

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

VOLUME 67

JUNE/PRE-CONFERENCE 2017

NUMBER 8

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President

William H. Samuels

VP for Regional Relationships

Shyreece Pompey

VP for Membership Enlistment

Carter S.R. Garner

VP for Membership Services

Wayne Samuels

Secretary

Abraham Wright

Regional Trustees

Vermelle Barnes, Janet Burch

Glenn Clay, Sharyon Cosey,

Charles Addison, Doris Marcisak,

Kenneth Young

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

William H. Samuels

Treasurer

Nicholas Brame

Secretary

Abraham Wright

VP for Planning

Harry Fooockle

VP for Financial Development

Roberta Smith

VP for Regional Relationships

Shyreece Pompey

VP for Membership Enlistment

Carter S.R. Garner

VP for Membership Services

Wayne Samuels

VP for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

Herman Harmelink, III

VP for Leadership Development

Stephen York

VP for Informational Services and Outreach

Michael Donahue

Auxiliary Representative

Wayne Samuels

Immediate Past President

Richard O. Griffith

AUXILIARY HEADS

Youth: Andrenae Brown

Samaritans: Wayne Samuels

Women's Christian Fellowship:

Barbara Ratliff

Ministerium: Charles Clark Jr.

"LIVING FAITH IN A WORLD OF CHANGE"

July 17 – 20, 2017

See you in Cherry Hill, NJ!



Annual Conference Checklist

Have you done the following yet?

- Sent in your registration form and fee?
- Called the Crowne Plaza Hotel and made your reservations? 888-233-9527
Deadline June 20th.
- Made your meal reservations (optional) with the Council office?
- Signed up for the Tour (optional)?
- Contacted the office about volunteering at conference?
- Sent in or talked to your church about sending their Voting Delegate form or an extra contribution to offset their loss of presence at conference?

If you need more information, please contact the Council office.

Volunteers Needed

DeAnn is looking for volunteers for Registration.

Hours for Registration are:

Sunday 7/16: 8:00am -11:30am
6:00pm - 9:00pm

Monday 7/17: 7:00am - 9:00am

Please contact DeAnn at the Council office to schedule a time: icccdc@sbcglobal.net or 815-464-5690. **Thank you!!**





President's Message

Do You Love Me?

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

It is amazing to me to experience life as it races past us. "Sunrise, sunset, swiftly go the years, one season following another, laden with happiness and tears." That line and that song come from the golden age of musicals remembered as "Fiddler on the Roof." That same musical from the mid-twentieth century gave us "Matchmaker" and my favorite "Do you love me?" Now the golden age of musicals were in my undergraduate days in college when my identity was going through its final stages of development and Johnny Mathis was supporting me in my quest for romance and intimacy.

It was also in those years that the ICCC was being formed, nurtured and developed an identity of its own. It was during these years when the question was being asked and challenged between black and white people, "Do you love me?"

By now, I was conscious of the Greek influence on the language of **love or eros, philo and agape**. As far as my understanding at that point was concerned, love meant eros or the desire to associate and inter-relate because of physical appearance, status and the mystical feelings of care provoked by sexuality. Somewhere in this shaping of identity was something new—caring for people not because of—but, "in spite of." In this funny-looking word agape was the hope of our cities, our communities and our country—even our world. What we now were including in our associations was the stranger, the outcast, the rejected and the downtrodden. We had become the friends of Jesus, who had taught us, "If you do this to the least of these my brethren, you have done it also unto me." Jesus had given to the ICCC a belief—at least an idea—that in our fellowship was the dry seed of the hope of America if we would only let our deeds be as our dreams were.

"Fiddler on the Roof" features in its lead role a "milk man" named Tevye whose wife was called Golde. The family was completed by five daughters, who, at the turn of the century (1905) were "victims" of the tradition of arranged marriages. Their collective desire was to not have an arranged marriage set up by a "Matchmaker," but a romantic marriage in which they would choose their own mates based on love.

