



Hinsdale United Methodist Church

www.hinsdaleumc.com

The Flame

June 2018

Celebrating Connections Across the Years

The summer months at HUMC will be filled with an unbelievable array of activities to facilitate extensive intergenerational and intragenerational connections. A vibrant, healthy institution from church to school to family is characterized by collaborative relationships that combine energy and wisdom; strength and liberty; laughter and love; and gratitude and grace. From the first Sunday Service in June that includes the sacrament of communion and the celebration of the graduates, as well as Strawberry Strav Church Picnic and the concert by the Mount Bethel UMC youth choir to VBS and the ASP worship service, the worship services and other activities this summer will be innovative.

The youth ministry continues to grow and the numbers of opportunities for youth to participate continue to increase. While we are continuing our search for an Associate Director of Youth Ministry, the youth committee and the other staff are developing new ways to engage the youth and their families. Over the past few months, the youth have become more involved in the praise band, PADS, laser tag games, and gatherings hosted by various members. During the summer months, there will be key discussions offered for the youth concomitantly with the worship services that will feature members of the church and authors from the community. Additionally, the worship services will be adjusted in ways to make them more appealing to youth, young adults and families.

One of the many highlights of upcoming events at the church is the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) mission trip. This year, the ASP team from HUMC will include 26 participants. Among the participants are several youth accompanied by their friends and their parents. The ASP team from HUMC also includes several other adults from the church and their friends! We will present the ASP team during the worship service Sunday, June 3. The ASP team will depart from the church early Saturday morning, June 9 to travel to the work site. The HUMC ASP team will connect with the ASP team from Geneva UMC to caravan to Virginia. Keith Worthington, a longtime member of Geneva UMC, has served as their ASP coordinator since 1992 and he has been tremendously helpful in helping to incorporate HUMC into the Geneva team. In addition to looking forward to receiving daily updates from our ASP team, we will look forward to ASP Sunday at HUMC in August when we will hear from the HUMC participants during the worship service.

The intergenerational emphasis of the HUMC will also be witnessed during the week of Vacation Bible School (VBS) and the other outreach and missions activities of the church. Typically, youth who have participated in VBS as children, return to serve as helpers during the VBS week, July 9 to 13. Youth from the church and visiting grandchildren of members of the church also participate in VBS. The Pet Blessing Service (July 8) immediately precedes VBS and serves as a creative way to connect pet lovers of all ages. Members of the congregation and the staff have therapy dogs which have been used at the church and in the community to offer comfort. The month of July will end with a pulpit exchange with Olivet UMC on July 29. Several weeks ago, members of HUMC attended the youth anniversary service at Olivet UMC. The service was inspiring because of the message delivered by one of the youth from Neighborhood UMC in Maywood and because of the significant leadership exhibited by the youth of Olivet UMC.

The summer months will also be a time of tremendous change among the staff and other participants in the ministries of the church. Rev. Dr. Daniel Cochran will end his time at HUMC on June 10; Dr. HD Mitchell's "re-retirement" celebration will be July 22; Ms. Aubrey Carlquist, one of the nursery workers, will be leaving in August; and Sean Robinson, one of the AV techs, has already concluded his time at the church. Their presence and participation in the church represent a breadth of experiences that have enriched the ministries in innumerable ways. From those who have welcomed and shared the giggles and enthusiasm of the youngest to those who have journeyed through the laughter, wisdom, and service of those who are among the oldest of the congregation, the amalgamation of talents and interests have been incredibly meaningful to HUMC.

Look forward to receiving more information about the various ministries and upcoming activities at the church. Let me know if there are additional ways that we can expand our emphasis on the vision priorities of the church: (1) Increase the number of new, regular participants; (2) Be relevant to all, but put a special focus on families with school-age children; (3) Be the definition of a faith home; and (4) Include everyone in relevant mission.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Jon McCoy

Summer Office Hours



Please note HUMC's Summer office hours through Monday, September 3:

Monday through Thursday - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Summer Reading List 2018

By Rev. Dr. Jon McCoy

Summer is already upon us, from the unbelievable heat (there have been several days in Illinois recently that were warmer than Mississippi!) to the frenetic pace of scheduling activities. Although the summer is intended to be a relaxing, refreshing time of rejuvenation, it can seem almost impossible to dial-down the level of intensity that life seems to demand. Among the most appealing times of the summer beyond traveling, gathering with family, and attending conferences are the moments to read a good book while enjoying a summer breeze.

