

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

June 2019



International Council of Community Churches

Volume 69

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

Number 8

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The Top 10 Reasons to Join us in Jacksonville

Jerry Brown, Antioch Community Church - VP for Planning

This year's conference is going to be so good. We have filled the week with awesome opportunities. And if you take advantage of all there is to do, you'll understand why it takes a whole week to enjoy it all! Here are my Top Ten Reasons to join us in Jacksonville:



- 10** Great food! We have some special meal opportunities for you at the Fellowship Luncheon, Prayer Breakfast, and Supper Club on Tuesday evening, in addition to the banquet on Thursday night.
- 9** Appreciate the sites and heritage of Jacksonville. The African American Heritage Trail explores some of the Black History of the region. You can investigate some of the opportunities and find information at www.visitjacksonville.com/things-to-do/culture/history/african-american-heritage-trail. And, don't forget about the beach (remember the sunscreen).
- 8** The Labyrinth will be set up in a special room available at designated times for your participation and inspiration. If you've never experienced it before, prepare for a unique experience.
- 7** Prayer – we will, as always, have the Prayer Room available during the conference for your quiet meditation. We will also have an opportunity to gather for a time of public prayer at Jacksonville Landing, adjacent to our hotel. But we invite you this year to make it a special time of prayer and fasting, as we ask God to heal our land from hatred and violence. And if you fast, we ask you to share what you would have spent on lunch to donate to a local charity seeking to stop violence.
- 6** Our Bible Study leader will be Rev. Dr. Marvin McMickel, President, Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, and Professor of African American Religious Studies at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. As an outstanding, recognized lecturer/educator, we look forward to a great program.
- 5** Workshops will focus on a variety of topics as diverse as death, prayer, worship, fellowship, and change in the church. The workshop leaders are well-respected authorities in their fields, and we look forward to excellent presentations.
- 4** The Children, Youth, and Young Adult programs promise to be stimulating for all involved. The Youth and Young Adults will again be participating in community missions.
- 3** The music will be uplifting. But the best way to really enjoy and take advantage of this opportunity is to join the choir – all are invited to join Roberta and other ICCC attendees, to share your talents in praising God.
- 2** Worship, as always, will be inspiring, enlightening, and encouraging. As we, God's whosoever people, gather to praise Him, we will surely be motivated and encouraged this week.
- 1** Fellowship with family and friends (old and new)...priceless!

OH! ...there's one more thing. Tuesday night we're having a talent show, and you're invited to attend and participate. I know we have wonderfully talented people in the ICCC; here's your chance to share that gift. See the Talent Show attachment in this newsletter or on the web site, and join us Tuesday evening to share, participate, and enjoy. Reservations to participate are required!

See, I couldn't get it all in with only ten reasons, and you may have a hard time experiencing and enjoying it all in less than a week. But I challenge you to join us, take it all in, enjoy the week, and go home renewed, refreshed, and loving Jesus even more (and eager to share that love and joy with others).

See you in Jacksonville!



International Council of Community Churches

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CHURCHES

2019 Annual Conference – Jacksonville, FL July 15 - 18, 2019

2019 VOTING DELEGATE FORM

Each **ACTIVE member church or ministry center** is allowed two voting delegates. Both can be laypersons but only ONE can be a cleric. Each delegate must have been certified in writing by a church or center official and be properly registered for conference. This completed form must be returned to the Council office before June 30, 2019. After this date, a delegate has to appear before a Credentials Committee representative at conference with this completed form. Verbal certifications are not valid.

No Voting Delegate forms will be accepted after onsite registration ending Monday July 15, 2019 at 9:00am.

Name of Church/Center (please print): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Voting Delegates for 2019

(Please print):

Voting Delegate No. 1: _____

Voting Delegate No. 2: _____

Certified by Church Official *(other than above)*:

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Church Position: _____

Complete and mail or fax this form before June 30, 2019 to:

International Council of Community Churches
21116 Washington Parkway, Frankfort, IL 60423-3112
FAX: 815-464-5692
ICCC60423@sbcglobal.net

69th Annual Conference

July 15-18, 2019 – Jacksonville, FL

Hotel Information

The 2019 Annual Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville-Riverfront, 225 E. Coastline Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32202. Phone: 904-588-1234. Just 15.1 mi. from Jacksonville Int'l Airport, you can explore Jacksonville's charm right from the hotel with shopping, dining, museums, sporting events and more all within reach. The Hyatt offers an outdoor rooftop pool, hot tub and bar, 24-hr fitness center, gift shop, FedEx business center, concierge and a shuttle service to take you within 3 miles of the hotel. All accommodations offer free Wi-Fi, Hyatt Grand Bed, spectacular views, TV & cable, individual climate control, electronic door lock, full bathroom amenities, coffeemaker with complimentary coffee and more.



Hotel Dining:

Market is open 24/7, where you can a quick bite to go. Choose from a steady rotation of fresh pastries, sandwiches and flatbreads, as well as freshly brewed Starbucks® coffee.

SHOR Seafood Grill & Tavern: Experience thoughtfully sourced, carefully served cuisine in a wide variety of menu items for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Located in the first floor lobby with a private dining room, SHOR is a perfect spot to enjoy signature entrées, specialty cocktails, and desserts.

