

*“Expressions of God’s
Radical Love and
Hospitality
for All Children”*

NIC UMC
Champions for Children Retreat
October 11, 2015
www.umcnic.org/ChildrensTable

Children's Table Members

Nancy Grim Hunter, Ph.D., Deacon Candidate, St. John's UMC (Chair)

Betsy Evans Ingstrup, Deacon Candidate (Project Coordinator)

Bishop Sally Dyck (Ex-officio)

Rev. Robert Biekman, NIC Conference Coordinator of Urban Ministries

Kim Coffing, Director Advocacy and Church Relations-ChildServ

Diana Davis, Chair: NIC Children's Ministries

Leon N. Deloney, President-NIC UMM: NW District

Laura Dean Friedrich-Consultant to the Community Renewal Society

Rev. Lynn Mickels, Deacon- FUMC Arlington Heights

Lois Moreland-Dean, Interim President-United Voices for Children

Rev. Christopher Pierson, NIC Director, Connectional Ministries

Rita L. Smith, Past Pres-NIC UMW

Rev. Wendy Witt, Chair-NIC Board of Church and Society

Retreat Outcomes

- *To recognize God's Kingdom where all children are held equally in love.*
- *To share God's doctrine of justice for all children and our role as Champions.*
- *To engage in spiritual dialogue to hear the voices of all children.*
- *To empower dialogue on behalf of children within your congregation and community.*

Retreat Participant Agreement

In order to create safe spaces for our dialogue today we agree to

- ✓ *Hold one another in mutual admiration and esteem.*
- ✓ *Listen and engage respectfully in spiritual dialogue.*
- ✓ *Encourage the voices of all participants to be heard.*
- ✓ *Be mindful of our diverse backgrounds and cultural experiences.*
- ✓ *Hold ourselves and each other accountable.*
- ✓ *Refrain from judgmental, argumentative, negative or hurtful comments.*

Opening Worship

Sung by All (2 times through)

Order my steps in your Word dear Lord
Lead me, guide me, everyday
Send your anointing, Father, I pray
Order my steps in your Word.
Please order my steps in your Word.

Children's Table Members

Creating, Sustaining, Redeeming, Ever Present and
Loving God

We welcome your presence with us and among us
today.

We stand before you to hear and listen to your
Word anew.

Opening Worship

Retreat Participants:

We long to know your great wisdom and loving mercy.

We seek to follow your will as co-creators of your Kingdom.

A Kingdom where your relentless love, mercy, compassion and justice reigns.

Sung by All:

Order my steps in your Word dear Lord

Lead me, guide me, everyday

Send your anointing, Father, I pray

Order my steps in your Word.

Please order my steps in your Word.

Children's Table Members

We lift before you the great needs of your children,
entrusted into our care.

Whose unheard cries of anguish have been silenced

Whose lives have been lost or discarded, interrupted by
violence, racism, or injustice.

Retreat Participants

Whose bodies grow desperate from the pangs of hunger and
mal-nourishment.

Whose thirst for knowledge, education, and achievement is
diminished, unattainable or inaccessible.

Whose lives too long have lived in hopelessness.

Whose hearts have not experienced your tender care or the
gift of your nourishing spirit.

Scripture Video: Matthew 25: 31-46 The Sheep and the Goats (2:00 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0bRjuuUjDE>

Sung by All:

Order my steps in your Word dear Lord

Lead me, guide me, everyday

Send your anointing, Father, I pray

Order my steps in your Word.

Please order my steps in your Word.

Children's Table Members

Inspire deep within our hearts your vision of a Kingdom anew,
that includes all children.

Where every child can be free to be healthy, happy, and nurtured
in your love.

Where every child can know and embrace the abundant dreams
you create in them.

Retreat Participants:

Grant us your power and wisdom to change the hearts, minds and
will of injustice in our society.

Guide us in ways that challenge the status quo; the divide
between rich and poor,
educated and uneducated, black and white, those that have and
have not.

Retreat Participants: (Continued)

Charge us and challenge us to be champions in establishing your
Kingdom anew for all children!

A Kingdom where your love, compassion, mercy, and justice is
evidenced in abundance.

Sung by All:

Order my steps in your Word dear Lord

Lead me, guide me, everyday

Send your anointing, Father, I pray

Order my steps in your Word.

Please order my steps in your Word.

