

# Ecumenical Connection

A publication of the Illinois Conference of Churches



**December 2017**

Anti-racism 1

End-of-Life Decisions 2

Reformation observation in Chicago 3-4

Advocacy 4

Annual Assembly 5

Faith in Place 6

Snapshots 7

National events 9

Team members 10-11

## Why do we still need an anti-racism team?

[http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/12/conservatism-without-bigotry/544128/?utm\\_source=eb](http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/12/conservatism-without-bigotry/544128/?utm_source=eb)

The above links to an Atlantic essay on how conservatives and liberals are challenged to talk productively about racism. Essentially, the writer says that liberals need to be less accusatory about racism and conservatives need to be less naive about the pervasiveness of racism. (If the categories of liberal and conservative are helpful, which I doubt.)

Merely broaching the topic of racism is, indeed, perceived by many as "accusatory." I am not interested in accusing anybody. I am interested in guiding an exploration of the feelings connected with race, so that, instead of the defensiveness which is so often manifested, there might be the turning-on of a light and a common recognition of the ways in which we all have been affected by race.

I'm sure that all of us have turned these things in our minds, over and over. Fr. Kevin Laughery

(To join our anti-racism team, which meets mostly by video call, contact Laurie Vial at the email address on the back page.)

## You can all be Ecumenical Partners!

The Illinois Conference of Churches voted to forge a new membership structure. Previously, the governing bodies of denominations, located in Illinois were members – judicatories and they continue to be the foundation of our organization.

But the ICC is broadening this structure. Going forward, individual persons, individual congregations or churches (regardless of its judicatory being a member) and organizations, can become ecumenical partners and attend Annual Assembly where they will have a voice at the table. Voting is done by consensus and will continue to be the responsibility of the judicatory leaders and delegates.

All members and ecumenical partners must agree with the Mission Statement of the ICC:  
*"The Illinois Conference of Churches seeks to be an inclusive community of churches that celebrates and makes visible our sacred bonds of unity in Christ. We will do this by: Promoting an honest sharing and understanding of both our common and divergent theological convictions; and Making public, prophetic witness to Christ's love for all people, particularly by addressing poverty and racism. To these ends the members of the Illinois Conference of Churches proclaim our common faith in Jesus Christ. In word and deed, we give expression to Ephesians 4:5 – there is "... one Lord, one faith, one baptism..." – as we unite in cooperative ministries."*

To become an ecumenical partner please fill out and submit the form on the website under "news" electronically, or download and print the form to mail. By submitting or mailing this form you attest that you agree with the mission statement. Thank you for your generous support of the ICC.

## ***Task Force on End-of-Life Decisions unveils plans***

The Illinois Conference of Churches has taken on a major new project to assist all of our denominations to help their congregations better prepare for and deal with end-of-life issues. We started this program by encouraging churches to participate in the Donor Sabbath to increase awareness of organ and tissue donation. The Donor Sabbath is the second weekend of November each year. We encourage your church to start a discussion and plan to participate from now on. The website is [www.donatelife.net/nds/](http://www.donatelife.net/nds/).

Members of the Task Force will soon meet for two half day sessions to plan a page on our website with materials covering issues such as:

- hospice
- living wills
- wills
- advance planning
- funeral planning
- green funerals
- and much more

While this is a sensitive topic, it's one that our members and friends face through the loss of loved ones, and eventually themselves. As Christians we want to give our members the tools and information to ease these decisions whenever possible.

This was voted on at our November 2016 Leadership Team meeting and was the focus of our Joint Teams meeting in May of 2017. Alicja Lukaszewicz-Southall, one of our Leadership Team members, is chairing the Task Force. She invites you to join her in exploring these topics and rolling them out to our churches. E-mail [laurie@illinoisconferenceofchurches.org](mailto:laurie@illinoisconferenceofchurches.org) to join or ask questions.

God's blessings, Laurie



# Drawing Ever Closer

By Greg Krohm, Chicago Archdiocese

Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago held one of its most unusual gatherings this last October 31. Holy Name was host to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. I was not the only one there in wonder over how such an event came to be.

