



United
Women
in Faith

INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

August 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2026

04 --- Committee on Nominations Meeting
07 --- LN District Leadership Team
07 --- PN District Leadership Team
08 --- Summer Mission u One-Day
09 --- KUMC Praise Night
10 --- LS District Leadership Team
18 --- Committee on Nominations Meeting
18 --- PC District Leadership Team
29 --- [NIC Leadership Team](#)
31 --- PS District Leadership Team

September 2026

01 --- Committee on Nominations Meeting
04 --- LN District Leadership Team
15 --- PC District Leadership Team
19 --- PC District Annual Celebration
19 --- PS District Annual Celebration
26 --- LN District Annual Celebration
26 --- LS District Annual Celebration
26 --- PN District Annual Celebration

October 2026

02 --- LN District Leadership Team
02 --- PN District Leadership Team
05 --- LS District Leadership Team
06 --- Committee on Nominations Meeting
24 --- [NIC Annual Celebration](#)
24 --- [NIC Leadership Training](#)
27 --- PC District Leadership Team
29 --- LS District Domestic Violence Awareness

November 2026

03 --- Committee on Nominations Meeting
05 --- [NIC Leadership Team](#)
06 --- LN District Leadership Team

December 2026

04 --- LN District Leadership Team
14 --- LS District Leadership Team

For More Detailed Information and Future Events:

[View the Google Calendar](#)

Mission u - Come and See!

Register online [HERE](#)

Paper Registration Form [HERE](#)

Read about the curriculum [HERE](#)

Purchase your book [HERE](#)

Email the Registrar [HERE](#)

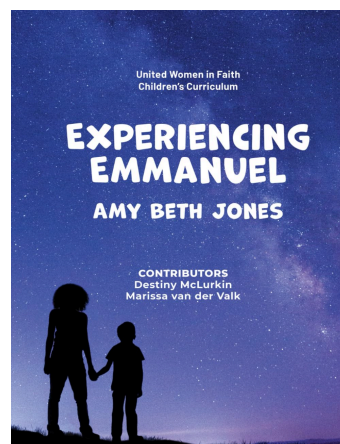
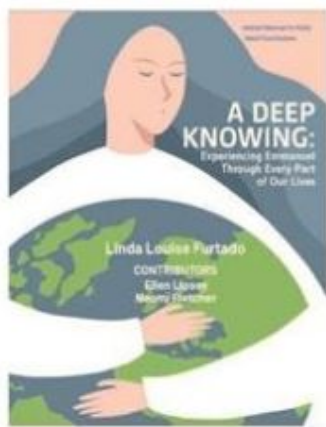
One-Day
Spanish, English, Youth/Children
AUGUST 8, 2026 at EUCLID AVENUE UMC
405 S. Euclid Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302
(ONLINE/EMAIL REGISTRATION ENDS AUGUST 4)

For additional information, contact [Dean Beth Jayapalan](#)
or call (847) 913-0135

COME AND SEE!



Join us at Mission u as we explore the theme, Experiencing Emmanuel. Mission u participants will study the times in the Bible when people experienced Emmanuel, or "God with us." How do we discern God's presence and call on our lives in times of joy and in times of sadness, fear, and anxiety? What can we learn from these Emmanuel encounters in the Bible to help inform our discernment of faith, hope, and love in action?



One-Day
Spanish, English, Youth/Children
Cost includes two meals!
Check-in Saturday, August 8
at 8:30 a.m.

**Scholarship for Woman
Pursuing Church Vocations**

The United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference offers a scholarship for women pursuing a church-related vocation, whether in ordained or lay ministry. An accredited graduate school must accept applicants, reside within the Northern Illinois Conference, and demonstrate financial need. A copy of their most recent school transcript and a 200-word essay describing the applicant's personal background, passions, and goals are required.

Applications are due for receipt on or before September 15, 2026.

Read the Graduate Educational Scholarship Guidelines [HERE](#).
Graduate Educational Scholarship Application [HERE](#).

UWFaith NIC Annual Celebration



COLOSSIANS 3:14

love

ABOVE ALL, CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH WHICH BINDS US

ALL TOGETHER
in perfect harmony.

