



United
Women
in Faith

INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

September 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

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
11 --- PN District Leadership Team
14 --- LS District Leadership Team

**For More Detailed Information
and Future Events:**

[View the Google Calendar](#)

President's Report

By Barb Farley

Sisters in Christ, in faith, hope, and love, I bring you Summer Greetings. I sincerely thank all of you for your prayers and heartfelt wishes to me and my family on my mom's passing. It has been a difficult time for us and I truly felt held in prayer. Mom was eight days shy of her 100th birthday. Family came together to celebrate her legacy on June 27th. I miss her greatly.

It has truly been a busy but very fruitful late spring and summer as we had over 117 UWFaith NIC travel to Indianapolis for a fantastic UWFaith Assembly and our presence was definitely noticed at the 187th UMC NIC Annual Conference!



We have completed our Mission studies for this summer and I must say the sessions were compelling, thought provoking, and inspiring. I hope we can continue to invite and encourage others to join us as we learn and grow together in Christ!

August 9th was Korean United Methodist Praise Night at Wheeling: First KUMC. We had a wonderful turn out as we joined our Korean sisters in song and worship.

I want to encourage you to attend your district's Annual Meetings and invite someone unfamiliar with United Women in Faith to join you. Remember our programs are designed for all women of faith!

October 24th is our Annual UWFaith Northern Illinois Conference meeting at Downers Grove: First - 1032 Maple Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515. Our guest speaker is Tony A. Kearney, CEO of Northcott Neighborhood House. Colosians 3:14 is our theme and Tony will be speaking on "Nurturing Communities With Love". This is our closest National Mission center and the mother of a former UWFaith conference President, Emmy Lou John, was integral in Northcott Neighborhood House's inception! Please save October 24th for this great opportunity to learn about our faith turning love in action on behalf of women, children, and youth. Look for registration information below!

One foot in front of the other - we do lead with love!

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

Registration Form [HERE](#)
Register online [HERE](#)

Cost is \$15 per person



ABOVE ALL, CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH WHICH BINDS US

ALL TOGETHER
in perfect harmony.

NURTURING COMMUNITIES
with love!

UWFaithNIC Annual Celebration
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

8:15-9:00 Check-in

8:15-8:45 Light breakfast

9:00-12:00 Celebration

12:00-1:00 Lunch



**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.
1032 Maple Av., Downers Grove, IL 60515

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. The June 30, 2026 Legacy Endowment Fund Total is \$56,918,162.86, just shy of 95% of the \$60 million goal.

Contributions to the Legacy Fund should not be routed through district or conference treasurers. Please use this address: United Women in Faith, Church Center for the United Nations, ATTN: LEGACY, **777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10017.**

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.

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

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

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

Secretary's Report

Hello, Unit presidents.

I'm Becky John, your current UWFaith Northern Illinois Conference secretary. As secretary, my biggest responsibility is the yearbook and directory. In it the unit president's, co-presidents', contact person's, or coordinator's contact information is listed. Your help is needed to make sure the yearbook and directory are up-to-date. You will receive an email later this fall asking you to provide your information. Completing it or sending it to the new president will take all of 7 minutes or less. It is important that the information is completed for conference and district record keeping. We all want a useful yearbook and directory and it takes everyone's help to do it. Thank you!

Please look for an email with the subject line **UWFaith NIC: You count, and we want to count you!**

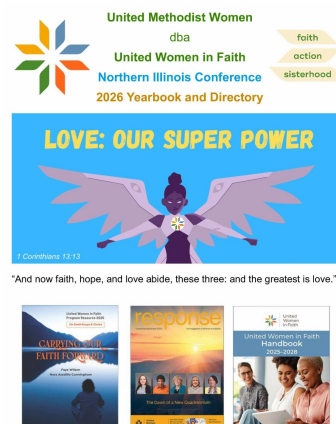
Much thanks for your faithfulness and help.

In peace,
Becky John

A digital copy of the yearbook and directory is 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.



Social Action - Make an Impact

H.R. 7973: Momnibus Act

To end preventable maternal mortality, severe maternal morbidity, and maternal health disparities in the United States, and for other purposes.

Find more information [HERE](#)

Learn how to write your senators and representatives [HERE](#)

BACKGROUND

The United States has the highest maternal mortality rate of any high-income country, with significant disparities in outcomes — particularly for Black women.¹ But it does not have to be this way: more than 80% of pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S. are preventable.² The Momnibus Act will address this crisis through historic investments that comprehensively address every driver of maternal mortality, morbidity, and disparities in the United States.

BILL SUMMARY

The Momnibus Act includes 14 individual bills that will:

1. Make critical investments in **social determinants of health** that influence maternal health outcomes, like housing, transportation, and nutrition.
2. **Extend WIC eligibility** in the postpartum and breastfeeding periods.
3. Provide funding to **community-based organizations** that are working to improve maternal health outcomes and promote equity.
4. Increase funding for programs to improve **maternal health care for veterans**.
5. Grow and diversify the **perinatal workforce** to ensure that every mom in America receives maternal health care and support from people they trust.
6. Improve **data collection processes and quality measures** to better understand the causes of the maternal health crisis in the United States and inform solutions to address it.
7. Support moms with **maternal mental health** conditions and substance use disorders.
8. Improve maternal health care and support for **incarcerated moms**.
9. Invest in **digital tools** to improve maternal health outcomes in underserved areas.
10. Promote **innovative payment models** to incentivize high-quality maternity care and non-clinical support during and after pregnancy.
11. Invest in federal programs to address **maternal and infant health risks during public health emergencies**.
12. Invest in community-based initiatives to reduce levels of and exposure to **climate change-related risks** for moms and babies.
13. Invest in **research** to reduce preventable causes of maternal deaths, end disparities, and improve health for women before, during, and after pregnancy.
14. Promote **maternal vaccinations** to protect the health of moms and babies.

For more information or to cosponsor, contact
Momnibus@mail.house.gov



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](#)



SINCE
1911

Reading Program

2027 Reading Program will be released on September 1, 2026.

In the meantime, check out 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 offer programs in English, Korean, and Spanish.

Happening In the Districts

Korean UWFaith/UMW

Korean Praise Night Highlights





Left to right: Suckhee Cha, Sue Chang, You Sim Kim, June Neumann, Beth Jayapalan, JJ Kim, Judith Siaba, Catherine Inserra, Andrea Thomas, Hae Shin, Marlene Stratton, Barb Farley

Lake North District

Lake North District Annual Celebration
Saturday, September 26
9:30 a.m.

North Prairie United Methodist Church
Kenosha Rd, 5000 West 9th St, Winthrop Harbor, IL 60099

View the flyer [HERE](#)
Registration Form [HERE](#)
Register online [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

Register online [HERE](#)
Registration form [HERE](#)



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

We HOPE you will join us to celebrate Prairie Central on September 19. Crystal Lake: First Church HOPES you will enjoy their breakfast fellowship starting at 8:30 check-in. The leadership team HOPES you will register by September 12 using their Google Form noted below. Can you guess our THEME? Come, just to be sure you guessed correctly!

Register online [HERE](#)
Flyer and Registration Form [HERE](#)

View Prairie Central District's latest newsletter [HERE](#)

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

View the flyer [HERE](#)
Registration form [HERE](#)

View Prairie North District's latest newsletter [HERE](#)

Prairie South District

Prairie South District Annual Celebration

Saturday, September 19

9:00 a.m.

United Church of Sandwich

512 Lions Rd, Sandwich, IL 60548

Registration form [HERE](#)

Community



More Than A Children's Home: Keeping Families Together

By Ginger Mills

Cunningham Children's Home is becoming so much more than a children's home these days. Our Intensive Placement Stabilization (IPS) program helps some of the most vulnerable children and youth in our community remain safe, supported and connected. Through our partnership with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), IPS provides intensive, short-term support to children and foster families facing emotional, behavioral, or family challenges that could otherwise lead to a placement disruption.

The impact of IPS is profound. Your support helps provide crisis intervention and family support that gives children the stability they need during uncertain times. Rather than allowing a child to experience another move, another school change, or another loss of connection, Cunningham's IPS staff work to preserve relationships, strengthen families and create pathways to permanency. Sometimes, the greatest outcome of all is helping a child find a forever family, as outline in this success story below.

Dear Members of UWFaith,

I'd love to tell you about Amaya, a sweet young girl I've had the privilege of getting to know and work with over the past nine months.

When I first met Amaya, she had just turned four years old and was full of energy and spunk. She had been placed with her foster parents, Troy and Amanda, when she was just a couple of days old, and they were the only parents she had ever known.

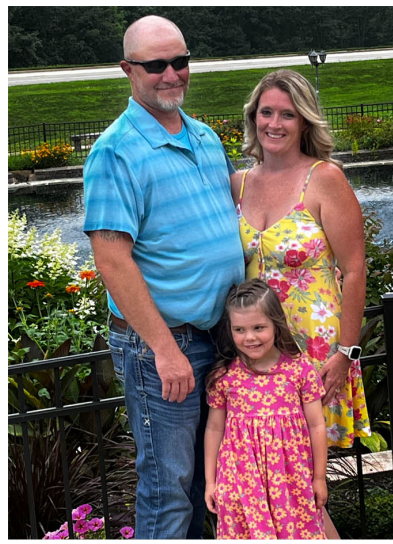
Throughout my time working with Amaya, Troy and Amanda were incredibly supportive of our IPS (Intensive Placement Stabilization) services. They welcomed us into their home each month for family therapy and psychoeducation, both for Amaya and for themselves as caregivers. Their dedication to helping her succeed and thrive in their home long-term was evident and inspiring.