Tevye is fascinated and saddened by the break from "tradition" in his daughters and decides to ask his loyal and faithful wife the question, "Do you love me?" Golde responds that for 25 years she has cared for him, had children with him, washed and sewed for him. What a silly question, she implied. "If that's not love—then, what is?" Is it, then, that Golde and the Matchmaker may have come upon something here. Golde and Tevye were, indeed, "matched", but not through eros or romance/desire. Perhaps the idea of relationships can best be served through arrangement rather than emotions. Maybe real love like Golde and Tevye is the result of a divine matchmaker. Maybe it is our job to rethink love from romanticism to another kind of matching—matching the poor, downtrodden and discouraged with Christians who feed the hungry, clothe the naked and support the poor. Maybe this word **agape** has more substance than Valentine's Day. We could ask Dr. Mike Donahue of Agape—he may know. Maybe it is based on what it means to care (**sorge**) rather than hug—feel more than touch and take time more than take turns.

The life of a Judeo-Christian has certainly changed since 1905 in the Ukraine. The village milkman (Tevye) has all but disappeared. The airplanes of the Wright Brothers (1903) have now become the way to travel—not so much

from village to village but from nation to nation and daily life has changed from participating to watching—from cooking meals to buying meals and from writing and talking to tweeting.

Maybe the founders and developers of ICCC will look through time to our generation and observe with pride how we faced the challenges of modernity and question with Tevye:

"Is this the little girl I carried,
Is this the little boy at play,
I don't remember growing older,
When did they?
When did she get to be a beauty?
When did he grow to be so tall?
Wasn't it yesterday
when they were small?"

Sunrise, Sunset, Sunrise, Sunset,
swiftly flow years,
One season following another,
**Will it be more happiness
than tears?"**

We have a chance—we have a mission—We have Jesus,
Let us roll up our sleeves and get busy!!
See you at conference!





What Kind of Unity

Don Ashmall
Council Minister

As a fellowship of community-based churches and ministry centers, we proclaim that we are at the forefront of the search for Christian unity. And well we might. In the year 1950, some Christian denominations (but not all) in the USA were carefully and painstakingly negotiating the beginning of the National Council of Churches. Billy Graham had just become a “name” in American Christianity, with both supporters and opponents forcefully expressing their opinions about his ministry. That year Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity, an event that if it had been noticed (generally it wasn’t) might have been scorned by many Protestants. Mao Tse Tung’s newly communist China expelled Christian missionaries, a move that certainly was noticed and widely denounced. Unity seemed a distant goal or perhaps an impossible dream.

It was in 1950, a year of uncertainty and change, that two fellowships of churches joined and formed the International Council of Community Churches. Most commonly the merger was seen as a victory for racial harmony, since the two groups were predominately Afro-American and Euro-American. That such a demonstration of inter-racial unity took place in that particular year was amazing. But the merger was even broader than that.

Most of the churches in the new fellowship were clearly Protestant, although their worship styles ranged from what might be termed high-church Presbyterian to determinedly Pentecostal. But there were also independent Catholic congregations – churches with bishops in apostolic succession but not in communion with Rome. The theological diversity didn’t stop there. Though the member churches of the new group were uniformly within the Christian tradition, there were all sorts of theological

opinions being expressed. Now a few of the pastors were relieved that they now belonged to a fellowship in which they could preach as they felt the Spirit led them, without risking charges of heresy from somebody within a denominational hierarchy. That recognition of freedom continues today.

The cultural settings in which the churches and ministry centers served were diverse as well. The very fact that some member bodies saw themselves as “ministry centers” was a sign of that. In the nineteenth century “settlement houses” among immigrant communities in the USA tutored children and adults in English and other subjects, provided orientation to urban centers to folk who had never before seen a streetcar, and aided poverty-stricken newcomers with food and clothing. Ministry centers continued this tradition and even today adapt it to emerging needs. Today, even churches that see themselves as “traditional” have adopted one or more settlement house style ministries and made them their own.

