

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

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Join the "March to a Million Meals"

The 2015 Annual Conference affirmed hunger relief as one of the three major mission initiatives of the I.C.C.C. A committee immediately set to work defining the principal elements that would shape the mission initiative. During the period between the 2015 conference and the 2016 conference articles, written by Bob Harris, appeared in the Christian Community highlighting and detailing some of the significant hunger relief ministries being done by I.C.C.C. churches and centers.

At the 2016 conference in Louisville the "**March to a Million Meals**" was introduced. **The goal is simple and attainable. Member churches and centers will join together to provide the equivalent of one million meals to hungry persons across the globe.** We will meet and exceed this goal during a time period beginning with the month of July, 2016 through June, 2017.

October is upon us and the mission team would like to encourage all churches and centers that are engaged in any form of hunger relief to send in the number of meals provided by their ministries during July, August and September, 2016.

Your ministry results may be sent to the I.C.C.C. office email or to my email, mertonbn@aol.com. We are asking that each church use an appropriate and realistic formula to determine the number of meals enabled during the last two months and in each month going forward through June, 2017.

Continued on page 7



Introducing Your New President

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

Hi. My name is Bill Samuels, the new President of the ICCC. Since the church I pastor was in the Rockefeller Chapel of the University of Chicago for the founding of the National Council of Community Churches (now the International Council of Community Churches), Commonwealth Community Church of Chicago, Illinois is no “new comer” to the Council.

While I was an eight-year old little leaguer at the time of the merger, Dorothy Sutton Branch, the founding pastor, had already spent that much time as leader of the congregation. In her time of service to the ICCC, she became a popular—even legendary—figure within the movement of Community Churches. Commonwealth has had only two pastors since the merger of these white and black united churches. Dorothy Sutton Branch (Pastor Sutton) was the first, and I am the second, ascending into the position of senior pastor in 1993.

Now Commonwealth has had no shortage of persons of note who have had the privilege of serving this great organization. Among them are servants such as President Marion Henley, Trustees Rev. Leon Perry, Rose Williams and Emma Smith. Presently, we have serving Mrs. Barbara Ratliff (WCF) and my nephew Wayne Samuels (Samaritans and V.P. of membership services). I have had a personal relationship with every Executive Director and Council Minister since Rev. Dr. Ralph Shotwell. I am proud of my in-depth friendships with each as well as my interactions with the last 12 Presidents.

I always feel elevated by the warm associations I have with Herb Freitag and Marty Singley, perhaps the greatest models of what

it means to be an ICCC minister. When I get the chance, I always acknowledge Bob Puckett as if we were long time friends outside of the Council. While there is no story I can tell which could top my interactions with DeAnn Anzaldi, I still remember the great years of Donna O’Sullivan.

What is it that I plan to do for the years of my presidency? Well, I love our three missions of addressing hunger, the challenge of Agape, and the opportunity to create the “Sittlichkeit”—The Beloved Community of Hegel and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I look forward to working with, supporting and encouraging the leadership of Wayne, Mike Donahue, Roberta Smith and Nick Brame in these missions.

My focus, however, will be pointed toward the recorded literature of the Council and the prayer of our Lord and Savior Jesus, “That we may all be one.”- That we be judged by the content of our character, initially, while recognizing our various “seats in life” later. Further, that the color of our skins would be a symbol of cultural pride and continental origin more than a reason for scorn and exclusion. Finally, that we be inclusive to the extent of inviting everyone to the party but structured in such a way that the party will not be hi-jacked by agendas outside of our preamble.

It will be my privilege to address you in the coming months on this page. Hopefully, you will find out more about me and my thoughts while comparing them with your thoughts and understanding of the ICCC. I hope you will read, think about, compare and critique what I write. I look forward to the conversation.

Give to Text

Have you made a donation through Give to Text? In less time than it takes to write a check, you can make weekly offerings or respond to special appeals by simply sending a text message from your smartphone.

With Give by Text, you can conveniently give to the ICCC even when you’re away on vacation, or don’t have checks on-hand to mail.

