

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

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2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Creating a Congregational Culture for Criminal Justice Ministry

Healing Communities USA has developed a model and framework for training congregations to become Stations of Hope- congregations which minister to individuals and families affected by incarceration. Using the principle of proximity, the Healing Communities model works to shape congregational culture in a manner that welcomes persons returning from incarceration, ministers to inmates and their families, and provides support for persons who have been victimized by crime, beginning with those families and individuals already members of or connected to the congregation.



This workshop will be led by Rev. Dr. Harold Dean "Doc" Trulear, Healing Communities National Director. Harold Dean Trulear is an ordained American Baptist minister and serves as Associate Professor of Applied Theology at Howard University, where he is immediate past president of the Gamma of DC chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. He is also Director of the Healing Communities Prison Ministry and Prisoner Reentry Project of the Philadelphia Leadership Foundation. Designed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Healing Communities has been implemented in over 25 sites nationally, in partnership with such organizations as the Progressive National Baptist Convention, The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church and the D-Free Ministry. Dr. Trulear is on the pastoral staff of Praise and Glory Tabernacle in Southwest Philadelphia, and also serves as a Fellow at the Center for Public Justice in Washington, DC. He has taught religion, public policy and community studies in several institutions, including Yale University, the University of Southern California, Hartford Seminary, Eastern University and Vanderbilt University.



Planned Giving 101

Sponsored by the ICCC Endowment Trustees, this workshop will explain topics such as the difference between a will and a trust, the pros and cons of each, what resources are available for those who are not financially sophisticated and are interested in making a gift when they pass on, etc. Led by Mr. George C. Greatrex, Jr., a partner in the law firm of **Shivers, Gosnay & Greatrex, LLC** in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, he will discuss the basics of estate planning, why everyone should have an estate plan and how to go about creating one that is both inexpensive and not complicated to implement.

Mr. Greatrex is a graduate of Rutgers College in New Brunswick, New Jersey and Temple University School of Law in Philadelphia. George has been licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania since 1983 and in the State of New Jersey since 1985. He first served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, then as a Deputy Attorney General in the New Jersey Attorney General's Office. For the past twenty-seven years, George has been a civil litigator in his home state of New Jersey. His practice focuses on two main areas: product liability and toxic tort cases on behalf of individuals catastrophically injured in the workplace and elsewhere; and real estate matters with an emphasis on community association law. He also provides guidance to his clients in the area of simple estate planning. A lifelong member of the Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, New Jersey (the "Cathedral of the Woods", an ICCC member congregation), George served on its Board of Trustees, including a term as its President, and currently serves as the Chair of its Endowment Fund.

cont'd. on page 7



President's Message

The Symbolism of Salvation:

The "Easter" Season

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

Ever since childhood I have been fascinated by the vernal equinox and the meaning of coming Spring. In Chicago, winters can be very severe with below zero temperatures and enough snowfall to shut down the city at least four times in a season. March, my elementary school teachers taught me, "comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." St. Patrick's Day, part of this wonderful transformation from darkness and cold to light and warmth was a holiday symbol of spring-time. Within the symbol was an ethnic tribute to Ireland and all of its new-found countrymen. Included in this yearly haven of the Irish was one of highlights of March wherein the Chicago River turns green and four-leaf clovers abound, leprechauns are seen and the whole world seems to trace their ancestry to Ireland. These are some of the symbols of March, the Irish and the St. Patrick story.

Now this inclusive celebration was my first introduction to a "cross cultural" interaction in which I was invited to wear green, watch parades and witness foreign dances and perhaps observe the sharing of strong drink. During this time, I watched the days growing longer and the temperature moderating, the trees beginning to show signs of life and a general sense of well-being. Every new April it was going to be the Cubs' year,

we all thought, and the streets needed now obvious repair, for at last, spring had sprung—somewhere around the 21st of March.

