



The Vision of Harvest 2020 is to plant 100 new faith communities within the Northern Illinois Conference, to grow healthy disciples in local churches, and to promote cooperation through cluster ministries.

#### New Faith Communities

- Conference and District Strategy Teams
- Local congregations partnering and parenting
- Focus on Ethnic and Multicultural Starts

#### Healthy Discipleship: SEED

- Seek
- Engage
- Equip
- Deploy

#### Cluster Ministries

- Supporting each other
- Cooperating in Ministry
- Sharing resources

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#### OUTWARD FACING COMMUNITY

## Our Table Has Room For All

We were taught well when it comes to the lessons of sharing. It has been our mission since 1832, when that first circuit rider came into what is known as Bureau County and specifically to Princeton. That preacher invited those who were willing to hear about God's Good News to gather around the Table of Grace and be fed. That was almost 180 years ago. The blessings received from that first invitation still can be seen through the legacy of those who accepted his invitation to enjoy the table of fellowship in Princeton.

At the October 2010, cluster-training event in Northbrook, Ill., speaker, Rev. Barry Carpenter's message about "blessing the city" came back to a group of men sitting around a breakfast table one Wednesday morning as they gathered for study and prayer. They heard Rev. Carpenter's challenge as Jim Miller, a First UMC layperson, shared it. Jim asked, "How might we bless the city of Princeton using the blessings that have come to us?" Together they found a way, a new ministry called "Our Table."

With the whole congregation's support, we served our first dinner on Mon., May 16, 2011. Our goal is to provide one healthy meal a week to our brothers and sisters who are under stress from unemployment and underemployment.

We also know that there are people who find their own table to be a lonely place. Isolation is their constant companion. We

Northern Illinois Conference UMC / Harvest 2020  
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want them to find fellowship and friendship to be a part of their evening meal too.

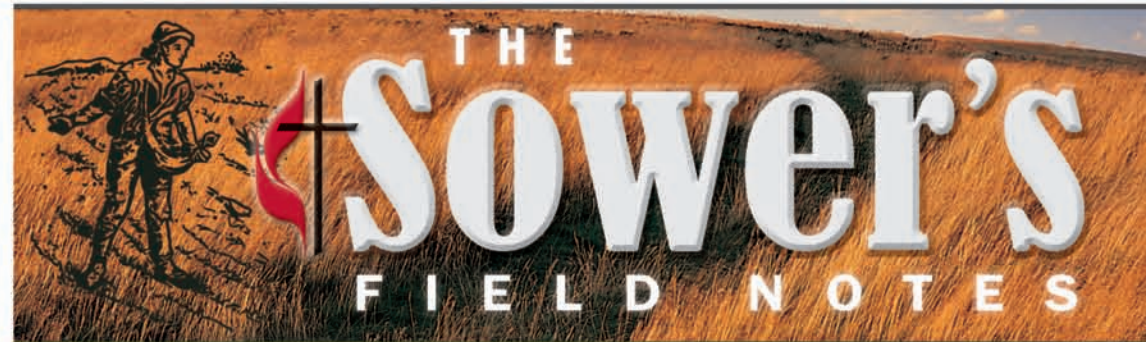
Our Table is a way to share the blessing of God's love with those who are hungry for what God has to offer, whether that is food or fellowship. Our Table has room for all.

We have invited neighboring churches to participate. We hope to create an atmosphere of shared concern and solidarity with our guests through the food we share and relationships which evolve. We plan to offer a "table" of information telling our guests about area social services and seasonally appropriate clothing, at no charge.

Our Table will be a no-questions-asked opportunity for our church to respond to the needs of Princeton as we were once cared for by that circuit rider who invited us to the Table of Grace.

This will be a venture in love, a venture of faith, an adventure in Jesus' name. We are looking forward to offering Our Table and all that it affords, as a response to the call of Jesus to feed the sheep of God's precious fold.

**Rev. Tom Ostrander,**  
First UMC of Princeton



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#### TRAINING OUR LEADERS

## Basking in the Bright Spots of the NIC

In the book *Switch: How to Change Things When Change Is Hard* (Broadway Books, 2010), authors Chip and Dan Heath talk about the importance of looking for the bright spots around us. These bright spots become crucial motivators for change in our personal and corporate lives. The Heaths define bright spots as "successful efforts worth emulating."