Morton's The Steakhouse: Discover a restaurant with a national reputation for excellence. Talent, innovation, and years of experience have been combined with an obsession for quality food and service, making Morton's The Steakhouse one of Jacksonville's most impressive restaurants. Savor generous portions of USDA prime aged beef, as well as fresh fish, lobster and chicken entrees served with Morton's animated signature tableside menu presentation.

Hotel Reservations

For those conferees planning on attending the conference you will need to call the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville – Riverfront to reserve your room at **888-421-1442**. Inform the reservations clerk that you are attending the 2019 ICCA Annual Conference to get the special rate of \$120.00 + tax per night. **The cut-off date for hotel reservations is June 28, 2019.** After this date, normal hotel rates will be in effect and space may no longer be available. **Please note: the special rate of \$120 + tax is negotiated only for conferees. Those utilizing this special rate are expected to register for the conference. Thank you for your cooperation.**

Check-in: 3:00pm

Check-Out: 12:00pm

Visit www.hyattregencyjacksonville.com for all hotel information.

Transportation To and From the Hotel

Airport Transportation from JAX: East Coast Transportation is the Hyatt's exclusive ground transportation provider, in conjunction with GO shuttle services. For information, call 904-722-9494 or visit <http://goairportexpressjax.hudsonltd.net/rwd?USERIDENTRY=HYATTJ&LOGON=GO>

For other transportation options visit: www.flyjacksonville.com

Self-parking is available at the hotel, if you are driving or renting a car. The discounted nightly self-parking cost is \$15.00 per night.



SUPPER CLUB

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

5:00pm

River & Post is a culinary driven restaurant in a warm, modern setting where they strive to captivate their guests with quality ingredients, impeccable service and memorable accommodations for any occasion. Visit www.riverandpostjax.com for restaurant information. Below are the menu choices for this optional event.

Choice 1: R & P Burger \$18.00

Half pound house ground burger on brioche bun, cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion, pickle & R&P sauce, served with house fries.

Choice 2: Fried Shrimp Platter \$29.00

Served with house fries, coleslaw and hush puppies.

Choice 3: Buttermilk Fried Chicken Thighs \$30.00

Served with mashed potatoes and market vegetables.

Choice 4: Grilled Salmon \$32.00

Served with basmati rice and market vegetables.

Choice 5: Seared Sea Scallops \$36.00

Served with basmati rice and market vegetables.

Each choice includes soft drinks (Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Lemonade or Ginger Ale), Sweet or Unsweet tea, tax and gratuity. Alcoholic beverages are available, billed separately, individually.

Circle your choice.

Submit payment to the Council Office by June 30, 2019.

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

If paying by credit card: circle one VISA MASTERCARD AMEX DISCOVER

Account Number on Card: _____ Exp.Date: _____

Print name as it appears on card: _____

Signature: _____ CVV: _____

ICCC, 21116 Washington Pkwy, Frankfort, IL 60423

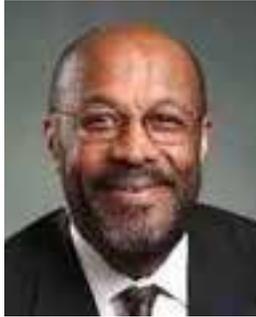
815/464-5690 Fax: 815-464-5692

ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net

We are trying to coordinate attendees with cars to drive. If you are driving to conference and are willing to carpool to the Supper Club, please let the Council Office know.

2019 Annual Conference Bible Study Leader:

We are pleased to announce that **Rev. Dr. Marvin McMickle** will be our Bible Study lecturer at the 2019 Annual Conference being held in Jacksonville, FL. Rev. McMickle is currently the President, Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program & Professor of African American Religious Studies at the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, NY.



Born in Chicago, Illinois in 1948, Marvin A. McMickle is a 1970 graduate of Aurora University in Aurora Illinois with a B.A. in Philosophy. His alma mater also awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1990 as well as the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2000. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City in 1973. That school also awarded him the Unitas Award in 2007. He earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, NJ in 1983. Princeton later named him a Distinguished Alumnus in the school's bi-centennial year of 2012. He was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree (Ph.D.) from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio in 1998. In 2010 he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by Payne Theological Seminary in Wilberforce, Ohio.

He was ordained to the Christian ministry in 1973 at the Abyssinian Baptist Church of New York City where he served on the pastoral staff from 1972-1976. He was pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church of Montclair, New Jersey from 1976-1986. While in New Jersey he served as president of the New Jersey Council of Churches from 1982-1986, as a member of the Montclair Board of Education from 1982-1986, as well as two terms as president of the Montclair Chapter of the NAACP. He also taught preaching at New York, New Brunswick and Princeton Theological Seminaries.

From 1987-2011 he was Senior Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church of Cleveland, Ohio. During that time he led the church in establishing a ministry for people infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. It was the first church-based program of its kind in the entire country! He also initiated the practice of having the church tithe one-tenth of its annual income to community-based programs every year. While in Cleveland, Dr. McMickle served on the Board of Trustees of Cleveland State University, as president of the Shaker Heights Board of education, and as president of both the local NAACP and Urban League chapters. He was the Professor of Homiletics at Ashland Theological Seminary from 1996-2011. Upon leaving Ashland he was voted by his faculty colleagues to be Professor Emeritus. He is a member of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. In the winter semester of 2009 he served as a Visiting Professor of Preaching at Yale University Divinity School.

