

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

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The ICCC Has A New Website!!

www.ICCCNOW.org

Reunion 2016: Coming Together in Jesus

by Harry Fockle
Vice-President of Planning

The place will be the Galt House Hotel in downtown Louisville, Kentucky. The Occasion will be The International Council of Community Churches Annual Conference. The dates are July the 11th through July the 14th 2016.

You are invited and before you say yes or no read what will be provided. You may think it's too much information or you may reply Praise the Lord, Hallelujah, Thank God for Reunion in Jesus. I'm hoping for the latter.

Here we go – first your old friends will miss you if you are not there and the wonderful possibility of new friends will be missed.

All our preachers for the Conference worship times are from our own ICCC fellowships. The food will be good and Michael Livingston (you remember Michael don't you) will share a meal with us. Our Bible study leader is well acquainted with our ICCC as well as many of it's members. He is Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick a past Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), author and currently a Professor at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

You will have the opportunity to attend workshops on our 3 pronged mission emphasis of Feeding The Hungry, Creating Community and Agape. The very next day your choices are Financial Literacy, Church Websites and Generational G.A.P :Closing in the ICCC.

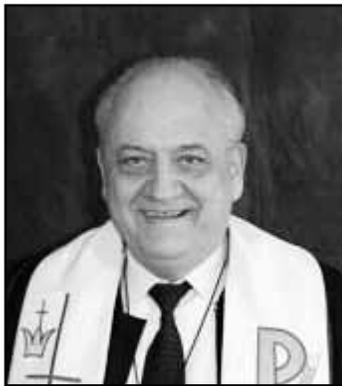
The Women's Christian Fellowship will meet as will the Samaritans Men's group. Of Course the ICCC ministers will gather. Let us not forget we will have a enthusiastic group of youth who will meet, pray, work and play. They will lead us in worship on Thursday.

There will be a meeting of our Supper Club in Downtown Louisville. Oh! Yes a visit to the Muhammad Ali Center Self-guided Tour which is included in your registration. Don't forget our impressive closing banquet.

All of this happens at the Galt House which will be an outstanding venue for our ICCC Annual Conference. There will be the business sessions and other meetings necessary for the Conference. I believe it will be worth your time. Most importantly it is undergirded by the power of Prayer.

I may have missed something and if so we will let you know in the next Christian Community newsletter. In the meantime – too much information or Praise the Lord, Hallelujah, Thank God for Reunion in Jesus? I am not missing this one.





C.U.I.C. and Provincialism

President's Message Rev. Dr. Richard O. Griffith

I recently returned from a meeting of Churches Uniting in Christ, held in St. Louis. This was the first time I had been at such a meeting, and my perspectives were both challenged and reinforced. As President of the Council, I was accorded certain respect, meeting with "Heads of Communion." As a Christian, I felt excited with their motto, "Reconciling the baptized, seeking unity with justice." As part of our ecumenical witness, I was proud of "... the ICCC leavens the loaf by word and deed that it is possible to have unity without uniformity; diversity without division." As a colleague, I celebrate Abraham Wright being elected Vice President of C.U.I.C., which carries with it significant programmatic responsibility. I also experienced the challenge of being part of the historic privileged (white male), in the context of "seeking unity with justice."

We all can agree that the mark of a Christian is baptism, but we disagree as to the methodology (sprinkling, pouring, or immersion). We have different traditions, and, unfortunately, can make them crucial, believing them to be "God's Way." What about our differences in our understandings of Salvation, Eucharist (or Lord's Supper), Pro Life or Pro Choice, marriage, gender rights, LGBTQ concerns, and, in this election season, the role of our churches and centers in the political sphere? How do we all, in the ecumenical witness to the wholeness of the faith, learn to respect the sincerity and integrity of those with whom we disagree? That is the hard work of reconciliation.

I can appreciate the traditions from which we all come, exemplified in the Council. For me, raised in the Methodist tradition, I was moved that the bishop and clergy

who placed their hands on my head in the act of ordination had similar experiences in their lives, possibly going back to Coke, Asbury, and Wesley. I appreciate others of our movement who see themselves within the Apostolic Succession, going all the way back to Jesus. I affirm our sisters and brothers who rely on the Spirit and congregational affirmation and validation of call to ministry, whether clergy or laity.

We also need to be open to ways the Spirit may be calling us to move (for us) in new and uncomfortable ways. Before this meeting, I had no idea as to how "white privilege" and "male privilege" dominated the perspectives of many. I needed to hear things that were not easy to comprehend or understand, and I (and many of us, perhaps) need to be open to correcting historical and current injustice.

