

# THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

*A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World*

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## President's Message

**Rev. Dr. William H. Samuels  
(Rev. Bill)**

### *The Savage Mind*

At the start of 2017, my ideas for the "Beloved Community" began to run rampant. A series of "what ifs" paraded through my mind suggesting if I would only get into action, the vision of the utopian neighborhood I had seen glimpses of in my "mind" could become a reality.



The simple vision was, "what is it that the people of a community need to be successful?" The psychological theorist Abraham Maslow tried to address those needs some years ago suggesting that he had identified the needs and placed them in a priority order—a hierarchy. If people are fed, nourished and tension reduced around physiological things, the first step toward a working, vibrant community has been established. If you follow that up with safety, belongingness, esteem and self-actualization, the ethical, productive and reciprocal community has its start.

Simple as that!!

But enter the critics. Not so fast and not so easy. You must understand that in order to build a bridge, you must have engineers—in order to develop a vehicle, you must have a design and safety plan and all of that stuff that makes things work. What do ya think? You can put everything in a black bag and it will work? Hmmm...

Back in the 60s, I ran around with Levi's on most of the time. It was the official uniform of youth, action and freedom. The movement people wore them, the "hip" people slipped them on and poor people wore them until holes came in the knees and they faded because of much washing. Folks are still wearing them—but at a slightly higher cost. When I went back to school to finish graduate work, I met a new Levi-Strauss—as the research material states—the one who makes the pants doesn't have the dash—he is an anthropologist (from France, no less.) This Levi-Strauss wrote books, one in particular that addresses this discussion, *The Savage Mind*.

*cont'd. on page 7*



## Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day

**Don Ashmall**

*Council Minister, Emeritus*

In a coincidence of calendar construction, Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day this year. How strange is that?

Ash Wednesday is not universally observed among Council congregations. Where it is, it is one of those occasions on which we are reminded of the transience of our earthly existence, which in blunt terms means that in not so many years we'll all be dead. Those of us whose birthday cakes no longer carry a flame for each year lest we burn down the house are well aware of that fact. But it doesn't hurt us to be reminded – and also to be reminded that a thousand years in God's sight are but as yesterday when it is past. We may have a limited horizon, but the Divine perspective is immeasurable.

On that day of mortality, we'll also be celebrating the reality of love. Surely most of what passes for Valentine sentiment revolves around the heart going pitty-pat in response to the emotions of romance. Those of us whose hair has grown grey with age (or maybe it's fallen out entirely) have for the most part come to realize that the giddiness of falling in love with another is but a passing feeling. Standing with another for better and for worse takes more energy and requires greater commitment, but is all the more rewarding. And in that perspective it is possible to understand that God's love is deeper and broader than any human love could ever be, and brings us rewards that are infinite and everlasting.

With all that said, this is supposed to be a column for the community church movement. So what do both Ash

Wednesday and Valentine's Day have to say to our fellowship and to our mission?

Our movement's goals are justice, reconciliation and Christian unity. Our individual mortality lets us know that those goals are not going to be ours to achieve. Whatever we accomplish – and those accomplishments have been and will be significant – the job will remain undone when we shuffle off this mortal coil. But ours is a movement and not an assemblage of individual interests. What we received we will pass on as an imperishable inheritance, and others yet unborn will continue the work until Christ pronounces it complete. Admittedly that may not appeal to our own egos. We'd rather be living in this life as the harvest is finished. Alas, that isn't about to happen. Others planted; we cultivate and water; and the yield will be brought into God's storehouse on God's schedule and not our own.

The motivating power for all of that is love. The love we celebrate and seek to live is no puppy love or infatuation, but the generative, empowering care of a Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer who summons us and sends us to the work. And make no mistake about it: it is work. It is hard labor to discover again and again that diversity can exist without division, because we are such a motley crew! Given our near-instinctive tribalism, it is backbreaking toil to work out again and again, how we can achieve unity without demanding uniformity. Only

an overwhelming Divine love can push us, pull us, tug us and cajole us toward the high calling that is ours.

With all of that in mind, and for those who have never before observed Ash Wednesday, here's a brief possible liturgy for this year's fourteenth of February, as ashes are imposed.

*A representative of Christ's Church:* Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Remember also that God has breathed life into the dust that is yours, and that in the love of the Christ you are given life, eternal and abundant.

*The recipient of the ashes:* Thanks be to God.

*A representative of Christ's Church:* Live that abundant life, serving justice, reconciliation and Christian unity in all your days.