He was elected to be the 12th President of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in 2011.

He has been married to Peggy Noble McMickle since 1975. They have one son, Aaron James who lives in Brooklyn, New York with his wife Pilar Ramos and their daughters Aaliyah and Lola.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Voice for
Ecumenical Congregations
(ISSN - 0145-3297)

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many great things
happening at the ICCC Churches!
www.facebook.com/ICCCNOW



International Council of Community Churches

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

2019 Annual Conference Featured Workshops

An Introduction to Grief Recovery: Exploring the Common Myths about Grief & How to Help Others



Rev. Lisa Fournier

There is a lot of misinformation in our culture about grief. Because it makes others uncomfortable, it is often minimized or dismissed. When we suffer a loss, we are expected to quickly “Get over it.” As a result, grievors feel even more isolated and alone and that something must be wrong with them. This results in unresolved grief, which shows up in unhealthy behaviors down the road. In our society the focus seems to be on being positive and happy, and so the underlying message is “It’s NOT OK to NOT BE OK”. Often grievors are told “It takes time” or “Be strong”, which are not helpful comments when someone’s heart is broken. In this interactive presentation, we will explore some common myths about grief and what you--as clergy, family, friend, or concerned community member--can do to help.

This workshop is presented by Rev. Lisa Fournier, Advanced Certified Grief Recovery Specialist® with the Grief Recovery Institute, ordained interfaith minister and life coach. After experiencing the “Big 3” losses herself (Death of family members, divorce after a long-term marriage, and job loss), Lisa is passionate about helping others process unresolved grief and discover new purpose and joy in life. Lisa also has recent experience as a Hospice Chaplain after leaving her corporate career in Leadership and Organizational Development and Executive Coaching 4 years ago. Her book, “Bliss and Bless: A Guide to Living Well and Learning from Loss” is due to be published in the Fall of 2019.

It Takes Faith



Rev. Eloise Crenshaw

Faith is the substance or assurance of things we hope for, but have not yet received. Faith (confidence, belief, trust) is also our evidence of that which is not seen—the invisible spiritual things.

In this workshop, led by Rev. Eloise Crenshaw, we will explore the meaning of faith and what it takes to live a life that will deliver God’s promises. The kind of prayer that moves mountains is the prayer for the fruitfulness of God’s kingdom. God can do anything. In order for faith to work when God answers prayer, first you must be a believer, second you must not hold a grudge, be able to forgive, third you must not pray with selfish motives and fourth your request must be for the good of God’s Kingdom. To pray effectively you need faith in God, not faith in the object of your request. If you focus only on your request you will have nothing if your request is refused. God wants us to anticipate and expect miracles to take place. Faith and trust in what it takes to believe God is who he says he is.

When you forgive unrighteousness done unto you, the other person no longer has the power over you. It takes faith in believing you have the power and authority to go, do and say what God says.

It takes faith to believe that healing will take place. It takes faith to give, it takes faith to live. God gives you life and gives it more abundantly. In order for miracles to take place it takes movement for it to manifest, so faith must be unleashed.

It takes faith to praise a God that will not forsake you. It takes faith to pray, fast and slow. It takes time to increase your faith and let God operate in your progress. IT TAKES FAITH!!

Plan Intentional Worship that Helps Lead to Relationship with God: How to Engage Your Congregation in a Journey of Worship



Antoinette Cook

At the end of this workshop, you will be able to plan worship services that intentionally flow, while staying relevant to the scripture and the sermon. You will learn how to keep your whole worship team involved and informed. Each element you plan will be purposefully placed to lead people on a meaningful journey of worship. Along that journey, you’ll become aware of the moments where the Holy Spirit is moving and will be likely places for people to respond to God.

This workshop is led by Antoinette Cook, Director of Worship at Antioch Community Church in Kansas City, MO.

Leading a Congregation Through Change



Rev. Bruce Jones

During the twentieth century, American churches developed a set of methods and practices that shaped ministry, evangelism, and organization for decades. As with many other institutions today, however, the biggest dilemma facing the church is its past success. Yet the church’s very survival throughout history has been tied to its willingness and ability to adapt to the unique conditions of the day. In this workshop we will examine six critical choices that will help lead your congregation through change.

Bruce Jones is the organizing pastor and founder of Imagine Church, Charlotte, and a regional trustee of the International Council of Community Churches. He has assisted in launching two new congregations and has led churches in college, university, and suburban settings. He has training and background in congregational development, evangelism, and church growth.

2019 Annual Conference Featured Workshops cont'd.

Black to the Future: Science Fiction as Sacred Text



“Nothing happens in the “real” world unless it first happens in the images in our heads.” --- Gloria Anzaldúa

Evil cannot succeed without first capturing the images in our heads. How is prophetic possibility constrained by our anesthetized imaginations? This interactive workshop explores world building and theology in speculative fiction in literature, film, television, music, short stories, and graphic novels. We will particularly engage decolonized notions of time, peace, love, health, identity, ability, and technology as found in the sci-fi work of Black and non-Black people of color. Ultimately, we will think together about how these texts can spark revolution in our ministry work.