One of the realities I came to see was that people there had their own understandings of faithfulness and theological essentials, making meaningful reconciliation a challenge, other than on a simply surface level. On certain theological perspectives, the provincialism was pervasive.

We all have our traditions – traditions that can alienate or liberate. As a Council, we effectively affirm our tradition – unity without uniformity and diversity without division. For us, it is not provincialism, but a gift to the Ecumenical Movement and the worldwide Church of Jesus Christ.

May the contributions of many faithful understandings continue, as God is making all things new!

With joy, challenge, and hope,

Mission Statement



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

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Voice for
Ecumenical Congregations
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Editors:

DeAnn Anzaldi
Don Ashmall

Circulation:

DeAnn Anzaldi

Book Reviews:

Robert M. Puckett

Telephone: 815/464-5690

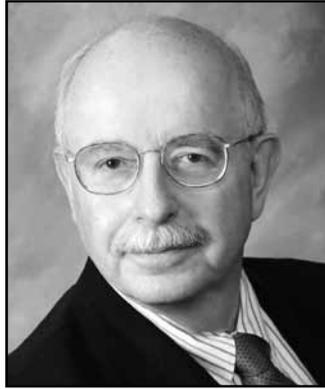
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E-Mail:

ICCC60423@sbcglobal.net
www.ICCCNOW.org

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The Future of the Church

Don Ashmall

Council Minister

Have you been keeping up with “religion” news lately? The media coverage is rather barren. On one extreme we have many local newspapers and a few local tv outlets running notices about church suppers and rummage sales. On the other extreme, we have networks and national magazines running features on the latest violent and deranged group that tries to justify itself by way of religious rhetoric. Mostly, any other reporting on the church seems to be about some pastoral leader caught in scandal.

In the meantime, mostly unreported, ministry is happening. The hungry are being fed. The thirsty are being provided with clean water. Strangers and outsiders are being welcomed. The naked are being clothed. The sick and those in prison are being visited. (Matt. 25: 31, ff.) Local congregations and their faithful members, individually and in cooperation with others, are sharing love without expecting to profit from the sharing. They are engaged in “Jesus talk,” and they are equally engaged in the “Jesus walk.”

There’s a not-so-hidden secret about ministry: it is subversive! Throughout history, church organizations as well as secular states have been corrupted by authoritarianism. When the gospel writers discussed Jesus’ temptations in the wilderness, they told us that raw power over people was one of the baubles dangled before Jesus’ eyes. The nature of temptation has not changed in the intervening centuries. None of us need a reminder that some in the church have reversed the order of “servant-leader” and rarely if ever acted as servants. But when the church is engaged in ministry, servanthood comes to the fore. And when power and authority, as they always do, want to deflect

the church from ministry, Christians who know their call is to servanthood always resist, and persist.

Good news: in every generation, ministry and servanthood continue. And even better news: our generation is better able to share ministry, empower ministry and celebrate ministry than ever before.

Thanks to improved communications, you and I can easily share good news about the ministries of our congregations. This means among other things that we can form networks of feeding ministries, clothing ministries, prison ministries and more. In these networks we can share experiences and expertise. If a congregation wants to embark on a new ministry, those among us who are already engaged can share “best practices,” unanticipated experiences and more. In short, those who are just beginning new ministries won’t need to re-invent every wheel and so will be able to serve more effectively.

Thanks to networking, ministries may be able to apply together for funding or in-kind gifts from sources they’ve never approached before. Secular foundations and corporations will rarely give to a single congregation’s efforts; but they may be willing to consider a regional or national consortium’s outreach. News of support from such sources can attract new people to participate in the ministries, bringing with them their energy, imagination and talents. Each bit of growth will attract more, as ministry and caring, love and dedication all expand in our midst.

None of this requires a central authority. None of it demands a bureaucracy. As our ministries grow, the sharing and networking will likely need a “clearing house,” but

there’s no need for the clearing house to offer directives. Power-based church structures that previous generations thought were necessary are crumbling even as we speak. Only fellowships of congregations that share as peers will survive and thrive.

So – particularly since I’m writing this in a Council publication – what does all this mean for the ICCC, and what can we do about it?

First, we don’t need to reorganize! We as Council are ready and poised for growing ministries and growing networks of ministries. Our volunteer-based structure is ready, willing and able to serve. And, the way we’re organized, our minimal staff can help provide clearing house functions without compromising any congregation’s autonomy and dignity.

