

# THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY



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

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## God is Doing a New Thing!!!

*by Harry Fockle, Antioch Community Church, Conference Chair Committee*

Christ is Risen!

He is alive!

What now?

That's a question we recently asked ourselves at Antioch. In the afterglow of Easter as we remember the full churches, the great music and exciting worship services – what now?

Hopefully the answer resides in our life and the way we approach this living breath God has given us. When others see us they would find something so compelling about the Christ in our lives they would want to find out about it.

In the afterglow I am hopeful we will start preparing for our Annual Conference in Omaha.

Lift the Conference in prayer each day. Pray the sojourn in Nebraska land would bring renewal and hope to Communities of faith. Pray that God's Holy Spirit would be with us, surround us and live within us. Pray that we make a difference in the lives of those who live in Omaha. Pray that we make a difference in the lives of our churches.

Would you join me in earnest prayer as we make plans to be a part of the ICCA Annual Conference?

I am praying for you.



## Volunteers Needed!

I'm looking for Annual Conference volunteers!

### Hours for Registration are:

Sunday 7/13.....4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Monday 7/14 .....7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



I'll also need some helping hands to collect luncheon tickets and hand out offering envelopes.

Please contact me (DeAnn) at the Council office (815) 464-5690, to schedule a time. Thank you!!



## *The Last Word*

### *President's Message*

Rev. Dr. Bruce N. Merton

"Good things must come to an end." We have heard that saying before. I believe that saying, although I do not believe what it may imply. I do not believe that when 'good things come to an end' it means bad things are on the horizon. We do not have to trade the ending of good things for the beginning of bad things. That is an option, but it does not have to be. We can trade the end of good things for the beginning of better things! **The choice belongs to you and me!**

DeAnn has informed me that this is the last word from the President that I have to write. I rejoice in that news (maybe you do, also!). The President's column has been difficult to write on a number of occasions and yet the reality of our life together should be addressed with full candor and prophetic certainty. (Remember, prophecy is not fortune telling. It is forth telling!) There are some who have said that I have written with an "air of desperation" and that I seem to believe that good things have come to an end and the bad things leading to our demise loom on the horizon.

**Nothing could be further from the truth! I have said an emphatic "YES" to involvement in and the improvement of the I.C.C.C. ever since I joined with our church family in April of 2003.** I have been privileged to be surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses" that, with me, continue to give time, talent and treasure to the "good things" that give life and vitality to the I.C.C.C. I am certain that this great cloud of witnesses believes that when "good things come to an end" it is a harbinger of better things to come. If we did not believe that we would, in the face of good things ending, raise the white flag of surrender.

**Candor and prophetic certainty tell me that we need more to join the great cloud. We need more to live in the**

**world of the "emphatic YES"!** This great and growing cloud of witnesses will insure that the ending of good things is the gateway to better things. Jesus said to his disciples as he prepared for the good things of his life to draw to their end, "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, **will do greater works than these**, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12, NRSV)

One of my favorite poets is the man of little or lower case letters, e. e. cummings. His poetry, like his signature, was always written in lower case letters, yet the meaning and whimsical form of those lilted, little letters often explode with big, bright, bold and beautiful enthusiasms.

Poem #271 in e. e. cummings collected works is a little ditty packed with the potential for powerful participation in life. It holds the key to making sure that when good things end, better things will become reality. cummings wrote:

**"yes is a world  
and in this world of yes  
live  
(skillfully curled)  
all worlds"**

The implication for us as Christians, as people called to be Christ in this world, and as members of the I.C.C.C. is clear. **"Yes"** is our world of possibility. If we live, think and exist in that world then life which lies in the corners, cracks, crevices and crannies will uncurl before us in a panoramic canvas of God's goodness, grace and growth.

**Candor and prophetic certainty demand our ownership of circumstances that say, "no!" in many ways. However, candor and prophetic certainty also provide the platform for us to make sure that our God powered "YES!" is always greater than the "no".**

Our open and honest eyes, minds and hearts will lead us to know that 'good things do come to an end.' **A Christ-centered** cloud of witnesses with open eyes, minds and hearts will make sure that when "good things come to an end" even greater things are about to be uncurled!