Now comes the "Easter" season which had become somewhat of a mystery to me in my teen years. All the other holidays had dates (Christmas is always the 25th of December)—not Easter—it had a day—always Sunday. There have been March celebrations and April celebrations beginning as early as the 23rd of March until late April. Why did this holiday move like that? And, by the way, What was Easter all about anyway?

By now I understood that holidays had historical and maybe mythical origins, but Resurrection Sunday (what I call the holiday now because of historical and spiritual development) had many questions to be answered. I yearned for the connections between the symbols of the crucifixion—the cross, the resurrection—the empty grave—to somehow attach themselves to colored eggs, rabbits and jelly beans. Why was Friday "Good?" Why was Wednesday for ashes? Why Palms the week before the sacred Sunday? Why were the money lenders whipped out of the temple by Jesus or why is a fig tree important? Why did the "Last Supper" have meaning enough to be the subject of several famous paintings? Scholar Paul Ricoeur addresses the idea in the "Symbolism of Evil" that evil shows itself as defilement, sin and guilt—represented by a spot, a stain, or a swerve, --or as something which can be washed, buried, or straightened. What, then, are the symbols of salvation? How can a season which features fasting, penance, penitence and repentance be represented? Well, the answer is certainly

vicarious atonement. Now atonement has several modes of historical expressions in Jewish, Islamic and Christian faith. Christianity, however, centers its theology of the season around the days of the crucifixion and the resurrection. There is the Classical Theory of Atonement, The Christus Victor theory and the Ransom theory of atonement (See St. Anselm, Gustav Aulen, etc.). Each theory, more or less, gives the reason for "Good Friday" and how the Resurrection and return of Jesus fit into the idea of Christ's victory over the powers of evil which held dominion over humankind. Around these theories of Atonement, you will find Christ died for our sins—Jesus paid it all or Christ is the Victor over evil and sin.

At our church in Chicago, we make the Jewish celebration of the Passover (Maundy Thursday) come alive with our celebration of the Haggadah and the eating of the Seder meal. This exercise of storytelling gives us a better view of the Passover story and makes more sense than the jelly beans—though we still enjoy the "Easter Baskets."

Finally, the season wouldn't be complete without my explanation of the placement of Resurrection Sunday on the calendar. The Jewish calendar is a 13-month lunar calendar as opposed to our 12-month calendar. The first month of the Jewish year is Nissan—the month of the Passover. The key to keeping up with the "holiday in motion" is keeping up with the vernal equinox and understanding the 13-month lunar calendar. Here we go—Easter is the first Sunday, after the first full moon, after the vernal equinox. Now is that clear?

Enjoy the coming of spring and its tremendous symbols of the return of life.





Resurrection

Don Ashmall
Council Minister



One of the problems with Christianity is that the faith is so annoyingly specific and so insistently historical. Given the sort of post-World War II education I received as I was growing up – or more likely as I was just growing older – I would find some sort of rational ethicism more convenient and more comfortable. General principles that make reference to a distant deity would be less troublesome to a mind that would rather be at ease than be challenged. But that's not Christianity.

Instead, the gospel writings insist that a real stone was moved away and a real tomb was emptied. "He is risen! Alleluia!" And my post-World War II education wants to ask "What kind of rising? What kind of body? Where's the formula? What kind of appearance and what sort of appearances?" Like Thomas I want a sliced-open side and a pair of nail-pierced hands so that I can touch and be convinced.

Maybe it's not just the sort of education I experienced and endured. We human beings seem to have a need to obscure that which is not fully understood, and to distract ourselves from that which is challenging. That, I think, is why we've layered on so much "stuff" over the an-

nual celebration of Easter. I have yet to figure out what baby bunny rabbits have to do with bringing spices to an empty tomb, or how baby chickens relate to an angelic announcement that "He is not here." And as for hard boiled eggs tinted by vegetable dye, lying on a bed of fake grass along with selected bits of milk chocolate: try to relate that to frightened women receiving astounding news and the mind boggles. Which makes my point: given the stark, brutal, preconception-destroying proclamation of resurrection, it's just easier for us to distract ourselves with bonnets and parades of the season.