*The recipient of the ashes:* I will, God giving me strength.

*Both in unison:* To God be the glory. Amen.

Here's another suggestion, whether or not your congregation is accustomed to observing Ash Wednesday and/or "does something" related to Valentine's Day: make the coincidence of calendar a topic of discussion in your youth and adult classes. Talk about life and death, puppy love and mature love; and seek God's guidance as you consider how the days

and your church will advance justice, reconciliation, and Christian unity.

Blessings of the multiple days and seasons!



# Annual Conference 2018 in St. Louis, Missouri

*Submitted by Harry Fooockle*

A Word to ICCC members and Annual Conference attendees concerning the travel advisory issued by the NAACP in the state of Missouri.

On 8 May 2017 the Missouri Senate voted on and passed Senate Bill 43. On 30 June 2017 the Governor signed the Bill making it law. It took effect in August 2017.



In essence Senate Bill 43 makes it more difficult to prove discrimination in the work place. To file a lawsuit now means the discrimination must be a "motivating factor" and not a "contributing factor."

In a nutshell it makes it harder to prove discrimination for individuals in the workplace, thus favoring the business owners. It is viewed by civil rights organizations as a step backwards for equal justice under the law.

The President of the Missouri NAACP said, "Senate Bill 43 makes it harder to prove discrimination and that means it is easier to discriminate against all people, and that's all people, whether you're a man or a woman, a person of color, a person of faith, disabled or over 40."

The travel advisory was issued after the Governor signed the Bill alerting people to the law and need to rescind it. It was a bold step to make folk aware of Senate Bill 43 and discrimination.

Vice-President of the NCAAP, Rosemary Johnson said, "We want people to come to Missouri, just drive the speed limit."

While the Bill had nothing to do with travel, it did raise the issue discrimination in the state of Missouri.

I do not anticipate that we would incur any difficulties being in Annual Conference, as well as traveling to and from St. Louis. I do believe our presence (The ICCC) meeting in St. Louis will make a strong impact on the need to change such bills, as this one in Missouri, to promote equality for all and witness to our movement of The International Council of Community Churches as a living example people coming together.

## REQUEST FOR EXHIBIT SPACE

### I.C.C.C. Annual Conference July 16-19, 2018 St. Louis, Missouri

Please reserve a 6' x 30" space in the exhibit area of the 2018 Annual Conference of the International Council of Community Churches.

An attendant \_\_\_\_\_ will be present

\_\_\_\_\_ will not be present

Name of Attendant: \_\_\_\_\_

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**There is a fee of \$50.00 per exhibit space, for the July 16-19, 2018 time period, payable in advance.** Please return this request form, with payment made payable to the International Council of Community Churches, for consideration by June 15, 2018 to:

**International Council of Community Churches  
21116 Washington Parkway  
Frankfort, IL 60423-3112**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 815-464-5690 or ICC60423@sbcglobal.net.

Thank you for taking advantage of this opportunity for exhibiting.

## 2018 OPTIONAL CONFERENCE MEAL PROGRAMS

The **2018 Annual Conference** offers 4 optional meal program opportunities: the Fellowship Luncheon, the Koinonia Luncheon, the Mission Luncheon and the Prayer Breakfast (hosted by the Women's Christian Fellowship). The Conference Banquet Dinner is included in your registration fee\*\* (Additional quantities can be reserved for a fee). You can visit our website **ICCCNOW.org** to see a brief description of the meal program, or watch for details in upcoming issues of the *Christian Community*.

**Monday, July 16, 2018 at 12:00pm** is the **Fellowship Luncheon**. This Sandwich Display Buffet includes: Tossed Salad, Choice of Ham & Swiss with Tomato Jam on Ciabatta, Veggie Wraps or Beef & Cheddar with Horseradish Cream, Pickled Red Onion on a Brioche Roll, Parmesan House Made Chips, Iced Tea, Coffee and Hot Teas.

**Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at 12:00pm** is the **Koinonia Luncheon**. This meal includes: Caesar Salad, Sliced Beef Brisket, Sautéed Green Beans, Red Potatoes, Warm Rolls & Butter, Chef's Selection of Dessert, Iced Tea, Coffee and Hot Tea Stations. **Vegetarian Option:** Stacked Eggplant

**Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at 12:00pm** is the **Mission Luncheon**. This meal includes: St. Louis City Center House Salad, with Field Greens, Split Cherry Tomatoes, Candied Walnuts and Feta Cheese served with Red Wine Vinaigrette, Chicken Piccata, Mashed Potatoes, Broccolini, Chef's Selection of Dessert, Iced Tea, Coffee and Hot Tea Stations. **Vegetarian Option:** Mushroom Ravioli

**Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.** is the **Prayer Breakfast**. This meal includes: Fruit, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Hash Browns, Juice, Coffee and Tea.