Naomi Washington This workshop is led by Rev. Naomi Washington Leapheart, Minister | Faith & Justice Organizer | Organizational Consultant.

Do Black Lives Matter to God?

A Theological Reflection on Suffering, Race, Resistance, and Redemption

If God is benevolent, just, and powerful, how can/does suffering persist in the lives of Black people living the United States? How do our understandings of sin, evil, and salvation influence the Christian response to racial injustice? In this workshop, we will explore the theological implications of Black suffering and connect those implications to the Church’s call to do justice.

This workshop is led by Rev. Naomi Washington Leapheart, Minister | Faith & Justice Organizer | Organizational Consultant.

Life as a Chaplain

The chaplain workshop will be designed to provide information regarding the role and responsibilities of a chaplain while also offering insights on how chaplaincy differs from pastoring. A panel of ICCC chaplains will present various aspects of chaplaincy including some of the basic qualifications which required as one seeks a chaplaincy career path.

Planning to participate on this panel so far are ICCC Chaplains Sharyon Cosey, Will Armstrong, Wendy Childress, Elizabeth Gobel, Hare Varnon and Brad Walgren.



Rev. Dr. Sharyon Cosey



**CH (Cpt)
Daren W Armstrong**



**CH (Cpt)
Wendy Childress**



**CH (Maj)
Bradley Walgren**



**CH (Cpt)
Hare Varnon**

Annual Conference Checklist

Have you done the following yet?

- Sent in your registration form and fee?
- Called the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel and made your reservations? 888-421-1442 **Deadline June 28th.**
- Made your meal reservations (optional) with the Council office?
- Signed up for the Supper Club (optional)?
- Contacted the office about volunteering at conference?
- Sent in or talked to your church about sending their Voting Delegate form or an extra contribution to offset their loss of presence at conference?

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers!

Are you able to help with registration? Hours for Registration are:
Sunday 7/14..... 6:00pm - 10:00pm
Monday 7/157:00am - 9:00am

Are you driving to conference? Or renting a car? We need drivers for the Supper Club and a couple other events.

Please contact DeAnn at the Council office if you are available: icccdc@sbcglobal.net or 815-464-5690 Thank you!!

Unique Events on our Schedule

We have three exciting and unique opportunities for you to participate in as we gather at our annual conference in Jacksonville this year:

1. **Talent Show** – Our entertainment on Monday night will be our own talented artists. We did this several years ago, and were impressed by the level of talent among our attendees. So this will give you a chance to share your gifts and talents with the conference (you'll have an audience from around the country, and the world!). Do you have any special musical ability (instrument, voice, dance, etc.), a comedy or magic act, or any other talent you would like to share with us? If you'd like to participate, check out the ICCC web site for a participation form and send it to the Council office by June 30th so that we can efficiently organize the various acts to allow everyone time to perform. Remember, it needs to be appropriate for the ICCC audience and no longer than 10 minutes. If you'd rather not perform, come and enjoy what surely will be a wonderfully entertaining evening. I know you will be impressed, and treated to an enjoyable time.
2. **Prayer Gathering** – Similar to last year's gathering, we will meet at Jacksonville Landing for prayer. We will pray for an end to violence in America. Our country seems so full of violence lately, even in our schools and churches that were once considered to be safe havens. The hatred and violence takes on so many forms: personal attacks with guns and knives, domestic violence, emotional violence seen in the bullying in our schools, violent and hateful messages sent via internet, road rage, sex trafficking, racial profiling... there seems to be no end. We will meet in the courtyard of Jacksonville Landing, a gathering place of shops and restaurants to publicly proclaim our exasperation with the violence in our country and to pray for peace. We will meet over the lunch hour on Wed, July 17th. You may personally choose to make this gathering a time of fasting and contemplation (I humbled myself with fasting, and my prayer would return to my own heart. Psalm 35:13). If you do, we will give you the opportunity to share what you would have spent on lunch as an offering to a local charity focused on reducing violence in our society.
3. **Labyrinth** – You will have an opportunity to experience a Labyrinth. If you've never walked through a labyrinth, it is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness, combining the imagery of a circle into a wandering, but purposeful path. It can be a peaceful, prayerful, contemplative journey. We will have information to share, and facilitators to guide you through the journey, as you use this time to quiet your mind and focus your thoughts on God. See page 11 for more Labyrinth information.

These are three very different and unique experiences at our conference this year, but special moments for you to remember and encounters to take home. We challenge you to take advantage of all events planned for this year's time together, but especially these.

See you in Jacksonville!