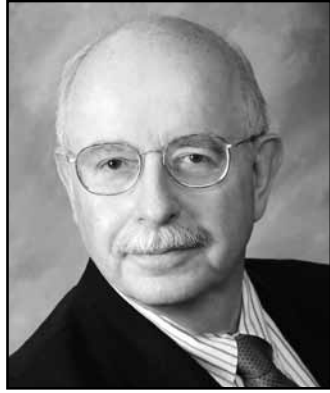
The Christ-centered cloud of witnesses knows that the world of **"yes"** can be identified and realized through the exercise of our faith in the One who said, "... the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these."

To say **"yes"** to our life together is not a denial of the crazy dilemmas we face. It is not a denial that 'good things come to an end.' It is not a commitment to 'going down with the ship.'

It is to say, with a great deal of confidence that God, through the inclusive fellowship of the I.C.C.C., witnesses to the world a care and love that are everlasting and transforming. And that God will work with us and through us in life giving and life affirming ways as "good things come to an end" and better things take shape and form.

The **"yes"** of a growing and great cloud of witnesses to the confidence we have in God; the value of our past; the challenges of the present; and the "skillfully curled" future will prove to be more than sufficient to overcome all the "no" that stands in our midst.

"Yes" has been called "life's gladdest word." Can you guess the winner of the saddest word award? Oscar Hammerstein of *"Oklahoma"* and *"South Pacific"* fame came up with this surprising selection. He said, "The saddest word in the whole language is 'but'."



## *What Is Your Phish Food?*

**Don Ashmall**  
*Council Minister*

For your information the on-line Urban Dictionary defines “phish food” as “the most delicious flavor of ice cream known...chocolate ice cream, caramel, marshmallow, and tiny chocolate fish.” If you don’t know who makes it, look it up yourself; I’m not here to tout any particular brand name. Phish food is delivered to my supermarket in pint containers. The thing is, when it comes to phish food, I love the contents of the container. The container itself is disposable. And that is my introduction to asking you: when it comes to Christianity what’s your phish food and what’s your container?

The world-wide church is littered with containers. Within the church some of us love Fannie Crosby hymns, or the New English Bible translation of the scriptures, or the Revised Common Lectionary. (If you don’t know what one or more of these are, ask your pastor who I can guarantee will have firm opinions on any or all.) As beloved or despised as these may be, they are not the phish food of the faith. They are simply some of the containers.

I am enthralled again and again by what I see and hear and experience on Sunday morning. I’m old enough to appreciate a 47 rank pipe organ as much as a four-piece combo when I come to worship. Maybe because I grew up in rather spartan free-church surroundings, I enjoy visits to church buildings with stained glass windows and elaborate architecture and all that fancy “stuff.” I can take pleasure in spirited choir anthems, and liturgical “smells and bells,” and worship services where children or animals or even a fish-

ing fleet get blessed. But none of these is the phish food. Each is just a container. In fact, if I start focusing on any of these containers, my faith is not Christianity. It is instead “Church-ianity.” Don’t get me wrong; I enjoy a good show. And any pastor knows that Sunday morning needs a bit of showmanship. (Oops; did I give away a secret?) But all the showmanship as well as all the architecture; all the liturgical equipment and gear; all that we do in our worship services: is not the phish food. It’s all intended to lead us to the phish food, but in itself it’s just the container.

On Sunday mornings and at other times during the week I hear sermons. Some are expository. Some are textual or topical or historical or biographical. Some are personal testimonies. Some show forth the scholarly research that went into their building, and others are keyed more to the emotions than to the intellect. Some sermons are intended to educate and others are intended to inspire. Some of the best are directed toward the intersection between present crisis and Biblical consciousness. Any of us could become a connoisseur of sermons. But if I did that, it would lead me not to Christianity but to some kind of “Preach-ianity.” Any good preacher knows that the sermon isn’t the phish food. A good sermon can be a kind of container lid that lets itself be peeled back so that the contents are revealed. But even the best sermon is just the container.