Read more at <http://www.lyrics.com/order-my-steps-lyrics-gospel-music-workshop-of-america.html#dwqTXBYBaGJ> Order My Steps by [Gospel Music Workshop of America](#)

Matthew 25: 31-46. Uploaded on Jan 8, 2012. [TheCookiemonster6969](#). Help out the poor
Music "Rose" by [James Horner](#) ([Google Play](#) • [AmazonMP3](#) • [iTunes](#))

Part 1

Expressions of God's Radical Love and Hospitality

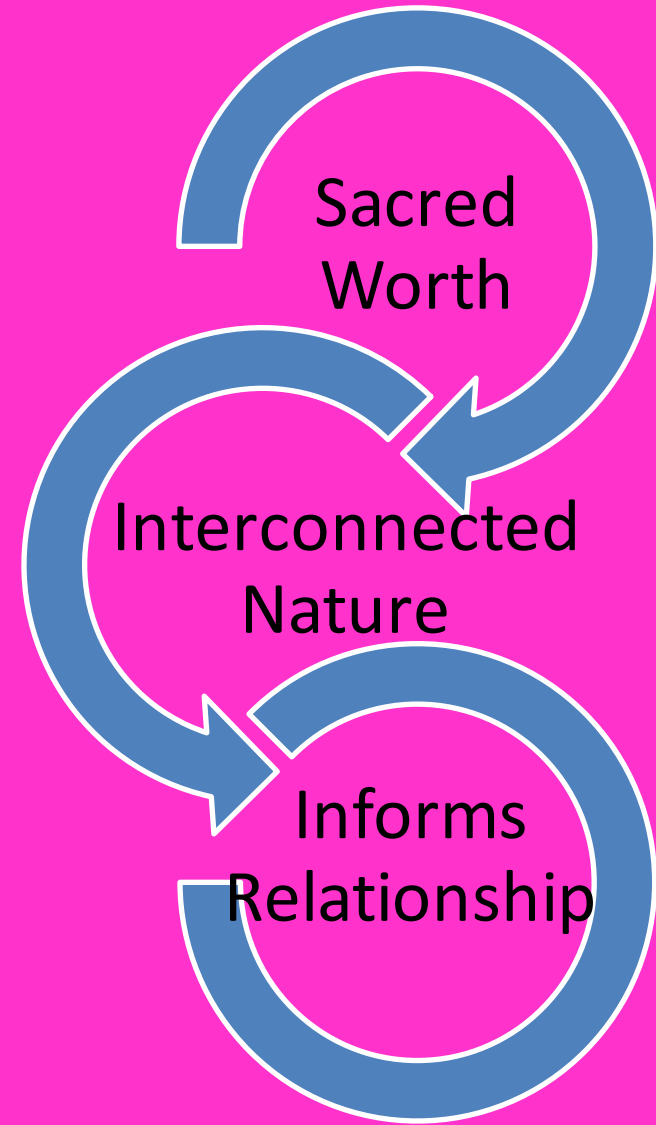




imago Dei
Made in the image
of God

**Understanding
Who We Are and
Whose We Are?**

Kingdom of God



Model of Jesus Life and Ministry
Radical Expressions of
Welcome and Hospitality

*Whoever welcomes one such
child in my name
welcomes me. (NSRV)*



Matthew 18:5

Model of Jesus Life and Ministry



Stories.
Connect.
People.

Valuing the Story of Others



Comfort / Food Break



Visit the Children's Table Resource Tables

www.umcnic.org/ChildrensTable

Commitment to Justice



Public Policy Advocacy

Biblical Lessons



*Whom are we to put first?
To Whom Does the Kingdom Belong?*

Listening and Experiencing the Voices Children



**Rendered
Mute
and Invisible**



Visions of God's Kingdom

Koinonia

***New Narrative of Beloved
Community for all Children***

Defining Questions???

How, Where, Who to Engage???



Ways the Body of Christ can provide radical change to improve the lives of all Children within and outside the Church???