It takes just minutes to sign up and support the ICCC. So, we hope you’ll try this easy, modern way to give. Visit our website link <http://www.icccnow.org/donate/> today!

Thank you for supporting the ICCC!



Mission Statement

“As people devoted to following Christ we are committed to community, to treasuring diversity, to living our faith in service and love.”



Executive Minister's Report

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

Executive Minister

It is a pleasure to join the ICCC as the next Executive Minister, serving as the "Head of Communion" for this post-denominational and ecumenical communion of wonderfully diverse churches seeking to live in fellowship with one another. I love that the ICCC understands its diversity not as a challenge to be overcome, but as an invaluable asset, for our unity within our diversity is the very strength of this fellowship of churches which covenants to journey together, a covenant renewed over and over again since the historic merger of our parent "denominations" in 1950. A couple weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago for the first time, and if you have never been there, it is no "chapel," but a magnificent sanctuary, one of the two Baptist cathedrals that Rockefeller built, along with Riverside Church in New York City. Standing in the midst of that awesome symphony of stone, I imagined what it would have meant in 1950, before the civil rights movement had begun, for this interracial fellowship of churches to come together. To be in that sacred space and to replay that historic event in my mind was incredibly moving. I would love for us all to revisit the poetry and conviction of that moment together, in that space, sometime in the near years ahead.

This past summer, I had a wonderful time meeting so many of you at our ICCC annual conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Over the course of meetings and conversations, worship and workshops, we had a wonderful opportunity to get to know one another and for me to have a very authentic taste of what the ICCC is all about. It's one thing to read and talk about this communion from the outside, but quite another to participate in the vibrant life of our churches collaborating, dreaming, and planning together. That said, while I introduced myself to many of you in July, there are so very many more across the international membership of the ICCC

whom I have not yet met and I am eager to do so.

I look forward to meeting you at our larger gatherings or in the intimacy of your own churches when I come to preach or join you for a special occasion or commemoration. Unlike past executives of the ICCC who were full time in this role, I am bivocational, serving concurrently as the President of Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, Michigan, where I also teach as Professor of Systematic Theology and Preaching. These dual roles mean that my calendar can be quite full, and so if you would like to invite me to an event at your church, I encourage you to do so well in advance. If I find out only weeks ahead of time that you would like to invite me, I may not be able to attend, as much as I would like to do so. That said, I look forward to participating in so very much of the life of our ICCC churches, and am eager to do so!

For those of you who have not yet met me or read about me, let me tell you something of my background as a matter of introduction. Raised as a United Methodist in Delaware, I started seminary training to be an Episcopal priest before ending up ordained originally in the United Church of Christ, although ten years later I changed my denominational standing to the American Baptist Church when I became Senior Pastor of The First Baptist Church of Boston, Massachusetts. Along the way, I have served as the pastor of American Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Unitarian Universalist, and UCC churches, which led to me being introduced at a conference once as "an ecumenical movement unto himself." With this sort of background, often describing myself as post-denominational, I feel very much at home in the ICCC.

Along with my bivocational ministry with churches, I concurrently have had an academic career for the past twenty years.

I have served as a chaplain and on the faculty of Harvard University and Harvard Divinity School, Skidmore College, Endicott College, and Suffolk University, and was an administrator with Yale University's Dwight Hall Center for Public Service and Social Justice. I also have taught at Union Theological Seminary in New York and Auburn Theological Seminary. I received my B.A. in philosophy and religion at Bucknell University, the M.B.A. from Endicott College, the M.Div. from Yale University Divinity School, and the M.Phil. and Ph.D. in systematic theology from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Since 2014, I have been the President of Ecumenical Theological Seminary, and I live just outside of Detroit with my wife Cynthia, a psychologist and harpist whom I met at Union Theological Seminary, and our son Hunter. As a scholar, I have published books and articles in the fields of Christian theology and ethics, inter-religious dialogue, preaching, and religion and the arts.

