

# THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

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## The Inclusive Pulpit Journal

Resources for Community Church Worship

Since 1996, the annual publication of *The Inclusive Pulpit Journal* has represented the rich diversity of style and content of ICCC worship on Sunday mornings. Copies are provided for each registrant at the annual conference and may be purchased by others from the ICCC office.

Some adjustments in the publication process last year have helped to extend the deadline for submitting manuscripts to February 28, 2013. We need for every ICCC church to be included. We can't promise to make you famous, but we intend to make you feel welcomed and appreciated. In addition to the rich reward of extending the reach of sermons beyond the boundaries of our churches to the whole community, the Charles A. Trentham Homiletics Award of \$250 is presented at the annual conference for the sermon which best reflects the values and spirit of ICCC.

We welcome manuscripts from clergy or laity, including sermons, original poetry, and creative liturgical writings. Sermon length should be about 2,000 words, and manuscripts should be carefully edited for spelling, grammar, and punctuation before submission. If at all possible, send your manuscript by electronic media (email) in any standard format— Word (doc), Wordperfect (wpd), or Adobe (pdf).

Please send email to [Ldipboye@gmail.com](mailto:Ldipboye@gmail.com) or hard copies to Larry & Carolyn Dipboye (Editors), 108 Wimberly Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830-8126; phone (865) 483-6752.



### The 2012 Homiletics Award Winner Rhonda Blevins, Tellico Village Community Church

#### What Are You Doing Here? 1 Kings 19:9-18

Oh my. When God asks a question, watch out! To Elijah, God asks a question not once, but twice. "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Watch out, Elijah. God isn't done with you yet.

So the story goes something like this. Our hero, Elijah, is running for his life from the villainous Queen Jezebel. You may remember what happened on Mt. Carmel. Jezebel led the Israelites in the way of Baal worship. She killed off many of the Lord's prophets, so Elijah confronted her husband, King Ahab, and told him to assemble all the prophets of Baal together for a dual to the end, so to speak, so that the people of Israel would choose once and for all who they would worship. So King Ahab assembled 450 prophets of Baal together on Mt. Carmel. On two separate altars, two bulls would be placed. They would call on their respective gods to set fire to the altar. Whichever God responded, that would be the God Israel would worship. So the prophets of Baal went first. They danced. They prayed. They shouted, "Answer us!" Nothing. Morning came and went. Nothing. Through the midday. Nothing. Then evening fell. Nothing. Then it was Elijah's turn—the lone prophet of Yahweh. The bull was placed upon the altar in much the same way. But he added a little twist. He poured twelve large jars of water over the sacrifice, just for a little drama. He prayed. The fire of the Lord fell. The

people rejected Baal and offered their worship to Yahweh. Then Elijah had the 450 prophets of Baal slaughtered—just for good measure. Well, Jezebel didn't take too kindly to her prophets being killed, so she sent a text message to Elijah saying she would have his head on a platter. She was just the kind of woman to keep her promise. So Elijah ran for his life. 40 days and 40 nights, until he found a cave at Mt. Horeb. Scared, tired, alone, he spent the night in that cave, and that's where we find him in today's lection.

Hiding out in a cave.

Do you ever feel like Elijah? Do you ever feel like hiding out in a cave? Every now and then, doesn't it feel like Jezebel's minions are after you, trying to kill you, and you simply want to find a safe place, far away from your troubles, and hide out? Now, Elijah was no coward. Mt. Carmel proved that. No, he was anything but yellow. But sometimes, like for Elijah, it seems that we fight and we fight and eventually we're all out of fight. We just want to run away and hide. And if what the poet said is true—there is a time for everything—then certainly there is a time for hiding. When threats are real. When mental and physical health are at stake.

You can read the entire article at  
[www.iccusa.com](http://www.iccusa.com)

## President's Message

Rev. Dr. Bruce N. Merton

The shelves in stores had not been cleared of "Christmas clearance" items before we were being inundated with all the "stuff" to make Valentine's Day a special day for "your special someone."

Valentine's Day 2013 will be the 476th official celebration of the holiday inaugurated by none other than Henry the 8th. It is a day set aside to celebrate the "special love" we have and hold for everyone from classmates to our mates.

Cupid is universally associated with Valentine's Day. Targeting people with an arrow from his quiver, he "shoots" love, rooted in eroticism, into people and relationships. He is, according to mythology, the son of Venus, the goddess of love and beauty.

The son of the goddess Venus inspires the sending of about one billion cards. (Eighty-five percent are purchased by women!) About 40 million boxes of chocolate will be purchased and given. Cupid is the second most celebrated holiday figure in America (second only to Santa Claus).

All of the Valentine's Day hoopla wraps itself around a "Cupid love" that is rooted in a very different kind of love than the one which God gave to our world through the gift of his Son, Jesus.

God's love, through his Son, is not to be celebrated one day a year. God's love is given freely and completely every moment of every day as it stretches into eternity. Psalm 136 reminds us 26 times: "God's steadfast love endures forever."

All kinds of things can bring down human, non-divine, Cupid-style love. The Apostle Paul asked what can separate us from the love of God. Can hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

He answers from the position of full and mature faith:

**"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord." (Romans 8:37-39)**

Are you willing to join me in celebrating the love that God has for us and the world of which we are a part?