I love busy congregations. I love seeing a worship bulletin filled with announcements about all sorts of activities, events and programs. Every week, churches sell so much

in the way of cakes and cookies, that it’s a wonder the customers come back again next week for more. But they do. Possibly that’s because the customers have also returned to the church building for countless exercise and dieting programs. And then there are the more “religious” weekday activities: Bible studies, prayer circles, choir rehearsals, missions groups and more. If at the local community church the lights are on at least six nights a week, it’s probably because the congregation is serving its community. But even these are not the phish food. If I became addicted to all that activity, I would not be practicing Christianity. I would be committing myself instead to “Organize-ianity.” As good as the groups may be, they are just the container.

The phish food of the faith goes deeper. The phish food is faith – which at its heart is a relational word just as love is a relational word. There’s nothing wrong with the containers – unless we mistake the container for the contents. Those who united the community church movement in 1950 understood that reality. That’s why they could have unity without uniformity – because they were united in the relational reality of faith, and the non-uniform practices were just containers. Sometimes we forget their insight. We get irritated with others because they don’t handle their containers just the way we do. But Jesus doesn’t call us to Church-ianity or Preach-ianity or Organize-ianity. Jesus calls us to relationship.

And having thus concluded this reflection, I think I’ll head toward the refrigerator.

# REVIEWS

## Dr. Robert M. Puckett

THE SUBSTANCE OF FAITH: And Other Cotton Patch Sermons; Clarence Jordan, Edited by Dallas Lee, Cascade Books, 2005, Paperback, 183 Pages, \$19.80.

Clarence Jordan was the founder, along with Martin England, of an intentional, integrated Christian community in 1942 near Americus, Georgia during the early stages of the Civil Rights movement.

Jimmy Carter wrote the Foreword of this book in which he said, "Every sermon in this book is a blossoming flower with thorns--a flower revealing God's love, and a thorn in the side of those who are unwilling to incarnate God's love to others. These sermons will both comfort and challenge you into a deeper relationship with the Prince of Peace. Clarence Jordan was not one to mince words. He firmly rejected racism, militarism, and materialism as obstacles to authentic faith." (p. 2)

Clarence and the community encountered violent opposition because of his clear message of God's inclusive love. I first met Clarence when he came to be a chapel speaker at Mercer University when I was a student there. Jane and I visited the farm to have lunch with him and I counted 32 bullet holes in the walls of his living room, put there by drive-by gunfire from a Ku Klux Klan caravan. Koinonia community endured arson, personal assault and ouster by a local church all for living in an interracial fellowship.

In the face of it all, Clarence relentlessly preached about the incarnation with an emphasis on the humanity of God, declaring that the incarnation "is not proof of the deity of Jesus, but, rather, evidence of the humanity of God. It definitely establishes that from here on out, and we can't deal with God without confronting him in our brother."

(p. 3) He made the point that it was the human presence of God that led to the crucifixion.

"So the resurrection of Jesus was simply God's unwillingness to take our No for an answer. He raised Jesus, not as an invitation to us to come to heaven when we die, but as a declaration that He Himself has now established permanent, eternal residence on earth. The resurrection places Jesus on *this* side of the grave--here and now--in the midst of this life. He is not standing on the shore of eternity beckoning us to join him there. He is standing beside us, strengthening us in this life. The good news of the resurrection of Jesus is not that we shall die and go home with him, but that he has risen and comes home with us, bringing all his hungry, naked, thirsty, sick, prisoner brothers with him."

"On the morning of the resurrection, God put life in the present tense, not in the future. He gives us not a promise but a presence. Not a hope for the future but power for the present... Jesus' resurrection is not to convince the incredulous nor to assure the fearful, but to enkindle the believers. The proof that God raised Jesus from the dead is not in the empty tomb, but the full hearts of his transformed disciples. The crowning evidence that he lives is not in the vacant grave, but a spirit-filled fellowship. Not a rolled-away stone, but a carried away church." (p. 26)

Clarence Jordan not only preached the incarnation, he lived it, and his sermons challenge all who read them to do the same. Habitat for Humanity was begun at Koinonia Farm and is a part of the Clarence Jordan legacy.

### THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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## Mission Statement



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



## *Youth Walk for Hunger Bridge between our Council and the Hungry of the Heartland*

Food Bank for the Heartland is the largest food bank in Nebraska and Iowa, encompassing 93 counties in a two-state region. They distributed 12.6 million pounds of food in FY 2013. The Food Bank network includes more than 285 food pantries, emergency shelters, after-school programs, senior housing sites and rehabilitation centers in the community.

More than 113,000 people in rural communities in Nebraska and western Iowa are food insecure (they don't know where their next meal is coming from). Each dollar raised will allow the food bank to provide three meals.

*People come to our pantry and realize how much we ALL care. They get a real smile, a hug, good quality food and keep their dignity. Quite often I see a tear roll down the cheek of someone so exhausted from the hardships of life. We're here working with the Food Bank to help turn people's lives in a new direction.*

**Pantry Operator in Atlantic, Iowa**

*I just wanted to tell you thank you for having the Backpack Program for students at our school. Just today I had a student who was absent last Friday due to the snow and didn't get his food bag. He told his teacher today that he hadn't eaten in a couple of days because there was no food at home. He was very grateful to take his food bag home today.*

**Nurse at an Omaha Public Elementary School**

On Wednesday afternoon we will have a hunger walk across the Bob Kerry pedestrian bridge from Omaha, NE to Council Bluffs, IA to raise money for the Nebraska Food Bank. All walkers will seek sponsors for \$25 each. Our goal is to raise enough money for the Food Bank to provide 10,000 meals.

## *The Last Word* cont'd. from p. 2

You have many outstanding qualities,  
but...

I'm in favor of this, but...

I was going to write, but...

I know you are my sister/brother, but...

I know I can say, "yes," but...

Speaking and living the qualified "yes, but..." is always easier than speaking and living the **emphatic "yes"** in which lies skillfully curled all worlds. We can choose the easy path and with prophetic certainty we know where it will lead. Or we can choose the **emphatic "yes"** empowered and insured by the resurrected Lord and know that in that choice there is conquering "yes" in the face of every "no".

No "buts" about it! Because of my faith in God through Christ, I am a **"yes"** person. I hope you are, too!

Together in faith we will find God continuing to generate in us, our churches, centers and our beloved I.C.C.C. the ability to convert much despair into new opportunity, much hatred into love, much brokenness into wholeness.

**Let's live in the "world of yes!"**

***"yes is a world  
and in this world of yes  
live(skillfully curled)  
all worlds"***

**Good things come to an end so even better things can take shape, form and reality! The Scripture could very well read, "If the I.C.C.C. is in Christ, then the old good things pass away and, behold, I create all things new."**

**Yes!** I thank you for allowing me to serve the Lord, you and the I.C.C.C. as President. **Yes!** I believe our past has been significant and meaningful. **Yes!** I believe our future stills lies skillfully curled. **Yes!** I will do my best, with the help of God and a great cloud of witnesses, to see it uncurled in newness of life!

May the Peace of Christ Be with Us All!

## Women's Christian Fellowship

By Ella Clay, President

As we anticipate our scheduled conference in Omaha Nebraska during the week of July 14-17, 2014 we are filled with great excitement. Our Theme this year, "God is Doing A New Thing-Isaiah 43:19" is certainly prophetic in nature. As we reflect on our mission of: Justice for Humanity, Reconciliation, and Christian Unity, ICCC/WCF will make an indelible mark within the earth. By serving justly, new and miraculous things will manifest in the lives of humanity.