The first time I presided at an Easter sunrise worship service was in a town in the Berkshire Hills in western Massachusetts, I being barely six months out of seminary. We met on a hilltop, the congregation facing east and I with my back to a view of a range of hills whose color other than from evergreens was drably brown, since it was too early in the season for any new growth to have sprouted. The custom there was to set the time for the beginning of the service so that the sun would be rising while we were worshipping. So we gathered in the half-light of a false dawn. And that morning it was cold as a tomb – cold enough that the young trumpeter I had enlisted for the service music discovered that his lips had frozen to the mouthpiece of his instrument at the time we ended the first hymn. (He retreated to his parent's automobile where with his face in front of the car's heater he soon thawed, and like the young hero that he was, returned to play the closing hymn.)

And then came the moment for me to preach. It was dawn on Easter Sunday, and I understood I was to say something profound or important or at least coher-

ent to interpret the resurrection to those who were shivering before me. I have never felt less prepared, even though I had both an outline and a manuscript before me. I have never felt less capable, though I came to the moment after years of training. How could any words I would say capture and elucidate the awesome announcement of resurrection? And forty-seven years later, if I am called upon to preach on Easter Day, I will still quiver as I approach the pulpit. For really, after announcing "He is risen" whatever preaching follows must be less and much less. (To the laity: you'll still hear preaching on Easter Sunday. Be patient and generously forgiving as you listen. For truly, the preacher's task on that day above all others is impossible save for the gentle influence of the Spirit.)

We struggle with Easter, as I believe we are intended to. Strip away the seasonal finery and the years of repetition that have dulled our senses, and the core of Easter is too shocking for human minds to comprehend. Like Mary we are afraid; like Peter and John we want to see for ourselves; and like Thomas we doubt. That part within us that requires a rational, scientific, measurement-based explanation is defeated, because in the words of one technically-minded observer "the experiment is not replicable." Of course not, because the nature of what is proclaimed truly is unique.

He is risen! So, we confront a mystery. He is risen!! And we wonder.

He is risen!!! In the end, we will either scoff, or we will, in awe, repeat the ancient greeting: "The Lord is risen! The Lord is risen indeed!"

Easter blessings to you and yours.

Have You Read This?

REVIEWS

By Stephen York



Inviting Silence: Universal Principles of Meditation

By Gunilla Norris

Blue Bridge www.bluebridgebooks.com, 2004.

Paperback, 100 pages \$13.95; Kindle \$8.99



Gunilla Norris' work reminds me of Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God" Here is the backstory for this month's book recommendation. It was serendipitous that I discovered *Inviting Silence*—an act of grace for me during this Lenten/Easter season. Until recently, author Gunilla Norris was unknown to me. I discovered her work quoted in Diana Butler Bass' book *Grounded* with the accompanying footnote. Researching further, I discovered this book and others that she has written, along with her website www.gunillanorris.com and her Facebook page. Subsequently, we have become acquainted as social media friends on Facebook. When it arrived in my postal mail, I noted immediately that the book had distinguished individuals commending it to the reader, such as Bishop Desmond Tutu, Thich Nhat Hanh, Dan Wakefield, M. Scott Peck, and Madeline L'Engle, among others—all religious leaders and writers that I deeply respect.



The book is a treasure trove for those seeking to deepen their prayer and meditation life. There are four sections: Beginning Silence, Growing Silence, Practicing Silence, and Sharing Silence. Each offers meditations to help the seeker to develop in the practice of silence. Here is one excellent example (right).