Samuel Rodriguez and I, from the Path 1 staff, just returned from experiencing multiple bright spots through the work of the *Conference Academy for Faith Community Development (CAFCD)* in the Northern Illinois Conference. My eyes, and heart, are still basking in the glow of what God is doing in and through the lives of the laypeople who have been impacted by the academy and are now serving the communities around them in life giving ways.

- Members of the Bethel Hispanic/Latino Faith Community in Carpentersville who gather each day at 5:00 A.M. for prayer. Their pastor, David Sanchez, and several members are part of the



Conference Academy session last fall at Loretto Center in Wheaton, Ill.

*My eyes, and heart, are still basking in the glow of what God is doing in and through the lives of the laypeople who have been impacted by the academy and are now serving the communities around them in life giving ways.*

~Rev. Gary A. Shockley

academy.

- El Mesias in Elgin, where Rev. Mario Mayer and his wife, Fabiola, introduced us to two men who are currently in the academy and look forward to being deployed as church planters.
- Amor De Dios, Chicago, where part-time lay missionary Ramiro

Rodriguez (academy graduate), and his revitalized congregation, serve over 400 families each week.

- Peggy Burt, layperson from Our Saviour's UMC in Schaumburg, who is currently in the academy and senses a call to become a local pastor.

*Continued on next page*

The Mission of Harvest 2020 is to plant, nurture, and harvest new faith communities so persons will commit to be disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

#### HARVEST 2020

## Core Values for the Harvest

#### CORE VALUE 1

**The Gospel Changes Everything**  
[MARK 10: 27]

At the heart of our faith, at the core of our being is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### CORE VALUE 2

**Outward Facing Community**  
[MATTHEW 28: 16-20]

The mission of the church is to care for those who are not yet members!

#### CORE VALUE 3

**Social Healing**  
[ROMANS 15: 1-2]

The gospel calls us to the root of our social problems, our sin and prejudice. To honor God is to restore human dignity.

#### CORE VALUE 4

**Abundance Versus Scarcity**  
[1 CORINTHIANS 9: 6-15]

The resources are in God's hand, when we rely on God and live out a faithful vision of our mission.

#### CORE VALUE 5

**United Methodist Movement**  
[ACTS 2: 40-47]

The work of Harvest 2020 is to remember our past and recapture the vital, vibrant energy of kingdom building for God's future.

*We encourage you to read the full text of the 5 Core Values:*  
[www.umcnic.org/harvest\\_2020.php](http://www.umcnic.org/harvest_2020.php)



### New Faith Community Partnerships (Cont.)

PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	NIC ANNUAL SUPPORT	ADDITIONAL SUPPORT
<b>Chicago: St. James</b>	Merged with Hartzell UMC, spring 2011.	-0-	
<b>Chicago Lawn: Roca Fuerte</b> Milagros Bermudez	Grown from five Latinos/Hispanics in worship to 40 Latinos/Hispanics and 15 Caucasians attending worship each week. Community outreach and mission through a food pantry ministry.	\$10,000	Local Congregation
<b>Mendota: Hispanic</b> Rev. Deanna Mede	Identifying the right Latino/Hispanic leadership for the site with newly appointed pastor.	\$10,000	Local Congregation

### Innovative Models

<b>Chicago: West Roscoe Village</b>	On hold while right leadership is identified.	\$10,000	
<b>Highwood: Latino/Hispanic</b> TBS	Awaiting the right configuration of leadership and area UM congregational support.	-0-	Local Congregations