In future columns, I will talk more about my vision of what I hope our ministry together might be and become, but for now I want to say how grateful I am to join the International Council of Community Churches on this remarkable journey. I am excited to find so many enthusiastic leaders, both among the laity and clergy, who want the ICCC to have an ever expanding footprint on and in the world, and relieved to find that DeAnn is such a capable and knowledgeable administrator for the ICCC. And I so appreciate the groundwork that was laid by my most able predecessor, Don Ashmall, and indeed by all of our prior Executive Directors.

Most of all, I thank you all for placing your trust in me to do this good work, and I look forward to every second of it!

Have You Read This?

REVIEWS By Steven York

HERMENEUTICS: A VERY SHORT INTRODUCTION

By Jens Zimmerman. Oxford University Press, 2015.
Paperback, 156 pages. \$11.95



In this month's column I wish to accomplish two things: First, to make you aware of the *A Very Short Introduction* series established in 1995 by Oxford University Press. There are over two hundred titles in this series with new releases each year; Second, to recommend to you *Hermeneutics: A Very Short Introduction*—a book which tackles the urgent cultural question “How do we interpret...?”. As part of the series, this book in particular is a *promising* resource. *Promising? Promising what?* Oxford promises succinct, understandable, introductory books on critical matters. These are affordable, pocket-size books. Oxford delivered! (And with style.) People who, in the words of poet Mary Oliver, “...read the way a person might swim, to save his or her life,” will find these mini-tomes, including *Hermeneutics*, to be engaging, dynamic, and informative. This volume easily lends itself to a group discussion or self-study. Clergy, lay leaders, and educators take note. These books have potential. This book or any one of them in the series could be effectively adapted as powerful adult education curricula, potentially reaching a capacious community. The publisher avers:

Oxford's *Very Short Introductions* offers concise and original introductions to a wide range of subjects.... Not simply a textbook of definitions, each volume provides trenchant and provocative—yet always balanced and complete—discussions of the central issues in a given topic. Every *Very Short Introduction* gives a read-

able evolution of the subject in question, demonstrating how it has developed and influenced society. Many of our Very Short Introductions have a complimentary Reading Guide, written by our authors.

The author, Jens Zimmerman, Professor of Humanities and Canada Research Chair for Interpretation, Religion, and Culture at Trinity Western University in Canada, avers “The goal of interpretation is to make sense of a text or a situation.” Using numerous practical examples, Zimmerman introduces the subject of hermeneutics to the uninitiated while remaining mindful that some readers have prior knowledge. The beauty of Zimmerman's *Hermeneutics* is that it tackles the hard questions such as “Is hermeneutics another word for relativism?” and “Is hermeneutics necessary only when misunderstanding requires a special effort on our part to clarifying meaning?”. Those questions strike at the heart of many readers grappling with Biblical interpretation. They are equally useful considerations for film, art, and literary criticism in the twenty-first century. Interested? You will want to read this book. Zimmerman enthusiastically unpacks hermeneutics with the precision of a scientist, the creativity of an artist, and the clarity of an Old Testament prophet. There are seven short chapters in which Hermeneutics is clearly defined, considered historically, and aptly applied to humanities, theology, law, and science.



This book has helped me in my doctoral studies in James Baldwin and with interpreting Biblical texts.

Finally, for those readers who want a break from nonfiction and are interested in reading an excellent literary novel or some fine poetry, I offer in two titles I am currently reading.

Cynthia Ozick's novel, *Foreign Bodies*. (Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010.) One can never go wrong in reading any poetry collection by **Mary Oliver**. My favorite is *Thirst: Poems* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2006.)

As always, reading is a worthy investment of time and energy. Limit your screen time and read! Until next month ... your thoughts? —**Stephen York** StpYo@aol.com

ⁱOliver, Mary. *Blue Pastures*. New York, NY: Harcourt Brace, 1995.

ⁱⁱ<https://global.oup.com/academic/content/series/v/very-short-introductions-vsi/?cc=us&lang=en&>

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Our book reviewer, **The Reverend Stephen York**, is ICCC Vice President for Leadership Development. He formerly owned an independent bookstore and is in his eighth year of ministry as the pastor of the Stonington (Maine) United Methodist Church. Currently a full-time doctoral student at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, New York, Stephen earned his BA from Norwich University and M.Div. from Starr King School for the Ministry. He has served in pastoral ministry since 1972. Stephen may be found on Facebook or may be reached via email at StpYo@aol.com.