Below are some of the books I'm looking forward to reading (some were so enjoyable, I'm reading them again) with some brief notes.

1. **The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas.** Angie is a native of Jackson, Mississippi and a graduate of Belhaven University, also in Jackson. The title of her book is based upon part of a tattoo that Tupac Shakur often displayed. Her book explores the reactions to the murder of an unarmed teen by a policeman. The book began as a simple college essay that she simply couldn't stop writing.
2. **Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High by Kerry Patterson.** This book was recommended by a good friend who pastors a large church in Mississippi. This award-winning book introduces strategies to transform anger and hurt feelings into powerful dialogue. It is often extremely difficult to be persuasive without appearing abrasive.
3. **1968: A Story as Relevant Today as It Was Then by William Natale.** Bill Natale is a close friend of several members of the congregation and I've enjoyed getting to know him over the past few years. As a native of Chicago, he shares quite candidly about some of his experiences as a teenager coming of age during the tumultuous times of 1968.
4. **Raise Your GPA: God's Way to Win @ School & Life by Jonathan Banks.** Elder Banks has lived in Oak Park and served a church on the south side of Chicago for many years. He and his wife are the proud parents of two high school-aged sons. His book provides clear insights for youth, parents and anyone interested in helping teens achieve and develop spiritually.
5. **America's Original Sin by Jim Wallis.** As one of the leading prophetic voices of modern society, Rev. Wallis draws upon his early experiences in the Midwest and examines them through the lens of contemporary issues that confront the church and the community.
6. **Market Cities, People Cities: The Shape of Our Urban Future by Michael Emerson.** Dr. Emerson is the president of North Park University located in the Chicago metropolitan area. Through sermons, lectures, and other

speaking engagements, he shares personal experiences that invite us to examine the ways our assumptions about the makeup of communities are based upon significant misinformation.

7. **The Anatomy of Peace: Resolving the Heart of Conflict by the Harbinger Institute.** This book has been recommended by several bishops and other denominational leaders to assist United Methodists navigate the difficult discussions that have consumed many congregations and conference delegations. It often seems impossible to disagree without choosing to sever relationships. Conversations devolve into verbal volleys designed to destroy rather than understand and grow.
8. **Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson.** Mr. Stevenson is an attorney who is committed to the cause of justice. His mild, methodical manner of speaking and writing is almost disarming. However, he carefully builds a case that many of our institutions act counter to their assumed purposes—schools that don't educate and courts that deny rather than protect the rights of all.
9. **The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation by Natalie Moore.** As a native of Chicago, Ms. Moore draws upon personal experiences to describe the challenges of the city she loves and its subtle flaws that she loathes. She describes how the housing bubble of ten years ago proved to be a brick-filled dream that crashed upon the heads that just began to look up to hopes of a brighter future.
10. **The New York Times Tons of Puns Crosswords: 75 Punny Puzzles from the Pages of The New York Times by Will Shortz.** My wife, Robbye, and I have enjoyed puzzle master Will Shortz for over twenty years. Although many of his recent books focus on one of Robbye's new obsessions—Sudoku, this book of puns should be much more "up my alley."

What books are you looking forward to reading over the summer? Please share your reading list or other summer traditions with me. Perhaps, we can swap stories over a refreshing glass of sun tea by the lake.

Youth Summer Series

During the summer months, there will be several opportunities for youth to gather during the latter portion of the **9:30 worship hour**. These gatherings will be led by members of the congregation and some will feature noted authors from the community. On the Sundays that the youth remain in the Sanctuary, there will be a special effort to increase the youth's connections to the worship service.

On **Sunday, July 8**, the youth will have an opportunity to engage in conversations with some of the college students and recent graduates who are home for the summer about their journeys following graduation.