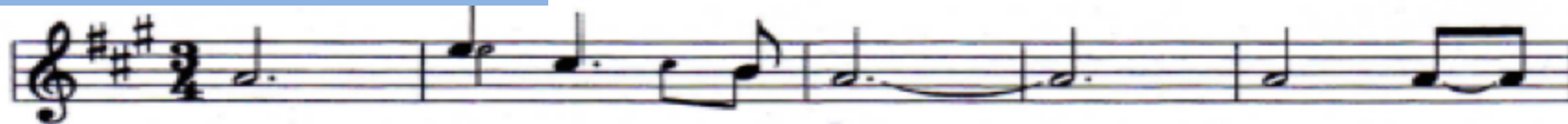
“Retreat Take-Aways”

Together as one Body of Christ we . . .

- *Participated in God’s Kingdom where all children are held equally in love.*
- *Learned to share God’s doctrine of justice for all children and our role as Champions.*
- *Engaged in spiritual dialogue to hear the voices of all children.*
- *Are empowered to conduct dialogue on behalf of children within our congregations and community.*

We Are Called

2172



1. Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
 2. Come! O - pen your heart! Show your
 3. Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that



joy and the love of the Lord! We are called to be
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called to be
 great day when all will be one! God will reign, and we'll




light for the king - dom, to live in the free - dom of the
 hope for the hope - less so all ha - tred and blind - ness will
 walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and broth - ers u -



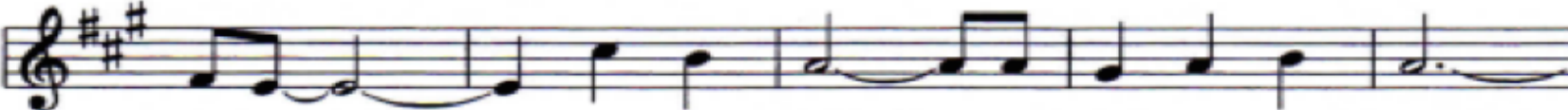
cit - y of God!
 be no more!
 nit - ed in love!

Closing Worship


Refrain



We are called to act with



jus-tice, _____ we are called to love ten-der - ly, _____



— we are called to serve one an - oth - er, _____ to



walk hum-bly with God! _____

WORDS: David Haas (Mic. 6:8)

MUSIC: David Haas

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WE ARE CALLED
Irregular with Refrain

Litany for Children

Leader: For all children around the world,

All: We thank you, O God.

Leader: For all neighborhoods where children live,
may they be safe and happy.

All: Help us, O God, to make it so.

Leader: For all the children, who live on the streets,
may they have a home and food.

All: Help us, O God, to make it so.

Litany for Children *(Continued)*

Leader: For all children, who are hungry,
may they have food.

All: Help us, O God, to make it so.

Leader: For children, who are sick and sad, make them
well and help them laugh.

All: Help us, O God, to make it so.

Leader: Take away the guns from children and stop them
from fighting each other.

All: Help us, O God, to make it so.

Litany for Children *(Continued)*

Leader: Give all children a family to love them and a home to live in.

All: Help us, O God, to make it so.

Leader: Do not forget the children; they are the present and the future.

All: We thank you, O God, for the gift of children.

Leader: God of the children everywhere, attend to our prayers, as we offer our litany today, especially for the children.

All: We turn our faces to you, the son of Righteousness, as the sunflower turns its face to the sun.

Litany for Children *(Continued)*

Leader: We call to mind the nights of blighted justice for children everywhere.

All: If one child suffers, all suffer together.

Leader: We pray for the street children; abused and neglected children, child laborers, children with special needs, child soldiers; children caught in armed conflict, and children of immigration.

All: If one child suffers, all suffer together.

Leader: Son of Righteousness, we as *Champions for Children*, in this part of the world, turn to you as the sunflower does. Equip us with the prophetic voice and deeds for the children in our midst.

Litany for Children *(Continued)*

All: If one child is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Leader: We celebrate the joyous vitality of the *United Methodist Church, the NIC Bishop's Children's Table members including* the child serving agencies and the laity and clergy of the Northern Illinois Conference, called to be advocates for children everywhere.

All: Look upon us with favor, O God, as we, as part of your body, pledge to be in solidarity with one another in building hope for the children of the world.

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Excerpts from:

Litany by Karen Sudduth of First United Methodist Church, Tupelo, MS.

Prayer of the Children by Kurt Bestor.

Adapted and used with permission from United Voices for Children, March 2014, Annual Business Meeting, Elgin, Illinois

Closing Benediction

Bishop Sally Dyck



Thank You For Joining Us Today!

For more information on the
NIC Children's Table Initiative

Visit: www.umcnic.org/ChildrensTable