In 1950 many of the member congregations of the new fellowship were rural, but even then it was becoming clear that demographic change was in the air. Today, some urban ICCC churches host community gardens to help both members and neighbors supplement their diets with vegetables they have cultivated. It’s a long way from the wheat fields of the American Midwest to urban experiments in agriculture, but the common theme of stewardship and celebration of God’s creation remains.

The Council began with just a very few congregations outside the USA. Today we are a multi-continental fellowship. In 1950, all the congregations saw English as their first language. Today the

membership speaks several languages, which suggests that the future will see simultaneous translations of proceedings at Annual Conference.

Given all the diversity, what kind of unity does the community church movement have? I would suggest that there are three abiding themes in our search for unity.

The first theme is justice. All are one in Christ, and there is neither Jew nor Greek.... From this scriptural insight it becomes clear that for some to be granted privilege and others to be made less, is a violation of the will of God. When the Council began, the need for racial justice in the US was obvious. That remains, even as a vision for justice for all God’s children globally has found expression through our fellowship.

The second theme is reconciliation. There are all sorts of conflict in this world. We are called by God to bridge the gaps and to offer ministries that seek to overcome hostility and fear through love. We as a fellowship seek more than an impatient “tolerance”. Instead we work for a level of communication and understanding that can come only from Jesus’ teachings and Spirit.

The third theme is a Christian unity that is based on the Biblical vision of the victory banquet at the end of time and beyond time, at which all are welcome, none are assigned a lesser place at the table, and there is enough for all. We cooperate with regional, national and international conciliar ecumenical bodies, and we reach out to other Christians on the local level, motivated in each case by Jesus’ prayer “that they might all be one.”

These three themes undergird all that we do as a fellowship – because we believe that each is in the will of God.

Greetings from the WCF!

Submitted by Barbara Ratliff, President

I greet you in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Excitement is mounting among the officers but we have a major concern. This is an election year and we are struggling to find women to fill the vacant offices of 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Assistant Secretary. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an officer contact me. 312-342-8767 If you would like to nominate someone, please call Rev. Ella Clay 615-491-4101.

As a reminder, our Bazaar Chairperson, Elaine Richardson, would like "hand-made" items to be sold in the Bazaar. Also, she is in need of a few items to be auctioned. If you have an item, please contact Elaine at 205-639-9391. A portion of the proceeds from the Bazaar helps fund the Jordan Scholarship Fund.

In a recent discussion among the officers, the question was posed "What can be done to get more women to attend our sessions?" We hope if you have not attended in a while, you will consider joining us this year at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ in July. All information is available on the ICCC website. www.icccnow.org.

On behalf of the women of WCF, we pray all is well with you and yours. Thank you in advance for considering the 67th Annual Conference and the women's ministry.

ICCC Endowment Fund Status As of May 12, 2017

Gifts Goal by 30 June '17: \$25,000

Gifts since 7/01/16: \$19,245

Help us meet our goal: Need \$5,755

**Total Endowment Gifts to
ICCC since inception:** \$39,383

Current Fund Assets: \$317,608

Current Investment Mix:
34% stocks, 28% bonds & 38% Treasuries

Ecumenews

*Submitted by Herman Harmelink, III
VP Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations*

Lonnie Miller and I were privileged to represent ICCC at a recent Forum on the Persecuted Church, sponsored by Christian Churches Together and attended by a great variety of Christian groups. The initiative came from several Eastern Orthodox communion which have congregations in the Middle East. These congregations are being decimated both by wars, as in Syria and Iraq, and by regimes which make it difficult for Christians to worship and witness to their faith.



