

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

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Reflections of Annual Conference 2017 in Cherry Hill, NJ

by Harry Fooockle



Let me begin by saying these are reflections from the memory of your Vice-President of Planning (now that's a scary thought).

Here is my listing...The leadership of Don Ashmall and Bill Samuels. Of course we all know that one of our strengths of leadership is DeAnn Anzaldi. Our Planning Committee provided so much for us and worked hard to bring a spiritual driven Conference and I believe they got the job done. I felt good when I left for home.

Dr. Tony Campolo was at the top of his game. Just soaking in his presence and words filled us with the power driven faith to do ministry in a world of change. The workshops provided so many ideas for ministry. If you noticed we held more of the workshops allowing us to attend everyone if we wished. The tour of Philadelphia to view the beginnings of our country was well received.

Worship services led by the musical talent and ministry of Roberta Smith truthfully brought us to praise and worship. She also arranged for the outstanding Jazz group who provided us with entertainment. The preaching of our own ICCC pastors was for me a highlight of Conference. To be able to sit at the feet and hear the Word from these pastors tells of the power filled strength of the ICCC.

There was the meetings and leadership of the WCF, The Samaritans and the Clergy. The business sessions of Conference and as always the wonderful services of worship provided by the youth of our local churches. We enjoyed each other at the closing Banquet. Awards were presented and the news of a gift of \$13,980 from the Endowment Fund highlighted this gathering of the ICCC.

But for me the important part of Conference was you and you and you...you are the heart and soul of this movement. To see you, to talk to you and to hear of the exciting things going on in your place is truly inspiring. We know that because of you lives are being changed. God's presence is found in our diversity and acceptance. God's Word is alive through you. I am humbled to know you and I look forward to seeing you in St Louis 2018.



President's Message

Faith and Time: Non-Violent Direct Action in the 21st Century

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

In the Black Forest of Germany, a Nazi sympathizer named Martin Heidegger remained a recluse for many years until his death in 1976. He joined the Nazi party on May 1, 1933 ten days after being named Rector of the University of Freiburg. Even after he stopped taking part in Nazi Party meetings a year later, the French military labeled him a "Nazi sympathizer" after intense interrogation following the War.

While it is well known that Mr. Heidegger is one of the most misunderstood philosophers of the 20th century, his existential language and challenges presented in his 1927 publication, **Being and Time**, has influenced to a great extent, psychology, philosophy and sociology. His philosophy has influenced even the thought of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The question can be asked, however, how can the Nationalist Socialist German Worker's party, founded by Adolf Hitler, Hermann Goring, Anton Drexler and Dietrich Echart, be influential even in the 21st Century? How does white supremacy, Jewish hatred, Euro-centric grounded zealots of "interposition and nullification" have a place anywhere in the civilized world?

The existential language of **Being and Time** includes three fascinating concepts to me:

1. The concept of "Noch-nicht" or "not yet."
2. The meaning of "sorge" or care—being ahead of oneself in life or in time.
3. The idea of "vor-handenheit" and "zu-handenheit (present-at-hand) and (ready-at-hand.)"

Noch-nicht

If a statement could be made concerning these three ideas from Heidegger, it would be something like:

We live in a world which is still infested with evil and wickedness. We look forward to the time when people will be judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin. While we are here, however, we have to live in the "not yet" with our confidence, trust and faith in the Lord. Mr. Colin Kaepernick, your peaceful protests of America and the unfortunate words of Frances Scott Key's final verses of our National Anthem must remain for a season—until then, enjoy your "free agency."

Sorge

Martin Luther King, Jr. told us clearly of his pride and trust in America—but indicated that we "as a people" had been given a "bad check." So he simply said, "Let Freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado—from the Alleghenies—from every hill and molehill of Mississippi—from every mountain top." Then he said with more "sorge:" "I may not get there with you—but we as a people will get to the promise land." His reference, you certainly notice, was concerning the 430 years of "interposition" in Egypt—and perhaps our time here under slavery, Jim Crow, segregation and "dog whistles."

Zu-handenheit/vor-handenheit

In 1950, four years before **Brown vs. the Board of Education**, the ICCC met at the University of Chicago. They were "in-a-world" where segregation, inequality, prejudice, hatred and lynching abounded. Out of Columbus, Ohio and Chicago, Illinois, however, there came some leadership and resolve to not allow the world that was present (vor-handenheit) determine what we would allow the world to become (zu-handedheit). For the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus taught, was three places in time and being—It was at-hand, within, and on-the- way. The leaders and the rank and file of that day seem to have believed that.