**Thursday, at 6:30 p.m.** is the **Conference Banquet**. This meal includes: Baby Romaine and Tomato Salad: Baby Hearts with Red and Yellow Tomatoes, Julienned Red Onions and Herb Vinaigrette, Slow Roasted Pork Tenderloin Medallions with Apple Cranberry Chutney, Rolls & Butter, Pound Cake with Fresh Berries, Iced Tea, Coffee and Hot Teas. **Vegetarian Option:** Grilled Farm Raised Salmon with a Citrus Orange Gastrique. **Kid's Meal Option:** Chicken Tenders, Mac & Cheese, Cookie and Lemonade

### 2018 MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Mail this form & payment to: ICCC, 21116 Washington Pkwy, Frankfort, IL 60423

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$26.00 each for **Monday's Welcome Luncheon**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$30.00 each for **Tuesday's Koinonia Luncheon**

☐ Check for Vegetarian Option\*

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$30.00 each for **Wednesday's Mission Luncheon**

☐ Check for Vegetarian Option\*

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$24.00 each for **Thursday's Prayer Breakfast**

\*\*Please reserve add'l. \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$51.00 each for **Thursday's Banquet Dinner**

☐ Pork

☐ Vegetarian

\*\*Please reserve add'l. \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$20.00 each for children under 12yrs.

**\*\*A Banquet ticket is already included in registration. Order only if additional tickets are needed.**

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**If paying by check:** make check payable to: International Council of Community Churches (ICCC)

**If paying by credit card:** ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS ☐ DISCOVER

Account Number on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for meal function reservations is June 20th.** There will only be a VERY LIMITED supply of tickets available at Conference registration, so please purchase your tickets before the deadline. After the June 20th deadline meal reservations **will not be accepted in the Council Office.**

**\*\*The Conference Banquet is included in the registration fee. You do not need to reserve a ticket for this meal, unless you require additional tickets.**



## 2018 Annual Conference Bible Study Lecturer

We are pleased and excited to welcome Rev. Dr. David Greenhaw as our Bible Study Lecturer at the 2018 Annual Conference!



David Greenhaw is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ with joint partner standing with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He serves as President and Professor of Preaching and Worship at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri.

Dr. Greenhaw lectures and publishes on the revitalization of mainline Protestantism. He is a frequent guest preacher in congregations and church gatherings within the United States and has preached, taught and lectured in Asia, Africa, South America and Europe. David is married to Leigh Hunt Greenhaw, a retired law professor at Washington University Law School.

We look forward to Dr. Greenhaw's leadership in July!

## WCF Information

Submitted by Carol Nichols  
cs83nick@aol.com

Greetings Ladies,

It is good to greet you! It is my Prayer that everyone had a good holiday season! It is not too late to make your New Year's resolutions. One that I advocate is to plan to participate in your WCF programming. There are ample opportunities for you to contribute.



The WCF is sponsoring the Prayer Breakfast and continuing to prepare the programs for our meetings. Again, the invitation is open to you to join us, make suggestions and participate. Also, ladies please remember to bring items for the bazaar. The board members of the WCF wish you, your families, and the ICCC a very Happy, Healthy, and prosperous New Year and may God continue to bless us one and all.

*Remember this song? "I need you, you need me, we are all a part of God's body."*

## Mission Luncheon at the Annual Conference

**Please join a familiar face for the  
Mission Luncheon at Annual Conference!**

*They who seek Jehovah shall not lack any good.  
Psalm 34:10*

Ida Scudder was born into a family of medical missionaries. Her grandfather Dr. John Scudder was the first medical missionary from the Reformed Church of America to India. As a young woman Ida Scudder studied at the Northfield Seminary in Massachusetts where she was known for her pranks!