Lutherans and Catholics have formally been in dialog over the past 50 years, producing many carefully considered documents showing that the two churches hold many doctrines and beliefs in common. This fruitful dialog has gone on internationally and within the United States. Chicago, home of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, has been a leading contributor to this ecumenical dialog. The stunning October 31 commemoration was the result of a two-year long effort to plan for the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. A planning committee of equal numbers of Lutherans and Catholics worked enthusiastically and in a spirit of friendship to plan this commemoration and other joint efforts by the two churches.

Bishop Wayne Miller began his address to the congregation by quipping how unimaginable it would have been earlier in his ministry to think that he would be preaching on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in a Catholic cathedral. He went on to make a heartfelt case that there is more that unites Lutheran and Catholics than what divides them. He marveled at the progress being made in bringing Lutherans and Catholics together. Bishop Miller praised recent ecumenical progress between the two churches, especially the “Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification” (October 1999) and the extraordinary vesper service in Lund, Sweden (2016) presided by the head of the Lutheran World Federation and Pope Francis.

Cardinal Blase Cupich, in his address, repeated the belief that much more unites than divides the two churches. He acknowledged that the Catholic Church in Luther’s time needed reform, and that, despite the division that it caused, many good things can be seen as coming out of Luther’s call to reform.

The recent ecumenical prayer service can be viewed as part of a succession of similar events in Chicago. In 1983, just before the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Lutherans were invited to Holy Name Cathedral, where Joseph Cardinal Bernardin and the bishops of the American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches and the Lutheran Church in America jointly presided over a vespers service. In 1987, the Archdiocese of Chicago began planning a covenant with the newly formed Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA. The covenant was signed in a ceremony in 1989 at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church. Linking this history to the present, it was a joy to see retired Bishop Sherman Hicks and Sr. Joan McGuire, former Director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Archdiocese of Chicago, carry the 1989 covenant to a place of honor by the altar.

The 2017 ceremony highlighted commonalities in music, prayers, and scripture—all things the churches could do together in complete harmony. Music was provided by a joint choir of Lutherans and Catholics. Dan Olsen, Director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Archdiocese, commented, “This gathering was an inspiring testimony of the power of God’s spirit to bring Christians together to live out Christ’s hope that we be one. We commemorated this night together as brothers and sisters in Christ, and it showed.”

Nearly all the cathedral’s 1110 seating capacity was occupied. In addition to interested lay people from all over the metropolitan area, the attendees included dozens of Catholic and Lutheran ordained ministers, as well as official representatives of other Chicago area Christians. Those who left the gathering seemed grateful that we had come so far in our dialogue, and were empowered to continue the work to bring about Christian unity together into the future.

**Continued on page 4**

## **Continued from page 3**

For two web stories and pictures/videos of the event see:

<https://www.chicagocatholic.com/chicagoland/-/article/2017/11/03/renewing-promise-of-dialogue-on-reformation-anniversary>

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2017/11/03/cardinal-cupich-and-lutheran-bishop-miller-commit-reconciliation-reformation>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65ka\\_i1vAEI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65ka_i1vAEI)

For further background on Lutheran-Catholic ecumenical activity see:

A joint statement, “From Conflict to Communion,” written by a joint commission of the Vatican and World Lutheran Federation can be found at:

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/chrstuni/lutheran-fed-docs/rc\\_pc\\_chrstuni\\_doc\\_2013\\_dal-conflitto-alla-comunione\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/lutheran-fed-docs/rc_pc_chrstuni_doc_2013_dal-conflitto-alla-comunione_en.html)

Within the US, a longstanding dialog between the US Catholic bishops and ELCA produced a wonderful statement called “Declarations on the Way” found at:

<http://www.usccb.org/news/2015/15-147.cfm>

To see a copy of the 1989 Lutheran-Catholic Covenant and background discussion see:

<http://www.renewingcovenant.com/history.html>

## **Retreat for college chaplains set for April, 2018!**

The Leadership Team has learned the college chaplains in Illinois feel a need to meet together once a year to network and share common concerns. Please notify Laurie Vial to give her contact information for chaplains in your denomination or any that you know. This event will be hosted by a Christian college and sponsored by the ICC Please forward this information to any chaplains that you know. Please put Chaplain in the subject line when you email. We are forming a committee to plan the program. Further details will be announced soon.