The question used to asked to ICCC conference attendees, "Were you there (Dasein) at that historic first meeting of the community?" That question has now ceased to be asked because of the fact the last living attendee has gone to be with Burckhart and Evans. But they have left to us the being of ICCC—Will we—can we—should we take the time?





Creation and Unity

Don Ashmall

Council Minister, Emeritus

I grew up an urban child. For most of my years I've never been more than the length of a football field from a paved sidewalk, and rarely out of the reach of electric sockets, or heated indoor plumbing, or some variety of telephone. But during my on again–off again retirement near the Gulf of Maine, I've had other and different experiences.

Here, a sudden windstorm can uproot a tree just yards from the ocean, twisting the trunk as you or I would wring out a washcloth, and tossing the remains to the ground in a violent moment. There the remains will moulder amidst other casualties of seasonal tempests, making space for and nourishing the saplings that were struggling toward the light even before that storm came by. The cycle of life and death and new life a'rising cannot be avoided.

Nearby the ceaseless waves beat and crash against the rocks as the movement of earth and its moon produce two high tides and two low tides in the space of just over a day, while in a complicated ballet the new moon and the full moon produce higher tides than on other days during a twenty-eight day cycle. Yet even a moment's thought reminds us that seemingly solid granite eventually crumbles, and that even the stubborn cliffs will one day be ground down into sand.

Overhead as soon as the only convenience store around here closes down and turns off its outside lights, the horizon goes dark. Without much of what the locals once called "Bar Harbor reflection" and now refer to as "light pollution" the stars overhead are brilliant, and the Milky

Way shines like a bed of diamonds with light that has been traveling toward us for hundreds or thousands of years.

But lest one think this is all ideal or close to it, there are problems. Our "Downeast" home is downwind and downstream from a good part of the continent. What that means is, that whatever people dump into sewers or spew into the air (unless it has been interrupted by making a mess for somebody else along the way) ends up coming our way. Those who care to do so can debate endlessly about how best to handle issues that relate to the environment. But like our neighbors with whom we share the Schoodic Peninsula, we would rather that instead of debating, all of us do what is needed to keep the stream clean and the downstream as pristine as it can be.

Here at the edge of the ocean, all the philosophical and technical debates about environment and ecology seem a bit beside the point. The average water temperature in the Gulf of Maine is higher than it once was; and I can tell you that the lobstermen whose living depends on a temperature-sensitive critter don't much care what theory you subscribe to. Their way of life, and that of their children and grandchildren, looks increasingly fragile. And any change in ocean levels will affect local anchorages for their boats, and not for the better.

So what does all this have to do with a fellowship of churches centered on Christian unity? If we truly seek unity, we must seek it with those who are in any of a variety of ways, downstream from us. Go in any direction from your front door and you will

see evidence of the glory of creation, and of its fragility. Look in any direction from the front door of your church or ministry center and you will see people who are hurting; and people who are fearful about their future, and people who are anxious about the tomorrows of those they love.

It's not limited to the coast of Maine, or to the course of the Colorado River, or to the rain-filled lanes of Liberia. No matter the location, every human being is in one way or another, downstream from others. And that means no matter who we are and no matter where we may be, we affect others downstream from us by what we say and what we do. And those others are among God's children, loved by God. It is with these – even the least of these – that we seek the unity that was the object of Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, "that they might all be one."

If ever you thought that Christian unity had to do with negotiations among religious bureaucrats, or that ecumenical compassion was a matter of figuring out the sorts of sacred music or exalted liturgy on which we could compromise, I urge you to go outdoors. Get more than 100 yards from a paved sidewalk. Find a place where the night sky is dark enough that you can see a star. Sit next to a body of water and hear the crashing surf or the whispering ripple. Look through the creation to the eternal Creator who cares for us all – especially those who are downstream. There is the source and the destination of the unity we seek.

May God guide us all as we seek to be an answer to Jesus' prayer.

Have You Read This?