As always WCF is spirit-filled and exuberant as we look forward to our fellowship this year. We have an excellent schedule planned. We will begin on Monday, July 14 with a meet and greet session along with our worship service from 3-4 p.m. On Tuesday, July 15 we will engage "A Health Moment." The presentation will focus on Mental Illness within our Christian Community. Wednesday, July 16 will be "Testimonies of Encouragement" from various WCF members. Additionally, we have a Memorial service as we honor the passing of former WCF members and conclude with our Business Meeting. On Thursday July 17, WCF is hosting the Prayer Breakfast. All are welcome as we petition God for the welfare of our entire society. There will be beautiful musical selections rendered as we fellowship together.

We are looking forward to great and marvelous things that God has in store for our conference. We extend an invitation to all women to come and be a part of this wonderful experience. As well, we invite the youth to join in our fellowship as your schedules permit. May God's Face continue to shine upon you until we meet!

## Endowment Fund Update

Since it was established in March 2001, individuals, churches and ICCC organizations have made 600+ gifts totaling over \$190,000 to the Endowment Fund. Thanks to their generosity, as of the end of the first quarter of 2014, the ICCC Permanent Endowment Fund's assets totaled \$246,038.76.

The Fund's assets are managed by the Presbyterian Foundation's New Covenant Trust. New Covenant has a highly regarded fund management team that invests solely in socially responsible firms—meaning no alcohol, gambling, pornographic or firearms businesses.

Currently two-thirds of the Endowment Fund's assets are invested in New Covenant's Balanced Growth Fund that consists of 65% stocks and 35% bonds. The remaining 35% is invested in New Covenant's Balanced Income Fund that consists of 65% bonds and 35% stocks.

This past January the Endowment Fund provided \$5,366 in Available Earnings (Fund appreciation net of the inflation rate) for the 2012 - 2013 Investment Year (July 1 through June 30) to the ICCC General Fund. Since it was first launched, the Endowment Fund has disbursed a total of \$29,129 to the ICCC General Fund.

Should you have any questions about the Permanent Endowment Fund, visit the recently revised and expanded Endowment Fund section at the Council's website ([www.icccUSA.com](http://www.icccUSA.com)) Or contact one of the Endowment Trustees (Bill Grossman, Herman Harmelink, Bob Harris, Jim MacVicar, Sandra Nelson and Bob Puckett).

## Annual Conference Checklist

### Have you done the following yet?

- Sent in your registration form and fee?
- Called the DoubleTree hotel and made your reservations? 800/222-8733 **Deadline June 30<sup>th</sup>**.
- Made your meal reservations (optional) with the Council office?
- Signed up for the Supper Club? Limited quantity of tickets!!!
- Sent in or talked to your church/center about placing an ad in the conference book?
- Contacted the office about volunteering at conference?
- Sent in or talked to your church about sending their Voting Delegate form?

If you need more information, please contact the Council office or visit the ICCC website: [www.icccusa.com](http://www.icccusa.com).



**Roberta Smith**

**(908) 419-8860**

**RobertalCCC@aol.com**

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**Sharing Joys:**

- New ICCC member **Faith Clinic Community Church** in Columbus, OH began their first worship service Jan. 26, 2014 and a spiritual movement is well under way. Senior Pastor **Vince L. Monden** and FCCC are experiencing wonderful increased fellowship, a Sunday school program and have begun an outreach to the local community through radio announcements and sending out fliers.
- **Chapel By The Sea** of Clearwater Beach, FL, **Rev. Herb Freitag** pastor, recently had a post-worship “meal and karaoke” event. Ask Herb for details!
- **Bethany Union Church**, Chicago, IL, **Rev. Sharyon Cosey** pastor, hosted the DuBois’ rendition of “The Seven Last Words of Christ” in a do-it-yourself joint effort, asking choir members to join them in the presentation bringing their own musical score. The presentation began on Good Friday.
- **Central Zone, Region A** met on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for their annual mini conference at **Progressive Community Church**, Chicago, IL, **Rev. B. Herbert Martin** pastor. They had a beautiful inspiring and enlightening event themed “*God Is Doing a New Thing*” drawing from the Annual Conference in July.
- **Rev. Denise Logan**, ordained by **Progressive Community Church**, Chicago, IL back in 2002 is now serving as the Interim Pastor at Hilton Baptist Church in Hilton, NY. HBC is affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, Genesee Region and she remains Clergy in Special Standing with the ICCC.
- **Saint Nicholas Mission**, Chelsea, MA assisted Atria Maplewood Place Senior Living in their first ever Passover Seder for their Jewish residents on April 15<sup>th</sup>. **David Dismas**, pastor of The Mission presided and was assisted by the Jewish residents and their family members as well as some members of Saint Nicholas Mission.