## **Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)**

Advocacy Teams: Building Power for Congressional Change

Advocacy Teams are Quakers and friends from across the country who use their power as constituents to build meaningful relationships with their members of Congress. With FCNL, we get to the root of problems by changing the systems and policies that drive them. We believe that Congress has immense power to effect positive change. It's our job to make sure they use it. This year, we're working to rein in Pentagon Spending as we continue our pursuit of a moral budget.

74 years of witness in Washington has shown us that when people talk to their representatives, change happens. A recent survey of hundreds of Congressional staff conducted by the Congressional Management Foundation confirms that in-person lobby meetings with constituents are the most effective way to influence the policy decisions of their members. That's why FCNL has been building our program to empower grassroots advocacy in order to foster congressional champions for peace and justice.

Advocacy Teams were founded in June, 2015, recognizing this need for deep, relationship-driven constituent advocacy. There are now dozens of teams with hundreds of people around the country.

The power of Advocacy Teams comes from each team member's commitment to changing Capitol Hill for the better – and the knowledge that we're stronger together.

You will build an ongoing relationship with your members of Congress.

You will learn how to work with the media to see the news you want.

You will foster a network of advocates in your community.

You will help your members of Congress become champions for peace and justice.

You will change Washington for the better.

**Continued on page 9**



# 2018 Illinois Conference of Churches Annual Assembly

## “Christian Healing in a Fractured World: An Ecumenical Perspective on Polarization in the USA 2018.”

Dinner the evening before at 6:30 at Destihl in downtown Champaign - open to all! Please pay for your own dinner.

**Friday, Sept. 28**

**8 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Worship 9 a.m.

Forum 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Business meeting 2 p.m.

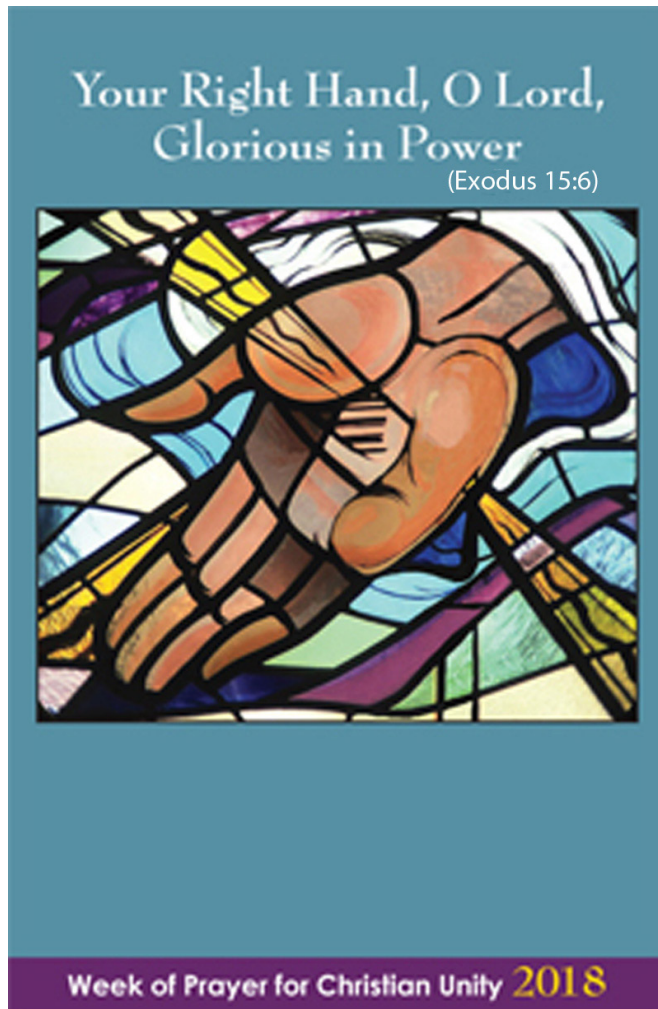
**St. Peter's UCC Church**

**905 S. Russell St.**

**Champaign, IL**

Rev. Kevin Kessler, District Executive at Illinois Wisconsin District Church of the Brethren, will deliver the message during morning worship.

**Forum - the speaker will be announced soon.**



**Bring books you no longer need for a book swap.**

**Earlybird registration \$35 until midnight Sept. 1 - no exceptions!**

For a copy of any proposed by-law changes go to our website under "events" or request a copy by email, after Sept. 1.