REVIEWS

By Stephen York

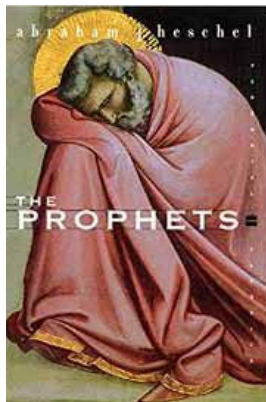
Heschel, Abraham Joshua. *The Prophets*.

Peabody, MA:

Hendrickson Publishers, 2007, 548 pp., \$29.95



It is a good practice to look at classic works as we consider difficult contemporary issues. Such is the case in this month's selection. Abraham Joshua Heschel (1902-1972) was a remarkable twentieth-century prophet and teacher whose life and books continue to influence Christian and Jewish readers in the twenty-first century. Heschel's voice is heard clearly in *The Prophets*, a definitive work which is referenced by biblical scholars, theologians, and preachers. In describing the prophets, Heschel wrote:



The prophet was an individual who said No to his society, condemning its complacency, waywardness, and syncretism. He was often compelled to proclaim the very opposite of what his heart expected. His fundamental objective was to reconcile man and God. Why do the two need reconciliation? Perhaps it is due to man's false sense of sovereignty, to his abuse of freedom, to his aggressive, sprawling pride, resenting God's involvement in history.

Biographer Edward K. Kaplan stated that Abraham Joshua Heschel escaped Nazi Germany's reach into Poland with only two hours' notice from Gestapo agents who instructed him to pack his bags and leave the country. Unfortunately, his mother and two sisters were murdered by the Nazis shortly thereafter. Meanwhile, Heschel fled to his brother's home in England and emigrated to the United States to teach at Hebrew Union College in Ohio, and then for the rest of his life as a professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City.

While Heschel wrote over a dozen books and many scholarly articles, it is *The Prophets* that is foundational to his life's work. "What Manner of Man Is the Prophet?" the title of the opening chapter, is the paramount theme that Heschel addresses with specificity and breadth throughout this comprehensive treatise. Heschel wrote:

The significance of Israel's prophets lies not only in what they said but also in what they were. We cannot fully understand what they meant to say to us unless we have some degree of awareness of what happened to them. The moments that passed in their lives are not now available and cannot become the object of scientific analysis. All we have is the consciousness of those moments as preserved in words.

My aim therefore is to attain an understanding of the prophet through an analysis and description of his *consciousness*, to relate what came to pass in his life—facing man, being faced by God—as reflected and affirmed in his mind. By consciousness, in other words, I mean here not only the perception of particular moments of inspiration, but also the totality of impressions, thoughts, and feelings which make up the prophet's being.

The volume is well-organized, thematic, and divided into two sections. In the first section Heschel includes: *What Manner of Man Is the Prophet?*, *Amos*, *Hosea*, *First Isaiah*, *Micah*, *Jeremiah*, *Habakkuk*, *Second Isaiah*, along with chapters on *History*, *Chastisement*, and *Justice*. In the second section, Heschel introduces the reader to other relevant topics including that for which he is best known, the subject of "Pathos." It was indeed enlightening to read in a fresh way what Heschel calls "Pathos," by which a loving and empathetic God is active, not distant, in history. By understanding Heschel's perspective throughout this volume, religious leaders have a solid foundation for prophetic preaching and for leading their congregations in prophetic activism.

Heschel was much more than an academic, he was a spiritual leader in his community and the seminary. His ecumenical relations with Christian leaders, for example, were often misunderstood by his peers. His biographer, Edward K. Kaplan noted that Heschel's time teaching as a visiting professor at Union Theological Seminary was viewed by the man as some of his most-valued and important work. Heschel's activism in the Civil Rights Movement and personal friendship with Martin Luther King, Jr. is a further demonstration to what Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr. calls "A Spirituality for Activism." Heschel embodies the spirit of the Prophets. The Hebrew Prophets were not an academic exercise in curriculum, they were his guiding stars.

Abraham Joshua Heschel, though dead, "still speaks" today. Will twenty-first century religious leaders continue the prophetic ministry of this sage?

Meet a new ICCC Trustee: Rev. Bruce Jones!

Bruce M. Jones is organizing pastor and co-creator of Imagine Church of the Carolinas, an ecumenical new church start in south Charlotte, North Carolina. Bruce has a background in congregational development and has had almost every experience imaginable in church world, having served as a youth minister, founder of two new faith communities, and pastor of a college church and then a university church. He has served in both United Methodist and interdenominational faith settings. He and his wife Tyra reside in the Charlotte area and have a daughter, Lauren, who lives at St. John in the US Virgin Islands, a son, Jonathan, in Charlotte, and a young son, Joshua, who resides in the home with them.