NURTURING COMMUNITIES
with love!

SAVE THE DATE

UWFaithNIC Annual Celebration

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026



United Women in Faith

Our speaker will be Tony A. Kearney Sr., CEO of Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The meeting will be held at Downers Grove: First.

In Memoriam

Deaconess Clara Ester



Longtime United Methodist leader and civil rights advocate Deaconess Clara Ester died on July 9, 2026.

Read about her life and mission as told by her [conference](#), [The Associated Press](#), and [UM News](#).

She was a faithful witness to Christ, dedicating her life and ministry to justice, compassion, and service. She will be deeply missed, and her legacy will continue to inspire all who were blessed to know her.

Leave a Legacy

God's abundant grace has been with us since the inception of The Legacy Endowment Fund (2015), and that grace continues to abound as we grow ever closer to reaching our \$60 million goal. We are now less than \$3 million away. Day of Giving, March 23, 2026, was an opportunity to gather together as one to thank God for the continued grace shown to United Women in Faith by faithfully giving to ensure the future of our vital mission work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth at home and abroad. The latest available figure for Day of Giving 2026 is \$225,000.

By the numbers:

**The June 30, 2026 Legacy Endowment Fund Total is
\$57,020,632.06.**

That's 95% of the \$60 million goal !!!

**Through June 2026, the Northern Illinois Conference has given
\$10,908.74.**

**UWFaith NIC's cumulative contributions during the 12-year campaign:
\$261,288.15.**

Sign up for UWFaith text communications by texting **FAITH** to **20503**

Our NIC Legacy Committee:

[Irma Clark](#)

[Lois Moreland-Dean](#)

[Linda Osikowicz](#)

[Marilyn Steenwyk](#)

Contact at UWfaith National Executive for Development and Donor Relations: [Christi Campos](#)

For any questions related to the Legacy Fund at the national level, please email directly to Legacy150@uwfaith.org.

Visit the United Women in Faith [Legacy Fund](#).

Please let us know if you have questions and/or comments.

The Legacy Team

For more information, contact: [Marilyn Steenwyk](#) or [Linda Osikowicz](#)

Find printable Legacy Fund materials [HERE](#).

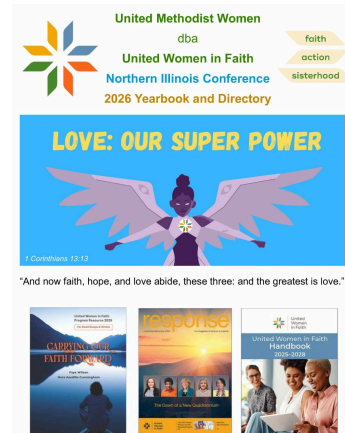
Find the set of estate planning guide sheets [HERE](#).

United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference Annual 2026 Yearbook and Directory

We are happy to report that all the paper copies have been mailed to our local unit presidents and to those who ordered one. However, you can still use the digital copy located on our conference website: uwfaithnic.org.

Please request the password from [Shelly Davenport](#) or [Becky John](#).

You may download the document and print any pages you need. Please do not share with unauthorized people.



Please note that every fall the local units and districts are asked to submit their elected slate, including office, name, email, cell phone, landline, address, and church. This information is for the annual directory and conference membership file maintained by the UWFaith NIC secretary.

The local nominations chairperson (or designee) and secretary gather that local contact information and share it with the district secretary, who then compiles all the locals into a file to be shared with the conference secretary. All presidents due by November 1 and other officers by December 1.

Similarly, the district nominations chairperson (or designee) gathers that district contact information and shares it with the district secretary, who then shares the file with the conference secretary within 10 days of the election. Then the conference nominations chairperson (or designee) gathers that conference contact information and shares it with the conference secretary, who then completes a spreadsheet for our national secretary within 10 days of the election.

Bottom line is this-please respond on time.

Social Action - Make an Impact



July 15, 2026

Unstoppable Campaign Will Focus on “Share the Good News Everywhere: Influence” Through the Two Social Justice Priorities, August 2026-July 2027

by ELIZABETH CHUN HYE LEE, EMILY JONES, ILKA VEGA, and MARYANN VERGHESE

Read about it [HERE](#).



