



# The United Methodist Church

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

**“Bold Disciples; Abundant Fruit”** will be the theme of the 171<sup>st</sup> Northern Illinois Annual Conference held at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Illinois from Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, June 16, 2010.

As lay members and clergy from churches across Northern Illinois we gather to celebrate and affirm God’s call to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” As our world rapidly changes we are challenged to be bold in our actions as disciples. Our boldness is manifest in our increasing use of technology to tell our story. Our boldness is demonstrated in the Harvest 2020 movement as we launch new faith communities and seek to strengthen existing congregations through clusters and healthy congregational life. Our boldness is witnessed as we expand our annual conference gathering this year through a youth rally as well as youth and young adults leading worship at the opening session.

Abundant Fruit is found in our churches. I give God thanks for the witness and ministries touching lives through the work of the local church. Annual Conference will include time to celebrate the abundant fruits we have produced. In Ordination, reports, worship, the Memorial Service; through times of fellowship, special meals, our retirement celebration and testimonies we acknowledge the places that God has worked among us to strengthen and multiply our efforts.

This year our keynote speaker will be Reverend Gil Rendle. Gil has led both clergy and lay gathering in Northern Illinois offering challenging words of insight into our future. Gil will continue this theme in two keynote presentations and a lunch time dialogue session. Our Bible Study Leader will be Sister Kathleen Flood, author, spiritual director and leader for the General Board of Discipleship’s Spiritual Formation Academies. Sister Flood has worked with United Methodists for many years. Her gentle spirit and deep faith will inspire and challenge us to be the “bold disciples” we speak about.

We will also be joined by Bishop Deborah Kiesey, Episcopal Leader of the Dakotas Conference, who will preach at our Memorial Service on Monday night. We will be greeted by Bishop Young Hun Lim from our sister conference, Seoul South Annual Conference. In addition Bishop Wayne Miller, Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will join us for the Ordination Service.

We come together for the 171<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference as a people called into bold witness, anticipating the abundant fruit of our faithful actions.

Your Brother in Christ,

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung