



Dear Churches and Delegates,

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We also bring greetings from the Gatherings Team of the Illinois South Conference. The Conference Gatherings Team meets monthly with the guidance of the Conference Minister, Rev. Shana Johnson, and ISC staff member Christy Pursell. The Conference Gatherings Team is responsible for planning meetings of the Illinois South Conference that include Annual Meeting and Day of Discipleship.

2020 (everybody remembers 2020 or maybe we want to forget 2020), COVID prevented us from gathering in person for our meeting. Thus, this team worked hard to find computer savvy operators to somehow connect with all the churches virtually in ISC. And with the wonderful connections of our conference minister and her staff, they made it happen. Thus, the start of our Zoom meetings.

The recap of the virtual meetings: 2020 Annual Meeting and 2021 Day of Discipleship.

Annual Meeting - October 23-25 (via Zoom)

*Theme: "Christ's Love in Action: Three Great Loves."*

We kicked off the Annual Meeting on Friday, October 23 with the celebrations of Church Anniversaries, Pastoral Anniversaries, Members in Discernment, and those pastors who retired. The Hunger Action Team presented a video of what they did in 2020 as well as the Ecuador Partnership Team.

Rev. David Sigmund, National UCC leader of the Three Great Loves (3GL) campaign, was the keynote speaker. Rev. Sigmund had a wonderful presentation and was very well received by the churches and delegates. Also on Saturday, the major business was passing of the budget, approval of slate of nominees, and bylaw changes.

On Sunday, October 25, we closed the Annual Meeting with a virtual worship service.

Day of Discipleship - held May 1, 2021

Theme of "Strengthening the Ties That Bind Us Together."

Like the Annual Meeting, it was held virtually. There were three sessions that participants could attend. These sessions pertained basically to the impact of not worshipping in-person yet keeping connected with parishioners. These sessions consisted of churches that had no technology to churches using Zoom for their services. Each session had 10 minutes of question and answer as well as sharing of experiences.

With the rapid Delta Variant rising in our area, the Gatherings Team felt that we needed to be stay safe and have our Annual Meeting 2021 once again by Zoom.

Anyone who has interest in designing and implementing events is welcome to volunteer to serve on the Conference Gatherings Team by contacting the Conference Office.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chilang Lawless and Eileen Hoag - Co-Chairs, Gatherings Team

Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

Christy Pursell, ISC Staff

Rev. Andy Wilson

Carol Harms

Matt Swinford

Rev. Michele Torigian

Rev. Tarrah Vaupel

Mimi Lamas

Walt Hart, Advisor