It was truly a pleasure working with this family. Being able to sit in on Amaya's adoption hearing was something I will always carry with me. Witnessing her officially become part of the family she has always known—and seeing how they had already accepted her as one of their own—was an incredibly special experience.

On that day, I saw firsthand what hope, commitment and love can make possible. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have worked with this family and to have been a small part of their journey.

Thank you for supporting the work that makes moments like this possible. Your generosity helps families receive the guidance, encouragement and support they need as they build stronger futures together.

*With gratitude,
Alexis Wininger, Family Therapist
Cunningham Children's Home*





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 August 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



LUCY RIDER MEYER'S LEGACY LIVES ON

The August 6th virtual Deaconess/Home Missioner (DHM) discernment event hosted 60+ candidates which is exciting! This event gives individuals the opportunity to hear stories from other DHM, learn of the requirements, and ask questions. Our Order of DHM is growing as lay people respond to God's calling on their lives. When I was consecrated in May 2018 at the UMW Assembly in Columbus, OH, I thought my full-time ministry in Christian Education would be forever. Circumstances changed, and in February 2019, I started my current position as Manager of Faith & Community Relations for Kids Above All.

Much to my delight, during the summer of 2022, Professor Lisa Shaver from Baylor University in Texas contacted me through a mutual contact at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. The reason for her visit was to examine Lucy Rider Meyer's papers stored in the seminary archives because she was writing a book about her. Who is writing a book about Lucy? Lisa is! Recently, Lisa sent me an excerpt based on what we discussed. I hope you will read below to be reminded of this foundress and faithful friend.

Here is an excerpt to be included in Professor Shaver's book:

...Rider Meyer's rhetorical labor and legacy are intertwined. Through her rhetorical labor, Rider Meyer contributed to the emergence of the professional church woman as well as women's increased voice and influence in the church. Early deaconesses were also pioneers in the field of social work and accessible healthcare. And the deaconess role, which still exists, is a manifestation of Rider Meyer's belief that churches need to be active in their communities helping to address pressing social needs.

The Deaconess Orphanage, today Kids Above All, is one of forty organizations that were linked directly to Rider Meyer and her CTS students when she retired. These included twelve deaconess homes, ten hospitals, seven schools, four girls' homes, four orphanages, two homes for elderly, and a retirement home for deaconesses. Like Kids Above All, many of these institutions still exist. Wesley Memorial Hospital, which Rider Meyer helped found in Chicago in 1888 operates today as Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Consecrated as a deaconess in 2018, Inserra told me, "I've become good friends with Lucy in my role with Kids Above All." Inserra works as the Manager of Faith and Community Relations for Kids Above All, a Chicago area nonprofit. Its mission is "Building better lives for children and families impacted by poverty, violence, and injustice," and it pursues this mission through early childhood education; safe, supportive housing; and trauma informed counseling. Despite numerous name changes and reorganizations, one hundred and thirty-two years later, Kids Above All is still helping children and is still actively supported by a deaconess. Inserra knows this legacy, and with her life-size cutout of Rider Meyer at her side, she often shares it. In her community relations role, she continues to support this institution through her own rhetorical labor...

UWFaith NIC, thank you for your constant support and love. When you are planning to host a UWFaith district event, unit meeting either in-person or virtual, considering mission support

for children and families, Kids Above All is our Methodist-affiliated, child-serving agency in the NIC and beyond, please contact me to discuss and arrange.

Catherine Inserra

KAA Manager of Faith and Community Relation, UVC Vice President, and UWFaith NIC Spiritual Growth Coordinator

cinserra@kidsaboveall.org

847.224.2870

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](#)
Read the Illinois Great Rivers Conference newsletter [HERE](#)

National



Are you ready to be Unstoppable? Quarterly Officer training will be held on September 17! United Women in Faith Leadership Development is offering quarterly officer training to leaders at all levels. The quarterly training will focus on the Unstoppable Member Growth Campaign. Please register [HERE](#) – Thursday, September 17, 2026 (6 p.m.- 8 p.m. CT) for this quarterly training session focused on growing our membership!

This virtual session will feature guest presenters from the United Women in Faith Engage, Membership, Nurture, and Development Team, who will equip you with fresh ideas to welcome new generations of women into our sisterhood!

Registration for quarterly (Q3) training is open to local unit, district, and conference officers. We hope you will join us - please register to learn more about the Unstoppable movement: a bold, four-year journey to reach more than 500,000 women with our message of Real Faith. Real Women. Real Community.

For questions, contact leadershipdevelopment@uwfaith.org.

UWFaith has closed the online store. 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.



Find answers
here

United Women in Faith
Resource Center FAQ

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

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

[Sign up for E-News](#)

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!