read and grow together, engaging contemporary books on spiritual growth, social action, leadership development, nurturing for community, and education for mission. We are for readers (and listeners) of all ages, with titles available for adults, youth, and children. We have programs available in English, Korean, and Spanish.

[Click Here to View and Download](#)

## Community



The Kids Above All Day of Celebration & Service at the Better Life Distribution Center in August for our church, United Women in Faith, and community partners was super fun! Volunteer Ed William and his certified therapy dog, Mango, received special recognition for being a Super Mission Partner. They visit the group homes in DuPage County weekly. Everyone enjoyed the special celebration and the opportunity to meet other partners and assemble backpacks.

*\*\*Photo submitted by Catherine Inserra*



Friends, as you look ahead to the next couple of months and plan for a volunteer opportunity and ways to engage people in holiday gift giving, please consider stepping up for our kids from 0-24 years of age. Volunteering in the Toy Room

will be available starting on Monday, Dec 1<sup>st</sup> based on donations received, and will continue through Monday, Dec. 15. All visits need to be scheduled with [Catherine!](#)



# HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE

NOVEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 16

CONTACT: CINSERRA@KIDSABOVEALL.ORG OR (847) 224-2870

Each year, Kids Above All holds our Holiday Gift Drive, working with generous individuals, as well as our community, corporate and faith partners, to provide toys, books and clothes to more than 1,600 young people who have experienced trauma.

## Sponsor a Child

Purchase a gift for a child in our programs and help make their holiday wish come true. Contact Catherine at [cinserra@kidsaboveall.org](mailto:cinserra@kidsaboveall.org) or (847) 224-2870 to receive more info and to set up a donation time.

## Donate Toys via Amazon and Target Registries

The drive needs new, unwrapped toys, games, or books for children ages 0-24. Our 2025 Holiday Gift Drive Amazon and Target Registries will be available starting in October to help guide the gift selection process for our children and youth.

## Volunteer in our Toy Room

Our 2025 Toy Room will be at Kids Above All's Better Life Distribution Center, located at 1801 E. Oakton St. Des Plaines, IL 60018. Contact Catherine at [cinserra@kidsaboveall.org](mailto:cinserra@kidsaboveall.org) to reserve your time to volunteer.

## Make a Monetary Gift

We often need specific gifts as we approach the holidays. Make a financial contribution of \$50 to help us fill this year's gift gaps.



Visit [kidsaboveall.org/holiday](https://kidsaboveall.org/holiday) to access the Amazon and Target registries, to set up a time to volunteer or donate, and for other gift drive information.



Thank you for attending United Voices for Children September 18 event, 2025 UVC Focus: Youth Mental Health. UVC invested in addressing continued needs for children and youth, along with our affiliate organizations MYSI, Kids Above All, and Rosecrance, and our policy partner Children's Advocates for Change. UVC's Community partner, Children's Advocates for Change, opened the event with advocacy updates from the State of Illinois and an open conversation on the needs of our children and youth. The event included awards presented by Rev. Wendy Hardin Hermann, Prairie Central District Superintendent, to [honorary award recipients](#). We also welcomed a featured performance by About Face Theatre, and a new community organization, ALMAS, in support of Latinx the children and youth.

To see full biographies and for more information about the awards, visit [our website](#).

*\*\*Photo submitted by Nik Rana*



## Check out what other conferences are doing.

Read the Wisconsin Conference newsletter [HERE](#).  
Read the Desert Southwest Conference newsletter [HERE](#).

## World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women Town Hall

Online registration [HERE](#)  
or use the QR code below



World Federation of  
Methodist and Uniting  
Church Women



NORTH AMERICA AREA

# Town Hall

Come and learn at our upcoming Town Hall!



**Saturday**

November 8, 2025



Online Via Zoom

The Zoom Information for the Event  
will be emailed to you on November 1, 2025.



Starting At  
11am - 4pm  
Eastern Time

Registration: \$55.00 (All Fees Included)

REGISTER  
NOW

## Workshops Topics Include:

Poverty:  
Leadership  
Development  
and  
Empowerment



Mental  
Health



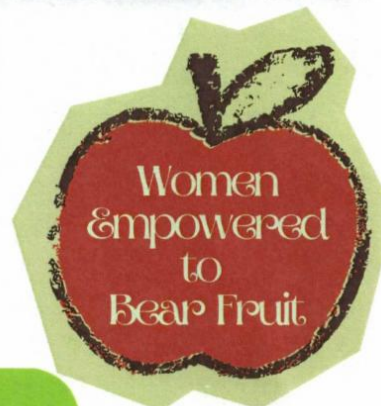
Eliminating  
Domestic  
Violence



Care of  
Creation



[Click Here to Register](#) or take a picture of the QR code!



## Legacy Endowment

NIC Legacy Team = Irma Clark, Lois Moreland-Dean, Linda Osikowicz, and Marilyn Steenyk

Dear Friends,

We wanted to share the July 2025 Legacy Conference Giving Report with you, please let us know if you have any questions.

The Legacy Endowment Fund Total is \$51,183,300.00

To view the Legacy Fund Report, please click [HERE](#).  
For printable Legacy event promotion toolkit, please click [HERE](#).