**Register online using the events tab on our website or e-mail to request a registration form. \$10 for students, \$45 for all others, includes breakfast, lunch and materials.**

**Questions? Contact Laurie Vial, Executive Director, at [laurie@illinoisconferenceofchurches.org](mailto:laurie@illinoisconferenceofchurches.org) or at the phone number below.**

**Lodging: Rooms are blocked at Wingate by Wyndham 516 W. Marketview Dr., Champaign at \$80 plus tax. 217-689-4714. Rooms must be booked prior to Sept. 6 to assure the discounted rate.**

**1608 W. Church St., Champaign, IL 61821 217-522-7099  
[www.illinoisconferenceofchurches.org](http://www.illinoisconferenceofchurches.org)**

**Illinois  
Conference  
of  
Churches**



# JOIN US FOR OUR Annual Celebration & Fundraisers



## Central Illinois Annual Celebration & Fundraiser Breakfast

Thursday, December 14, 2017  
8:00am – 9:00am

The I Hotel and Conference Center  
1900 S 1st St, Champaign, IL 61820

## Register today for our Annual Celebration & Fundraiser near you!

Join us as we celebrate our Earth care accomplishments and be inspired by our goals for the future. Share a meal with us and meet other people of faith who care for the Earth.

While registration for this event is free, all in attendance will be asked to give generously in celebration of the inspiring mission and impactful programs of Faith in Place.

Please RSVP at [www.faithinplace.org/events](http://www.faithinplace.org/events)



# News snapshots

## Judicatory visits and major meetings

Laurie Vial, executive director of the Illinois Conference of Churches, is traveling around the state and meeting individually with all Judicatory executives.

Another of Laurie's goals is to attend the major meetings of each denomination and where possible have an information table in the exhibition space. Please help out the ICC by communicating about your major meetings and forwarding registration forms for exhibition space. She could also address these gatherings and bring a brief greeting from the ICC.

## Looking forward

Another goal of the ICC Leadership Team is to be more proactive. And the major focus of the ICC is alleviating racism and poverty. The Leadership Team seeks other ways to become more involved statewide. If you have a suggestion, please contact Laurie.

## Would you like to join an ICC Team?

If you would like to serve on the Public Policy Team, the Illinois Christians Encountering Racism (ICER) Team, or help plan next year's Annual Assembly Forum – e-mail Laurie Vial and let her know. We also have a new Interreligious Team. If you would like to suggest someone to serve on this Team, please contact Laurie.

## Grants

Now that the Illinois Conference of Churches will be seeking grants to supplement denomination donations in our working budget, we need you to be our eyes and ears. If you hear of appropriate grant opportunities from foundations or your own denomination, please notify the executive director. Thank you for helping in this way.



## Donations/Pledges

The Illinois Conference of Churches relies on the generous donations of its 13 member Christian denominations for financial stability. Other generous supporters are affiliated members and individual congregations as well as the generosity of individuals.

Thank you for keeping current with your donations. Please contact the executive director if you need an update on your status.

## Is there a way for Judicatories to share more resources such as training sessions?

The Christian Church Disciples of Christ has led the charge by opening their annual anti-racism training to anyone in our 13 member denominations. Everyone is watching their budget including travel budget and trying to be good stewards of the environment by not driving as much. If your denomination has a training session, a special speaker, an event, a workshop or any other "happening" that you would like to open to your fellow ICC members, please let us know. We will promote these events on our website and in our newsletter. Our Leadership Team would really like to grow this opportunity for more ecumenical encounters. And we'll all meet more brothers and sisters in Christ and have more networking opportunities.



**Like us on**

**Facebook!**

Keep up with the Illinois Conference of Churches and be prepared to

have a little fun along the way.