Our prayers are with:

- Rev. **Carl Davis**, Senior Pastor at **New Harvest Christian Church** and the **ICCC Ministerium President**, as he recovers from surgery.
- Rev. **Stephen York**, **ICCC VP of Leadership Development**, as he prepares for cataract surgery.
- Rev. **Ron Miller**, retired Senior Pastor at **Wilson Memorial Union Church** and **ICCC leader** as he continues physical therapy.
- **Don Ashmall** and his family as they continue to grieve. There will be a memorial service for **Peggy Ashmall** on July 14, 2019 at the West Gouldsboro Union Church in Maine. Don knows that this is in the midst of everyone's busy summer schedule, and thanks those who can attend (and those who attended the Michigan service) and to those who cannot be present, he thanks you for your kind thoughts and prayers.
- **Carol Droege**, **Wilson Memorial Union Church**, as she continues to recover from surgery.
- Rev. **Tony Begonia**, **Heart of Jesus Ministries**, as he prepares for elbow surgery.
- Rev. **Sharyon Cosey**, **ABBA Church of Renewed Faith**, as she continues physical therapy for her ankle.
- Rev. **Michael Donahue**, **Speed Memorial Church**, as he continues to address his medical challenges.
- Rev. **Bruce Merton**, Pastor Emeritus **Peace Community Church**, as he recovers from knee surgery.
- **Kai Tom**, brother of ICCC Executive Director **Phil Tom**, who is undergoing physical therapy after his surgeries, in New York City.



THE ICCC TALENT SHOW



WHAT'S YOUR TALENT?
Get ready to show us at the
2019 Annual Conference in
Jacksonville, FL
Monday, July 15, 2019 ▪ 8pm

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

Describe the talent you plan to show us. Length of performance must be no longer than 10 minutes.

You MUST turn in this form by June 30, 2019 to be given a time slot. All performances must be appropriate for the ICCC, including language, action and attire.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS MAY BE VIDEOTAPED. I agree that the ICCC may use my image, name, voice, performance and story in any medium or format, throughout the world forever, free-of-charge, and for any reasonable purpose in furtherance of its mission.

Return completed by June 30, 2019 to ICCC, 21116 Washington Parkway, Frankfort, IL 60423. Fax: 815-464-5692 or email ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net.

Attend to Reading! (1 Timothy 4:13)



Book REVIEW

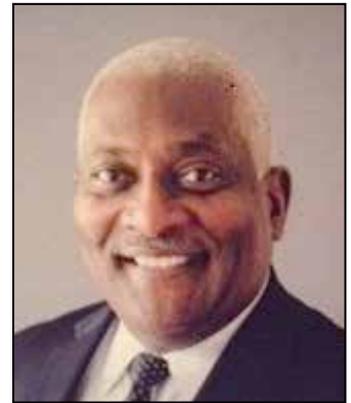
By Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson

JUST MERCY: A Story of Justice and Redemption

by Bryan Stevenson ★★★★★ stars.

Audiobook, narrated by: Bryan Stevenson, Length: 11 hrs. and 5 mins, rated 5 stars, \$12.99
with Amazon Kindle purchased of \$14.99, Google Play, \$14.99

Barnes & Noble, paperback, \$12.49; 336 pp. Spiegel & Grau. \$28.00 Copyright © 2014.



As we prepare for our Annual Conference, we welcome you back to our final review of Just Mercy. In recent news (<https://psmag.com/magazine/bryan-stevenson-ps-interview>) and entertainment (<https://eji.org/news/just-mercy-movie-films-in-montgomery>) stories, the Just Mercy memoir continues to grow in interest and create change.

In the final chapters of Just Mercy, Stevenson outlines his struggles, his success, and his strength. Starting with **Chapter 12 (Mother, Mother)**, Stevenson reexamines the case of Marsha Colbey, a poor working white woman with a family of six children and husband, who has a stillborn death and is charged with murder. This passage reviews how governmental powers attempted to ignore the rights of the poor and destroy their lives. Stevenson takes on the case and Marsha Colbey is freed after 20 years of wrongful imprisonment. In situations like Colbey's case, Stevenson asks: Who is the most guilty of wrongdoing? Is it the state? Yes. Is it our legislatures? Yes. Is it our judiciary? Yes. This chapter illustrates the intentionality of a corrupt and bankrupt criminal justice system that preys on the poor rather than defend them.

In **Chapter 13 (Recovery)**, Stevenson returns to the Walter McMillan storyline. Stevenson shares not only the success of the case, but also the downside of the case, the challenges of McMillan's life after six years of wrongful imprisonment. Stevenson profiles how the media attempted to use McMillan's story for their own benefit. And then shares his personal journey of dealing with good things, loss, and grief. In **Chapter 14 (Cruel and Usual)**, Stevenson describes another flaw of the criminal justice system: the treatment of juveniles, especially Evan Miller. Miller was convicted as a juvenile for monstrous crime, but Miller learned from his mistakes. Despite Miller's learning, the State sought to keep him in prison. Stevenson explains how he used expert testimony about the development of juveniles before the U.S. Supreme Court to create new law dealing more appropriately with juveniles. In **Chapter 15 (Broken)**, Stevenson explores his own demons: McMillan is dying from dementia and another client, Jimmy Dale, is executed. Stevenson recalls deep regret about these events. It seems all of Stevenson's efforts point him to quitting more than continuing. It is during this time of deep reflection that Stevenson discovers that we need mercy and its empowering impact for ourselves and others to overcome the pain when we are challenged with systematic change.