Second, we do need to improve peer-to-peer communication about our ministries. As I have worshipped with the Council’s congregations and shared with our pastoral and lay leaders, it has become more than obvious that vital ministries are happening all around. The problem is that the rest of us may not know what you are doing. Please: share your experience with others. Write a paragraph and post it on the ICCC Facebook page, or email it or send it by postal mail to the Council office for sharing. You won’t be bragging; you’ll be sharing.

Third, we need to tell one another about vital ministries that go beyond our local congregations. Some of us sponsor missionaries in various places. Some of us are involved in local ecumenical or inter-faith ministries. Some of us are involved

continued on page 10

REVIEWS

Dr. Robert M. Puckett



ACCIDENTAL SAINTS: Finding God in All the Wrong People;
Nadia Bolz-Webber, 2015, Convergent Books, New York, Hardback,,
211 pages, \$23.00.

Nadia Bolz-Webber says that she wrote this book so that those who read it will see that “the glory of God in the midst of our crap is revealed all the time, all around us...and realize how transformative it can be.” (p. 211) She is the Evangelical Lutheran pastor of the House for All Sinners and Saints, a mission church in Denver Colorado. Her book sheds light on what it means to be a saint. “It has been my experience that what makes us the saints of God is not our ability to be saintly but rather God’s ability to work through sinners, or as St Paul puts it, ‘For it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.’” (p. 7)

She confesses that she often makes mistakes, fails to live up to God’s expectations, is vulnerable to forgetting what really matters, loves poorly, and acts selfishly. Yet, none of us are perfect. We all fail to be all that God intends us to be. She faces the truth about the human condition. And yet, “I can’t shake Jesus, though I’ve tried. The Gospel, this story of a God who came to us through Jesus and loved without bounds and forgave without reservation and said that we have the power to do the same, cannot be destroyed by all the stupid mistakes.” (p. 10)

She acknowledged to her congregation that she “was unqualified to be an example of anything but needing Jesus.

As a friend of hers put it: “Those most qualified to speak the gospel are those who truly know how unqualified they are to speak the gospel.” (p. 30)

Christians are all called to be Matthew 25 Christians: to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the imprisoned and be a blessing because we have been blessed. However, “I’ve never known how to keep from feeling self-important when I help people. Being the one who serves is a position of power. No matter how selfless I’d like to think I am, there’s always something in it for me...” Christ’s presence is not embodied in those who feed the hungry (as important as that work is), but Christ’s presence is in the hungry being fed. Christ comes not in the form of those who visit the imprisoned but in the imprisoned being *cared* for. And to be clear, Christ does not come to us as the poor and hungry. Because...Christ comes to us in the *needs* of the poor and hungry, needs that are met by another so that the gleaming redemption of God might be known...No one gets to play Jesus. But we do get to experience Jesus in the holy place where we meet others’ needs and have our own needs met” (p. 48)

The lives of people who are not ordinarily expected to be saints are described here. Some are members of the House for All Sinners and Saints, others are not. There was Clayton the conserva-

tive gun nut, Chloe the teenager with pink hair, Jim and his boyfriend, Stuart, Amy the paraplegic, Kate the alcoholic, and Andie the Unitarian who was having a crisis of faith. All of them are people who in one way or another were able to be a blessing. In many cases they are stories of people whose failures are as important as their successes.

The gospel of Matthew tells about how Jesus was accused of being a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners. Nadia says I’ve never fully understood how Christianity became quite so tame and respectable, given its origins among drunkards, prostitutes, and tax collectors. So she looks for a way to find God in all the wrong people.

All through the book Nadia insists that God loves and is gracious to people who are far from perfect, and makes them accidental saints who bless others. She also insists that there is a sting in “being loved well, because when we are loved well, it is inextricably linked to all the times we have not been loved well, all the times we ourselves have not loved others well, and all the things that feel like evidence against our worthiness. Love and grace are such deceptively soft words, but they both sting like hell and then go and change the shape of our hearts and make us into something we couldn’t create ourselves to be.” (p. 180)

Christian Community Church Helps Feed Food-challenged Kids

by Michelle Brown, Member of Christ Community Church

Christ Community Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan decided in 2014 to help support an innovative hunger relief program known as Kids Food Basket. In Grand Rapids alone, the Kids Food Basket program provides roughly 100,000 "Sack Dinners" annually at an approximate cost of \$1 apiece to 6,000 needy elementary school children.

This program enables food-challenged children to have a healthy take-home dinner in a bag 5 days a week so they can avoid being hungry and thus better focus on their studies. The sack dinners are distributed at 34 schools in Kent County where Grand Rapids is located. During the summer school vacation, the meals are distributed to children from public parks.