On **Sunday, July 22**, the youth will have the opportunity to talk with Bill Natale about his recent book "1968: A Story as Relevant Today as it was Then."

[Learn more about Bill Natale and his book here](#)

On **Sunday, August 5**, Brad Bloom, former chief of police for the city of Hinsdale and confirmation mentor, will talk with the students.



On **Sunday, August 26**, Rev. Jonathan Banks will talk to the youth about his recent book "Raise Your GPA: God's Way to Win @ School & Life."

[Learn more about Rev. Banks and his book here](#)

Staff Parish Relations Committee News



Appointment Announcement for Rev. Dr. Daniel Cochran

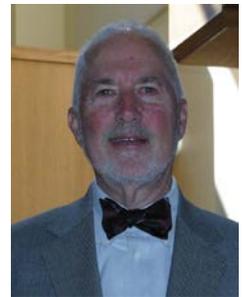
I share with you news that Bishop Sally Dyck has appointed me to Grace UMC in Naperville for a fulltime appointment as Associate Pastor beginning on July 1. My last Sunday at HUMC will be June 10, and I will depart HUMC with a full heart; I am immensely grateful for the kindness and love this congregation has shown to me, my wife Lauren, and our children Chesley and Avanelle, as well as for your encouragement through the culmination of my doctoral studies, and for the many ways you supported and challenged my ministry over this past year. Most of all I have enjoyed worshipping with you and being a part of this committed family of faith.

Thank you,

Rev. Dr. Daniel Cochran

Pastor HD Mitchell's Retirement Plans

As he approaches 78, Pastor HD and Beth Mitchell are selling their condo/vehicle and preparing to move to a retirement community in Chicago. His last Sunday at HUMC will be May 20. Pastor HD has served our congregation as Minister of Pastoral Care for the better part of four years. In addition, prior to his current role, he preached and provided pastoral support while former Pastor Carol Brown was recovering from surgery. He says, "This is the best job I've ever had! Not many clergy get a second chance to do what they enjoy. The people and staff of HUMC have been very generous in their acceptance of my ministry and I am most grateful." A celebration of Pastor HD's ministry with us will be held on **Sunday, July 22**.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to our AV Technician, Sean Robinson, who is graduating from Lyons Township High School on June 3. May 27 was Sean's last Sunday at HUMC. Thank you for your work and service at HUMC! Best wishes in the future.

Welcome Jill Hinrichs

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Jill Hinrichs as our new Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation. Jill will continue the work done by Pastor HD Mitchell who is retiring at the end of May. Jill will start her new role on June 1 and will be introduced to the congregation on Sunday, June 3. Her ministry will focus on providing attention, guidance, and spiritual support to those at HUMC particularly those who are ill, grieving, and experiencing the stress of life transitions. She will also support the Adult Education ministry by leading classes quarterly in her areas of expertise. She will also help coordinate our Stephen Ministry program as they seek to support those in need within our congregation.

Jill has a Lutheran background with undergrad and master's degrees in social work from Augustana and UIC-Jane Adams respectively. She has done extensive work in areas such as hospice, bereavement, and aging. Her ability to connect both individually and within a group setting will allow her to minister effectively within our congregation. I know she looks forward to becoming involved in HUMC's Prayer Chain and learning about the members of our congregation. Please join us welcoming Jill to our congregation.

HUMC Preschool Celebration

Thank you to all who made the May 6th Preschool Celebration a success! The outpouring of love and fond memories from all who attended the service and reception made for a wonderful retirement send-off to Preschool Director Meg Stone and a fitting tribute to the program's 50+ years. Thank you to those who participated in the service, volunteered at the reception, contributed to the Memory Lane displays and videos, and worked behind the scenes with us to make the celebration memorable. While it was bittersweet to "celebrate" the closing of the Preschool, we hope you were reminded of the many lives touched by HUMC's Parent Child Preschool Program over its five decades. Details will be forthcoming on where to view photos and videos from the event online.