In **Chapter 16 (The Stonecatchers' Song of Sorrow)**, Stevenson learns and explain an impact idea from an old woman by using principles discovered from the Jesus story about catching the first stone in John 8 of the Bible. Stevenson learns the importance of having a stone catcher on the team. The stone catcher is the old woman, who helps support Stevenson's work and encourages him to continue his efforts. Finally, in the **Epilogue**, Stevenson summarizes how the idea of mercy and forgiveness has an enduring impact to transform our lives, our country, and our world.

Book Recommendations for 2019 and Summer Reading

Below are selected books recommendations for the summer from GOSPEL RELEVANCE (See complete list: <http://gospelrelevance.com/2019/01/04/christian-books-2019/> and in no particular order:

1. Why I Love the Apostle Paul: 30 Reasons by John Piper. Piper explains his love for Paul.
2. 7 Myths about Singleness by Sam Allberry. Allberry challenges current thinking about being single.
3. The Life and Faith Field Guide for Parents: Help Your Kids Learn Practical Life Skills, Develop Essential Faith Habits, and Embrace a Biblical Worldview by Joe Carter. Carter writes parents and children.
4. A Visual Theology Guide to the Bible: Seeing and Knowing God's Word by Tim Challies and Josh Byers..
5. Grace Defined and Defended: What a 400-Year-Old Confession Teaches Us about Sin, Salvation, and the Sovereignty of God by Kevin DeYoung. DeYoung examines the Canons of Dort.
6. Competing Spectacles: Treasuring Christ in the Media Age by Tony Reinke.

SHARE YOUR COMMENTS. Thank you for sharing your comments. There are encouraging to our discussion. Remember please share your thoughts at ICCC60423@sbc-global.net by the end of the month. And let us know if we have your permission to quote or paraphrase your comments. Thank you.

Description of the World Peace Labyrinth (Original and Adaptation)

THE ORIGINAL WORLD PEACE LABYRINTH was developed in cooperation with the inter-faith Chaplains Office of the Salt Lake City Olympic Games. It is an elliptical seven circuit 24' x 35' portable labyrinth that was available in the Olympic Village Chapel about 6 hours a day during the 2002 Winter Olympics and the associated Paralympics.

The 2002 Winter Olympics occurred within a short time frame of the September 11 tragedy. It was the intention of the Chaplain's office to provide a sacred, peace-filled space as athletes came together following the trauma of 9/11.

Visitors, athletes and staff could walk the labyrinth in preparation, in prayer, in meditation, and for peaceful intent. A central theme of the labyrinth is the Tree of Life - found in many cultures. In the Bible book of Genesis, the tree of life is in the center of the Garden of Eden, and four rivers flow from its roots in four directions.

The original overall design consisted of seven paths in concentric ellipses with proportions set by Sacred Geometric ratios. The lines are painted in Green, Brown & Blue to represent harmony with the Earth. The labyrinth is divided in quadrants, which can represent the four winds or four directions. The material is white, a color representing peace. Symbols of peace taken from many cultures are encountered along the path. A Medicine Wheel, The Peace Crane, a Torch, A Handshake, The Dolphin, A Rainbow, & Dove with Olive Branch. The original World Peace Labyrinth has appeared at other events since the Olympics. The variation of the archetypal 7-circuit classical labyrinth was designed by labyrinth creator, John Ridder. In March 2019 it was sent to a community in California that was devastated by the fires in 2018, and is now used for community gathering, support and sacred space for that community.



THE WORLD PEACE LABYRINTH #2 – Adapted for multi-purpose uses, and Labyrinth available for this Conference.

In 2014 Kathryn McLean (who is generously providing the labyrinth for our conference) was part of a 4-person team that created a 28' in diameter adaptation of the original World Peace Labyrinth with John Ridder, the designer of the original World Peace Labyrinth. This version is circular instead of elliptical, and the 7 focus circles are left open so that different themed walks are possible. They still are often used to symbolize the 7 continents of the world. It is painted in 4 shades of blue symbolizing flow of spiritual journey, in and out of light and darkness. The center is 6' in diameter so that a larger number of people can be in the center at a time. This labyrinth is dedicated to Franklin J. McLean (her father) whose worked tirelessly in restorative justice, alternative dispute resolution and peacemaking in the Toronto, Canada area. Written under the painted labyrinth pattern lines in the center are written the 7 Grandfather's Teachings focal words honoring the mediation work my father did with the First Nations People of Canada and the Canadian Government. These words are unseen, but present, circling the center. The seven words are: Humility, Bravery, Honesty, Wisdom, Truth, Respect, Love. <https://unitingthreefiresagainstviolence.org/services/the-seven-grandfather-teachings/>

This labyrinth has been walked at clergy renewal retreats, walks of peace, walks of remembrance, in retirement communities, colleges, universities, after workshops on conflict resolution, with children, at World Labyrinth Day Celebrations, birthdays, Lenten services, communion services, denominational conferences, meditative walks and environmental focused walks. Symbols and artwork may be placed in the 7 focal areas/center to add a particular focus. Kathryn is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA), living in the Jacksonville FL area and serves as a Spiritual Director, Veriditas Trained Advanced Labyrinth Facilitator and Board Certified Chaplain.