You may have read about Pope Francis' recent visit to the Coptic Church in Egypt (Orthodox) in order to show Christian solidarity with them after two of their churches had been bombed on Palm Sunday, with considerable loss of life. In another happening, the Christian former governor of an Indonesian province was found guilty of blasphemy for nothing more than saying that Muslims could vote for a Christian. These are merely illustrative of the kinds of experience our fellow Christians know in many parts of the world.

An organization called Open Doors presented a map which showed where the worst areas of persecution are. North Korea scored the highest negative score with 92, but a total of 50 countries scored higher than 53 on the negative scale.

Everyone at the Forum was aware, of course, that not only Christians are persecuted for their faith. Shea and Sunni Muslims often persecute each other, and are sometimes persecuted by Buddhists (Myanmar) and Hindus (India). The pastoral letter issued by the Conference had two purposes: to plead for religious liberty for all religions anywhere in the world, and especially on behalf of small or unpopular minorities; and to assure persecuted Christians of our solidarity with them, our prayers for them, and our desire to advocate for them.

We hope to have copies of the world map mentioned above at our Annual Conference, so that you may see where Christians are under severe stress, and so that your prayers may be specific.

Help For Your Church – Grant Writing for Hunger Ministries

*Submitted by Bob Harris,
Feeding the Hungry Together Mission*

The ICCC Board of Directors and the Hunger Relief Task Force have developed an "ICCC Hunger Grant Committee. The committee will advise and assist ICCC churches and ministry centers in establishing a new hunger relief program or significantly expanding existing programs.

The ICCC Hunger Grant Committee will be available to help churches:

- Identify local hunger relief needs that can be met by grants, as well as potential funders,
- Establish local committees to develop or expand hunger relief programs, and to assemble demographic and other research data for grant writing,
- Assist with reviewing grant requirements, applications and writing submissions, and
- Coordinate hunger relief activities among neighboring ICCC churches who want to participate, to increase the likelihood of grant funding.
- Do all of the above WITHOUT additional cost to the local church.

The New Council Hunger Relief Grant Assistance Program Makes Sense:

ICCC community churches and centers are uniquely qualified to provide hunger relief services to their local communities. They know their own communities far better than outside organizations. They can operate as trusted social service "hubs" in their communities, developing programs to best meet their particular community's hunger needs.

Learn More about How the ICCC Hunger Grant Committee Can Help Your Church

The ICCC Hunger Grant Assistance program will be formally introduced and discussed at the Annual Conference from 5:15 to 6:00 PM Wednesday, July 19th. The location will be in the Conference program's Schedule of Events.

If your church or center is interested in exploring hunger relief grant opportunities, contact DeAnn Anzaldi (ICCCDC@sbcglobal.net) with the following information:

1. Name of your church or ministry center, location, contact person and phone number
2. Brief description of current hunger relief program if you have one
3. Brief description of existing hunger program facilities, equipment, etc.
4. Reason for grant (e.g., new program; facility expansion, additional equipment, increased supplies of food, etc.)

We've Already Started; The Resources Will Be There!

The ICCC Hunger Grant Committee presently includes a successful grant writer (Jan Burch) as well as retired senior executives of multi-million dollar businesses who have extensive experience in developing successful proposals that persuaded financial institutions to lend millions of dollars to their firms—Tom Friedberg and Bob Harris. The committee is seeking additional members with relevant experience.

This is just the first step. Starting at the church level should allow ICCC to develop a successful track record for obtaining grants that, over time, can be leveraged to help obtain larger grants on a state or regional level.

Seeking a Senior Pastor

The Havenscourt Community Church membership of Oakland California is prayerfully seeking an experienced full-time Pastor with Theological and formal academic training to Shepherd full time an interdenominational Community Church congregation. A benefit package will be offered to the successful candidate.

The pastor applicant must be called by God and equipped to effectively preach and teach His Word. Our next pastor must be responsible for the biblical and spiritual obligations as outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 and also be a man after God's own heart (I Samuel 13:14)...We are seeking a visionary with strong leadership skills who preaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ, teaches sound Christian Doctrine, engages in pastoral care, directs Christian growth and development and promotes missions and the Great Commission for increasing the Kingdom of God...

