



United
Women
in Faith

INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

October 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

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](#)

UWFaith NIC Annual Celebration

Registration Form [HERE](#)

Register online [HERE](#)

The cost is \$15 per person

[View the proposed budget](#) [HERE](#)

View the proposed slate of officers [HERE](#)

[View the Standing Rules 2027-2030](#) [HERE](#)



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**

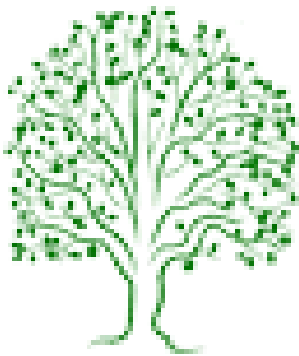
Our speaker will be Tony A. Kearney Sr., CEO
of Northcott Neighborhood House in
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The meeting will be held at Downers Grove: First.
1032 Maple Av., Downers Grove, IL 60515

In the Conference



Rita L. Smith from Resurrection UMC is the new president (2026-2031) of the North American Area World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. The election took place in Auckland, New Zealand, in August.



World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women



Lois Moreland Dean was elected to the Board of Directors of the United Women in Faith Corporation, 2026-2030.



United
Women
in Faith

Leave a Legacy

LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE = \$57,532,677.60!
There is now less than \$3 million needed to reach the goal of \$60 million!

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!**

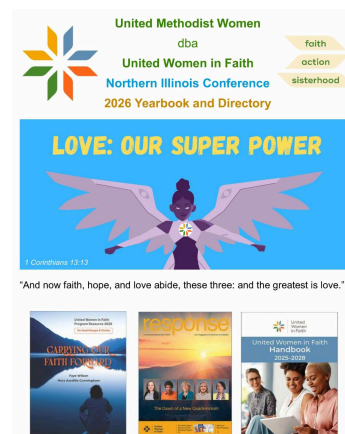
Much thanks for your faithfulness and help.

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



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](#)

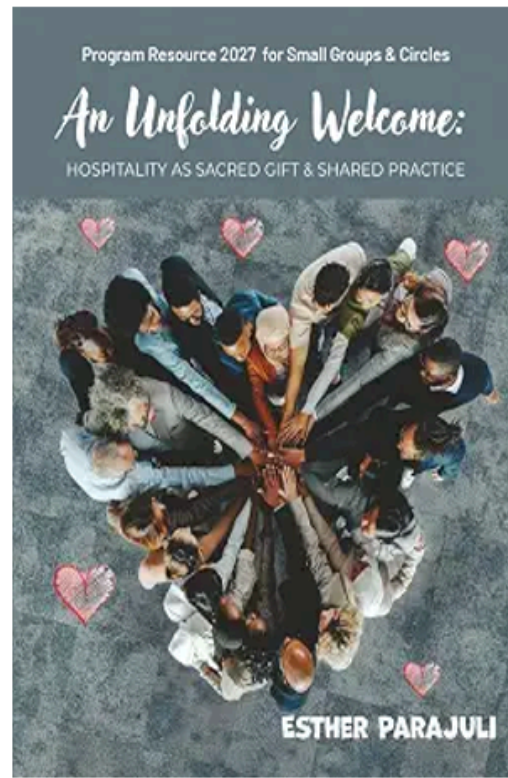
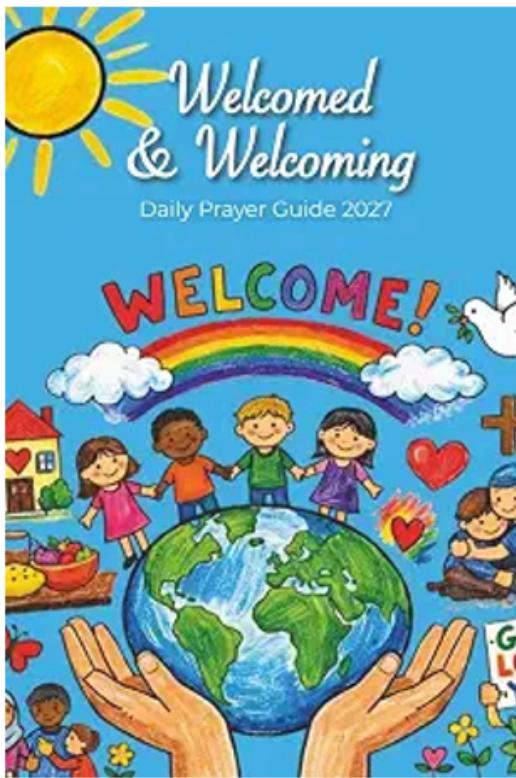