Christ Community Church holds 3 family-oriented community events annually to help support the Kids Food Basket program:

- The Snow-Lympics in February are scaled down winter Olympic games that utilizes the church's sledding hill,
- The Egg-Stravaganza Easter egg hunt which takes place shortly before Easter
- The Harvest Fest in late October which consists of a hayride and indoor activities for kids.

Each of these community events features a raffle prize donated by a congregation member. One raffle ticket is given for each food item that an individual or family contributes. The events, which are run by the church's Community Life Ministries Team, are open to neighborhood families. Most participants are from outside the church—making this a community outreach project.

At each of these 3 Christ Community Church events, a representative from the Kids Food Basket program explains the scope and importance of the Sack Dinners program and how those at the event can help. The purpose is to increase awareness of the needs in the community.

Christ Community is looking at ways to increase its support of the Kids Food Basket program because it believes it is a highly effective and greatly needed community service.



The Christ Community Church in Grand Rapids Community Life Ministries team: (left to right) Joanna Shear, Cyndi Simmet, Amy Kooiker, and Michelle Brown.

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.

Would you like to put an ad in the Christian Community Newsletter?

- Pricing is for eight issues (one-year): Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, June, Oct, Nov, Dec.
- Distribution for each issue: 400+ by email; 125 by hard copy, mixed audience of clergy, laity.
- Each page is 8 ½" by 11" in size. Pages are divided into three vertical columns.
- Measurements below are maximum space for copy including any borders.
- Prices are for camera-ready copy. Otherwise, if we do ad setup there will be an extra charge.
 - 7 ¾ horizontal x 10" vertical; full page; \$600
 - 2 ½ horizontal x 10" vertical; full column; \$200.
 - 2 ½ horizontal by 3 1/3" vertical; one-third column \$75.

Contact the Council Office if interested.

Why We Support the Permanent Endowment Fund of the ICCC

by Bill Grossman

My wife, Allene, and I have always been steady supporters of our church and of the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC). We give because we believe in the work of the church and the Council. We have never felt we could give large chunks of money. However, we can give regularly.

Since the advent of online banking we have found it helpful to just set up a regular payment from our bank account to our local church. So we take our pledge for the year and divide it into twelve equal payments and have one sent to our church each month. We have also done the same with our support of the ICCC's General Fund. We have instructed our bank to send our monthly contribution to the Council's office.

This method accomplishes two things:

- 1) It means we don't have to stop every week or two and figure out how much to take to church or how much we need to send the Council.
- 2) It allows the church to have a steady stream of income whether we are in church or not. It allows the ICCC's General Fund to have a steady stream of income all year long, not just at the Annual Conference or in response to the December appeal letter.

Recently we have added the ICCC Permanent Endowment Fund to our monthly giving. When the bank sends our check to the ICCC each month, a portion of it goes into the Endowment Fund to ensure it will always keep growing.

We encourage you to do the same. It's easy and painless because the monthly automatic gifts are affordable. Plus automatic payments help make a difference by supporting a worthy cause that might otherwise be overlooked much of the time because of the normal busy pace of life we all have.

Still looking for a New Year's resolution? Consider having it be setting up an automatic monthly payment to the Council's Permanent Endowment Fund. That's a great way to make gifts "that keep on giving."



Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

Community Church at Tellico Village is seeking an Associate Pastor for Congregational Care to serve our 1400 member interdenominational congregation in Loudon, Tennessee. We are located in Tellico Village, a planned community nestled in the foothills of the beautiful Smoky Mountains, just southwest of Knoxville. Although primarily a senior congregation, we have members of all ages. Our church is affiliated with the International Council of Community Churches.

Several of the duties for this position will include coordinating and conducting pastoral visitations, officiating at funeral services, working closely with Stephen Ministry, teaching Sunday School and participating in worship service leadership on a regular basis. Our ideal candidate possesses a deep personal faith in Jesus Christ and demonstrates a true desire to shape his/her ministry by the Great Commandment. S/he values Christian unity and is a mature "people-person" with leadership skills.

Ministers from all denominations may apply. M. Div. required. Deadline for resumes is April 15, 2016. If interested, visit us at www.tellicochurch.com and post resume to search@tellicochurch.org. Or mail to CCTV Search Team, 130 Chota Center, Loudon, TN 37774. We look forward to hearing from you.