Bruce has accepted the Trustee position for the Eastern Zone, Region C, covering Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Puerto Rico ICCC churches and centers. He can be reached at 980-999-3500 Info@ImagineChurchNow.org. Welcome!

Building Community, Feeding the Hungry and Agape in Action

Submitted by Myrtis Brame, Seneca Community Church

2017 ICCC Conference attendees reached out to help fourteen (14) children living in third world countries reach their full potential by financially supporting children to enjoy better health, increased education, spiritual nurture, and protection. This simple act of supporting community relationships, helping to feed the hungry and sharing God's Love for mankind exemplify the teachings of our Keynote Bible Study Leader, Dr. Tony Campolo when he called on conference attendees to be faithful and accountable in our journey as **Red Letter Christians**. Baidu, a young girl living in Sierra Leone is one of the 14 children identified by World Vision. Baidu's parents are farmers and the soil in her homeland is fertile and dark. Supporting Baidu financially enables her family to plant crops for nutrition and health improvements, access to medicine and disease prevention and school and teaching materials.

Because ICCC believers care, these children will live better lives. More importantly, taking action reflects how the Red Letter teachings of Christ are professed in our daily walk and love of all mankind. We initiated this mission effort with 14 children at the 2017 Conference; Let's keep telling the mission stories taking place across the United States and around the world at our ICCC churches and centers. Please share your mission story on Feeding the Hungry, Agape Love and Building Community Relationships in the next Christian Community.



Are YOU a Jordan Scholar?

Did you know there are Scholarships available for students of ALL ages to further their education either through college or a specialty school?

Well if you would like to apply, contact the Council office and request an application.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER. BETTER THAN GOLD. – Eloise Crenshaw, Committee Chair

Jordan Scholarship Fund Recipients

The Jordan Scholarship was recently awarded to Ethan Ferguson.

Congratulations and best wishes in his educational endeavors!



Ethan Ferguson
Norris
Religious Fellowship
Norris, TN

*Ethan is pursuing a
BSN Nursing.*

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. More information about NRF www.NorrisRF.org.

Please Help Fund the Council's New Video Recording System

Submitted by Mike Donahue & Bob Harris

If you attended the recent ICCC Annual Conference, you no doubt saw Rev. Mike Donahue carrying a large video camera and a tripod. He used this equipment—the Council's first-ever video recording system—to record 6 hours of the ICCC's greatest event—its Annual Conference.

The equipment, a versatile, high-quality Sony HXR MC2500 video recorder "shooter pack" consists of a professional-grade video camera, a heavy-duty tripod, a carrying case and two 32-gigabyte SD cards. SD cards, the size of a thumbnail, can store 3 hours of high definition video images and sound recorded by the camera. In addition, Mike purchased a software application that optimizes the operation of the new video recording system.

This past June Mike strongly advocated that the Council purchase a video recording system so it could be used to film portions of the Annual Conference in Cherry Hill. When the Council expressed concerns about having the funds to pay for it, Bob Harris recommended that it be purchased on a "crowd funded" basis if ICCC President Bill Samuels and Executive Minister Don Ashmall approved. When they enthusiastically agreed, Bob, acting on behalf of the Council, purchased the system on sale (\$300 off) for \$1,878 using his own credit card.

The Council's new video camera has a wide-angle lens with an exceptional ability to accurately record video in low light conditions. The camera's telephoto lens can magnify images up to 12 times which is important for recording speakers from a distance unobtrusively. It can make up to 3 hours of high definition recordings with sound before needing an additional image storage card (SD card). Better than 90% of the Amazon.com reviews from the camera's users are 5 stars—the highest rating.

Mike, in his role as VP of Information Services for the Council, has arranged for a class of 15 college students at Indiana University's School of Arts & Letters to create a short promotional video for the Council. It will cover the highlights of the July Annual Conference and should be completed in November. Because this is a class project, it won't cost the ICCC a dime.

Benefits of the Council's New Video Recording System

- Plans are to use the conference highlights video as a recruiting tool to help attract new member churches to the ICCC. This could be far more effective than using printed brochures or flyers alone.