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](#)

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](#)

Happening In the Districts

Korean UWFaith/UMW

What: Korean Praise Night

When: Sunday, August 9

Time: 4:00 p.m. (rehearsal at 3:00 p.m.)

Where: First Korean UMC, 655 E. Hintz Road, Wheeling

As in past years, UWFaith NIC (English-speaking) will have a small group in attendance at the Korean UWFaith/UMW Praise Night. Two songs have been selected from The Faith We Sing Hymnal: *Over My Head*, page 2148, and *We Sing of Your Glory*, page 2011. View the songs [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

As in recent years, it would be wonderful to have Korean ladies join the United Women in Faith English-speakers to sing these two songs [2148 first; then, 2011].

For all singers, please arrive at **3:00 p.m.** for a short rehearsal before the Praise Night begins.

Please wear a solid, bright-colored top/blouse and black pants/skirt, so that we have a **unified** presence.

Looking forward to celebrating with song on Sunday, August 9! Thank you!

Lake North District

Lake North District Annual Celebration

Saturday, September 26

9:00 a.m.

North Prairie United Methodist Church

Kenosha Rd, 5000 9th St, Zion, IL 60099

View the flyer [HERE](#).

Lake South District

Lake South District Annual Celebration
Saturday, September 26
9:00 a.m.
Resurrection United Methodist Church
5717 W 63rd Pl, Chicago, IL 60638



Prairie Central District

Prairie Central District Annual Celebration
Saturday, September 19
8:30 a.m.
First Church of Crystal Lake
236 W Crystal Lake Ave, Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Prairie North District

Prairie North District Annual Celebration
Saturday, September 26
9:30 a.m.
Freeport First United Methodist Church
503 W Lily Creek Road, Freeport, IL 61032

The guest speaker will be Winnebago County CASA

Registration form [HERE](#)

<i>United Women in Faith</i>			
LADIES FUN BRUNCH			
WHEN	DATE	10:00 AM	TIME
	11 AUGUST	11:30 AM	
<i>Bring your friends and treat yourself to a relaxed and joyful filled event with great food, inspiring conversations, and fun fellowship.</i> <i>Cost: \$20 per person</i>			
For information and reservations: Katherine Howell 712-830-4261 howellkvh@gmail.com Event location: Deer Ridge Ministries 3085 W. Forrest Rd. Freeport, IL 61032			

Prairie North District Salad Supper Recap

A Wonderful Evening of Fellowship. Our Prairie North Salad Supper was truly a joyful evening filled with faith, friendship, and fellowship. We were blessed with wonderful attendance, an incredible variety of delicious salads, and some truly fabulous desserts and treats.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the women of Lanark. They truly outdid themselves! Everything was beautifully prepared, the hospitality was warm and welcoming, and every detail reflected the love and care they put into hosting this special event.

During the evening, we had the privilege of presenting awards to several deserving individuals, celebrating their faithful service and dedication. One of the highlights of the night

was welcoming the talented young girls from Freeport Boys & Girls Club. They joined us for dinner and then shared their gift of dance. Their performance was energetic, inspiring, and absolutely wonderful. They brought smiles to everyone's faces, and we were so grateful they shared their talents with us.

We also introduced a new tradition called Share Time. This special time gives each church an opportunity to share what is happening in their congregation, celebrate ministries, lift up joys, and even share personal blessings and concerns. It has already become a meaningful way to encourage one another, learn from each other, and strengthen the bonds within our Prairie North family.

What a blessing it is to be part of the Prairie North United Women in Faith. God continues to lead us to remarkable people who inspire us through their faith, compassion, and willingness to serve. Together we are growing stronger in Christ, supporting one another, and making a difference in our churches, our communities, and beyond.

Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, prepared food, and helped make the evening such a success. We look forward to our fall gathering again soon as we continue serving God together with joyful hearts.



***Photos submitted by Karen Andrus*

Prairie South District

Prairie South District Annual Celebration
Saturday, September 19
9:00 a.m.

