

**NIC UMC Champions for Children Retreat**  
**October 11, 2015**  
***“Expressions of God’s Radical Love and Hospitality for All Children”***  
3:00pm-6:00pm First UMC Oak Park, IL

**3:00pm-3:15pm Words of Welcome**-Bishop Sally Dyck

**3:15pm-3:20pm Retreat Outcomes / Retreat Participant Agreement**

**3:20pm-3:30pm Opening Worship**

**3:30pm-4:20pm Part 1: Expressions of God’s Radical Love and Hospitality**

*Session A: 3:30pm-3:55pm* Diana Davis

*imago Dei-Made in the image of God*

- Understanding Who We Are and Whose We Are?

*Kingdom of God: Sacred Worth-interconnected nature of all creation*

- Informs our relationship with God-with one another

*Session B: 3:55pm-4:20pm* Betsy Evans Ingstrup

*Model of Jesus Life and Ministry*

- *Radical Expressions of Welcoming and Hospitality*
- *Valuing the Story of Others*

**4:20pm-4:40pm Comfort/Food Break----Opportunity to Visit Children’s Table Resource Tables**

**4:40pm-5:50pm Part 2: Visions of God’s Kingdom: Transforming Expressions of Beloved Community**

*Session A: 4:40pm-4:55pm* Laura Dean Friedrich

*Commitment to Justice: Public Policy Advocacy*

*Session B: 4:55pm-5:20pm* Lois Moreland-Dean

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

- Listening and experiencing the voices of the children living in oppressive situations who are rendered mute and invisible

*Session C: 5:20pm-5:50pm* Nancy Grim Hunter

*Visions of God’s Kingdom-New Narrative of Beloved Community (Koinonia) for all Children:*

- Defining Questions of How, Where, Who to engage and the ways the Body of Christ can provide radical change to improve the lives of all Children within and outside the Church.

**5:50pm-6:00pm Closing Worship**

**Benediction:** Bishop Sally Dyck

**6:00pm-6:30pm Opportunity to Visit Children’s Table Resource Tables**

*Retreat Planning Team Members: Diana Davis, Lois Moreland-Dean Laura Dean Friedrich, Nancy Grim Hunter, Betsy Evans Ingstrup*

## **NIC UMC Champions for Children Retreat October 11, 2015**

### **Retreat Outcomes**

- 1. To hear anew the Spirit's call upon our hearts to participate in co-creating God's Kingdom-A Kingdom where all children are held equally in love.*
- 2. To educate ourselves in articulating God's doctrine of justice for all children and our role as Champions.*
- 3. To engage in spiritual dialogue with one another to hear the voices of all children, especially those rendered mute and invisible.*
- 4. To empower further interruptive dialogue on behalf of children within your congregation and community that enables the presence of the Holy Spirit to be active in transformative expressions of Beloved Community.*

### **Retreat Participant Agreement**

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

- 1. Hold one another in mutual admiration and esteem as fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.*
- 2. Listen and engage respectfully in spiritual dialogue with one another.*
- 3. Encourage the voices and perspectives of all participants to be heard.*
- 4. Be mindful of our diverse backgrounds and cultural experiences.*
- 5. Hold ourselves and each other accountable in loving conversation.*
- 6. Refrain from judgmental, argumentative, negative or hurtful comments.*