SINCE
1911

Program Resources

2027 Reading Program - View the catalog [HERE](#).

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.



Introducing a New Look for the Daily Prayer Guide and Program Resource!

This year, both the Daily Prayer Guide and Program Resource are available in a new, lightweight, book-style format. The updated design makes these resources easier to carry to meetings, keep close at hand, and store on your bookshelf.

A New Look. The Same Meaningful Resources.

The updated design also helps us be good stewards of our resources. Lower production costs mean more mission dollars can be invested in programs and ministries that make a difference around the world.

Whether you turn to the Daily Prayer Guide for daily inspiration and prayer or the Program Resource for meaningful study and engagement, you'll find the same trusted content in a format that's easier to carry and enjoy.

The same resources you value—now in a format that's even easier to enjoy, more convenient, and helps extend the reach of our mission.

[Order your Daily Prayer Guide here](#)

[Order your 2027 Program Resource here](#)

Happening In the Districts

Lake South District

Blessings Sisters and Friends in Christ,

On this last day of September, I find myself reflecting on the extraordinary time we had at our Harvest of Blessings Annual Celebration. I am so grateful to have shared this past Saturday with you all. Thank you for bringing your spirit and for uniting with us in worship, fellowship, and in the mission of United Women in Faith. Thank you to our guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Michelle Watkins, for celebrating God's goodness with us, and to Resurrection United Women in Faith for your hospitality and dedication. Special thanks to our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Nanabray, and Rev. Dr. Barbara Morgan, Pastor of South Shore United Methodist Church, for worshipping alongside us.



Click on the picture above to view the 2026 UWFaith Lake South District highlights.

Before September comes to an end, take in the blessings of 2026 leading up to this year's Annual Celebration by viewing our highlights on YouTube! We hope these special memories keep your hearts expectant as we look forward to even more of God's goodness, favor, and abundance in the season ahead and into the upcoming new year. Let's keep tending the garden of our faith with gratitude, trust, and God's Word!

Remember that you are loved. You are valued. You are unstoppable! Stay encouraged in Christ Jesus.

Peace and Love,
Alison Jenkins, President
United Women in Faith Lake South District

Prairie Central District

While it was gloomy outside, the fellowship inside First Church: Crystal Lake was warm and inviting for the Prairie Central Annual Celebration. Members of UWFaith Crystal Lake: First prepared a lovely breakfast for us, and we had time to fellowship. We began our "business" for the day with a lovely centering prayer and beautiful music, then continued with updates on finding resources, the Legacy Fund, and social action. Pastor Lisa Kruse Safford enriched us with a wonderful message of hope, including examples of women in the Bible and Methodist history who are examples of Biblical hope. She then blessed the many pairs of socks--and the children and youth who will receive them--for "surely the time is coming" when they will be needed to keep small feet warm. The socks were for fostered tots to teens served by Kids In Need, Crystal Lake. Thank you for your generosity!



But perhaps most exciting was that four women volunteered to serve on the leadership team--in fact, doubling the size of our team! We are so grateful for these women who have taken a leap of faith and offered their time and talents to our team!

Community



Changing Lives

By Ginger Mills

At Cunningham, we are becoming more so we can meet more needs and change more lives. While many people know us for our residential treatment program, today Cunningham is a comprehensive child welfare and educational agency serving nearly 1,000 children, youth, young adults, and families each year. Through programs such as CIRCLE Academy, HopeSprings Counseling Services, residential treatment, and community-based supports, we are expanding access to mental health care, education, and family services across East Central Illinois.