With many thanks, Dick Kingman, Laura Candela, and Kristi Chadwick



From the Worship Committee

Sunday, June 3

Worship and Communion at 9:30 a.m., ASP Mission Trip Participants and Graduate Recognition, Annual Church Picnic at 11:00 a.m., and Mount Bethel UMC Youth Choir Concert at 4:00 p.m.

Graduation Sunday

Calling all Graduates from 8th grade to Grad School and beyond! Please join us in worship on **Graduation Sunday, June 3 at 9:30 a.m.** Following the service there will be a reception honoring all of our HUMC graduates.



Annual Church Picnic

This year's church picnic will be held on **Sunday, June 3 after the 9:30am service.** We will feature our traditional strawberry-ice cream-cake dessert. Also, we will have hot dogs, brats, chips, soda, and condiments, and a bounce house for the kids. All you can eat for \$5 per adult, no charge for kids high school age and under. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for the church service and for the picnic. Everyone is welcome!

Mount Bethel UMC Youth Choir Concert

On **Sunday, June 3 at 4:00 p.m.**, the Mount Bethel UMC Voice of Truth youth choir will be appearing in concert at HUMC! The choir, from Marietta, Georgia, includes students from 6th to 12th grades. The theme for this year's tour is "Grace", and the anchor scripture is Ephesians 2:8 – "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God". This will be a performance you won't want to miss!



Sunday, June 10

Worship and Communion at 9:30 a.m.
for Pastor Daniel Cochran's Farewell Celebration

Sunday, June 17 - Father's Day and All-Things-With-Wheels' Blessing

Calling all motorcycle and car enthusiasts! Join us for this special worship service on **Sunday, June 17 at 9:30 a.m.** and activities following. If you have a collectible or simple "favorite" motorcycle or car you wish to have blessed or have on display, please contact Rev. McCoy. Parking for motorcycles and show cars will be at the East side of our church parking lot.



Do You Have a Story About Your First Car?

Father's Day is **Sunday, June 17**. Join us during the 9:30 a.m. service and after worship in the Narthex as we celebrate all our Dads! In celebration of Father's Day and our special Wheels Blessing, every church member is asked to **submit a favorite story of their first car and a photo of their first car**. The photos will be shown in the Sanctuary during worship on Father's Day. Please submit your photo **by Monday, June 11**. Stories and photos can be submitted electronically to cheryl.huetson@hinsdaleumc.com or given to the office to be scanned.



Mark Your Calendar!

Sunday, June 24 Rev. Dr. Mark Teasdale, Guest Preaching

Sunday, July 8 Pet Blessing Service

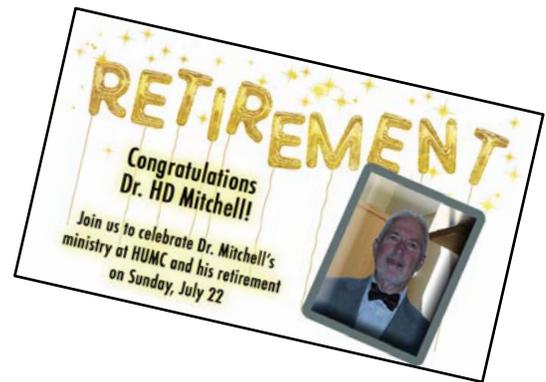


Together, we will celebrate the importance of animals in our lives and give thanks for the wonder of God's creation on **Sunday, July 8**. At 8:30 a.m., bring your pet and your family to this special 30-minute outdoor service of prayer, blessing, and readings. Invite those you meet walking their dogs to come along and join us! All animals are welcome. In case of inclement weather, service will take place in the church basement. At 9:30 a.m., kids are invited to bring your favorite stuffed animal to our regular indoor worship service. A blessing of the animals will take place during Children's Time.

Sunday, July 15 VBS Sunday

Sunday, July 22 Dr. HD Mitchell Preaching
and Farewell Celebration

Sunday, July 29 Pulpit Exchange with Olivet UMC



Children's Ministry

Hinsdale United Methodist Church proudly presents our Vacation Bible School 2018 program **Rolling River Rampage – Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!**

July 9 to July 13, 2018 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Get ready for a fun week where we find Adventure, Acceptance, Joy, Rest, and Peace on the river! It is an action packed adventure your kids won't want to miss! They will also explore God's promises for their lives, encounter exciting Bible stories from the life of Jesus, and discover ways to serve God and others.