Sharing Joys:

- **Tellico Village Community Church, Rev. Dr. Perry McCallen**, Senior Pastor, announces two new pastors. **Devin Phillips** is the new associate pastor for membership and family ministries. Devin was welcomed by all at the ICCC Annual Conference in Louisville. **Dr. Steve Prevatte** is the new associate pastor for congregational care. Welcome!
- Hats off to **Ron and Lonnie Miller, Wilson Memorial Union Church**, Watchung, NJ who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July, by taking a family trip, just prior to annual conference. Congratulations!
- **Chaplain Derek Ross**, ICCC Chaplain and Clergy in Special Standing, Suffolk, VA has accepted a position as a Hospice Chaplain for Grace Hospice in Norfolk, VA. Congratulations and good luck in your new avocation!
- **Second Community Church** in Columbus OH is grateful to God for the blessings bestowed upon them. The church will be celebrating their 55th anniversary on October 16th! Please join in also recognizing **Rev. Dr. Charlene Watkins**, their Senior Pastor, as she celebrates her 20th Pastoral Anniversary on October 2nd. Congratulations!
- **Rev. Jim Butler**, ICCC Clergy in Special Standing, is seeking like minds to start an ICCC affiliated church in Sedona, AZ - "**The Church at Verde Valley.**" Jim asks that the ICCC pray for God's direction in this new work, and that He will raise up leadership and resources to start the new church. If you would like to reach out to Jim, his email is jamesbutleraz@gmail.com.
- **Emmanuel Community Church, Rev. Doug Pompey** Senior Pastor, and the South Haven, MI neighborhood came together through their family focused community-wide vacation bible school. ECC, surrounding churches and both the fire and police departments worked together all week with families as they displayed character traits such as servitude, self-control, persistence and commitment to help all grow.



- News for **Peace Community Church, RC Fleeman**, Senior Pastor: As of September 4th, their Mission Team, led by **Nancy Steele**, has collected \$920.00 for school supplies, distributed to teachers and families made known to them. They also have provided cash and food donations equaling 15,236.4 lbs of food to the Harry Chapin Food Bank, which calculates to 42,622 individual meals! **Marge Lokey** celebrated her 90th birthday in September. Happy Birthday!
- **Rev. Karen Neely** was installed at **Norris Religious Fellowship**, Norris, TN by ICCC Council Minister **Don Ashmall** and a former Senior Pastor at NRF, **Bob Puckett** (also a man of many hats for the ICCC) on June 26th. Congratulations to both Karen and NRF!

Our prayers are with:

- **Ms. Winifred West, People's Community Church, Berea, OH** and her family. Winnie lost her daughter, Shelly Royster on August 13th. She asks that you keep her lifted in prayer.
- **Pastor Bernice Thomas, Greater Faith Community Church**, where she is senior pastor, and her family as they mourn the death of her son **Rev. Mark Wheeler**. Rev. Wheeler was the Vice President of the Michigan Fellowship. He passed away July 2nd. Please keep his family and the church in your prayers.
- The **Community Church of Saint Mary** and the **Canadian Chapter**, with the passing of **Bishop Maurice Cantor**, the founder of the church, in its 95th year. Bishop Cantor passed away late June. "May he rest in peace with the Lord." - **Bishop Serge A Theriault, Christian Catholic Rite of Community Churches**
- **Nick Brame, Seneca Community Church**, and family, with the passing of his beloved Aunt **Gladys Elizabeth Brame Booker**. Aunt Gladys passed July 31st at 96 ½ years of life! She was the last of 8 children from Isham and Grace Brame and shared love, laughter and memories of her youth before she went home.
- **Diana Nash**, wife of **Stephen Nash**, ICCC Clergy in Special Standing, Lexington, KY. Diana's dad, **Charles Underwood**, died September 9th, after taking a fall over Labor Day Weekend. He suffered a head injury with complications. They thank all their friends and family who have provided emotional and spiritual support, and the fine work of the doctors and nurses at Grant Hospital in Columbus.
- The family and church family of **Rev. Dr. Alfred Johnson, Sr.**, Senior Pastor of **St. Timothy Community Church** in Gary, IN. Pastor Johnson passed away August 16th, after a battle with cancer. "He was a sweetheart. God has another angel!" - **Dr. Linda Gunn**, Youth Leader at **St. Timothy Community Church**.
- **Ms. Connee Fitch-Blanks, Commonwealth Community Church**, Chicago, IL, for the passing of her mother, **Ruth Fitch**, on July 29th. Connee is the 2nd Vice President of the ICCC WCF.
- **Peace Community Church**. Please keep **Rae Hopper** and **Joyce Greiner** in your prayers. They are in need of full and quick recovery from surgery. **Marilyn Mayers** needs prayers to help adjust to assisted living. **Marilyn Graham**, a retired librarian, rejoices that the nation has a new Chief Librarian - Dr. Carla Hayden, whom she has met. She is the first woman and the first African-American to lead the national library since its inception in 1800, and she is actually educated as a librarian!