Community



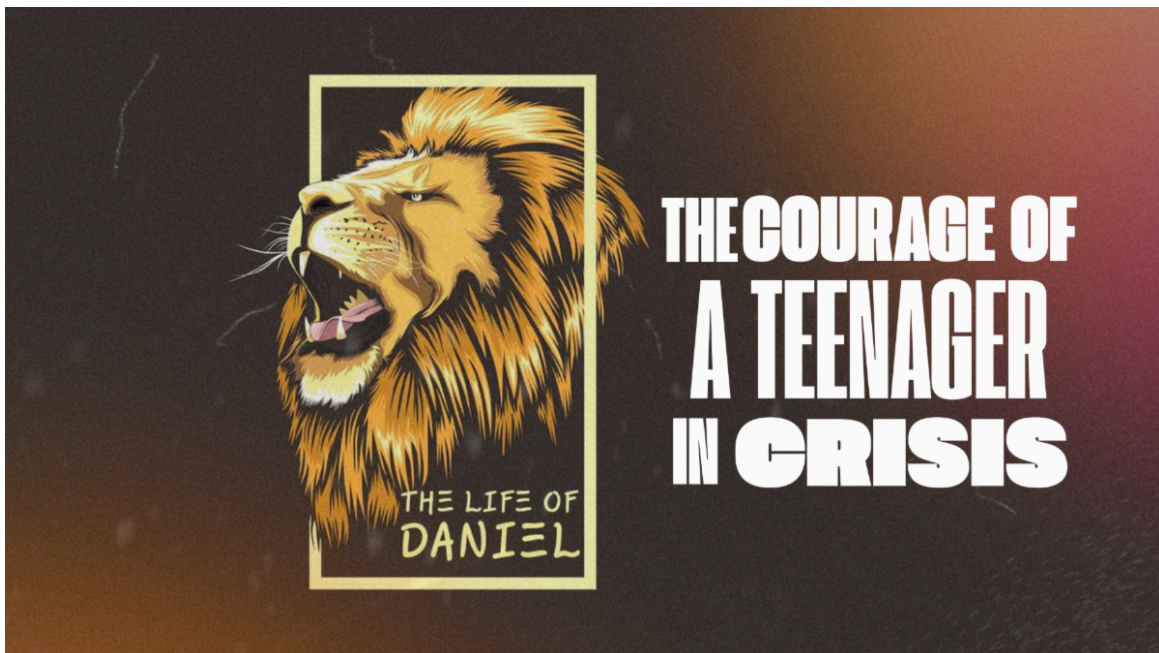
Courage

By Ginger Mills

This month in chapel at Cunningham Children's Home, we've been exploring the life of Daniel—a young man taken from his home and forced into a foreign culture. Faced with crisis, Daniel committed to a simple plan: stay faithful to God, stand with his friends, and walk in integrity no matter the cost.

Through Daniel's story, we've focused on courage, wisdom, and teamwork in difficult times. Daniel's faithfulness brought him wisdom, favor, and influence, and his example inspired those around him. In Chapter 3, Daniel's friends—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—faced their own test when King Nebuchadnezzar demanded worship of a golden image. Refusing to compromise their faith, they trusted God even in the face of the fiery furnace. God met them in the fire, protected them, and revealed His power to the king. Although Daniel is not mentioned in this chapter, his influence is evident everywhere. His courage, wisdom, and faith had become contagious. His example helped prepare his friends to stand firm when their own crisis came.

Chaplain Kate reminds our youth that our lives influence others every day. True friendship and faithful community encourage us to grow in obedience, wisdom, and courage as we walk together with God.





Emma Norton

The Journey Home Begins Here

This month's e-news is a special one. Usually, summer is a slower time for nonprofits, but this summer has been especially busy for us. We've forged new partnerships, created exciting and educational activities for our clients, and of course, we have been hard at work preparing for the departure of our Executive Director Tonya Brownlow at the end of this month.

Read the Emma Norton July newsletter [HERE](#).



A message from
Dina Amoo,
president and
founder of Girls 4
Girls Ghana, Inc.