[www.facebook.com/pages/Illinois-Conference-of-Churches](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Illinois-Conference-of-Churches)



**This can be observed any time during 2018. For additional information and materials see the website [www.geii.org](http://www.geii.org).**

## **2018 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

### **Exodus 15:6 "Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power"**

By Rev. Dr. Gerald F. Rafferty, S.T.D.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Scarsdale, NY

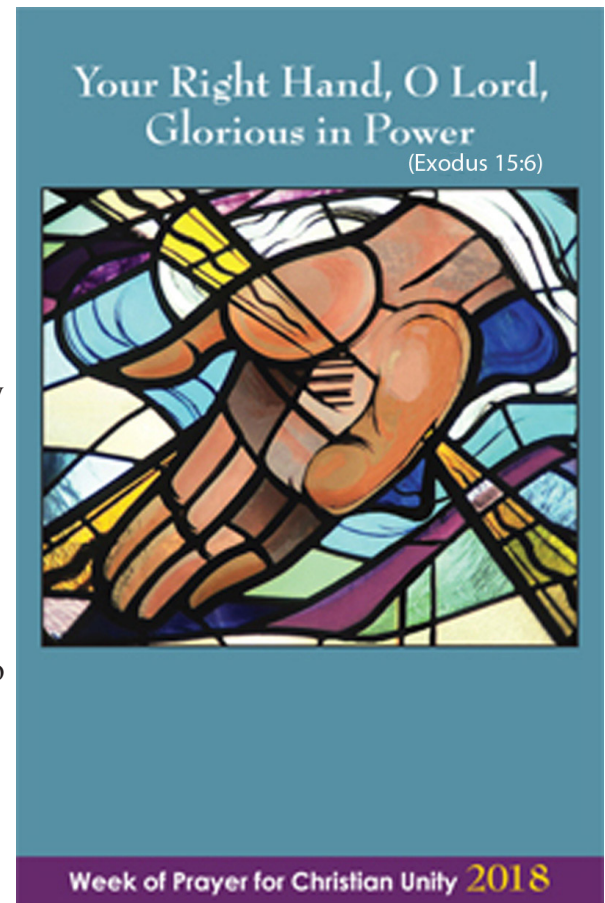
Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power (Exodus 15:6) The theme for this year's week of Christian Unity expresses praise and awe of God and specifically of His power. The first thing to note here is that the statement is addressed to the "LORD." This is no vague reference. In most English language bibles, LORD in all capital letters means that the original Hebrew has the personal name of YHWH. The reference then is very specific and calls immediately to mind that the One at work is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God who has been a part of this people's life and who has invited them into an intimate relationship signified by His sharing of His name (cf. Ex 3:13-20).

Our theme is a poetic expression. In the Bible, poetry is the form used in order to express an experience. And Israel uses this form frequently in Psalms and prophetic utterances. Where mere narration is unable to capture the depth of Israel's experience with God, they turn to poetry, for, more than just describing their experience, they literally invite the reader to share it. And poetry gives voice to a deeper meaning and understanding than narrative.

Ancient poetry and song go hand in hand. And as such the form is most often used in the context of communal celebrations including liturgical worship. This poetic line, extolling YHWH's might, is part of a larger Hymn of praise in Ex 15:1-21. It appears after the children of Israel have witnessed the miracle of the Red Sea, in which God has caused the destruction of the army of Pharaoh and thus guaranteed that His people are now free from bondage and free to take up their call to worship Him and live as His people, in the land He has promised to their ancestors (see Genesis). With the army defeated, Israel can now fulfill its God-given destiny.

The Hymn is Israel's response to God's saving work. Israel's song of praise to God for victory over the Egyptian army in Ex 15:1-21 is one of the more ancient hymns in the OT. Most believe that parts of the text can indeed be dated early in Israel's life. But as we have it the Hymn has been enhanced.

The context for our thematic statement (Ex 15:6) is definitely in the form of a Hymn of praise, enhanced by the theme of Thanksgiving. This hymn has a narrative introduction in 15:1a and supplement in 15:19-20 which leads to the repetition of the call to praise in v. 21.



**Continued on page 9**

# **The National Workshop on Christian Unity**

**Silver Spring, Maryland**

**April 16-19, 2018**

[www.nwcu.org](http://www.nwcu.org)





## Continued from page 8

The Hymn found in Ex 15:1b-18 follows a pattern of a call to praise followed by a listing of reasons for this praise. In vv 3-10, the specific events at the Red Sea are recounted and extolled. Then, in vv. 11-16, the events of the conquest of the Promised Land are recalled. And finally, in v. 17, the hymn acknowledges the creation of the place of worship, the establishment of the Temple. And the hymn ends in v18 with a statement of trust and firm reliance on Israel's true king. These last two reasons are anachronistic to the immediate context, but are an indication of the widespread use of this ancient hymn in the broader context of Israel's life.