### Continuing New Faith Communities and Redevelopment

<b>Barrington: Yang Moon</b> Rev. Min Hyuk Woo	Growing community of faith with 50-60 in weekly worship. In partnership with Barrington: Salem UMC.	\$9,000	Partnership Congregation: Korean UMC of Metro Detroit and NKP
<b>Batavia: Flowing Grace</b> Rev. Mike Stoner Rev. Jeffrey Bross	Satellite "Church in a Box" meetings in Aurora Christian School, reaching unchurched, dechurched community. Now averaging 175 in worship with outreach to the community through Habitat for Humanity.	\$30,000	Parent Congregation
<b>Machesney Park: Hilltop</b> Rev. Paul Meyers Rev. Mark Meyers	The ministry is a shared partnership with Roscoe averaging 60 in worship. July 2010 received their first full-time clergy leadership. Confirmation classes have begun.	\$80,000	Parent Congregation
<b>Irving Park: Hispanic</b> Pastor Cecelia Obret	Growing worshipping community of primarily Cuban immigrants, averaging 40 in worship.	\$12,000	National Hispanic Plan
<b>Oak Park: Liberty</b> Pastor Michael Wright	Nondenominational congregation exploring a relationship with the UMC. Currently worship at Cornerstone UMC in Oak Park. Averaging 70 in worship.	\$15,000	
<b>Rockford: Christ the Carpenter</b> Montel Putney	Outreach to the African American community in Rockford; this congregation has grown from 20 to 55 in worship. Involved in the community through vacation Bible school.	\$30,000	

### Additional New Faith Community Projects Since 2009 Launch

<b>Transformación Hispanic</b> Rev. Gilberto Medina	New faith community growing out of existing congregation. Launched in fall 2010 worshipping in a banquet hall. Chartered 4/10/11. Averaging 250 in worship. Involved in homeless ministries.	\$30,000	
<b>Elgin: La Luz De Christo</b> Ruben Rivera	Partnership with Elgin: Epworth and leadership from Elgin: El Mesias to launch Hispanic NFC on west side of Elgin. Now worshipping 90; involved in unemployment outreach.	\$6,000	
<b>Wheatland/Salem/Oswego Campus</b> Rev. Scott Field Pastor Bob Butler	Began July 2010 out of the closed Oswego: Prairie Church. Launch planned for September 2011. Preview services are monthly, including recovery ministries.	\$30,000	

### Global Partnership Projects

<b>Chua, Bolivia</b>	New church building completed summer 2010 through VIM's from the NIC. This project was dedicated in the fall of 2010.	\$0	Funds raised by VIM Teams
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# Harvest 2020—New Faith Communities Update—Spring 2011

## Stand Alone Sites

PROJECT	ACTIVITY	NIC ANNUAL SUPPORT	ADDITIONAL SUPPORT
<b>Urban Village</b> Rev. Chris Coon Rev. Trey Hall	Weekly Sunday worship launched in March 2010. Now averaging 128. Second site Sunday evening worship in Wicker Park launched October 2010. Now averaging 63. A third worship site is targeted for Andersonville with ground work begun in May.	\$50,000 \$50,000	
<b>Skokie: Jesus-Loves</b> Rev. Kook Jin Yun	Reaching out in Evanston and Skokie to young adult 1.5 Korean speaking community. Weekly worship services averaging 50. Nine small groups are meeting regularly. In addition a new Tuesday evening service at the Northwestern University Chapel is underway. Four adults and one infant have been baptized.	\$20,000	National Korean Plan and NCJ Korean Mission
<b>Shorewood</b>	Preliminary outreach in the Shorewood community where land has been donated. This site will have a change in planter leadership July 1, 2011.	\$30,000	
<b>Chicagoland: Journey Community</b> Rev. Daniel Park	Launch worship conducted on Palm Sunday, April 17, 2011, with an average weekly worship attendance of 50 at the Korean American Cultural Center in Wheeling. Five ongoing small groups. Mission engagement includes mentoring children in Englewood. Ministry partnership with Homewood: Korean UMC of South Suburban and Wheeling: First Korean.	\$30,000	National Korean Plan and NCJ Korean Mission

## Satellite Ministries

<b>Davis Junction</b> Pastor Megan Smick	Transformation of church space into hospitable, welcoming site with community outreach.	\$30,000	
<b>Glenview: The Glen</b>	On hold during change in leadership and local church partner process unfolds.	-0-	
<b>Chicago: West Side G2G</b> Rev. Zaki Zaki	Intense youth and young adult programming: arts, anti-violence, community development. Weekly worship targeting 2nd & 3rd generation Latino/Hispanic. Average worship attendance, 70. 200 children and youth in after school programs.	\$12,000	Parent Congregation
<b>Libertyville: Word of Life Fellowship</b> Rev. Jamie Geiger Rev. Jim Bell	Evaluation under way.	\$20,000	Parent Congregation
<b>Barrington/ Carpentersville: Bethel Hispanic/Latino</b> David Sanchez	Growing worshipping community, now meeting at Carpentersville UMC with 60 adults and 30 children attending Sunday evening services.	\$24,000	Local Congregations