ICCC Endowment Fund Status As of February 12, 2016
Gifts Goal by June 30, 2016: \$15,000
Gifts since 06/30/15: \$7,175
Help us meet our goal, need: \$7,825
Current Fund Assets: \$263,580
Current Investment Mix: 0% stocks & 100% bonds

Sharing Joys

- Congratulations to ICCC Secretary and **Park Road Community Church** member **Abraham Wright**, who was elected Vice-President of Churches Uniting In Christ (CUIC) at their recent meeting.



CUIC began as the Consultation on Church Union, inspired by the witness of Rev. Eugene Carson Blake & Bishop James A. Pike in 1960. In 2002 eleven US based Christian communions dedicated themselves to a common witness of "reconciling the baptized; seeking unity with justice." As we have seen in other ecumenical fellowships, the presence of the ICCC leavens the loaf with our proclamation by word and deed that it is possible to have unity without uniformity; diversity without division." Please join with us as you pray for and with Abraham Wright in his efforts in CUIC!

- Congratulations to Rev. Dr. **Keith Haverkamp**, Senior Pastor, **Norris Religious Fellowship** in Norris, TN, who is retiring! A reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Feb. 28th, to acknowledge his upcoming retirement and to bid farewell to Keith and his wife Sally as they relocate to their new home in North Carolina.
- The **ICCC Central Zone, Region A** Spring Mini Conference will be held April 30th at **ABBA Church of Renewed Faith**, 1750 W. 103rd. St., Chicago, IL. For more info, please email Regional Trustee **Sharyon Cosey** at abbachurch4u@gmail.com.
- **Bishop Serge Theriault** and the **Christian Catholic Rite of Community Churches** celebrated the 2016 edition of World Religion Day on January 10, in Gatineau. Beside our Ottawa-Gatineau Church people who sang the hymns "All Creatures of our God & King" and "Oui, ce jour viendra", participants and contributors included: the Buddhist Association Light of Buddha, the RC Choir Notre Dame de l'Eau Vive, Rabbi Daniel Benlolo (Beth Shalom Synagogue) and the Tamir Choir, Imam Mohammed Lahlou of the Aymer Mosque, Mr. Mehrdad Kasiri and Mr. Dominique Marchal of the Baha'i Community. They conveyed a message from Rev. **Donald H. Ashmall**, our Council Minister: "On behalf of the world-wide fellowship of congregations that is the International Council of Community Churches, I greet you and applaud your united celebration of World Religion Day. Our Council was formed to overcome divisions based on race and religious practice; we rejoice that this year's theme is 'One Planet, One Family.' May your celebration lead others to join in the quest for unity."

2016 Annual Conference Mission Lunch Speaker: Rabbi Dr. Nadia Siritsky

Rabbi Dr. Siritsky will join us at the Annual Conference Mission Luncheon to speak about **Wellness & Healing**. She is the Vice President of Mission at KentuckyOne Health. Their mission: to bring wellness, healing and hope to all, including the underserved. Their core values are reverence, integrity, compassion and excellence.



Rabbi Dr. Siritsky originally hails from Montreal, Canada. She was ordained from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where she also completed her Doctorate in Ministry. She completed her chaplaincy training program at the Health-Care Chaplaincy in New York, where she also served as an interfaith chaplain with the Red Cross after 9/11. Her research and studies have focused on the integration of pastoral theory in health care management in order to reduce burnout and improve productivity.

In addition to her congregational experience at Temple Adath Israel Brith Shalom in Louisville, Kentucky and at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Rabbi Dr. Siritsky has also worked as an interfaith chaplain and psychotherapist in several settings including hospice and palliative care, as well as consulting, fundraising and grant writing for nonprofit organizations. She has served on the board of the National Association of Jewish Chaplains, the Society for Classical Reform Judaism and on the Rabbinic Advisory Committee for Interfaithfamily.com.

The Mission Luncheon is an optional event, fee required. It will be held Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at 11:45am. Please join us to learn to serve together, meeting the needs of cancer patients and their families, among other items that will be discussed.

The ICCC
Has A New Website!!

➔ www.ICCCNOW.org ➔

Gideon's Three Hundred (300)

by Wayne L. Samuels
President of Samaritans

Hello ICCC Samaritans

The Samaritans is an international men's group designed to Strengthen and develop male participation in our churches. It is my hope to develop this coalition of men from identified churches to stimulate participation in the churches of men through a newsletter, e-mail, directory and job referrals.

The Samaritan's national project is the Joe V. Hotchkiss New Church Renewal fund:

Raise and contribute funds to this project and the development of a "Community of Care" from Day Care, Adult Activities to senior citizen care and veteran's forums!