**Our Prayers are With:**

- The family of **Rev. James D. Hill**, who passed away April 17<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Hill was Clergy in Special Standing with the ICCC, an Endorsed Navy Chaplain and former pastor of the **Gull Lake Area Community Church**, from which he retired in 1996.
- The family of **Joan Rigby** and **Park Road Community Church**. Joan passed away suddenly on March 15<sup>th</sup>. She was a very active member of **Region B Area 1**, attended many conferences and area activities, and was an outstanding youth leader for area churches. She was the niece of **Dorothy and Lester Barry**, Temple Hills, MD.
- **Rev. Todd Yeary**, **Douglas Memorial Community Church**, whose father, **Rev. Aaron Yeary, Sr.**, passed away on May 4<sup>th</sup>. His service was held in Morristown, TN.
- The family of **Rev. Claude Wilson** and **Havenscourt Community Church** in Oakland, CA. Claude passed away May 9<sup>th</sup> after 44 years of service to his church.
- **Roberta Smith** and her family with the passing of her dad, **Robert Smith**, on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Roberta is a member of **Wilson Memorial Union Church** and is an **ICCC Eastern Region Trustee**.
- The family of **Rev. John W.C. Selvey** on April 13<sup>th</sup>, who served as minister of **Gahanna Community Church** from 1955-1982 and has been Pastor Emeritus since. He was 97 years old and one of the several ministers who was encouraged to go into ministry by **Rev. Roy Burkart** in 1949. Rev. Selvey attended many ICCC conferences and also served as the Ohio Fellowship President. A celebration of his life was held on April 27<sup>th</sup> at Gahanna Community Church where over 250 people attended.

# Omaha Annual Conference Workshop Updates

The ICCC Agape team: Michael Donahue, Nanci Harris and Sandra Nelson, will lead a workshop titled “**AGAPE and You!**” The session will deal with how AGAPE can be implemented into the local church or organization.

Ms. Wendy Groll, VP of Operations and Director of Training for Handley & Associates, will lead a workshop titled **Reaching the Next Generations**. What makes the X, Y and Millennial Generations want to be involved or uninvolved with churches? What’s behind the growth in the “nones” (younger folk who answer the religious preference question with “none”)? What kinds of attitudes and agendas help or hinder local congregations as they reach out to the young families? You’ll explore these questions and more with Ms. Groll, business woman, mother and creative leader.



**Pastoral Financial Wellness**

This workshop, conducted by **Rev. Dr. Perry J. Hopper** from MMBB, will focus on a discussion of clergy financial wellness in the context of today’s economy, issues facing clergy relative to the housing allowance, and the fundamentals of fair compensation. The discussion will have direct relevance not only to clergy but to those in decision making roles in the local church.



**Invigorate your Mind, Body and Soul**

Start your day bright and early with something new this year at conference! Tues-Thursday mornings, we will offer a fitness program called “**Fit Group**.” The Christian life is a holistic one, encompassing body, mind and spirit. Join Jennifer Layte, Greendale People’s church, as she leads others in an invigorating half-hour workout to keep the body healthy and the mind alert for a day of feeding the spirit. Aerobic, strength and flexibility training are all part of these Team Beachbody workouts. Workouts may be challenging. Modifications are available. A signed waiver will be required.



## *Permanent Pastor Vacancy, the Community Church of East Williston, New York*

The Community Church of East Williston (CCEW) is currently accepting applications for the position of Senior Pastor. We are seeking an experienced church leader who is able to meet the challenge of uniting a congregation from various Christian denominations.