The theme for the **2017 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is "*Reconciliation - the Love of Christ Compels Us.*" (II Corinthians 5: 14-20) Visit <http://www.iccnw.org/council-other-agency-resources/> for more info.

Be sure to visit our Facebook page to see many great things happening at ICCC Churches! <https://www.facebook.com/intlcouncilof.commchurches>

ICCC Church Has Multiple Hunger Relief Programs

by Bob Harris

The Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, New Jersey has several innovative programs designed to provide hunger relief to the local communities it serves.

Casseroles: For the past decade, the church has partnered with the Christian Caring Center (CCC), a non-denominational faith-based service that, among other things, helps feed the needy in the rural Burlington County area which has some desperately poor neighborhoods. The church is located roughly 25 miles east of Philadelphia.



Congregation member Ken Roberts handing frozen casserole to Mary Lou Jeffries for temporary storage in church freezer.

One Sunday each month Protestant Community distributes disposable aluminum casserole dishes that are approximately 7" by 12" along with a suggested recipe to participating congregation members. The participating member purchases the necessary ingredients, makes, freezes and returns the frozen casserole the following week. We receive approximately 30 casseroles a month from this program. Two years ago we began a partnership with a local Amish farmers' market and a local Panera restaurant. Each week the food donated is different.

Congregation Member Susanne Murray consolidates donated food from the farmers' market and a local Panera's Restaurant along with that purchased by the church. Then she apportions all this food as well as adds other ingredients among the participants as well as add other needed ingredients. Each of the participants takes all this home along with a casserole dish. Each then cooks a casserole.

Each week the church receives enough food donations for another 20-25 casseroles. For instance, the market may donate ends of ham. The participant will be given a recipe that includes ham to be cut off the bone, canned sweet potatoes, and crushed pineapple to be combined for a tasty dish.

The frozen casseroles are driven to the CCC in Brownsmlle NJ which in turn distributes them to food-challenged families. Each casserole feeds from 6 to 8 people. Since the program began, Protestant Community members have provided enough casseroles for roughly 28,000 meals.

Food Drives: Once a month Protestant Community Church sponsors a food drive. The non-perishable food donated by congregation members is divided between the CCC and a local food pantry run by the Lions' Club.

Food Mission: This year Protestant Community Church will spend \$6,500 in gifts and travel expenses to support four different organizations' hunger relief activities. These include the CCC, the Lions Club food pantry and the Food Bank of South Jersey. This year Protestant Community sponsored and shared in the cost for a 5-day "life-changing experience" trip by 15 congregation teens and adults to Heifer International's Heifer Farm which is located in Rutland, Mass.

Prior to the trip, the church held their annual Heifer fund drive during lent. One child asked everyone he knew to donate as he wanted to purchase a cow. He was so inspired that he raised \$200 towards the purchase of a cow for a needy family overseas.

In honor of retiring pastor Steve Winkler, the church's Mission Council started the Winkler Weekly Coin Collection with the first distribution going to the Heifer Foundation in the amount of \$1,300 for the purchase of Heifer Project livestock. The coin collection container is again being filled, this time for the Feed the Hungry Children organization.