Goals and Service:

Racial Justice, Fair Economic Recovery, End Violence in School, Development of a Network of Job Referrals, Community Watch Patrols, Enlarge Membership, Contribute to Church Renewal, Block Club Development, Adopt-A-School, and Senior and Youth Safety and Activities.

Development of Samaritan Programs:

- Establishing a reading comprehension program, especially for adults
- Assisting youth with special needs programs
- Working with an identified homeless population
- Serving as mentors within the community schools
- Joining a food distribution assistance program
- Establishing a bible study program
- Assisting seniors with small repairs and other chores

I will follow-up with future information and guidance on how to follow-thru with this program.



Associate Pastor of Membership

Community Church at Tellico Village is seeking an Associate Pastor of Membership and Family Ministries to serve our 1400 member interdenominational congregation in Loudon, Tennessee.

We are located in Tellico Village, a planned community nestled in the foothills of the beautiful Smoky Mountains, just southwest of Knoxville. Although primarily a senior congregation, we have members of all ages. Our church is affiliated with the International Council of Community Churches.

Several of the duties for this position will include overseeing the volunteer database, coordinating with administrative, music and pastoral staff in planning of worship as well as planning and providing leadership for youth programming.

Our ideal candidate possesses a deep personal faith in Jesus Christ and demonstrates a true desire to shape his/her ministry by the Great Commandment. S/he values Christian unity and is a mature "people-person" with leadership skills. Ministers from all denominations may apply. M. Div. required. Deadline for resumes is March 1, 2016.

If interested, visit us at www.tellicochurch.com and post resume to search@tellicochurch.org. Or mail to CCTV Search Team, 130 Chota Center, Loudon, TN 37774. We look forward to hearing from you.

Volunteers Needed

DeAnn is looking for volunteers for Registration.

Hours for Registration are:

Sunday 7/10: 8:00am-11:30am, 6:00pm-9:00pm

Monday 7/11: 7:00am-9:30am, 2:00pm-4:00pm



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

Thank you!!

Annual Conference Sponsorship Opportunities

The International Council of Community Churches is grateful for your empowerment in the community church movement. Your business, professional association, labor union, service group, etc. may invest in the cause of furthering Christian unity by providing a sponsorship in the Annual Conference. We have listed several possibilities below. If you wish to explore other potential opportunities for sponsorship including exclusive sponsorship of a segment of the Conference program, please let us know. Conference sponsorship opportunities begin at \$1000.

- General conference sponsorship \$1000
- Bible Study – multiple plenary sessions \$2500.
- Prayer Room (24/7 during conference) \$1500
- Clergy continuing education event \$3000
- All- Conference luncheon \$1500
- All-Conference Banquet \$2000
- Full Day Sponsorship \$5000

The International Council of Community Churches is a 501 (c)3 organization under IRS regulations. All sponsorships are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and your tax situation. Contact the Council Office for details.

Laity Nominations

Each year the Council recognizes two laypeople for service to the Council and to their local congregations. The Laywoman and Layman awards are designed to express our appreciation to individuals who:

1. Shared the open, welcoming, joyful spirit of the Council as well as items of Council news with their local congregations;
2. Shared events, joys and concerns of their congregations with the wider fellowship of the Council.
3. Acted as advocate and interpreter of the Council within their local congregations.
4. Participated in area and regional events as well as attending Annual Conference.

You may nominate a candidate for Laywoman and/or Layman of the year. Please include in your nomination:

- A. Your name and contact information.
- B. The name and contact information of your nominee.
- C. A short biographical sketch of your nominee.
- D. Specifics on how the nominee has fulfilled the expectations for the award listed above.

Submit your nominations by email to iccc60423@sbcglobal.net, or by postal mail to ICC, 21116 Washington Parkway, Frankfort, IL 60423. Deadline for nominations is April 15th.

The International Council of Community Churches is grateful for the followi

2015 Annual Conference Sponsors

for their investment in the community church movement:

We-Mac Manufacturing Company, Kansas City, MO

Antioch Community Church, Kansas City, MO

Two Anonymous Donors

We thank you for your financial support of a conference program.



Under the ICCC Bylaws, the Board of Directors acts as the Nominating Committee for the Council. Terms of office begin at the close of Annual Conference. If you have suggestions for nominees or if you wish to be considered as a nominee for an office, please respond no later than MAY 30, 2016. Some offices are occupied by incumbents who are eligible for re-election. Nominations will be presented to the Annual Conference business sessions, at which additional nominations from the floor are in order.