By intervening earlier, strengthening families, and building partnerships with schools, churches, businesses, and community organizations, we are creating brighter futures for those we serve. As the needs of children continue to grow, so does our commitment to providing hope, healing, and opportunity. Together, we are becoming more, reaching more children, supporting more families, and transforming more lives.



THE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS WE SERVE:
Champaign and Urbana, as well as nine counties in East Central Illinois

OUR PROGRAMS SERVE:
Children, youth, young adults and their families, often from tough places, confronting real challenges. We transform lives by helping children and their families find hope.

HOW WE HELP:

Education and Vocational Programs Providing therapeutic special education programs for students facing academic, behavioral and emotional challenges and empowering them with the skills and support they need to succeed in school, at work and in life	Residential Programs Providing a supportive, therapeutic living environment where youth receive care and treatment throughout their daily routines, turning everyday interactions into opportunities for learning, healing and growth	Case Management and Housing Programs Providing guidance and advocacy while creating pathways toward independence and stability that promote long-term well-being	HopeSprings Counseling Services Offering counseling expertise to youth and families in our community who are experiencing a difficult life situation	Family Stability Assisting families in crisis by helping them enhance parenting skills, establish support systems and provide optimal care for their children
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VISION

to see every child thrive

MISSION

to nourish hope through effective solutions so children thrive and families flourish

CORE VALUES

spirituality

respecting the belief that a greater power guides us

teamwork

achieving excellence by doing our part to support one another

integrity

being ethical, accountable and transparent

respect

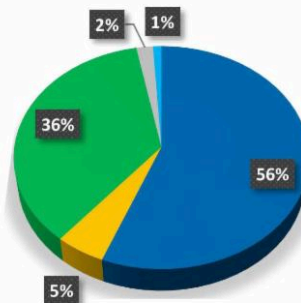
valuing and honoring all people with an open mind and heart

excellence

achieving the highest standards in all we do, continuously learning, growing and improving

STRATEGIC ADVANTAGES:

- Trauma-Informed, Relationship-Centered Care**
 We build trust first—serving children and families through deep relationships grounded in trauma-informed practice and whole-family support.
- Holistic, Individualized Programs that Support Lifelong Stability and Growth**
 Our care addresses physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs, with personalized plans, strong transitions to adulthood, and meaningful aftercare.
- Exceptional People, Strong Values and Trusted Partnerships**
 Compassionate staff, engaged leadership and a faith-rooted mission—combined with sought-after partnerships—make Cunningham a trusted leader in child and family services.
- Financial Strength and Community Roots for Lasting Impact**
 A broad donor base, solid endowment and well-resourced campus ensure stability, innovation and long-term impact for those who need us most.



FY26 Total Operating Budget: \$35 million
OUR FUNDING SOURCES:

- Government Funding: State, federal and local contracted programs/grants
- Charitable Support: Advancement revenue
- Fee for Service: HopeSprings and School revenue
- Endowment
- Other: Farm income, UWFaith InKind Lease



Emma Norton

The Journey Home Begins Here

The State Fair is over, which means fall in Minnesota has begun! We had a busy summer, and it's shaping up to be an even busier fall. We have another special fundraiser coming up in early October with our friends at Centennial UMC, and of course we're kicking off our annual coat and winter gear drive.

To wrap up the summer, we have so much gratitude to share for the support given to our programs over the last month. We had so many awesome donors come through with support for back-to-school supplies, and record-breaking numbers of visitors at Hamline Dining Hall on our Emma Norton volunteer day. We also celebrated the end of summer with a Talent Show at Emma's Place and celebrated our youth as they headed back to school.

Thank you for supporting us over an exciting summer full of change and opportunity!

With gratitude,

The Emma Norton Team

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

Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, East St. Louis, Illinois



Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House is a multi-purpose, faith based community center in relationship with the United Methodist Church. Our mission is to empower individuals and families to move out of poverty and achieve self-sufficiency. We aim to assure that a new generation of children has the support needed to be successful in school and in life.

View their website [HERE](#).



Check out what other conferences are doing.

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

National

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.



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](#)

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