Ida Scudder had a life changing experience during her visit to help her sick mother in India. This experience led Ida to seek God and trust Him in His Divine provision. God opened the "Gateway to Glory" through His calling for Ida to train in medicine and serve humanity. Dr. Ida Scudder started Christian Medical College (CMC) and Hospital in Vellore (South India) as a one room clinic. This by God's Grace flourished into the #1 private teaching hospital in India with international recognition. Some of the "firsts" at CMC are the first reconstructive surgery on Leprosy patients in the world (1948) and the first Trans septal carotid stenting procedure in the world (1996). Today CMC is known internationally for its cutting edge research and holistic (body and spirit) care. CMC is affiliated with many American Universities like Cornell, Tufts and University of Pennsylvania. Most importantly CMC is known worldwide for its "Healing Ministry of Christ" in a country where Christians are a minority. Its vision like the vision of ICCC is to "Love and serve God, God's people and God's creation" CMC seeks to work in partnership both with the Church in India and the Universal Church and their institutions. This year CMC is celebrating 100 years as a medical school!

The Vellore CMC Foundation (NYC) is excited to share with you the amazing testimony of God's miracles through CMC during the 2018 ICCC conference mission luncheon. We are thrilled to have Deepika Srivastava as our presenter!



## St. Monica Music Ministry

For over 30 plus years under the direction of Min. of Music, Melvin E. Kerr; God has anointed one of the most powerful Music Ministries in Kansas City. The music style is so unique that many have categorized it as "Progressive Baptist", "Pentecostal" or other upbeat denominations. The blend of music captures your attention every time they sing.

The ministry includes instruments such as a Hammond B-3 organ, keyboard, drums, tambourines, conga, lead guitar and bass guitar. We welcome youth in our ministry and enjoy serving as mentors to them. Our Music Department currently totals 60 participants. Rehearsals are 45 minutes on Sunday mornings. Our purpose, beyond just singing, is to be a people of prayer. We pray for healing, deliverance, families, community, coworkers, leaders and many other requests. Our "Hour of Power" prayer gets results and is verified by the testimonies we receive. Beyond singing at Sunday services and in the community, the choir has completed a CD project. We have also helped and produced local artists with their CD projects.

The church and choir were noted by Kansas City's "Pitch" weekly magazine; as the "Best Worship Style" in Kansas City. The choir has been privileged to perform in concert with "Barry Manilow". Members of the choir appeared in the movie "Three Blind Saints."; Our Minister of Music

composed and taught the choir in the movie's church scene. The song "Without Faith" was selected as the trailer song for the movie.

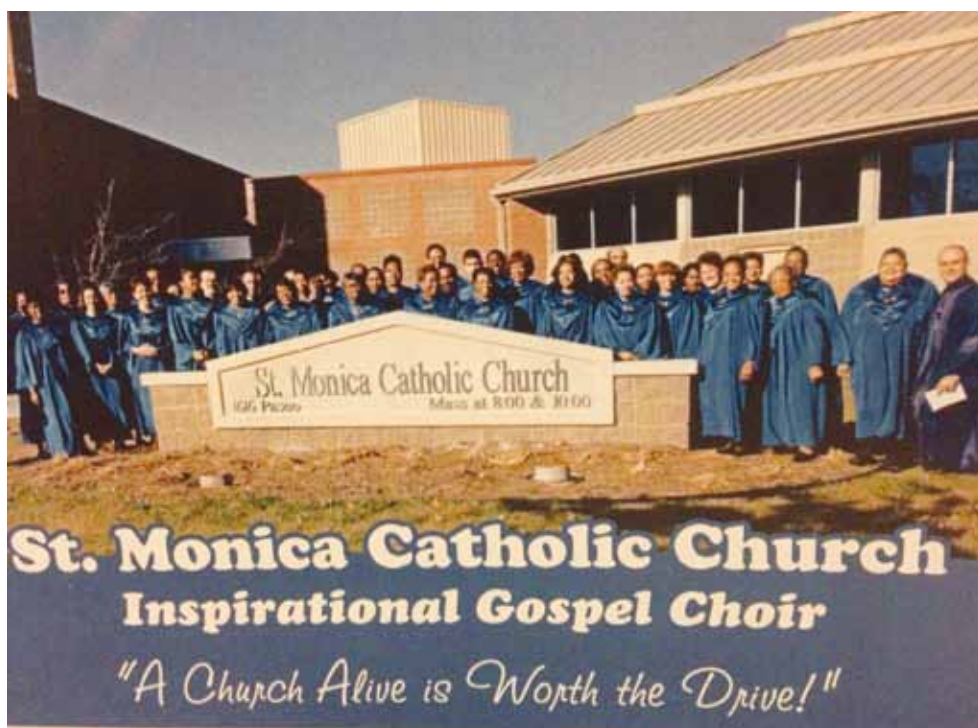
The St. Monica Music Department also has an Outreach Ministry. We believe in order to have an effective "Outreach" you must first "Reach Out". The Music Ministry Outreach includes: Saint Monica Instruments of Praise (Musicians), Saint Monica Dinner Playhouse Productions, Voice Lessons, Piano Lesson and Community.