The Pastor is responsible to the church:

- Set as a guideline of personal behavior the standard required in I Timothy 3:1-7 and I Peter 5:1-4.
- Provide administrative leadership for the total church program.
- Maintain a regular program of study to enable himself to plan and conduct meaningful worship services.
- Prepare for and conduct worship services; lead in the observance of the ordinances; and, lead the church in proclaiming the gospel to the church and community.
- Visit members and prospects and lead the membership in a visitation program.
- Supervise other members of the church staff according to staff organization.
- Conduct premarital, vocational, family, bereavement, counseling sessions, etc., as needed. Advise other professional help when necessary.
- Perform wedding ceremonies and conduct funeral services.
- Work with deacons, church officers, and committees in performing assigned responsibilities. Be available for and lead in training as needed.
- Cooperate with and lead the church in cooperating with associational, state, and denominational leaders. Keep the church informed of developments within the denomination.
- Serve as a representative of the church in civic matters.
- Act as moderator for church business meetings, if the bylaws require it.

Send resume to: Pastor Search Committee, 1444 Havenscourt Blvd, Oakland CA 94621, or FAX to 510 638-8858 or E-mail address havenscourt@sbcglobal.net.

2017 Annual Conference Updates!

2 More Workshops Added!

Creative and Empowering Approaches to Urban Youth Ministry.

Dr. Bruce Main, founder and president of UrbanPromise, will draw from his 30 years of developing UrbanPromise Ministries - a global youth empowerment organization that challenges children and teens, growing up in under-resourced communities, to grow academically, socially and spiritually. With an unswerving commitment to developing emerging leaders, Bruce has experienced the transformation of neighborhoods and communities around the world



The Mission of the Christian Caring Center.

Richard Higginbotham, President of the Board and Madelyn Mears Sheldon, Executive Director, of the Christian Caring Center, will present this workshop. They will explain the mission, and talk about how and where they get donations and its distribution. ICCC member Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes has contributed to the program for 11 years.



Meal Programs

The Koinonia Luncheon, scheduled for Tuesday, July 18th at Noon (fee required) will feature 2 brief presentations on the Oneness of the Family of Christ. Led by Rev. Harry Fooockle, Council Minister Don Ashmall and Mr. Abraham Wright, each presenter will chronicle the uniqueness of programs they have witnessed that reveal the heart of Koinonia.

Harry will present on his community and his experience in ministry, Don will present on his observations traveling as the Council Minister and Abraham will present on his area, which involves a group that works well with three different programs, including various ages and talents that represent the heart of Koinonia.

The Mission Luncheon, scheduled for Wednesday, July 19th at Noon (fee required): *A Message of Promise* with Dr. Bruce Main, UrbanPromise.

Neil Postman wrote: "Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see." The question the church must ask—what kind of living messages are we sending?

Reserve your spot today! Seats are limited after the June 20th deadline! Visit the Council website for ALL meal program information and registration. <http://www.icccnow.org/meal-registration/>.

Attention Young Adults!

Come to the ICCC conference this summer in NJ!

An exciting program is planned!
Some of our mission opportunities will include
volunteering in a day shelter
as well as serving meals to the homeless.

Visit the ICCC website
to see a tentative schedule.
<http://www.icccnow.org/annual-conference/>
If you have any questions,
please contact the Young Adults Leader
Doris Marcisak. Mist8993@gmail.com

YOUNG
ADULTS

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Voice for
Ecumenical Congregations
(ISSN - 0145-3297)

A periodical of news, reviews, and reflections for ecumenically oriented and community-minded churches, ministry centers, and clergy.

Published Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., June by the International Council of Community Churches. Home Office: 21116 Washington Parkway, Frankfort, Illinois 60423-1253. Periodicals postage paid at Frankfort, Illinois and at additional mailing offices. Subscription rate: \$12.00 per year.