Contemplative Christianity is a spiritual discipline that renews the soul. It is more than a Lenten/Easter practice. It can be life-giving if practiced regularly. Gunilla Norris, among other contemporary writers, point the way. Ms. Norris has also written several other books of mediation and spirituality including: *Joy is the Thinnest Layer*; *Simple Ways Toward the Sacred*; *A Mystic Garden: Working with Soil, Attending to Soul*; *Being Home: Discovering the Spiritual in the Everyday*, among other titles, including several books written for children. A practicing psychotherapist with over thirty years of experience, Ms. Norris is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College and holds a Master's degree from the University of Bridgeport. She resides in Connecticut.

Beginning to Begin

Can we recognize that now and then there comes
an inner sense, a fleeting thought, a little yearning
to live our lives differently?

We don't know what this means or what it requires.
We shake these notions off like a dog shakes off
water and go about our business.

But the longing continues.

*Who has time, we ask? What is it anyway?
Reorganize to do what? Stop?
Do nothing? Be quiet?
What for?*

Our practical selves only know how to be perfect,
produce and perform.
This, at least, we can see as useful. This has results.
We want to believe in this way of perceiving.

For a little while it seems to give us
some sort of self-image.

But the longing doesn't let us alone. It won't go away.
We become even busier perhaps
to "take care of it."
We numb ourselves with distractions—things to do,
consume, and maintain—
things to collect, experience, and entertain.
We can always think of more miles to run.

Still the yearning continues. . . .

Could we sense that this longing is not lack
or something worse
—some kind of fundamental fault in us?
Could we receive it as an invitation instead,
a calling, a small voice inviting us home,
back to our truer self?

This shift in thought can move mountains.
It can let us begin to begin.

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, 2017**. 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)

Officers

President. The President serves for a term of one year, and may serve two consecutive terms (two years). The other two officers, Secretary and Treasurer, are both serving the first year of a 2-year term.

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. All the Vice Presidents are currently serving the first year of a two-year term. There are no available Vice President positions on the ICCC Board of Directors up for election at this time.

Endowment Fund Trustees

Endowment Fund Trustees serve for a term of three years, with a maximum of two terms (six years total). There are three Endowment Fund Trustee positions that are to be filled this year. Two are for 3-year terms to replace incumbents who have served full terms. One position, currently filled by an appointee, is to complete the final two years of a 3-year term due to the passing of the initial incumbent, Rev. Dr. Bill Grossman.

Action Requested:

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. Thank you.

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

Or email to: BobUS1963@gmail.com

Sharing Joys:

• Congratulations to Rev. **John Woodcock**, Senior Pastor at **Church of the Loving Shepherd**, Westtown, PA, who celebrated the 45th anniversary of his ordination last December. A renewal of vows took place at a Sunday service at the church, along with a coffee hour celebration afterwards. "John has made CLS his life's work and passion. He is the solid loving presence on site, seven days a week. Because of this deep devotion to our congregation's mission, he in many ways defines our vision: John is deeply rooted in spiritual consciousness; he is guided by Christ's spirit of compassion; he is called to service and he encourages each member's journey into God and community." ~ **Maureen McGovern**, member at CLS.

• The Jordan Scholarship was recently awarded to **Sara Kay Neely, Norris Religious Fellowship, TN, Karen Neely** Senior Pastor. Sara is pursuing a degree in Nutrition. Congratulations and best wishes in her educational endeavors!



Our prayers are with:

• **John Archambeault**, priest of **Christian Catholic Rite of Community Churches, Bishop Serge Theriault**, Senior Pastor. John lost his wife on February 3rd, passing peacefully into God's light at dawn. John resides in Sturgeon Falls.

• **St. Anne Woods Chapel Community Church** and the families of church members **Lorraine Murphy** and **Dora Crawford**. Lorraine was sister to **Ruth E. Glenn, Margaret Sims** and **Otis Murphy**. She passed away January 26th. Dora made her transition February 26th. She was the church's clerk and young adult leader for many years.