## New Faith Community Partnerships

<b>Chicago: Austin Hispanic/Latino</b> Pastor Dwayne Grant	Suspended pending assignment of missionary.	\$12,000	National Hispanic Plan
<b>Cortland: 2nd Campus</b>	This site has exhausted options for developing a second campus in their area.	0	Local Congregation
<b>Chicago: Lincoln-Pilsen Community</b> Pastor Walter Coleman	Replanting from 10 in worship to 90 now in regular attendance. Outreach, social justice, community services are driving the growth of this faith community.	\$10,000	National Hispanic Plan
<b>Dolton: Faith</b> Rev. Junius Dotson Pastor Charles Straight	Intensive leadership development program through sister relationship with St. Mark UMC in Wichita, Kansas. Average attendance, 70. Continuing development of lay leadership and evangelism.	\$30,000	
<b>Harvard: Hispanic/Latino</b> Isamary Velazquez	20-30 people attending Bible study each week, hosted at Harvard: First. Plans underway for expansion into Marengo with Marengo UMC partnership.	\$12,000	National Hispanic Plan
<b>Joliet: Hispanic/Latino</b> TBS	Plan in development.	\$15,000	
<b>McHenry: Cooperative</b> Rev. Gary Waters Pastor Lori Bee	Two churches (McHenry UMC and Mt. Hope UMC) building on each other's strengths with a focus on youth ministry. Plans are underway to build a multipurpose facility for young people on land owned by Mt. Hope.	-0-	Local Congregations

## OUTWARD FACING COMMUNITY

# Answer to Micah Along Red Line

In October of 2010, there was a cluster-training event in Northbrook, Ill. The speaker, Rev. Barry Carpenter (church developer, author and leadership coach and strategist), called for the churches and clusters of our conference to find ways to continue the rich heritage of sharing our blessings with the cities and towns that we serve, intentionally offering them the amazing grace that transforms, heals, and renews. Reverend Catiana McKay, Pastor at United Church of Rogers Park attended that training event and brought a passion for blessing the city home to her cluster.

Growing out of this vision, Red Line Ministry, formed by several UM cluster churches on Chicago's North Side, uses the city as its text book to provide life changing educational opportunities to answer the question that Micah 6:8 asks of us all: "What does the Lord require of you?" Youth and inter-generational groups come to explore topics such as social justice, housing issues, and food redistribution. During their stay, groups experience hands-on service while working at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, providing meals for The Night Ministry, assisting in United Church of Rogers Park's children's outreach ministry, and engaging



in other opportunities as they arise.

The Red Line Ministry consists of three UM churches along the Red Line of Chicago's 'L' tracks: Epworth UMC, Granville UMC, and United Church of Rogers Park UMC. Hemenway UMC in Evanston is also supporting this ministry. The churches have created an advisory board made up of members of each congregation that helps guide ministry and keeps each congregation involved.

This spring, Granville UMC took a leap of faith by renovating their building to include three showers and bunk rooms where volunteers can stay. Mattresses generously donated by Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary allow this mission center to sleep groups of up to 30 people. Groups have already come from Kansas

# Basking in the Bright Spots of the NIC

*Continued*

Hearing the testimonies and of the self-sacrificing commitment of these laypersons warmed my heart, brought me to tears, and reminded me of the power of the Holy Spirit to change lives and create bright spots that meet desperate human needs and bring glory to God!

The model Rev. J. Martin Lee, director of Congregational Development and Redevelopment, Elgin District Superintendent Oscar Carrasco, and a

team of many, many people through the Harvest 2020 Initiative created, and successfully piloted, in the NIC became the bright spot we have emulated and call the Lay Missionary Planting Network (LMPN) program of Path 1.