Typical of Hebrew poetry is the insight that what God has done for a particular specific need or situation is extended into a belief that God also acts in the same way always and on all levels. The historical experience of salvation from bondage in Egypt by the destruction of Pharaoh's army suggests that God will also act to save in other contexts of Israel's experience. As God has acted in the past, He continues to do so today and will do so in the future. Thus this hymn praising God's miraculous work expressed in 15:1b and v 21, is how God acts in all situations and at all times to save his people.

Specifically, v. 6 begins the clear reasons for Israel's praise of God. Vv.3-5 are the historical remembrance of His work (the destruction of Pharaoh's army), but now the Hymn begins to extrapolate.

"Your right hand" is an OT metaphor for power. But it must also be remembered that the right hand was the metaphor for relationship, hospitality, providence as well as power in battle. And so Israel recognizes all the gifts they receive from God.

And the God they recognize as we said above is the LORD (YHWH) the personal God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their heirs. This is the God who has invited Israel into the intimacy of a covenant relationship with all its promises and its obligations.

And then the power of God, the providence of God, is esteemed praiseworthy (magnificent). And this implies that Israel recognizes God's gifts. They acknowledge His work for them. And they recognize their need to respond to His work on their behalf.

And so, our theme this year calls us also to acknowledge God's many gifts and works for us which are totally unlimited and powerful. The God whom we know intimately in our lives and in our covenanted relationship with Him has acted, is acting and will act for us. And so we are called to praise Him for all His work.

Fr. Gerard F. Rafferty is currently the Parochial Vicar of, Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Scarsdale NY. Previously Fr. Rafferty served as Professor of Sacred Scripture and Hebrew, St Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, NY

## Continued from page 4

The five step process:

### 1) Take the Leap

One or two people decide they are ready to invest in building a deep relationship with their members of Congress and get in touch with Maiya Zwreling at ([www.fcnl.org/advocacyteams](http://www.fcnl.org/advocacyteams)).

### 2) Launch Your Team

They gather 3-8 people to join a one-hour Host Committee call to introduce the group to Advocacy Teams. This group organizes an advocacy workshop that brings 15-30 Quakers and non-Quakers from their community. FCNL's National Field Organizer, Maiya Zwerling, leads a three-hour workshop with the goal of launching an Advocacy Team. In this workshop, we dive into our philosophy around social change, the issue, and we take action. You and FCNL decide whether to move forward.

### 3) Build Your Skills

New teams take part in a one-time series of four trainings to build your team structure and get you ready to lobby as a group.

### 4) Stay in Touch

Advocacy Teams come together in person once a month to hear from experts, celebrate, and learn from other teams. In these meetings, we take action. One or more delegates from each team join a biweekly call for training, collaboration, and sharing.

### 5) Make Real Change

FCNL Advocacy Teams take action on a regular basis, using lobbying and media engagement as their tools. In just two months in 2015, FCNL Advocacy Teams organized 80 lobby visits and published 30 letters to the editor. You can join their advocacy.

To get involved email Laurie at the email address on the back page.

# Teams of the Illinois Conference of Churches

We welcome new members to our teams. Please contact Laurie Vial, executive director, with questions or to join a team.

## **Leadership Team**

### **Rev. Gary McCants, co-chair**

African Methodist Episcopal Church  
4th Episcopal District  
Springfield

### **Rev. Wally Carlson, co-chair**

United Methodist Church  
Great Rivers Conference  
Canton

### **Dr. John Charlton, treasurer**

American Baptist Church  
Great Rivers Region  
Springfield

### **Fr. Kevin Laughery**

Catholic Church  
Diocese of Springfield  
New Berlin

### **Rev. Galda McCants**

African Methodist Episcopal Church  
4th Episcopal District  
Springfield

### **Dr. George Johnston**

Presbyterian Church – USA  
Southeastern Illinois Presbytery  
Rantoul/Monticello

### **Rev. Megan Dean**

United Methodist Church  
Northern Illinois Conference  
Bartlett

### **E. Garnet Fay**

Religious Society of Friends  
Western Yearly Meeting  
Chicago

### **Rev. Sharon Patton**

Christian Church, Disciples of Christ  
Region of Illinois/Wisconsin  
Charleston