The cost of registration is \$60 per child. Please note age restrictions on the registration forms. These are policies set in place and have the best interests of all children in mind. We only have 130 spaces available, so get your registration in as soon as possible to ensure that you will have a spot! Your fee covers: a healthy daily snack, a VBS t-shirt, a CD per family of VBS music, daily crafts, the cost of renting special inflatables/animal rides that we have already lined up for some days of VBS.

Please don't forget to indicate what size t-shirt your child requires on their registration form. Please mail or drop off your registration form(s) with payment to the church office. ***Please fill out a separate form for each child registering.*** Registration forms can be found in the church office or [you can download it here](#). One check per family can be made out to Hinsdale UMC (memo: VBS).

Volunteers are needed! If you or your teen is interested in volunteering, please see the sign-up sheets in the Narthex or [download the volunteer form here](#) and return it to the church office. I am looking forward to a great week together.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the church at 630-325-1280 or contact me.

Your VBS Director and Children's Ministry Director, Jennifer Austgen

jennifer.austgen@hinsdaleumc.com



Youth Ministry

This spring was a very exciting time for youth ministry at HUMC. We debuted a new Confirmation Curriculum that condensed the old 2-year format into an 8-week series for our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. This approach allowed for greater continuity in our lesson plan from week to week and encouraged a concentrated commitment from our youth and their families. Together we explored the stories and lessons of both the Old and New Testaments, we talked about our Christian tradition as one of many world religions, and we learned about the history and unique aspects of Methodism. We also served together, working with the PADS volunteers to set up the sleeping pads, prepare dinner, and offer games and crafts for the local guests. Perhaps most importantly, however, we shared time and stories together, getting to know one another and experiencing what it means to be part of the Body of Christ here at Hinsdale and beyond. We celebrate the Confirmation of Olivia Allen, Dean Assicurato, Leah Bradley, Sam Cadena, Cole Clawson, Paige Lambert, Kyle Tausk, and Evan Vlahakis. Let us all welcome them with open arms as members of the Church!

Congratulations Confirmands!



Family Ministry

During the 2017-2018 year, we offered a number of opportunities for the families of HUMC to come together for fellowship and formation. We kicked off the year with a wonderful picnic at Prospect Park in Clarendon Hills attended by over 70 members and friends of the church. During the year, parents had the opportunity to gather during the education hour on Sundays to study and discuss books relevant to parenting. Our Men's and Women's Fellowship groups convened monthly to offer parents time to connect and enjoy each other's company in a more casual, social setting. During Advent and Lent families came together with staff of the church to learn about our Christian story and tradition through games and crafts. We wrapped up the school year with another cookout on May 18 at Prospect Park; we enjoyed an evening together with kids romping on the jungle gym and families roasting marshmallow s'mores after the sun went down. We look forward to hearing from our youth and adults who participate in the Appalachia Service Project this summer and then reconvening in the fall for another year of family ministry.



Upcoming Small Groups



Men's Group Lunch and Discussion

The Men's Group meets in the Fireside Room the **first Friday of each month at 12:00 Noon**. Bring a sack lunch and join in the conversation. Current events, community news, joys, and concerns are discussed. New members are always welcome!

Upcoming discussions: June 1, July 6, August 3



Knit or Knot

The Knit or Knot Ministry meets the **third Wednesday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.** in the Fireside Room. During a time of fellowship; shawls, pillows, sweaters and blankets are created to comfort those in need and to celebrate life's joys. Each piece becomes an expression of love – and the loving care of God who works through the crafters. As each piece of work reaches completion it is passed around the circle and blessed by each crafter's hands.

Upcoming meetings: June 20, July 18, August 15



Stepping Stones Monthly Social

The mission of Stepping Stones is to support widows and widowers in a Christian social environment. All widows and widowers are welcome. Join us on **second Tuesday of each month** in Fellowship Hall for our gathering. Please contact the church office with questions.