Youth Program

WHAT A WEEK THIS WILL BE!! This year's conference promises to be another great time; renewing old friendships and making new ones, visiting our host community and helping others there, and pursuing new encounters with Jesus.

In our study time we will be discussing prayer; how it can be a more consistent and significant part of our lives. Too often we empty recite familiar prayers without thought, emotion, or involvement. Sometimes we pray from fear, anxiety, or desperation, frequently bargaining with God for a desired outcome. Paul encouraged us to pray without ceasing, and Jesus, Himself, gave us guidance and examples of prayer. We will look at how to make prayer (which after all, is just a conversation with our Father) an integral, intimate, and important part of our daily lives.

We'll take time to plan the most awesome worship experience anyone's ever seen. This year we will work with the children to include them into our worship time, not just sing a few songs at the beginning, but really be a part of the service.

And after our worship service on Thursday, we will go to Philadelphia, the birthplace of our nation. We'll stand in the very room where Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and others signed the Declaration of Independence. We'll see the Liberty Bell, and visit the Constitution Center. Of course, this will be after we lunch on the best Philly Cheese-steaks you can find anywhere!

This year's theme from the book of Hebrews is "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." But I am confident that, by the end of the conference, **you** won't be the same.



THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Voice for
Ecumenical Congregations
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Editors:

Don Ashmall, DeAnn Anzaldi

Circulation:

DeAnn Anzaldi

Book Reviews:

Steven York

Telephone: 815/464-5690

Fax: 815/464-5692

E-Mail:

ICCC60423@sbcglobal.net
www.ICCCNOW.org

POSTMASTER:

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CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS *cont'd from p. 1*



Lord Teach Us How To Pray. Luke 11:1

During these difficult times we need a true source of encouragement and faithful witness that builds our strength through prayer. Minister Eloise Crenshaw will lead this workshop experience, where you will learn to explore the power of prayer. You will discover ways to commune with God using Kermit Long's book *Power and Purposeful Living* as the foundation of the session. Why is fasting important to answered prayer? Learn what and how to pray. Learn strength through prayer, and the rewards of prayer. Eloise is the former ICCC WCF President, and currently serves on the ICCC Agape Mission Committee. She is also the associate pastor at Metropolitan Community Church, an ICCC member, located in Birmingham, AL.

Women In Ministry – Blessing or Curse?

As an advocate and supporter of women's rights and an unabashed feminist, Rev. Carla Dietz is presenting a workshop exploring some of the historic fundamentals of women in ministry while encouraging participants to reflect upon and talk about their own journeys of faith in ministry. All are invited to attend and share their stories and visions for the future and it should be an exciting time to be together as women in faith!



The Reverend Carla Dietz is an Ordained Minister in the United Church of Christ with a Master's Degree in Special Education from Fairfield University, a Master's Degree in Divinity from Yale University and Certification in Christian Education from Hartford Seminary. She is a Global Missions Interpreter with the DOC/UCC Global Ministry, a graduate of the New Church Leadership Institute through the Progressive Renewal Organization and a member of the Committee on Ministry for the Central Massachusetts Association of the United Church of Christ. Rev. Dietz presides, preaches and teaches on Word and Sacrament for long standing member of the ICCC, Greendale People's Church, attending to Pastoral Care and Social Witness needs of the Congregation and the wider Worcester Community.

Intergenerational Opportunities in a Digital Age



Nothing exposes the gap between generations more than technology. Every time it seems we learn a new technology, we are already outdated. However, instead of looking at technology and social media as obstacles to ministry, workshop leader Michael Droege will guide us in understanding the opportunities we have to bridge generational gaps that have crippled many of our churches. Join us as we seek to add technology to our tool-kit of connecting people to the church.

Rev. Michael Droege has spent his career as a student of each new generation and a practitioner of helping the church navigate change. He's done this as a youth pastor, para-church ministry director, and on the academic level. Most recently, he has completed a master's project with Drew Theological School on modern youth ministry's role in church attrition and a suggested model of change. He lives in New Jersey and serves as the Director of Youth and Family Ministries of Wilson Memorial Church.