- Member churches can use copies of the video to generate interest in their congregations to attend future Annual Conferences.
- A second brief video featuring excerpts of Tony Campolo's Bible study is in the works. It will be available pending approval from the celebrated author's agent who gave the Council permission to make such a video.
- Videos can and should be made to promote supporting each of the Council's 3 missions: the Agape' program, Community Development and Hunger Relief.
- An important goal is to add videos to the ICCC website to increase its appeal.
- By obtaining a YouTube channel, the Council can put videos on YouTube and give the ICCC high-impact exposure to thousands of potential member churches in the U.S. and abroad.
- This video recording system of which Mike is the current designated operator, belongs to the Council. It can be used again and again at future ICCC events.

How You Can Help

Bob Harris and Mike Donahue have collectively agreed to pay \$328 towards the purchase of this equipment. That leaves \$1,550 to be funded—hopefully—by individuals who support the ICCC. They are asking newsletter recipients to make tax-deductible gifts to the ICCC designated for the purchase of the video recording system—equipment that will benefit the Council for many years to come.

Bob and Mike are asking readers of The Christian Community to help fund this important new equipment for the Council by making a tax-deductible gift in amounts ranging from \$25, \$50, \$100 or more in the form of checks made out to the ICCC.

Please send your gift-- which needs to be above and beyond your normal financial support of the Council—to DeAnn Anzaldi at the Council's 21116 Washington Parkway, Frankfort, IL 60423-3112 address. IMPORTANT: Be sure to write the words "Video camera" on the check. Thank you.

What if a donor's gift towards the purchase of the video recording system be made after it is fully funded? In that case the donor will be given the option of having the gift returned or deciding it can be used for a worthy Council-related purpose such as supporting one of the 3 ICCC missions—Agape, Community Development and Hunger Relief.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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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

ICCC Endowment Fund Status As of September 8, 2017

Gifts Goal by 30 Jun '17:\$15,000

Gifts since 7/01/17:\$2,585

Help us meet our goal, need:\$12,415

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

Current Fund Assets:\$324,792

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

Gifts have been received for the following:

As a Memorial to:

Vermelle Barnes from Virginia Leopold
Diane Cooper-Benbow from Rev. Shirley Cooper
William E. Thompson from the Community Church of Morrisania
Rose Addison from Charles Addison
Marion Bascom and Vernard Caples from Beverly Reid
Jarelle Mack from Marilyn Stevenson
Lawrence & Cecil Millben from Janet Burch

In Honor of:

Clyde (Al) Albercottie from Erma Albercottie: "A dedicated member of the ICCC, former president of the Samaritans, and a 42 yr. member of People's Community Church, Berea, OH
Margaret & John Hale II from Lorna Hart
E.W. Burton from Carter S.R. Garner
Marion Henley & Clementine Johnson from Barbara Ratliff
Viola King from Mary Frances Garner
Percy Bright from Edna Wills
Percy Bright, Jr. from Marion Bright

Seeking a Senior Pastor

St. Timothy Community Church, a non-denominational church, has been blessed to praise and worship God for 91 years. We are currently seeking a committed and innovative full-time Senior Pastor. With a servant's heart, this Senior Pastor will faithfully and to the best of his or her ability, experience, and talents serve as the spiritual leader of this 600-member congregation. In addition, he or she must have the capacity to support our mission and maintain the highest level of spiritual commitment, theological literacy and integrity possible. Passionate, visionary leaders who feel God's call to this ministry are asked to please visit our website at www.st.timothychurch.org to learn more about our church, the position and the application process.

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.

Seeking a Director of Music

The Church at Litchfield Park is seeking a Director of Music to oversee the music program of a historic growing and dynamic interdenominational community church in Litchfield Park, AZ. The director will be responsible for leading and rehearsing the 30+ member Chancel Choir for two Sunday worship services, leading and rehearsing a "blended" choir for a third service, and oversee the directors of the bell and children's choirs. Qualified candidates should have a demonstrated ability as a director and work well with musicians, pastors and staff. The position is half-time and compensation will be based on qualifications and experience. Interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and list of references electronically to info@clp.church.