### **Greg Krohm**

Catholic Church  
Archdiocese of Chicago  
Wilmette

### **Fr. George Pyle**

Greek Orthodox Church  
Springfield/Champaign

### **Alicja Lukaszewicz-Southall**

Episcopal Church  
Diocese of Chicago  
Wauconda

### **Rev. Catiana McKay**

United Methodist Church  
Northern Illinois Conference  
Chicago, Rogers Park

## **Annual Assembly Forum Team**

### **Rev. Wally Carlson, chair**

United Methodist Church  
Great Rivers Conference  
Canton

### **Rev. Catiana McKay**

United Methodist Church  
Northern Illinois Conference  
Chicago, Rogers Park

### **Marianne Stowers**

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Region of Illinois/Wisconsin  
Springfield

### **Fr. Bob Flannery**

Catholic Church  
Diocese of Belleville  
Carbondale

### **Rev. Robert Sherman**

United Church of Christ  
Illinois Conference  
Kewanee

## **Illinois Christians Encountering Racism (ICER)**

### **Rev. Kevin Laughery, co-chair**

Catholic Church  
Diocese of Springfield  
New Berlin

### **Rev. Galda McCants, co-chair**

African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Springfield

### **Rev. Dwight Bailey**

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Region of Illinois/Wisconsin  
Aurora

### **Rev. Mark Harkness**

United Methodist Church  
Northern Illinois District  
Walnut

### **Martha Herrin**

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Region of Illinois/Wisconsin  
Stewardson

### **Rev. Christine Hopkins**

Episcopal Church  
Diocese of Springfield  
Champaign

### **Rev. Megan Dean**

United Methodist Church  
Northern Illinois Conference  
Bartlett

### **Rev. Sharon Patton**

Christian Church, Disciples of Christ  
Region of Illinois/Wisconsin  
Charleston

**Continued on next page**

**Interreligious Team****Rev. Catiana McKay, chair**

United Methodist Church  
Northern Illinois Conference  
Chicago, Rogers Park

**Rev. Dr. Sheldon Culver**

United Church of Christ  
Illinois South Conference  
Highland

**Dr. John Charlton**

American Baptist Church  
Great Rivers Region  
Springfield

**Fr. Kevin Laughery**

Catholic Church  
Diocese of Springfield  
New Berlin

**Hakan Berberoglu**

Niagra Foundation  
Chicago/Peoria

**Alicja Lukaszewicz-Southall**

Episcopal Church  
Diocese of Chicago  
Wauconda

**Greg Krohm**

Catholic Church  
Archdiocese of Chicago  
Wilmette

**Fr. Bob Flannery**

Catholic Church  
Diocese of Belleville  
Carbondale

**Rev. Joel Jackle-Hugh**

Presbyterian Church USA  
and United Church of Christ  
Pana

**Public Policy Team****E. Garnet Fay, chair**

Religious Society of Friends  
Western Yearly Meeting  
Chicago

**Robert Gilligan**

Catholic Church  
Archdiocese of Chicago  
Chicago

**Rev. Gary McCants**

African Methodist Episcopal  
4th Episcopal District  
Springfield

**Rev. Wally Carlson**

United Methodist Church  
Great Rivers Conference  
Canton

**Rev. Michael Winters**

Presbyterian Church – USA  
Chicago Presbytery  
Oak Lawn/Oak Park

**Rev. Dr. John Rickard**

Presbyterian Church - USA  
Blackhawk Presbytery  
Oregon

**\$\$\$\$\$ Thank you for your generous response to our 2018 pledge drive. If you have not yet filled out and returned your pledge card please do. To see a copy of our current budget or a recap on donations, please email and request a copy. Donations are always welcome - one easy way to donate is to use PayPal on our website. Again, thank you for your generous gifts.**

**Date to remember:**

**Friday, Sept. 28 Annual Assembly in Champaign**

**Illinois Conference of Churches**

**1608 W. Church St.**

**Champaign, IL 61821**

**[illinoisconferenceofchurches.org](http://illinoisconferenceofchurches.org)**

**Laurie Vial, executive director**

**[laurie@illinoisconferenceofchurches.org](mailto:laurie@illinoisconferenceofchurches.org) 217-522-7099**