



The Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Men's Spiritual Congress, to be conducted September 12-14, 2025, at Conference Point in Williams Bay, Wisconsin (on the shore of Lake Geneva) is an annual event attended by about 75 men from across the conference. The purpose of the event is to offer faith development and promote camaraderie among men with widely diverse experiences and divergent backgrounds.

Planning is well underway to build a program that supports the theme "Forged by Grace," which references Jesus' urging that, just as shapeless steel is forged into useful tools, ordinary men can be shaped into disciples who spread God's word and serve their families, communities, churches, and the world.

A compelling program of top lay and clergy speakers is being developed to advance the message, but a well known celebrity speaker, either addressing the theme or speaking on a topic of general spiritual interest, would add value to the program, attract attention to the event, and encourage participation.

Many men are working very hard to make the 2025 program a huge success. Perhaps a member of an NIC United Methodist Church is a member of the Cubs, White Sox, Bears, Bulls, or other Chicago sports organization or is a professional sports or news caster on television or radio. We would work with the speaker to ensure that he or she appears at a time when the most people are present (generally Saturday) and only an hour or so of their donated time is required (plus travel time of course).

If you are such a person and are willing to explore this opportunity further, call John Maxson, president of the Prairie Central District United Methodist Men and a member of the Spiritual Conference team, at 312-933-3239 or jmaxson@aol.com.