The Protestant Community Church knows that food shortages are among the most pressing problems countless families face here in the U.S. and throughout the world. That's why hunger relief in a variety of forms is a major outreach/mission emphasis of the church.

Tell Us About Your Church's Hunger Relief Program

Each issue of *The Christian Community* the new ICCC Hunger Relief Mission is featuring an article on an ICCC member church or center that is doing great works in providing hunger relief for the needy in their community.

Let us know what you're doing and we'll help you write a feature article that can inspire other churches to follow your lead. Just email Bob Harris at raharris@windstream.net.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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The following examples may be helpful in determining the number of meals that are enabled by a ministry:

Example 1: Your church has 5 people that serve Meals on Wheels five days a week. Each of the five volunteers has 15 people on their route. Your church would report $5 \times 15 \times 5 = 375$ meals in a week!

Example 2: Your church makes a \$200 donation to your local food bank. The food bank can buy 1200 pounds of food stuffs with your donation and the food bank estimates 40 pounds of food will feed a family of four for one week. Your church would report: 1200 divided by 40 which would equal 30 families of four receiving 3 meals each day for 7 days or 2,520 meals enabled.

Example 3: Your church sends 4 people to the local soup kitchen to prepare breakfast and lunch for 300 people. Your team is joined by 6 other volunteers. Working together, 600 meals are produced and served. Your church would report: 600 divided by 10 times 4 which would equal 240 meals served.

Example 4: Your church sends a gift of money to the Heifer Project and the gift is used to provide 50 bee hives to a village in Guatemala. Heifer Project estimates that the gift will allow four families of four persons to generate sufficient income from honey sales to feed the family members three meals each day for one year. Your church would report: Four times four times three times 365 which equals 17,520 meals for the year or 1,460 meals each month.



Beginning with the next issue of the *Christian Community*, readers will see a picture of the I.C.C.C. **Meal-o-mometer**. This will visually detail month by month reports from churches and centers thus enabling all of us to see how effective we are being in our joint efforts to provide and/or enable one million meals in one year.

PLEASE join this I.C.C.C. wide mission initiative! It will take the efforts of churches large and small to meet this goal. Send in your results for July, August and September of 2016 right now. Continue to send your results on a monthly basis. We will reach and exceed the goal with the help of all.

Finally, plan to be a part of the 2017 Annual Conference where we will celebrate the achievement of meeting and exceeding a common, I.C.C.C. wide, mission goal. The celebration will be great for our spirits, a testimony to our collective ministries, and a wonderful expression of the Christ-like care and compassion we have shown for the hungry around the globe.

The Young Adults Program is back* and better than ever! During this upcoming conference between July 17th and 20th in Cherry Hill, NJ the young adults will be going on multiple service trips and participating in faith discussions. Please encourage your young adults to join us next year!

Brian Januzzi & Doris Marcisak
Young Adults Leaders

* The young adults program is attempting a comeback in 2017, based on participation. In order for success we need your voices to reach out to all young adults with enthusiasm and encouragement. Please help by showing your support.

Ecumenews

by Herman Harmelink III
ICCC VP for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations



I had the privilege, this past June, of representing the ICCC as an Ecumenical Advisory Delegate to the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). You might well ask, "What's an Ecumenical Advisory Delegate?" Every other year, at the General Assembly, 15 communions (10 outside the US, 5 within) are invited to send an EAD to the next General Assembly. Each EAD is appointed to one of the committees of the Assembly, with both voice and vote in committee. Then, when the Assembly meets in plenary session, EADs have voice but no vote. Except: before the commissioners take their vote, EADs give their advice through their vote which is shown on the screen. The moderator says to the commissioners: You have been advised. And then they vote.

The committee I was assigned to had as its major topic the question of whether the PCUSA should divest itself of investments in energy companies engaged in extractive rather than renewable energy sources. Many of the 'green' types on the committee were for divestment. But there were both clergy and elders from oil- and gas-producing states who countered with the dilemmas their parishes would face if this were to become a mass movement. Some congregations might feel they had to leave the PCUSA if divestment were approved. In the end, a compromise statement was adopted which seemed to satisfy both sides.