Our church is a member of the International Council of Community Churches and we need a strong leader who supports our church mission and community with an emphasis on Christian faith and fellowship.

The successful candidate would be expected to lead by word and example while guiding the church to accomplish the work of Jesus Christ. The role model of the church in the community is of primary importance to enable us to spread the word of Jesus Christ. The successful candidate must be capable of proclaiming God's word, teaching, leading, equipping leaders, role modeling the church's mission, devotion to prayer, assuring care and mobilizing resources.

### **EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE**

1. Ordained minister and graduate of an accredited Christian seminary.
2. Cheerful and enthusiastic personality
3. Ability to relate the scriptures and teachings of God to the everyday lives of the congregation.
4. Experienced pastor in working with youth and young families.
5. Supervision of church staff including Christian education, office and grounds staff plus organist.
6. Council congregants and committees as required.
7. Contacting by phone or personal visitations congregants who are shut-ins, hospitalized or others who need some special time with the pastor.
8. A minimum of 10 years experience as a full time pastor in a 100+ protestant church.
9. Perform infant baptisms.

The PSC is accepting packages containing (but not limited to) your resume, your calling (share your call to ministry), style of ministry (explain your beliefs) and any other information you feel is relevant. All applications will be acknowledged with our intent for further communication regarding personal interview(s). Kindly mail application to: Peter Burnside, Chairman Pastoral Search Committee, Community Church of East Williston, 45 East Williston Ave., East Williston, NY 11596. Tel 516 742-9690 - e-mail ccew@optonline.net - website www.ccew.org

## *Seeking a Senior Minister*

Emmanuel Baptist Church of Ridgewood, NJ has an opening for a Senior Minister. We are a progressive church which emphasizes inclusiveness and social justice as our understanding of Christianity. We are interested in pastoral candidates who are supportive of this philosophy and theology.

The community of Ridgewood is known for its excellent schools, community services, transportation facilities to NY City, the arts, and quality of life. Our church is a member of the American Baptist Churches, and maintains affiliation with the International Council of Community Churches and the Center for Progressive Christianity.

Please contact search committee chair Brent Saardema at 973-427-7310 or [profbrent@juno.com](mailto:profbrent@juno.com) with expressions of interest.

## *Seeking a Senior Pastor*

"I am come that they might have life and that they may have it more abundantly." – John 10:10

People's Community Church is a Singing, Praying, Tithing, Serving and Loving congregation, seeking a spiritual and energetic pastor. People's Community Church was organized in 1954 and is a charter member of the International Council of Community Churches. In response to God's call and through the Power of the Holy Spirit, it is the mission of People's Community Church to be a Community of Faith through which the Kingdom of God might be revealed. The Pastoral Search Committee request your resume along with a video, CD or recording of a recent sermon.

The candidate must be an ordained minister, a graduate of a university and an accredited theological seminary with a divinity degree or its equivalence.

He/she must also have actively pastored for at least three years in a congregation that is recognized by the International Council of Community Churches. Must have the love of the gospel; demonstrating qualities of strong leadership in the areas of preaching, teaching, administration, community relations and be able to relate to all generations of the congregation. He/she must demonstrate the ability to stimulate positive church growth in the inter-city area of Detroit.

Interested candidates may submit requested documents to the attention of the Search Committee for Pastoral Leadership, People's Community Church, 8601 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202 – Carolyn Ford, Chairperson. Initial interest may also communicate via email at [personaltouch\\_22@att.net](mailto:personaltouch_22@att.net).

## *Non-Denominational Church Seeks Full-Time Pastor*

Roser Community Church ([www.roserchurch.com](http://www.roserchurch.com)) is a Lay-Led 400 member church. We seek an energetic Pastor with post-graduate congregational experience. Ability to work within our traditional worship format along with the skills to build on our youth and adult Christian education programs. Applicants must be a graduate of a divinity school recognized by the American Association of Theological Schools and an ordained Christian minister of the Gospel. If interested send resume, salary requirements and recent sermon to Search Committee - Roser Community Church, P.O. Box 2141, Anna Maria, FL 34216.