Upcoming meetings: June 12, July 10, August 14

United Methodist Women



HUMC's local unit of *United Methodist Women* is comprised of three "CIRCLES" that meet the **2nd Thursday**, September through May. Circles are a time for spiritual growth, mission & service activities and food & fellowship. We would love to have you join us! For questions, please call Mrs. El Lober or Mrs. Betty Drucker or read more on our [HUMW page](#).

Our United Methodist Women Circles meet September to May on the 2nd Thursday of the month. In May, the Mary Circle members enjoyed each other's company and a delicious brunch before writing cards to our HUMC graduates. The Priscilla Circle members enjoyed a salad lunch in Fellowship Hall. UMW Circles do not hold regular meetings during the summer months but we do have a summer coffee with lots of yummy snacks. **All women from the church are cordially invited to join us on Thursday, July 26 at 9:30 a.m.** New circle members are always welcome!



What do remodeling and growth spurts have in common?

Both remodeling and growth spurts mean "out with the old and in with the new!", and the Hinsdale United Methodist Women want to help you by finding a place for the old.

This fall the UMW is partnering with Olivet to provide a warming ministry for the Pilsen neighborhood. Beginning in September and continuing through Christmas, we will be delivering items to Olivet to help them get through the winter. We are collecting new and gently used blankets and comforters to provide warmth at home, as heat in a residence during cold months is not a given. We will also be delivering coats, jackets, boots, scarves and gloves for distribution in the neighborhood.

We will be serving thirty to fifty residents, all ages and all genders. If you have questions, call Marsha Fisher or Sharrann Simmons. Start putting your donations aside and watch for a box for donations to appear shortly!

Missions



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TOGETHER WE THRIVE.
Since 1937

HCS Family Services – There’s Still Time to Donate!

The HUMC congregation has already generously donated \$1,300 and ten boxes of household and hygiene items to the HCS Food Pantry. Since every \$1 can purchase **\$8 worth of food** from the Northern Illinois Food Bank, our donation can provide over \$10,400 worth of food for many people who struggle to pay for all their basic needs. **There’s still time to donate! Our collection will end on Sunday, June 3**, so you still have time to contribute. Make checks payable to HUMC with HCS Family Services on the memo line and place checks in the offering plate. You can also give online at www.hinsdaleumc.com/serve/giving/.

School Supplies Collection

HUMC will again be collecting school supplies for the children in the neighborhood of Olivet United Methodist Church. This is the church in West Garfield Park which receives our holiday food boxes and gifts of warm clothing for children. The children of our VBS will begin the collection and the congregation will add to it during the month after VBS. Lists of needed supplies will be available.



We in Hinsdale donate the supplies, package them for different grade levels from preschool through high school (with an emphasis on early elementary school grades), and deliver the kits to Olivet. The members of Olivet distribute them at a back-to-school event. Most of the members of Olivet UMC, our Sister Church, grew up in this church and have moved to other parts of Chicago and suburbs, but they return to worship together and reach out to their neighbors. Our gifts help them in their mission and connection with the people living in this troubled area.

If you would like to help deliver school supplies or holiday food to Olivet and meet the caring members of Olivet UMC, please contact Rev. McCoy or Dan and Bobbie Irwin.



Bridge Communities Mentors Needed

Bridge Communities is an organization that supports families on the verge of homelessness. HUMC supports this organization by sponsoring a family who enters the program for a two-year term. Along with rental assistance, we provide a team of three mentors to support and counsel the family for those two years. Dave MacArtney, HUMC church member, recently shared the story of how Bridge Communities changed the life of our Bridge client, Sterling, and her three children. Dave also shared how being a mentor positively changed and impacted his life, as well as his wife, Jennifer, who was a mentor with him. We are in need of mentors so we can change the life of our next Bridge client. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for this very important mission of our church. Contact Sandy Usher at sandyusher224@gmail.com or 312-330-0101 if you have questions or are interested.