As we prepare for our upcoming 2026 mission trip to Ghana, our ministry recently experienced an unexpected setback. Severe flooding in Accra, Ghana, damaged the home where most of our donated mission supplies were being stored. Sadly, hundreds of reusable sanitary pads, girls' underwear, and hygiene supplies were soaked by contaminated floodwater and are no longer safe for distribution. This resulted in the loss of many items that volunteers and supporters had worked so hard to collect, prepare, and send for the girls we serve.

Although this has been a significant challenge, we remain committed to our mission of restoring dignity, hope, and opportunity to young girls through menstrual hygiene education and the distribution of reusable sanitary pad kits. To stay on schedule for our September mission trip, we must replace the damaged supplies and arrange an additional cargo shipment to Ghana before September 7 so the materials arrive in time.

Here are ways you can help, if you wish:

- Replacing reusable sanitary pad kits destroyed by the flood
- Purchasing girls' underwear and essential hygiene supplies
- Purchasing sewing materials so volunteers can make additional reusable sanitary kits
- Covering the cost of an additional cargo shipment to Ghana before September 7
- Supporting transportation, storage, and distribution of supplies in Ghana
- Expanding our outreach so we can serve even more girls during the 2026 mission trip

Every gift, no matter the size, will make a meaningful difference in the lives of girls who often miss school or face hardship because they lack access to basic menstrual hygiene

resources. Together, we can help restore hope and remind these young women that they are seen, loved, and valued. Monetary donations can be made through the [website](#).

Underwear and materials can be purchased through their [Amazon wish-list](#) and shipped to Barrington United Methodist Church, 98 Algonquin Rd., Barrington, IL 60010. A sewing event will be held at Barrington United Methodist Church on Sunday, August 23 from 2:00-5:00 pm. Questions? Contact [Linda Osikowicz](#).



KIDS ABOVE ALL's 2026 Back to School Drive Happening NOW!

Please consider ways to continue to STEP UP FOR OUR KIDS at Kids Above All this summer. Our annual Back-to-School Drive begins June 15 - August 15.

Visit our [Amazon Wishlist!](#)

View the flyer [HERE](#).

Or visit our [website](#) for more information.

Thank you for your faith, [Deaconess Catherine Inserra](#)

KIDS ABOVE ALL'S

BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK DRIVE

JUNE 8, 2026 - AUGUST 20, 2026



Each year, we invite individuals, community and faith groups, and businesses to step up so the 1,500 school-aged kids in our programs have the supplies they need for the new school year. Lists of needed items are below.

Visit kidsaboveall.org/bts for more information, or to make a financial gift to help fill specific needs for our clients.

Amazon Wishlist



MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- Spiral Notebooks
- Sketchbooks
- 2-Pocket Plastic Folders
- Headphones
- Texas Instruments TI-34 Calculator

BACKPACKS FOR ALL AGES NEEDED

KINDERGARTEN

- Large Pencils
- Large Crayons
- Washable Markers
- Dry Erase Markers
- Dry Erase Eraser
- Glue Sticks
- Scissors (Round Tip)
- 2-Pocket Folders
- Play-Doh

1ST-3RD GRADE

- Pencil Case
- Pencils
- Pencil Top Erasers
- Erasers
- Crayons
- Colored Pencils
- Washable Markers (Both Fine-Point and Broad Line Markers)
- Dry Erase Markers
- Dry Erase Eraser
- Yellow Highlighters
- Liquid Elmer's Glue
- Glue Sticks
- Scissors (Round Tip)
- Ruler
- Post-It Notes (3x3)
- Notebooks (Wide-Ruled)
- 2-Pocket Folders
- Headphones

4TH-6TH GRADE

- Pencil Case
- Pencils
- Pencil Sharpener
- Pencil Top Erasers
- Erasers
- Crayons
- Colored Pencils
- Watercolors
- Markers
- Dry Erase Markers
- Dry Erase Eraser
- Highlighter
- Pens (Red, Blue, and Black)
- Glue Sticks
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Post-It Notes (3x3)
- Index Cards (3x5)
- Loose Leaf Paper (Wide-Ruled)
- Notebooks (Wide-Ruled)
- Composition Notebook (Wide-Ruled)
- Sketchbook
- 2-Pocket Plastic Folders
- 3-Ring Binders (1 Inch)
- Clear Sheet Protectors
- Earbuds/Headphones