A Word from the WCF

This is the last article I will be submitting for the Women Christian Fellowship. Two years have flown by as I served as your President. It has been my privilege and honor to serve in this capacity!

The members of this organization are wonderful and it has been extremely rewarding to work with the members of the Executive Board, Ladies thank you!

I come to you with one last plea. If you have not been active in the meetings, please consider joining us this year. I would also like to address one last concern, THE WEARING OF WHITE at the business meeting. Traditionally, the women wear white at the business meeting to commemorate deceased members. However it is NOT MANDATORY. PLEASE, do not let that deter you from attending the meeting. All women are invited to attend.

Also, please remember to bring items for the bazaar, and gift cards for our shoe box ministry.

I close thanking God for Phil Tom, Harry Fooockle, Bill Samuels, Abraham Wright and DeAnn. It has been my pleasure working with you. I pray that the Lord will continue to bless this organization and I pray that the ICCC continues to meet the needs of Christians all over the world.



Blessings, Carol Nichols

Seeking a Senior Minister

Interdenominational Community Congregational church in Gahanna, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus, is seeking a Senior Minister. Established in 1936, Gahanna Community Congregational Church (www.gahannac3.org) is a member of ICCC and The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACC). The church has a membership of approximately 100 and its ministries include Sunday School for all ages, chancel choir, hand bell choir, drama ministry, youth and camping programs, Women's and Men's fellowship groups and more. Gahanna is a community of approximately 50,000 residents and is located next to John Glenn International Airport. Interested candidates should submit cover letter, resume and statement of faith to Pastoral Search Committee, Gahanna Community Congregational Church, 470 Havens Corners Rd., Gahanna, Ohio 43230 or by email at g3c.office@gmail.com.

Seeking a Senior Pastor

Park Road Community Church, 1019 Park Road, NW, Washington, DC, is in need of a senior pastor. Prefers a graduate of an accredited seminary or school of theology. Will consider candidates with equivalent training or experience, or with a concrete plan for completion of seminary training. Candidates should have experience as a pastor or experience performing the seven primary pastoral responsibilities with a willingness to spend an average of at least 20 hours weekly attending to the needs of the church. A commitment to abide by the Community Church concept as outlined by the International Council of Community Churches is a must. Salary range: \$30,000 - \$40,000. For more information visit the church's website: www.park-roadcommunitychurch.org. Resumes should be forwarded to the Search Committee, Park Road Community Church, PO Box 29523, Washington, DC 20017.

Seeking a Senior Minister

The Historic People's Community Church (PCC) fosters a tradition of being a singing, praying, tithing, teaching, serving, and loving church, and is guided by one of its golden text 'I am come that they might have life and that they may have it more abundantly.' – John 10:10.

This Historic Church, a member of the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC) and located in the vibrant city of Detroit, Michigan is currently seeking an experienced Senior Minister to be the Spiritual Leader of its Congregation. The Senior Minister is responsible for leading and moving the Congregation toward the fulfillment of God's mission for PCC. The Senior Minister will have an unwavering faith and a firm relationship with Jesus Christ and is dedicated to cultivating others in Christ.

For complete information visit <http://www.icccnow.org/careers/> or contact People's Community Church office (313) 871-4676.

Seeking a Part-Time Lead Pastor

Orchard Park Community Church is a non-denominational church located in the quaint village of Orchard Park, NY in Western New York, approximately 15 miles from Buffalo. We are blessed to be a diverse, all-inclusive, and family-oriented church with an active membership of approximately 50 people. We are an active affiliate of the International Council of Community Churches.

The qualified candidate shall: Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and teach the Holy Bible. Be an empowering educator with strong skills in discipleship, homiletics, pastoral care, and community building. Demonstrate godly character and integrity. Share our church's vision of equipping Christians in the mission of Christ. Have a minimum of a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. Have a minimum of 1-3 years of experience in preaching and church leadership (negotiable; 3 years of experience preferred). Demonstrate excellent verbal, written, and presentation skills. Demonstrate leadership, organizational, strategic planning, and time management skills.

For complete information visit <http://www.icccnow.org/careers/> or contact the Pastoral Search Committee at: PSCOPCC@gmail.com

Seeking a Senior Minister

Historic non-denominational community Christian church in northeast Ohio seeks a full-time Senior Minister. Established in 1809, The Church in Aurora (www.tcia.cc) has an engaged congregation, four full-time staff including Associate Minister, and part-time staff that helps administer vibrant CE, youth and music programs. Church activities include Women's Guild, Stephen Ministries, Work Camp and Bible studies. Founded in 1799, Aurora is part of the historic Western Reserve and equidistant from Cleveland and Akron. Interested candidates should submit cover letter, resume and statement of faith to SearchCommittee@tcia.cc.

Seeking an Associate Pastor

Community Church at Tellico Village is seeking an ASSOCIATE PASTOR to join our pastoral team. CCTV, is a 1000 member interdenominational church located SW of Knoxville, TN in a beautiful planned community on Tellico Lake. The ideal candidate possesses a deep personal faith in Jesus Christ and demonstrates a true desire to shape their ministry by the Great Commandment. S/he values Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. S/he is a mature "people-person" with generalist skills and a passion for developing fellowship and spiritual growth ministries. Ministers of all denominations may apply (M. Div. required). If interested, visit us at www.tellicochurch.com and email your resume to search@tellicochurch.org. Otherwise mail to CCTV Search Team, 130 Chota Center, Loudon, TN 37774.