We are also active in travel; including nationwide group tours, Recording/Engineering and CD Ministry. The choir travels to minister to other parts of the country. Some states include: Arkansas, Illinois, Alabama, Ohio and Michigan. We also ministered in Ontario Canada. The choir finances

their activities, choir robes, instruments and maintenance through "FUN" raisers.

As you can see this is a very busy and vibrant Music Ministry. We have a welcoming spirit and invite you to come join us. Guess what? We are NOT professional singers. Our motto is: "WE CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST". We strive to live up to this motto because God has greatly blessed us. We invite you to visit our Sunday services at 8:00 am or 10 am. Our church address is 1616 Paseo Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108, Father Leonard Gicheru – Pastor. Follow the Music Ministry on YouTube / The St Monica Music Ministry.

We are delighted to have St. Monica's Choir at the 2018 annual conference for a Worship Experience you won't want to miss on Monday, July 16th in St. Louis!



Sharing Joys:

- **Brian Januzzi**; a member of **Wilson Memorial Union Church**, Watchung, NJ, where Rev. **Barbara Peters** is the Senior Pastor, has been awarded a Jordan Scholarship and is pursuing a degree in Chemical Engineering. Brian is currently the ICCC Young Adults President and has attended conference the last 6 years. We wish him well as he continues his education.
- **Fr. Barry L. Lillis**, an ICCC Chaplain affiliated through **Orthodox Catholic Church of America**, Lexington, KY has let us know he continues at Erie County Medical Center in Buffalo, NY, a county hospital with 12 floors, a medical office building, an oncology building and a nursing home, serving all of Western New York. Fr. Lillis has worked there 24 years and teaches Rehab/Detox-Chemical Dependency Spirituality classes. He will soon be going into schools to discuss with 4th-7th graders the "Real Story of Drugs/Alcohol Abuse... no holds barred."

***We encourage all ICCC clergy, chaplains and churches to update us on their current events!***

Our prayers are with:

- **Antoinette Cook**, **Antioch Community Church**, **Harry Foockle** Senior Pastor. Her father, Jim Duke, passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer's December 28th. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.
- The family of **Mary Phyllis Horn**, who passed away on October 26, 2017. Mary was a former member of **Light of Christ Community Church** and resided in Pittsboro, NC.

The Stewards Programme has been announced for the WCC Central Committee meeting in Geneva, June 2018. The Stewards Programme brings together a group of 20 young people from different church traditions, backgrounds and regions all over the world. June 6-23, 2018, young adults will serve at the Central Committee meeting, bringing their faith, knowledge, and visions to an ecumenical experience of togetherness and friendship. World Council of Churches is hopeful that you will help to share this news, and encourage young people of ages 18-30 to apply. The deadline for application is 31 January 2018.



For more information, and to access the application guidelines, please visit: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/events/wcc-invites-applications-to-central-committee-stewards-programme>. You may also contact [youth@wcc-coe.org](mailto:youth@wcc-coe.org) for more information.

*The Savage Mind cont'd from page 1*

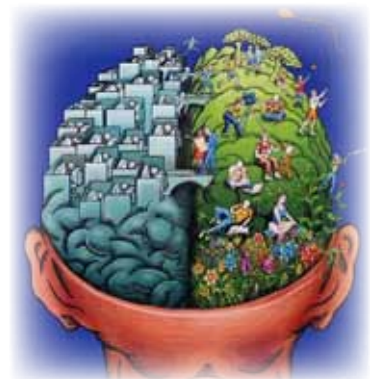
Now this Levi-Strauss was "hip" in another way. He suggested to me that emerging civilizations have developed a way of thinking—which—in a way is full of inhibition. Whereas nuts and bolts have to be a certain size for the engineer, the ancient mind was more "raw" (*The Raw and the Cooked*, also by Levi-Strauss) in his thinking—everything didn't have to fit—he carried all he needed in a black bag—He was McGyver, he didn't need much yet he could make it work. He was what Levi-Strauss called a "bricoleur."