For any questions related to this report please email directly to [Legacy150@uwfaith.org](mailto:Legacy150@uwfaith.org).

Read a letter from the Legacy Team [HERE](#).

## National

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Leadership Development Days is taking a pause this year. However, this is not a step back. It is a step forward!

We are making room for something new that will better support the faithful, wise, and unstoppable leadership of our members!

In the meantime, you can continue to grow and lead with the United Women in Faith [Leadership Toolkit](#) found on UWFaith Digital at <https://bit.ly/UWFLead>. It's easy to access from your computer, tablet, or phone, anytime and anywhere. Here you'll find helpful resources, practical guidance, inspiration, and recordings of past Leadership Development Days to fuel your unstoppable leadership journey.



## Put Assembly 2026 on your calendar!

Come be transformed at Assembly 2026!  
Visit [UWFaith.org/Assembly](https://UWFaith.org/Assembly) to learn more!

Exciting plans are underway for the 22nd Assembly of United Women in Faith, May 15-17, 2026. We hope that you will be among the thousands of women attending this exciting celebration in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Assembly website contains a wealth of information and resources regarding the upcoming event. We invite you to visit the [WEBSITE](#). Assembly opens Friday, May 15 at 8:45 and ends Sunday by noon.

Registration is open and the \$365 early bird registration fee ends on Nov. 30. Registration is online and any updates will be handled via email. There is an additional \$30 fee if you wish to register via paper. When you register you will be able to choose one workshop and one Town Hall Meeting Friday and Saturday. You may also register for the optional Ubuntu Day of Service or Soul Care Retreat for an additional \$99. The dinners Friday and Saturday night are also optional. Scholarships will be available.

Here are three pieces of information you will be asked upon registration. Assuming you are attending a church in Northern Illinois Conference, you will answer:

1. Jurisdiction: North Central Jurisdiction
2. Conference: Northern Illinois Conference
3. District: one of these districts: Lake North, Lake South, Prairie Central, Prairie North, or Prairie South

You may reserve a room at the NIC block of rooms at the JWMarriott when you register or you may use this booking link: <https://book.passkey.com/go/UWF2026NorthernIL>. The rooms

have two queen beds and the cost is \$199 per night. As a reminder, the deadline to book these rooms is December 1, 2025. There is a skywalk from the hotel to the Convention Center.

Individual attendees who would like to process their own reservations outside of a room block may contact Visit Indy customer care agents at: 317-262-8191 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET to make reservations.

Are you someone who would like to be a part of Assembly? Then you may be interested in these two options:

#### Attendee VIDEO Submission INVITATION

We want to hear your story! Assembly 2026 is looking for member stories to come to the Big Stage! If you have an exciting story to tell about how you “Dream it! Believe it! Do it!” we invite you to share a 30-second video recording for consideration to be played during one of our Community Gatherings. Click here to learn more and submit your story. Video submissions will be accepted until December 15.

If you have questions, please e-mail [Assembly Stories](#).  
Submit your video story [HERE](#).

#### Celebrate Cultures and Gifts—Invitation to Perform

We invite any member or attendee choir, dance group, or other performing arts presentation to share cultural or other performances on the large stage as women gather for our Community Gatherings. Time slots are open during Friday afternoon, Saturday morning, and Saturday afternoon Community Gatherings. Please remember the below guidelines for this participation:

1. There is no time for rehearsal. You will enter the stage and perform at the assigned time and day.
2. Any pre-recorded music needed to accompany live dance or other live performances must be copyright cleared and e-mailed to us by April 15.
3. Presentations can last no more than 4 minutes.
4. We CANNOT cover any expenses for these performances. All performers must already be registered and attending Assembly 2026 at their own expense.

Please submit requests to perform [HERE](#) by March 1, 2026.

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### Tips for Writing and Speaking Our Name - United Women in Faith

#### **TIPS for ... writing about churches ... for charts, registrations, directories ... our name**

- Write church names with the location first... omit UMC
- If the church name includes the location name with UMC, then we simply write the location without the UMC. Example: Cary UMC would appear as Cary
- If there is more than one church in a location, then use a colon before the church identification. Example: Barrington UMC would appear as Barrington: Barrington, and Salem UMC would appear as Barrington: Salem
- Many UMC churches are First or Wesley. Their name would be location colon unique name. Example: First Church of Crystal Lake would appear Crystal Lake: First, and Wesley UMC in Chicago would be Chicago: Wesley
- Note that the annual directory for our Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church uses the formats above. You may have noticed this in registration forms. We are using this format in our own annual yearbook and directory. (It saves space.)

#### **TIPS for ... writing our organization's name ...**

- This is the order for writing our name to avoid confusing it with a district name...our organization...location (from largest to smallest, if more than one)...event or person... year United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference Prairie Central president Lois Lane

- UWFaith NIC leadership team 2025 UWFaith PC secretary Betty White
- United Women in Faith NIC Spiritual Growth Retreat 2025 at Park Ridge: First

Note there is no “of” or extra “in”. Note there is no 3 letter abbreviation, please use UWFaith. The district abbreviation is only 2 letters: LN, LS, PC, PN, or PS.

Our National office recommends using our full name first in written documents. Then later in the text you could use UWFaith.

Happy writing! UWFaith NIC secretary, Lois Voss

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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

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