Sharing Joys:

- Congratulations to **Rev. Dr. Shirley B. Cooper**, Senior Pastor, **Park Road Community Church**, Washington, DC as she celebrated 27 years in ministry and 6 years at the church. Festivities included 2 services, dinner and messages from Pastor **Kenneth Nelson**, **Seneca Community Church**, Germantown, MD and **Rev. John McLean**.
- **Rev. Gary Harris** will be installed as Senior Pastor at **Havenscourt Community Church**, Oakland, CA October 1st. Council Minister, Emeritus **Don Ashmall** and Regional Trustee **Charles Addison** will be at the event.
- **Pastor Marcus Tillery** was installed at **Community Church of East Williston**, NY on September 24th. **Don Ashmall** participated in the event. Many of you may have met Pastor Tillery at the 2017 Annual Conference!
- Congratulations to **Elder Glenn Clay** and **First Community Church**, Nashville, TN as they celebrated the 85th church anniversary, featuring guest speaker Dr. C.T. Vivian, on August 27th.
- A send-off party was given for **Rev. Jeffrey Stinehelfer**, **Palisades Community Church** on June 25th. Palisades now welcomes new Senior Pastor **Elizabeth Hagan**. Jeff was also an Endowment Committee member and will be missed! Good luck to both and their new adventures ahead.
- Congratulations to **Veronica Theriault**, who received the sacrament of Confirmation from grandfather **Serge Theriault**, **Christian Catholic Rite of Community Churches**, in June.
-  ICCC Youth President, **Andrenae Brown**, **Park Road Community Church**, was one of 54 students and teachers that took part in LearnServe's abroad trip to Jamaica, Paraguay, Zambia, and South Africa in July. LearnServe International takes young social entrepreneurs abroad, building the courage to travel far outside their comfort zones, and the strength to grow as leaders through these experiences. LearnServe is creating a culture of youth-led social innovation in the Washington, DC area. In a blog post, Andrenae urges her readers to let new experiences put their lives in perspective. *"Here's my opinion, if you haven't opened up your thoughts, your heart, and your mind to new people and new things, you will never fully experience the opportunities given to you."*
- The **ICCC Michigan Area** will hold their Fall Area Meeting on October 14th 8:00am-2:00pm at **Covert Community Church**, **Andrew Holloway**, Senior Pastor. The theme "Living Faith in a World of Change" will focus on Genesis 6:1-8 "The wickedness of the world which provoketh God's wrath." For information, contact Elder Holloway 616-340-0723.



- *Racing Towards Harmony* was held in the South Haven, MI community in August. The event was coordinated by 3 churches: ICCC member **Emmanuel Community Church (Douglas & Shyreece Pompey)**, Life Bridge Church and former ICCC member **Kibbie Reformed Church**. These churches joined together to help community building efforts aiming for harmony, and encouraging intergenerational relationship building.

**Our prayers are with:**

- **Carolyn Dipboye**, **Grace Covenant Church**, Oak Ridge, TN and family. Carolyn's sister, **Martha Cook Hamrick**, passed away August 23rd.
- **Chuck Cooper**, Wilsonville, OR, ICCC Clergy, as he recovers from his 5th heart attack and complications of that recovery. Chuck has recently published a new book *"Safety Harbor. Keepers of the Light"* available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.
- **Rev. Dr. Susan Matthews** and family with the passing of her husband **Rev. Dr. C. David Matthews**. David formerly was the Senior Pastor at **Christ Community Church**, Orlando, FL, and most recently resided in Plano, TX. David passed away in July and both he and Susan loved being a part of the ICCC.
- **Commonwealth Community Church** and the family of **Clementine Johnson**, who passed away July 2nd. Clementine was an active ICCC member and annually attended the ICCC Annual Conference. She leaves to mourn 3 daughters, 1 son and a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends.
- **Herman Harmelink**, ICCC VP for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. Herman's sister, **Fenita Harmelink King**, died February 23rd. Herman's brother-in-law **Charles W. King, Jr** passed away December 5, 2016. A memorial service for the couple was held in June 2017 in Arizona, where they lived for many years.
- **Bishop Serge Theriault**, **Christian Catholic Rite of Community Churches**, with the passing of his wife **Diane Chouinard-Theriault** June 9th, from an incurable cancer.
- **The Church at Litchfield Park**, AZ and the family of **Joann Lois Forstner**. Joann passed away May 9th.



Taken at the CUIC meeting in June. ICCC leaders attending, Don Ashmall and Abraham Wright, are pictured among other ecumenical leaders to celebrate the mutual recognition of ministries and to set vision and goals for the next two years.