Available Positions

Trustees:

All Trustees serve a single term of five years.

Trustee for Eastern Zone, Region C (FL, GA, SC)

Trustee for Western Zone, Region B (AZ and Southern CA)

Officers:

President The President serves for a term of one year, and may serve two consecutive terms (two years).

Secretary The Secretary serves for a term of two years, with a maximum of three consecutive terms (six years).

Treasurer The Treasurer serves for a term of two years, with a maximum of three consecutive terms (six years).

Board of Directors:

All Vice Presidents are members of the Board of Directors. Each serves for a term of two years, with a maximum of three consecutive terms.

Vice President for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

Vice President for Financial Development

Vice President for Informational Services and Outreach

Vice President for Leadership Development

Vice President for Membership Services

Vice President for Planning

Vice President for Regional Relationships

Endowment Fund Trustees:

Endowment Fund Trustees serve for a term of three years, with a maximum of two terms (six years.) Two Endowment Fund Trustee positions are to be filled this year.

To assist the Board, please submit a brief profile of your suggested nominee(s) including information on the individual's activities and service in the local church or ministry center, in the community and in the ICCC.

Please attach a brief profile of each person recommended and the position(s) indicated. Include information detailing activities in Church/Center, Community and the ICCC.

Mail to: Bob Harris, Nominating Committee
International Council of Community Churches
21116 Washington Parkway
Frankfort, IL 60423-3112

Or email to: raharris@windstream.net

Text to Give!

You can now make a contribution to ICCC with a quick text message!

Simply send a text to 815-506-9017 with the amount you would like to contribute. Make sure to include the dollar sign before the amount. Example: \$25. Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt via email.

For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically!

TRY IT!!



The Future of the Church *cont'd. from page 3*

in county and state-wide consortiums. Tell the rest of us in the Council about these, so we can be inspired and learn from you.

Fourth, we need to tell others outside the Council about the vital work we are doing. As bureaucracies in the wider church continue to crumble, congregations and their pastoral leaders are looking for new ways to cooperate beyond the local parish. I'm not talking "sheep stealing" here. We are not and should not be in the business of trying to pirate congregations away from their existing affiliations. But in one way or another, congregations that are not affiliated with the Council may want to pray for, take part in, and in various ways support the ministries among us.

The future of the church is not in large and cumbersome authoritarian structures. The future of the church is in ministry, and that requires a voluntary, peer-based, fellowship that greets the wider church and the world that God loves with joyful open arms. If you think that's a description of our Council, you're with me!

May God bless you in your ministries.

2016 OPTIONAL CONFERENCE MEAL PROGRAMS

The **2016 Annual Conference** offers 4 optional meal program opportunities: the Welcome Luncheon, the Koinonia Luncheon, the Mission Luncheon and the Prayer Luncheon (hosted by the Women's Christian Fellowship). The Conference Banquet Dinner is included in your registration fee** (Additional quantities can be reserved for a fee). You can visit our NEW website ICCCNOW.org to see a brief description of the meal program, or watch for details in upcoming issues of the Christian Community.

Monday, July 11, 2016 at 11:30pm is the **Welcome Luncheon**. This meal includes: "Galt House Classic" Cream of Broccoli Soup, Kentucky Pulled Barbecue Beef Brisket on Texas Toast Points. Served with Hot, Sweet & Sour Potato Salad and a Grilled Corn Coblett, Warm Rolls with Butter, Apple Crisp, Coffee and Iced Tea. Vegetarian Option*: Grilled Portabella Sandwich. Chef will choose appropriate accompaniments.

Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at 11:45 a.m. is the **Koinonia Luncheon**. This meal includes: Galt House Salad, Chicken Fettuccini with Spinach Pesto, Warm Rolls with Butter, Sea Salt Caramel Cheesecake, Coffee and Iced Tea. Vegetarian Option*: Vegetable Lasagna. Chef will choose appropriate accompaniments.

Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at 11:45 a.m. is the **Mission Luncheon**. This meal includes: Tomato & Wild Rice Bisque, Fresh Turkey Breast on Toast, Topped with Bubbling Hot Cheese Sauce, Fresh Tomato, Mushrooms and Crisp Bacon, served with Broccoli, Warm Rolls and Butter, Kentucky Tiramisu, Coffee and Iced Tea. Vegetarian Option*: Vegetable Strudel. Chef will choose appropriate accompaniments.

Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. is the **Prayer Breakfast**. This meal includes: A Center-Cut Slice of Kentucky Country Ham, Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Southern Grits and Natural Red-Eye Gravy, Orange Juice, Coffee, Hot Tea, Biscuits, Butter and Fruit Preserves. Vegetarian Option* will substitute ham with a fruit plate.