Status Report on The Way Forward

Proposed Revision to the Policy of The United Methodist Church on Human Sexuality

By Lennox Iton

The Commission on The Way Forward submitted its recommendation to the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church at its recent meeting in Chicago, April 29 – May 4. This was the outcome of a process designed to settle the continuing ferment over the denomination's stance on homosexuality as enunciated in the Book of Discipline. The

Commission recommended the **One-Church Model**, and it was accepted by the Council of Bishops to be put forth to the Special General Conference in St. Louis in February, 2019. This recommendation strikes the prohibition on ordination of homosexuals to the clergy from the Book of Discipline.

Under this plan, each conference would be able to decide whether to ordain LGBTQ individuals as clergy. Each pastor would be able to decide whether to perform same-sex weddings or unions. Each local church would be able to decide whether to allow same-sex weddings in its sanctuary, or receive an openly gay pastor. Those who could not in good conscience participate in same-sex weddings or ordination of LGBTQ clergy would not be required to do so. Central conferences — church regions in Africa, Europe and the Philippines — could maintain their own standards on ordination and marriage.

The two alternative plans also considered by the Commission -- the Multi-branch Model and the Traditional Model – are part of the historic narrative of the process, and will be included in the report to be presented to the General Conference by the Council of Bishops.

To learn more, [click here to read Bishop Sally Dyck's Pastoral Letter to the Northern Illinois Conference](#)

Elexio Church Software Installation

In 2016, SPRC began working with staff to develop a 3-Year Technology Plan which was shared with and supported by Trustees. It was apparent the technology and infrastructure of the church needed updating as a result of additional staff, aging technology components and infrastructure, and the availability of new technologies. Since the creation of the technology plan, the following investments and updates have taken place:

- Acquisition of 6 new laptops for the Senior Pastor, staff, and use with the Smart Board.
- A new desktop for the Church Administrator.
- Upgraded internet service, new internet modem, routers, and firewall.
- Internet landing page with new internet usage policy.
- New standardized software for staff; Windows 10, Office 365, Outlook, Adobe PDF.
- Implementation of Microsoft Exchange as the email server, replacing the outdated email service.
- Updating the Church Windows database to remove non-active members.

Working with the current SPRC, Trustees, Finance, and Rev. McCoy, the decision has been made to replace the Church Windows software with the Elexio Church Software. Our assessment has determined that Elexio offers greater functionality to improve communications within the congregation through an enhanced database and integrated website, allow improved work efficiencies of the HUMC staff, and project a more progressive environment to existing and future members of HUMC. The software has an integrated database, website, giving module, and a mobile application (for smart phones and tablets) for the benefit of the entire HUMC congregation.

A study in 2016 by a research firm, Statista, have determined that millennials use their phone to buy something at least once a month. HUMC needs to respond to changing technology and its application in everyday lives. Positioning HUMC for the upcoming generations with technology that matches how people utilize it in their everyday life is vital to attracting and retaining new members

Some key features of the Elexio mobile application include:

- On-line church directory
- Calendar of church events
- On-line giving and donations
- Recording attendance to church worship and events
- YTD giving status
- On-line registration to missions and events, including VBS

- Full integration with the HUMC website
- Group email and text functionality for use by committees

We believe that full adoption of these enhanced features will streamline coordination and the efforts of our many volunteers that make HUMC function on a daily basis. The Finance Accounting software is not affected by the Elexio system and project. Only the Giving Function will convert to the new software.

The conversion to the new Elexio system required a \$3,600 upfront payment which will be funded from a Technology Fund which was in the church reserves and monthly expense is slightly more than the cost of Church Windows and is covered by the Communications Budget. The staff cost to install the software has also been factored into the 2018 SPRC budget. The project will be led by Patti Cash and Cheryl Huetson with support from Chris Malo, the Finance Secretary.

The conversion will start this month and will take most of the summer, allowing for a full database conversion and training of staff. We will organize small group training sessions for church members to allow everyone to see the functionality of the system, organize their own personal profile in the directory, and the other many functions available on the applications. We expect the training to commence in September.

Any questions regarding the project may be directed to Patti Cash or Chris Malo.