I am still basking in the glow of all the bright spots I encountered through so many faithful laypeople. I pray, as the executive director of Path 1, that I may carry and scatter their bright spots with me all across the country—to the honor



**ABOVE: Children garden with student volunteers growing food for their families and the community. LEFT: Granville UMC recently renovated its building to include three showers and bunk rooms where volunteers can stay.**

and Minnesota, and more are scheduled this summer from Indiana, North Carolina, Michigan, and other parts of Illinois. United Church of Rogers Park UMC has started an environmental education program and will invite those groups this summer to work alongside children in a garden and learn about food redistribution.

To learn more about mission opportunities with The Red Line Ministry, contact Rev. April McGlothlin-Eller, advisory board chairperson and ordained deacon in the Detroit Conference attending UCRP (aprilmcglothlin@yahoo.com), or Breanna Dahl, ministry coordinator, at 773-234-4273 (breanna.dahl@gmail.com) or visit the new website at www.redlinemissions.com.

**Deacon, Wes Dorr, United Church of Rogers Park UMC**

and glory of God!

Rev. Gary A. Shockley is the executive director of Path 1/New Church Development Strategy Team for our denomination. He recently visited the Northern Ill. Conference (NIC) and interviewed graduates of the Conference Academy for Faith Community Development (CAFCD). The CAFCD offers laity 400 hours of training over two years and provides the tools they will need to partner with clergy in new faith community development.

## CLUSTER MINISTRIES

# Aurora Cluster Helps Bring Justice

Several months ago, Fourth Street UMC in Aurora was selected by the Regional Board in the Northern Illinois Conference to be a site for a Justice for Our Neighbor's (JFON) clinic, which offers free legal assistance to immigrants. Clients are seen by appointment only. The clinic opened Sat., April 2 becoming the first JFON clinic in Illinois. We found ourselves heeding the call of God in our lives—at the juncture between where we thought we wanted to go and where God is calling us to go; and who we want to be versus who God is calling us to be.

The clinic opened in four stages. The first stage was the covenant. This is an ongoing process as it involves not only the local site team, which is a subgroup of the Aurora Cluster, but also the NIC-JFON board and the local churches that comprise the Aurora Cluster. The covenant sets out the agreement between all of these entities to faithfully partner in ministry together through the provision of legal immigration services to immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

The second stage included division of labor such that all of the churches involved would share in providing volunteers and leadership for all of the necessary tasks. As Fourth Street UMC was selected to be the host site, each of the other cluster churches stepped up to the plate and took upon themselves what they deemed to be an equitable sharing of tasks. This was more than a good faith effort as it demonstrated how sincerely the cluster saw the immigration clinic as a new and more profound way to be connected with one another, to be in cooperative ministry together—and a new way to be the church in a new neighborhood.

The third stage was training. We

*We found ourselves heeding the call of God in our lives—at the juncture between where we thought we wanted to go and where God is calling us to go; and who we want to be versus who God is calling us to be.*

*~Rev. Deborah Tinsley Taylor*

spent several hours one evening learning what a legal immigration clinic under the banner of UMCOR would actually look like. We were introduced to Alice Mar, JFON program coordinator with UMCOR, and Danny Upton, JFON staff attorney, and we began the process of getting acquainted with each other, for we had come together from all over the Aurora Cluster and the district. We also learned the importance of confidentiality, how that differs from privacy, and what working under the auspices of an attorney actually means.

The fourth stage became the actual clinic day. Only one person was scheduled for an appointment that first day. We found ourselves with additional time for the training of new intake volunteers and time to configure and practice how we would greet and welcome people into

the clinic. We also learned how important prayer is to what we are doing and to each of the people who have volunteered. The second clinic in May showed signs of growth with eight new clients coming in for appointments, which is considered a full case load for the day. The clinic will be open the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 A.M to 12:00 noon. We still need volunteer child care helpers, intake workers, hospitality providers, translators, and greeters. To volunteer, call the JFON clinic, 630-301-6906.

To support NIC-JFON financially, you may send a check to Merrie Bunt at 77 West Washington St., Suite 1820, Chicago, IL 60602, and indicate the Advance No. 50000140 in the memo line.

**Rev. Deborah Tinsley Taylor, Fourth Street UMC, Aurora**



**The NIC JFON clinic is organized and staffed by volunteers from eight area United Methodist Churches.**