

The International Council of Community Churches was formed in 1950 by the merger of two groups of community-based churches and ministry centers, one African-American and the other Caucasian. Since that date the Council has been witness and advocate for racial and ethnic reconciliation and the development of communication and cooperation among Christians that transcends all human boundaries.

### The Council is centered on a vision.

We begin with the vision of all God's people gathered around the banquet table in God's celestial city. At that table there is welcome for all; there is a place for each; all are fed; each is filled. That vision is our inspiration; it is our reason for being; it is our unchangeable mission.

### We are a movement, not an institution.

Movements are concerned with vision; institutions worry about survival. Movements prioritize purpose over procedures; institutions obsess over procedures to the point that purpose is forgotten. Movements are outward looking; institutions are inward-looking. The ICCC is not the community church institution; we are the public face of the Community Church movement.

### We seek Christ-like inclusion.

Religious groups tend to use jargon that outsiders cannot understand; to develop complicated requirements to which all must adhere; to identify who is an insider and who is an outsider. But Jesus touched the ritually unclean, dealt face to face with outsiders, and issued an open-ended call to discipleship for all. We'd rather be like Jesus.

### We operate locally; we are focused globally.

We are uncompromising in basing our fellowship on local congregations. Simultaneously we are attentive to Christ's call to discipleship in every geographic area worldwide, and in every aspect of life: personal, corporate, natural, ideational, past, present and future. Nothing is outside the scope and embrace of God's transforming power and mercy. We begin where we are, seeking to live and to communicate that love. From that starting point we reach out to the entire world that God loves. We invite you to join us in this sacred mission.

## A PERSONAL INVITATION

The International Council of Community Churches is a voluntary association of churches and ministry centers seeking Christian unity and reconciliation. If your church or ministry center is not yet a member of the ICCC, please consider this your personal invitation to membership in the Council. Phone, email or write us. Details are available on the Council's website, [www.icccnow.org](http://www.icccnow.org).

Please plan to attend the next Annual Conference of the Council. Locations vary annually to accommodate the greatest number who wish to attend.

2019: Jacksonville, FL

At the first conference you attend, the senior clergy person of your church or ministry center will be welcomed with a complimentary conference registration (includes conference banquet) as our gift to you.



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### Wider Unity

The International Council of Community Churches is affiliated with Christian Churches Together in the USA (CCT); Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC); The National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC); and the World Council of Churches. (WCC). Contributions to support these affiliations come only through designated gifts from individuals and from member churches and ministry centers.

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## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CHURCHES

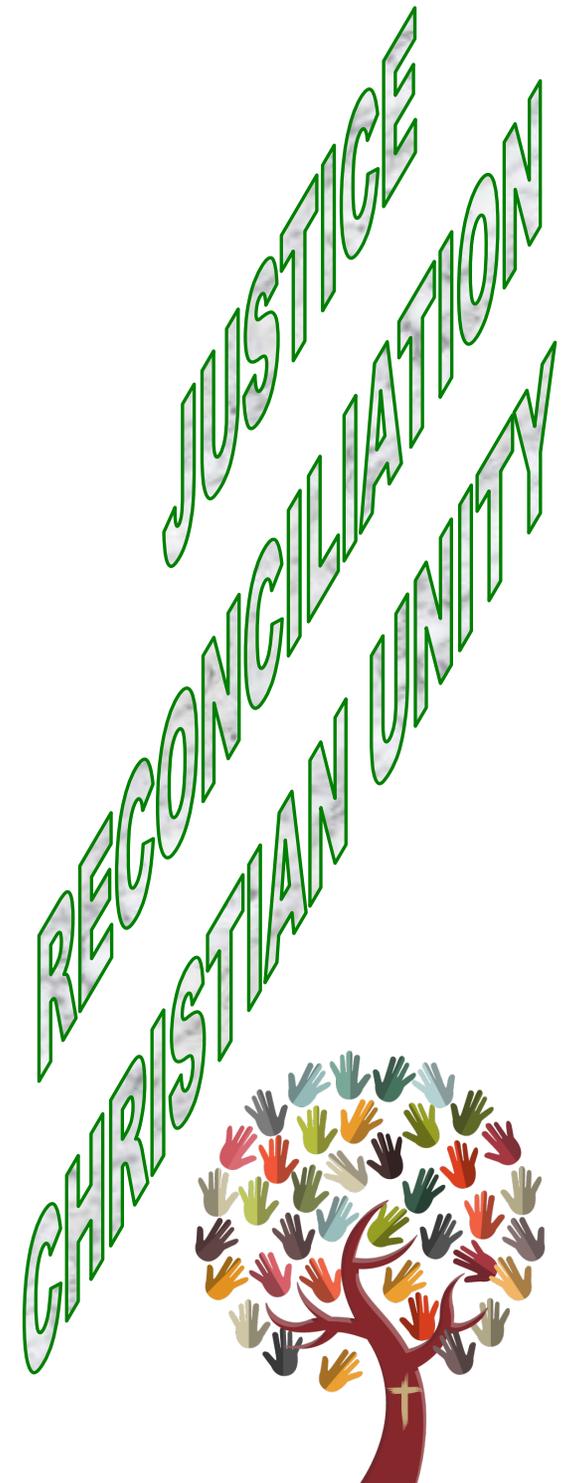
21116 Washington Parkway  
Frankfort, IL 60423