7TH-12TH GRADE

- Pencil Case
- Pencils
- Pencil Sharpener
- Pencil Top Erasers
- Large Erasers
- Colored Pencils
- Markers
- Dry Erase Markers
- Highlighters
- Pens (Red, Blue, and Black)
- Glue Sticks
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Post-It Notes (3x3)
- Index Cards (3x5)
- Quad Ruled Graph Paper
- Loose Leaf Paper (College-Ruled)
- Notebooks (College-Ruled)
- Sketchbook
- 2-Pocket Plastic Folders
- 3-Ring Binders (1 or 1.5 Inches)
- Subject Dividers
- Calculator (Texas Instruments TI-34)
- Earbuds/Headphones

To set up an appointment to drop off donations,
contact our Manager of Faith & Community
Relations, Catherine Inserra.

Phone: (847) 224-2870

Email: cinsera@kidsaboveall.org

1801 E. Oakton St. Des Plaines, IL 60018



You Are Invited

Raising Our Voices 2026

➤ **Annual Advocacy & Awards Event** ➤

Every Child. Every Voice. Every Future.

Advocating for Youth Mental Health & Anti-Bullying



Melissa Lee, M.A., LCPC
Youth Community Supervisor
Rosecrance



Reverend Chanje "CJ" Woo
Lead Pastor
Grace United Methodist
Church, Rockford, IL



**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 24, 2026**

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Lunch Provided



**GRACE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

**3555 McFarland Road
Rockford, IL 61114**



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH & ANTI-BULLYING

Presentation by Melissa Lee, M.A., LCPC,
Rosecrance Youth Community Supervisor



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Presentation by Children's Advocates for
Change – updates on youth mental health
legislation and how to advocate



ANNUAL CHILD ADVOCACY AWARDS

Honoring individuals/groups whose
leadership and service make a lasting impact
on children, youth, and families

Working together to strengthen advocacy, promote belonging, and
equip communities with practical tools that support every child.

REGISTER NOW!

EMAIL NIK@UNITEDVOICESFORCHILDREN.ORG

OR VISIT

[HTTPS://UNITEDVOICESFORCHILDREN.ORG/EVENTS](https://UNITEDVOICESFORCHILDREN.ORG/EVENTS)

\$15 registration includes lunch

Every Child. Every Voice. Every Future.



Affiliate Child-Serving Agencies



Policy Partner



www.unitedvoicesforchildren.org



[unitedvoicesforchildren](https://www.instagram.com/unitedvoicesforchildren)



<https://unitedvoicesforchildren.org>

Register Online Here

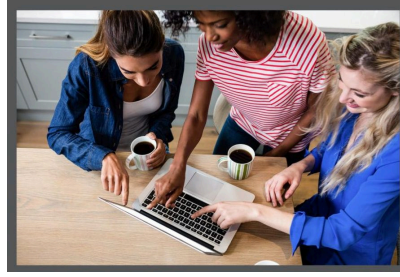


Check out what other
conferences are doing.

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

National

Over the past few months, we have been preparing to sunset our online store, with a planned closure by the end of June. While this was not an easy decision, it allows us to thoughtfully wind down operations while continuing to serve our members with valuable resources as effectively as possible during this transition. We understand you may have questions about what this means for you, so we have created this FAQ with information and answers to common questions.



United Women in Faith Resource Center FAQ

Find answers here

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

This is the order for writing our name to avoid confusing it with a district name:

- First write our organization name, second write the location (from largest to smallest, if more than one), then the event & year or person.
- Example: United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference Prairie Central president Lois Lane
- Example: UWFaith NIC leadership team 2025 UWFaith PC secretary Betty White
- Example: United Women in Faith NIC Spiritual Growth Retreat 2025 at Park Ridge: First

Note that there is no “of” or extra “in”. Note that there is no three-letter abbreviation; please use UWFaith.

The district abbreviation is only two 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.

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

[Sign up for E-News](#)

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

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