ICCC Endowment Fund Status As of March 10, 2017

Gifts Goal by June 30, 2017: \$25,000

Gifts since 7/01/16: \$19,120

Help us meet our goal, need: \$5,880

Current Fund Assets: \$311,862

Current Investment Mix:
62% stocks & 38% bonds

Children's Program: We Grow and Change While Jesus Remains the Same

By Shyreece Pompey

Children's Coordinator, VP for Regional Relationships, WCF Spiritual Leader



As the continuing Children's Coordinator for this year's 67th ICCC Annual Conference, I'm excited to embrace the opportunity and learn from Urban Promise which is an inner-city ministry in Camden, New Jersey. Camden is only a few minutes away from Cherry Hill, New Jersey where this year's conference is being held. The children who are entering Kindergarten to 6th Grade registered for the conference will go on a tour of Camden on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 scheduled for 3:00-4:30 pm. This field trip will take place after the youth (entering 7th through 12th grades) have finished their work project at Urban Promise. I am passionate about helping ICCC grow in many areas and believe that doing a few things a little differently is in order.



Bruce Main, author of *The Promise Effect: Altering the Universe by Being God's Promise* warned, "The deacons had watched the church slowly die, watched their friends die, watched the familiar die. Sadly, the power structure of that little church could not accept change." (Main, p. 119) We must change, grow, and live.

Allowing the younger children to accompany the older youth will begin preparing the children to transition into more 'intentional' ministry while attending the conference. Furthermore, I will be working more with other youth coordinators to ensure that we are all staying focused on the visions, themes, and initiatives for the entire conference as one unit. The children are not an island unto themselves. Thus, I strongly believe in intergenerational activities, mentoring, worshiping, praying, etc. If we continue to be separated in our fellowship, initiatives, message, etc.; how then can we live up to our ICCC vision prayed by Jesus "...that they all may be one..." (John 17:21)?

Speaking of 'being one', I've been invited to work with the children and teens (together) to help them prepare for the morning worship program on Thursday, July 20, 2017. During the life of the conference and in partnership with Youth Coordinator Jerry Brown, I will be teaching the elements of worshiping God in Spirit and in Truth. I will also be helping the children understand some elements and the importance of EFFECTUAL prayer. Just writing about the two concepts of WORSHIP and PRAYER I GET EXCITED AND FEEL THE MOVE OF GOD! Why? Because, "Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger." (Psalm 8:2)

Let me be pointedly clear as I conclude; the Children's Program in the ICCC is growing and changing but the Jesus we serve remains the same. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) If we don't change and grow spiritually in our church congregations and in ICCC we will perish. "A congregation that wants to regain its glorious past is on the way to death. A congregation that wants to claim a glorious future is on the way to life. Same thing for Councils." – (ICCC Council Minister Don Ashmall)

Thank you to all the parents and guardians who have intentionally prepared and support children and youth in attending the annual conferences. Since I've been one of the coordinators for young people's programming, I've seen growth and commitment. Let's continue growing

Seeking a Pastor

A longstanding community church of 95 years is looking for one pastor with a heart for God. We are seeking an educated candidate to continue what our church has built, and lead us toward God's will for our future. Our church offers a traditional and a contemporary morning worship service as well as weekly Bible/prayer study. Family oriented would be a good description of our congregation. Our church is located in a small Mid-Michigan community near the Saginaw Bay, and minutes to stores, a mall, and other cities. A parsonage is available on the church grounds. Interested candidates please send your resume to Kawkawlin Community Church Pulpit Committee P.O. Box 627 Kawkawlin, MI 48631 or email kccpulpit@hotmail.com