Phone: 815-464-5690

Fax: 815-464-5692

E-mail: [ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net)

[www.ICCCNOW.org](http://www.ICCCNOW.org)



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# JUSTICE

The International Council of Community Churches was formed in an era of deep racial and ethnic antagonism. The Council has consistently championed those who have been disadvantaged and oppressed. "...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" (*Micah 6:8*)

# RECONCILIATION

The reasons for human division are multiple and chronic. But the witness of the Council is that diverse human beings can find common ground and live in peace. "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." (*Colossians 3:14*)

# CHRISTIAN UNITY

The International Council of Community Churches prays for Christian unity, and then lives the prayer, bringing together Christians from diverse ethnic, national, economic and liturgical backgrounds in a fellowship that celebrates diversity without division and unity without uniformity, fulfilling Jesus prayer "that they might all be one." (*John 17:21*)

The churches and ministry centers of the International Council of Community Churches face the future with faith, hope and love. If your congregation is not yet a part of the community church movement, join us in our quest for justice, reconciliation and Christian unity!

At the 2015 Annual Conference of the International Council of Community Churches, delegates from member churches and ministry centers approved three Council outreach missions for the coming years.

# AGAPE

Agape is a disciplined program of encounter and discovery. Different groups live within different situations. Only as we enter into one others' experience do we discover who they are—and find new insight into who we are.

# CREATING COMMUNITY

Community doesn't just "happen." Intentional strategies to bring together people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives are required. The strategies vary by situation, but the goal of reconciliation is constant.

# HUNGER

By working cooperatively and creatively, and by developing and sharing "best practices" on the local, national and international scene, we are addressing the crisis of hunger and bringing hope to many.

# SERVICES

The Council provides services to its member churches and ministry centers in order to build up the ministry of congregations and their servant leaders. A partial list:

## PASTORAL SEARCH

Face-to-face consultations and an excellent printed manual assist in pastoral searches. Consultations are available in other situations as well.

## PEER TO PEER RESOURCING

Churches and centers with experience in any of a variety of ministry initiatives and programs may share their learnings with others. Churches and centers that are beginning new ventures gain insight and knowledge.

## PENSION SERVICES

A pension plan is available through the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board to churches and ministry centers, to enable staff to live in dignity in their retirement.

## REGIONS AND AREAS

Regional and area fellowships are collegial and locally organized. Projects and programs are as diverse as those who plan and participate in them. Recent programs have included discussions about the opioid crisis, youth ministry, and addressing racism.

## SISTER CHURCHES

Your church or center is invited to become a "sister church" with another congregation in your nation or overseas. A suggested list of inter-church programs and activities will help you develop trans-national fellowship.

## FELLOWSHIP

In a world of division, the Council of Community Churches offers opportunities for fellowship as broad as God's love, for congregations and for their lay and ordained servant leaders.