Editors: Don Ashmall, DeAnn Anzaldi

Circulation: DeAnn Anzaldi

Book Reviews: Steven York

Telephone: 815/464-5690

Fax: 815/464-5692

E-Mail:

ICCC60423@sbcglobal.net

www.ICCCNOW.org

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to :

ICCC

21116 Washington Pkwy.

Frankfort, IL 60423-3112

Gifts have been received for the following:

As a Memorial to: Jarrell Mack & Joan Rigby from Dorothy and Lester Barry
Mrs. John Ethel Stovall from Shirley Fairley
Jim & Doris Turner from William Turner
Trevert L. Couden from Karen Couden
Pastor Dorothy Sutton Branch from Carol A. Brown
Rev. James D. Hill from Elizabeth Hill
Vermelle Barnes from Harris Information Strategies
Alfred L Johnson, Sr. from A'Lelia Butler Johnson

In Honor of: DeAnn Anzaldi from Mary Frances Garner
Loretta Smith from Stuart Smith
Andrew & Daisy Pumphrey from Roger Pumphrey
Lake Superior Interfaith Community Church
from Carol Gieseke
Commonwealth Community Church from Carol A. Brown

Text to Give

The ICCC welcomes your donations through our electronic giving options. They're faster and more secure than having checks manually processed. For our givers accustomed to using smartphones, we now offer Give by Text.

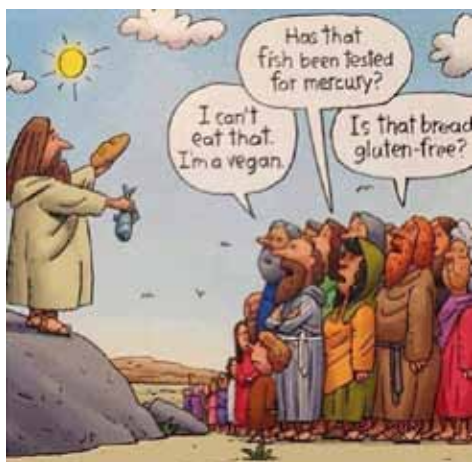
With Give by Text, you can make regular offerings or respond to special appeals like November's, by simply sending a text message from your smartphone. It's a convenient solution when you can't attend meetings or don't have cash or checks with you. And it's the fastest way to give. We hope you'll give this easy, modern solution a try. Visit our website link <http://www.icccnow.org/donate> and begin simplifying your life today.

iccc Text To Give



A Time to Laugh

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THERE WAS A MIRACLE IN THE 21ST CENTURY?



Seeking a Pastor

A longstanding community church of 95 years is looking for one pastor with a heart for God. We are seeking an educated candidate to continue what our church has built, and lead us toward God's will for our future. Our church offers a traditional and a contemporary morning worship service as well as weekly Bible/prayer study. Family oriented would be a good description of our congregation. Our church is located in a small Mid-Michigan community near the Saginaw Bay, and minutes to stores, a mall, and other cities. A parsonage is available on the church grounds. Interested candidates please send your resume to Kawkawlin Community Church Pulpit Committee P.O. Box 627 Kawkawlin, MI 48631 or email kccpulpit@hotmail.com.

Sharing Joys:

- Congratulations to **Frances Black, Antioch Community Church**, Kansas City, MO. She was honored by *Northland Church Women United* in early May for her service to the church and community. Frances is a true Ambassador for Antioch Community Church.
- **ICCC Region B, Area 1** Baltimore/Washington area, had their Community Days May 13th at **Palisades Community Church**, Washington DC, **Jeff Stinehelfer**, Senior Pastor. Their mission was to fill 50 backpacks with school supplies for the *Network of Biblical Storytellers*. NBC will be going to Haiti to work with students of "street schools" attended by children that cannot afford to attend school in Haiti. Over 200,000 children!