The Presbyterian Church is to be commended for taking seriously its ecumenical commitment by listening to representatives from other Christian communions when engaged in its decision-making process. The ICCC, with its congregational polity, does not make decisions which would be binding on its congregations. But churches with Presbyterian or episcopal governance know that their congregations will be seriously affected by any decisions their governing bodies may make.

ICCC Permanent Endowment Fund Status Report

The stock market during the recently concluded Endowment Fund Investment Year (July 1 '15 through June 30, '16) had several ups and downs but ended the 12-month period relatively flat. Specifically, the Fund's assets were \$275,118 on July 1, 2015 and only \$278,985 on June 30, 2016. Considering that gifts during the Investment Year totaled nearly \$8,000, the Fund's assets actually declined. That's because of the worst-ever January market plunge at the start of this year.

The S&P 500 Index, which is considered to be a more accurate indicator of stock market performance than the Dow Jones Industrial Average or the NASDAQ, increased by less than 2% during the Investment Year. After subtracting inflation (roughly 1%) and the gifts made during the Investment Year, the Fund had no earned appreciation. As such it could not make a gift to the Council's General Fund this coming January.

On a brighter note, thanks to the generosity of a number of Annual Conference attendees, more than \$14,000 in gifts to the Endowment Fund were made during and shortly after the Annual Conference. Unlike most years, the stock market did not experience summer doldrums. Quite the opposite, in fact. Despite Britain's vote to leave the European Union, the U.S. stock market has rallied since late July.

As of midnight August 31st, the ICCC Permanent Endowment Fund's total assets equaled \$302,036. Forty percent of the increase in asset value since June 20th came from asset appreciation with the balance being from Annual Conference-related gifts.

Major Gift - During the Annual Conference an attendee donated \$10,000 to the Endowment Fund with two other attendees independently gifting a total of \$4,000. Collectively, these donors and others made possible the largest dollar value in gifts to the Fund during an Annual Conference in many years.

Additional Gifts Requested -

The Endowment Fund's goal is to reach \$25,000 in gifts during the current Investment Year which concludes midnight, June 30th, 2017. We have already attained nearly 60% of the goal with 10 months to go at the time of this writing. Please help the Council by leaving a lasting legacy. Send a gift to DeAnn Anzaldi at the Council's Frankfort, IL office and mark it "Endowment Fund". Thank you.

| ICCC Endowment Fund Status As of August 31, 2016 | |
|---|------------------------|
| Gifts Goal by June 30, 2017: | \$25,000 |
| Gifts since 7/01/16: | \$14,900 |
| Help us meet our goal: Need | \$11,000 |
| Current Fund Assets: | \$302,036 |
| Current Investment Mix: | 52% stocks & 48% bonds |

Your ICCC Permanent Endowment Fund Trustees

Seeking a Pastor

Established 350 member church on Clearwater Beach is seeking a dynamic new **Pastor**. Our Pastor is retiring and this full-time position will start in **June 2017**. Chapel by the Sea (www.chapelbythesea.net) is a thriving, theologically progressive, non-denominational community church founded in 1949. The members, though they come from diverse religious backgrounds, share a fellowship experience that is informal and accepting. We are actively involved in our community focusing on outreach and social justice. We are a member of the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC). Our congregation includes a mix of local residents and families, snowbirds and visiting tourists.

Ideal candidate is an energetic, caring individual, who will become involved in our community, and who will challenge and inspire us to grow our church and programs. You must have an M.Div or academic equivalent from an accredited seminary and share our vision of inclusion and openness. We are located on Clearwater Beach on the Gulf of Mexico; the West Coast of Florida. The Tampa Bay area (Clearwater, St. Petersburg and Tampa) offers sports, culture, and an extensive variety of leisure opportunities for you to enjoy. To be considered for this exciting opportunity, please send your resume to: chapelbysea@gmail.com. No phone calls please.

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 Shepard 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 addresshavenscourt@sbcglobal.net.