Thursday, at 6:30 p.m. is the **Conference Banquet**. This meal includes: Mandarin Salad, Peppercorn Crushed Roasted Pork Loin, with Wild Mushroom Stuffing, Topped with Port Wine Sauce, Warm Rolls with Butter, Bourbon Butter Cream Torte, Coffee and Iced Tea. Vegetarian Option*: Eggplant Parmesan with Pasta. Kid's Option: Chicken Tenders, Tator Tots, Green Beans, Fruit Cup, Roll with Butter, Milk or Iced Tea. Chef will choose appropriate accompaniments.

2016 MEAL RESERVATION FORM

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

Name: _____

Please reserve _____ places at \$25.00 each for Monday's Welcome Luncheon

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

Check for Vegetarian Option preference

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

Check for Vegetarian Option preference

Please reserve _____ places at \$24.00 each for Thursday's Prayer Luncheon

Check for Vegetarian Option preference

****Please reserve add'l. _____ places at \$46.00 each for Thursday's Banquet Dinner**

Pork Vegetarian

****Please reserve add'l. _____ places at \$18.00 each for children under 12yrs.**

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

\$_____ *Additional fee \$10.00 per meal for any changes to the meals stated exactly above.

Total Enclosed \$_____

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

If paying by credit card: VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER

Account Number on Card: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Print name as it appears on card: _____

Signature: _____

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

* The hotel charges a fee for any changes or requests for each meal that is different than listed above. For ANY other dietary requests, such as vegan, gluten free, food allergies, etc., this fee will apply and need to be added to your payment.

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

ICCC Registration Form
2016 Annual Conference: July 11-14
"Reunion 2016: Coming Together in Jesus"
 Louisville, Kentucky

Name (as you would like it on badge) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____ E-mail Address: _____

Church (member of) _____

Gender: Male Female

First Conference: Yes No

Status: Clergy Laity

Name and Telephone number of a person to be notified in an emergency

_____ (_____) _____

➤ ➤ ➤ **FOR THE ELEMENTARY, TWEEN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS ONLY!** ◀ ◀ ◀

- Age (on 7-1-2016) _____ Grade completed by (7-1-2016) _____
- If **under 18**, an adult who is registered for the Conference and who will serve as a sponsor and assume responsibility for said young person must sign below.

_____ Sponsor Signature

_____ Print Sponsor Name

CONFERENCE FEES

Fill in Dollar Amount for this
Registration

Infants (not occupying chair at banquet)	\$ 0.00	\$
Child (Ages 1-5)	\$ 35.00	\$
Elementary (entering kindergarten - entering 6th grade)	\$ 60.00	\$
Youth (completed 6th grade - entering 12 grade)	\$145.00	\$
Young Adult (completed 12th grade - age 23)	\$170.00	\$
Adult	\$195.00	\$
Continuing Education Certificate (for Clergy only)	\$ 10.00	\$
Daily Registrants Circle Day(s) M T W Th	\$ 35.00/day	\$
Late Fee - Add After June 20, 2016	\$ 35.00	\$
Banquet Meal Restriction Fee*	10.00	\$
CC	TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$

A Banquet ticket is included in your registration fee. This meal includes: House Salad, Pork Loin with Wild Mushroom Stuffing, Topped with Port Wine Sauce, Chef's Choice of appropriate accompaniments, Warm Rolls with Butter, Bourbon Butter Cream Torte, Freshly-brewed Thelma's Signature Blend Coffee, and Iced Tea. Kid's Meal Option: Chicken Tenders, Tator Tots, Green Beans, Fruit Cup, Roll with Butter, Chef's Choice of Dessert, Milk or Iced Tea. Vegetarian Option: Vegetable Lasagna

* ANY dietary restriction request besides what is offered above requires an additional \$10.00 fee per meal.

Please circle one of the following for your preference at Thursday's Banquet Dinner.

Pork Loin (Default Option)

Vegetarian Option

Kid's Meal Option

Please return this form with payment to: ICCC, 21116 Washington Pkwy., Frankfort, IL 60423

Check or Money Order made payable to ICCC

VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER

Acct. #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Print name as it appears on card: _____ Signature _____

One form per person. Pre-Registration ends on June 20th. All registrations after this time will be assessed a late fee of \$35.00. Late registrations will be accepted at Conference only. Do not send to the Council Office.

CANCELLATIONS: A \$25 administration fee will be assessed for each.