International Council of Community Churches
ICCC Registration Form 2019 Annual Conference: July 15-18
"A Gathering of God's WHOSOEVER People"
 Jacksonville, Florida

Name (as you would like it on badge) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____ E-mail Address: _____

Emergency Contact Name _____ Phone _____

Church (member of) _____

Gender: Male Female

First Conference: Yes No

Status: Clergy Laity

➤ ➤ ➤ **FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND YOUTH PROGRAMS ONLY!** ⬅ ⬅ ⬅

- Age (on 7-1-2019) _____ Grade completed by (7-1-2019) _____
- 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* with Kid's Meal (Ages 1-5)	\$ 35.00	\$
Elementary* with Kid's Meal (entering kindergarten - entering 6th grade)	\$ 60.00	\$
**Add-on if Adult meal is preferred	\$ 25.00	\$
Youth (completed 6th grade - entering 12 grade)	\$145.00	\$
Young Adult (completed 12th grade - age 23)	\$170.00	\$
Adult Register by June 1, 2019 - Early Bird Special \$195.00	\$230.00	\$
Continuing Education Certificate (for Clergy only)	\$ 10.00	\$
Daily Registrants Circle Day(s) M T W Th	\$ 35.00/day	\$
CC	TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$

A Banquet ticket is included in your registration fee. This meal includes: Cucumber Wrapped Florida Greens, Parmesan Cheese, Heirloom Tomatoes, Sunflower Seeds and Peppercorn Ranch Salad, Ale Beer Braised Short Rib, Buttermilk Whipped Potatoes, Chef's Choice of Seasonal Vegetable, Blueberry Lime Cheesecake, Bread, Coffee and Tea. Fish Option: Tomato and Caper Baked Atlantic Salmon, Balsamic Glaze and Saffron Risotto *Kid's Meal Option: Fruit Cup, Chicken Tenders with Honey Mustard Sauce, French Fries, Chocolate Chip Cookie and Milk. At this time, all meals are subject to change.

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

Short Rib (Default Option)

Fish Option

Kid's Meal Option

**Child & Elementary registrations include the Kid's Meal option. If the adult meal is preferred, please add \$25.00 to your total enclosed.

Please return this form with payment to: ICCC, 21116 Washington Parkway, Frankfort, Illinois 60423

Check or Money Order made payable to ICCC VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER

Acct. #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____

Print name as it appears on card: _____ Signature _____

One form per person. **Early Bird registration must be received in the office by June 1st.** Registrations after June 20th will be accepted at Conference only.

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

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS WILL BE VIDEOTAPED. I agree the ICCC may use my image, name, voice and story in any medium or format, throughout the world forever, free-of-charge, and for any reasonable purpose in furtherance of its mission.

2019 Conference Meal Programs

The **2019 Annual Conference** offers 2 optional meal program opportunities: the Fellowship Luncheon and the Prayer Breakfast, hosted by the ICCC Samaritans and Agape. The Conference Banquet Dinner is included in your registration fee** (Additional quantities can be reserved for a fee). You can visit our 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 15, 2019 at 12:30pm is the **Fellowship Luncheon**. This meal includes a Garden Salad, Roasted Chicken Breast with Thyme Bordelaise, Chef's Choice of Accompaniments, Triple Malt Chocolate Torte with Whipped Cream, Bread, Water, Iced Tea, Coffee and Hot Tea. *Fish Option:* Herb Seared Mahi Mahi with Lemon-Caper Tomato Salsa.

Thursday, July 18, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. is the **Prayer Breakfast**. This meal includes: Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Family-Style Assorted Breakfast Pastries, Juice, Coffee and Teas.

Thursday, at 6:30 p.m. is the **Conference Banquet***. This meal includes: Cucumber Wrapped Florida Greens, Parmesan Cheese, Heirloom Tomatoes, Sunflower Seeds and Peppercorn Ranch Salad, Ale Beer Braised Short Rib, Buttermilk Whipped Potatoes, Chef's Choice of Seasonal Vegetable, Blueberry Lime Cheesecake, Bread, Water, Iced Tea, Coffee and Hot Tea. *Fish Option:* Tomato and Caper Baked Atlantic Salmon, Balsamic Glaze and Saffron Risotto *Kid's Meal Option:* Fruit Cup, Chicken Tenders with Honey Mustard Sauce, French Fries, Chocolate Chip Cookie and Milk.

All meals subject to change.

2019 MEAL RESERVATION FORM

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

Name: _____

Please reserve _____ places at \$34.00 each for **Monday's Fellowship Luncheon**

Check for Fish Option

Please reserve _____ places at \$24.00 each for **Thursdays's Prayer Breakfast**

*Please reserve add'l. _____ places at \$56.00 each for **Thursday's Banquet Dinner**

Short Rib

Fish

*Please reserve add'l. _____ places at \$31.00 each for children under 12yrs.

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

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: _____ CVV: _____

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