Seeking Settled Pastor

The Palisades Community Church in Northwest Washington D.C. is a small, diverse, multi-denominational church united by its members' love of Christ and each other. This neighborhood church seeks a settled pastor to begin by September 4, 2017, if possible. We are dedicated to building community amidst diversity of race, ages, lifestyle, and belief, and are affiliated with the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC). The ideal candidate will inspire our engagement with each other and the community by providing thoughtful sermons and services; communicating effectively with members and neighbors; and organizing regular activities. The settled pastor will supervise our staff (administrative assistant, music director, Sunday School teacher). The settled pastor must be able to work within our democratic framework for decision-making. Salary will be offered commensurate with the candidate's experience, preaching, teaching, time commitment, and pastoral skills. Interested applicants should visit our website at www.thepalisadescommunitychurch.org for the application package. Applications are welcome early; we intend to stop receiving applications on April 28, 2017.

2017 Annual Conference Program Book/Church Directory Ad Space

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: MAY 31, 2017.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR AD IS CAMERA-READY (THE AD WILL GO IN BOOK AS IS).

THE COUNCIL CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DESIGNING ADS.

Mission Statement



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



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.

Higher Grounds

On our opening night of Annual Conference we invite all attendees to an "Open House Coffee Hour." We will take time to greet each other, catch up on the past year and welcome first time attenders. We come together to re-connect, but more importantly to visit about who we are as the International Council of Community Churches. For a moment we put away all our electronic devices and share a cup of coffee and ourselves with each other. No agenda other than a time to celebrate one another and our local ministry places.



2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE TOUR

(Departing and returning from the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ)

Tour – Tuesday - July 18, 2017, 2:00PM – 5:00PM (approx.)

Philadelphia City Bus Tour



This 2 hour bus tour will take in all of Philadelphia's main sights, such as:

*Independence Visitor Center
Betsy Ross House
U.S. Mint/Ben Franklin's Grave
National Constitution Center
Chinatown
Reading Terminal Market
City Hall/Love Park*

*Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul
Barnes Foundation
Rodin Museum
Eastern State Penitentiary
Philadelphia Art Museum
"Rocky Steps"
The Philadelphia Zoo
Please Touch Museum/Memorial
Hall/Fairmont Park
Franklin Institute/Logan Circle
One Liberty Observation Deck
The Bellevue/Rittenhouse Square
Academy of Music/Broad Street
Antiques Row
South Street/ Head House Square
Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Penn's Landing/Columbus Blvd./Spruce
Street Harbor Park
Museum of American Jewish History
Old City/Christ Church **

Cost \$30.00 per person

The tour bus will both pick up and drop off at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ. 90 minutes will be spent touring the city by bus, and there will be a stop at *Christ Church for 30 minutes, allowing you to briefly tour the Church.

Reserve _____ spaces for the Philadelphia City Bus Tour at \$30.00 per person

Submit payment to the Council Office by June 1, 2017

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

Print name as it appears on card: _____

Account number on card: _____ Expiration date: _____

Signature: _____ CVV: _____

* In the event you register and pay for this tour and it gets cancelled for not reaching our minimum requirement, you will be notified and refunded prior to conference.

REQUEST FOR EXHIBIT SPACE

I.C.C.C. Annual Conference July 17-20, 2017 Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Please reserve a 6' x 30" space in the exhibit area of the 2017 Annual Conference of the International Council of Community Churches.

An attendant _____ will be present
_____ will not be present

Name of Attendant: _____

My Name: _____

My Organization: _____

Organization Address: _____

Brief Description: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

There is a fee of \$50.00 per exhibit space, for the July 17-20, 2017 time period, payable in advance. If you need electric, there is an additional \$75 fee. No food or beverage can be sold at the exhibit. Please return this request form, with payment made payable to the International Council of Community Churches, for consideration by June 15, 2017 to::

**International Council of
Community Churches
21116 Washington Parkway
Frankfort, IL 60423-3112**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 815-464-5690 or ICCC 60423@sbcglobal.net

Thank you for taking advantage of this opportunity for exhibiting.