- After 36 years in the position, **Herb Freitag** will be retiring as pastor at **Chapel-By-The-Sea** of Clearwater Beach, FL, the end of June and will be succeeded by the Rev. Dr. **Rhonda Blevins** who assumes the role the beginning



Rev. Dr. Rhonda Blevins

of July. Many of you know Rhonda – for 8 years she was the Associate Pastor for Congregational Life and Leadership at **Tellico Village Community Church** in TN when **Marty Singley** served there as pastor, and has, for the past two years, been the Executive Coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Kentucky. So Rhonda comes to this position at the Chapel with a great deal of talent and experience. In her cover letter when she sent her resume to the Chapel, Rhonda wrote: *My desire is to lead a congregation that welcomes all people and approaches worship and ministry with joy and passion.* The members and friends of the Chapel think she has found the right church and that the church has found the right pastor. The Chapel will remain active in the ICCC and while neither Herb nor Rhonda will be able to attend this year's conference, she will certainly be there in the future. We welcome Rhonda and her family to the Chapel family and look forward to a long and productive relationship.

- Bishop **Serge Theriault** gave a conference on the archives of the Christian Catholic Church, and the history of his church, **Christian Catholic Rite of Community Churches**, at the Quebec National Archives in Gatineau May 28th. Bishop Theriault has published a new book that can be ordered from Amazon.com titled *Pastoral Letters and Instructions, Sermons, Statements and Circulars of Mgrs. Rene Vilatte 1892-1925*. Theriault has authored 10 books and contributed to several other publications.



- **Dr. Marilyn Rossner, Spiritual Science Fellowship and International Institute of Integral Human Science** in Montreal, Quebec, Canada is pleased with the excellent upcoming 42nd SSF-IIIHS International Science and Spirituality Conference. The final program has been completed and will soon be on the website. But in the meantime visit the speaker's schedule at: <http://iiihs.org/SpeakersSchedule2017.htm>. Take advantage of the April special rates: http://iiihs.org/Conference2017_Fees.html.

Marilyn, Sister Leona, blessed Fr. John from his Heavenly home and our great 2017 Conference team hope to see you in beautiful Montreal. Telephone: (1) 514-937-8359. Email address: conference@iiihs.org. Please visit their You Tube channel and Facebook conference page for updates and to support their mission to enhance personal and global consciousness. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtqA3HWHOemSPrg9Qt-y00w>, <https://www.facebook.com/42nd-SSF-IIIHS-Science-Spirituality-Conference-Montreal-Quebec-214685318985153/>.

- **Park Road Community Church**, Washington, DC had their first female Deacons ordained this past March 29th, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. **Shirley B. Cooper**. The Deacons ordained were: **Marian Bright, Melinda McNeil and Marilyn Stevenson**.

Our prayers are with:

- **Keith & Frits Haverkamp** and family. Keith's mom, Gretchen Haverkamp, passed away April 12th. She was in her late 90's and in hospice care. Keith retired recently as Senior Clergy for **Norris Religious Fellowship**, where Frits still remains a member.
- **Galen Miller, Antioch Community Church**, Kansas City, MO, **Harry Fooockle** Senior Pastor. Galen's wife, **Shirley**, made her way Home to be with Jesus March 24th, surrounded by family, passing peacefully.
- **Hady Gray, Juanita & Juneetta Green** and family. **Vermelle Barnes, ICCC Regional Trustee** and longtime active member, passed away May 14th. Vermelle was a member of **Park Road Community Church, Shirley Cooper**, Senior Pastor, Washington, DC and attended annual conference for many years.
- The family of **Francis Mallet**, who passed on April 1st. Francis was a Knight of the Order of the Crown of Thorns and a past member of the **Christian Catholic Rite of Community Churches** Church Council. Presiding at his funeral were **Bishop Serge Theriault, Willard Dionne and Robert Butterworth**, all members of CCRCC, Ontario, Canada.