As I finish my last year as President of the ICCC, I admit that it has gone quickly or as the Scriptures would say—man born of a woman is of but a few days—and full of trouble. Since I see myself more of bricoleur type, I want you to know that I do have a black bag and if you have a community which needs repairing or developing please let me know.

I asked the membership Vice-President (Wayne Samuels) to find me 10 communities where I could jointly share the contents of the black bag with interested groups. In Chicago, our local Community, West Chatham was named the safest on the City's southside last year. The best elementary school in the city is across the street from us (Lenart), the basketball and football champions from the last few years are down the street a few blocks away (Simeon) and we all share the same parks and sidewalks. Our church is where the West Chatham Improvement Association (WCIA) has met over the last 30 years. I don't know whether we can take credit for the good fortune—but we do pray and plan a lot. The businesses, the schools and the community all work with us—we are primitive like that.

The contents of the bag, however, is no secret. It has within it the ICCC design of working with the community, the businesses and the churches with our food pantry; our understanding of the "Beloved Community" and its elements and finally our understanding of Agape in rugged times.

If you have a desire to interact with other big city or small town groups—if you like to compete, make new friends, support the idea of Christian ethics, community care and sharing agape, let Wayne know—we need ten such cities, groups or churches to work with across the country.





## Seeking Full-Time Pastor

Founded in 1973, People's Community Church (PCC) is a non-denominational church located in Berea, Ohio, approximately 25 miles south west of Cleveland, Ohio. We are blessed to be a diverse, all-inclusive, and family oriented church with an active membership of approximately 100. PCC is an active affiliate of the International Council of Community Churches and Ohio Fellowship of Community Churches.

The qualified candidate shall: Be an ordained and licensed minister; Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to teach the Holy Bible; Be an empowering educator with strong skills in discipleship, homiletics, stewardship, pastoral care and community building; Demonstrate godly character and integrity; Share our church's vision of equipping Christians in the mission of Christ; Have a minimum of a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university; Have attended an accredited seminary (seminary degree preferred); Have a minimum 3 years of experience in preaching and church leadership; Have experience working with church leadership teams and church employees; Demonstrate excellent verbal, written, and presentation skills; Demonstrate excellent leadership, organizational, strategic planning and time management skills.

**Job Description:** Pastor will be responsible for preaching, teaching, conducting funerals and special worship services and programs; Oversees pastoral care to sick and shut in and to those in personal crisis through visitation, counseling and prayer; Administers the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and Baptism; Officiates weddings as agreed upon with couples as defined by Holy Scripture; Coordinates and leads church business meetings; Adheres to PCC Bylaws and Constitution; Maintains affiliation and supports of International Council of Community Churches and Ohio Fellowship of Community Churches; Actively engages in community sponsored events; Other duties as required

If you have been led by the Holy Spirit to seek the position as Pastor of People's Community Church, please submit your cover letter and resume to [peoplescommunitychurch631@gmail.com](mailto:peoplescommunitychurch631@gmail.com).

Candidates may also learn more about our church and its ministries via our Facebook page. You can also download our church app: the echurch's app, PeoplesCC, at the Apple or Google Play stores.

Final candidates will be subject to a background check and drug test.

## Seeking a Music Director

Norris Religious Fellowship (Norris, TN) is seeking a Music Director. Salaried, part-time position. The Music Director works in initiating programs, rehearsals, special music, etc.; provides piano and/or organ accompaniment for the hymns. Ability to lead a choir and congregation, directing and inspiring others through a ministry of music. Excellent vocal skills a plus. Please provide a resume and cover letter along with recording demonstrating your skill set via audio CD, DVD, or link to digital materials online (YouTube, Vimeo, professional website).

Submit via email to

[norrisreligiousfellowship@comcast.net](mailto:norrisreligiousfellowship@comcast.net).

More information about NRF

[www.NorrisRF.org](http://www.NorrisRF.org).



### ICCC Endowment Fund Status As of January 5, 2018

Gifts Goal by 30 June '18: ..... \$15,000

Gifts since 7/01/17: ..... \$6,376

Help us meet our goal, need: ..... \$8,364

Total Endowment Gifts to  
ICCC since inception: ..... \$46,373

Current Fund Assets: ..... \$335,191

Current Investment Mix: 50% stocks, 46% bonds, 4% Cash



Be sure to visit our Facebook page  
to see many great things  
happening at ICCC Churches!  
[www.facebook.com/icccnow/](http://www.facebook.com/icccnow/)