Are you ready to rejoice in the steadfast love of God? The constancy of God's love? The strength of God's love? The immutability of God's love? The inclusiveness of God's love?

Every day I stand increasingly amazed by the love of God and how it has been expressed to me and to the world I live in. Think on this: **"In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them..." (1 Corinthians 5:19).** Does your spirit jump with joy because **"God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)**

This Valentine's Day when you send out those cards; when you give the gift of chocolate, flowers or precious gems; when you say "I love you" to your special someone(s) don't forget to celebrate the best and greatest love you have ever and will ever receive—the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord!

What's the best way to celebrate? We could begin with sending a 'card from the heart.' The text might be borrowed from John Wesley and it should be our prayer:

**"Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down, fix in us your humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art; Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart."**

Now, let that prayer be answered in and through our lives as we keep the celebration of God's love in Christ going each and every day by remembering and practicing the commands of the one who loved us. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind... You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-38)

May your Valentine's Day be good. May your Agape Days be forever!

## An I.C.C.C. Elevator Speech

by Don Ashmall  
Council Minister



Those who have been job hunting or who are in sales know about “elevator speeches.” Elevator speeches work like this: imagine that you are riding in an elevator with someone who can make the decision to hire you or buy your product. You have forty seconds to explain why a “yes” will be a wise decision for that individual. After that the elevator will have arrived at the chosen floor, that person will get off, and your opportunity will be lost forever. What will you say? Your forty seconds begins now!

A good elevator speech begins with an introduction, covers vision and goals, and ends with a statement about “added value.” And it all has to fit into forty seconds. There’s no time for long-winded explanations. There’s no room for extraneous “stuff.” And there’s no patience for hesitation. While a forty-second elevator speech can’t explain everything, it does impose discipline and economy of phrasing. If the elevator speech is successful it will lead to more discussion and a fruitful conclusion.

Before your thoughts wander off to elevator speeches you might give about yourself, your career, your family or your local congregation, stay with me long enough to think about what you might say in an elevator speech about the ICC.

The Council has a long background and history. Our spiritual forebears included not only the founding/merging fellowships, but movements and individual witnesses over the centuries. Some attempts to point the way toward Christian unity foundered because they had no organization at all, which made those movements one-generation phenomena. Some failed in their original goals because they were too centralized, eventually becoming (as the Disciples of Christ did) simply one more denomination among many. The organizational innovation of the two merging fellowships, continued in the Council, was to retain the independence of individual congregations while joining in fellowship to serve the goal of Christian unity. The eternal vision of God’s people joined around one victory table in the celestial City has inspired all who have worked for Christian unity throughout the years. How much can be included in a forty second elevator speech? Where should we begin?

Here’s one possible version. It’s not the only possibility and it may not be the best, but if it helps you develop your own elevator speech, it will have done its job.

The introduction: “The ICC is a voluntary association of self-governing Christian churches and centers in the US and on five continents. We were formed in 1950 by a merger of two groups of community-based fellowships, one Afro-American and the other Caucasian.

The vision: “Ever since then we have worked to be an answer to Jesus’ prayer “that they might all be one,” discovering ways to bring reconciliation to the world, and to build fellowship among Christians in the US and around the globe.

The goals: “We’re working to be the catalyst for Christian churches: moving beyond the divisions and suspicions of separated denominations; living in love instead of trying to shout each other down; and showing the way to unity without uniformity, to discussion without dictation, and to diversity without division.”

The added value: “We invite all who are in the Christian tradition to join with us, and to discover a fellowship that thrives on positive reinforcement instead of political bickering, and that cares for “the least of these” instead of fighting for the most prestigious place. If you’re ready for that kind of caring community, we invite you to join us.”

I haven’t timed this version of the elevator speech and it may be a bit longer than forty seconds in the telling. My excuse is that like many preachers I tend to get long-winded – just a little bit!

So what’s your version of an elevator speech that introduces the ICC to the world? I invite you to develop your own version, and then not to wait until you are on an elevator before you share it.

May God bless you in the sharing.

## REVIEWS

Dr. Robert M. Puckett

EVOLUTION OF THE WORD: The New Testament in the Order the Books Were Written; Marcus J. Borg, Harper One, 2012, \$29.99, 593 pp.

Biblical illiteracy is a widespread problem that causes considerable confusion, misunderstanding and outright rejection of Christian faith today. There was a time when daily Bible reading was a popular daily practice. Modern technology constantly bombards us with so much frivolous information these days that daily Bible reading has become a thing of the past. Consequently few people know the Bible and its inspiring message because they never read it.

However the Bible is still our best source of information about God, Jesus, and Christian faith. Although Bibles continue to have an honored place in many homes, they have become the popular books that few people ever read.

Contemporary Biblical scholars have today given us more excellent resources for understanding the Bible and its message than ever before available. But they are to no avail to those who refuse to read them.

Peter Gomes, author of *The Good Book*, says, “We have no better guide to the recovery of an authentic Christian faith for these difficult times than this (Borg) articulate and public theologian.”

EVOLUTION OF THE WORD enables anyone with inadequate knowledge of the Bible to read the books of the New Testament in the chronological order in which they were written. This provides a clear context in which to evaluate the message found therein.

Most seminary graduates know something about this context, but even they have not had it so well presented as Borg has made it available in this volume. He makes it easy to read the New Testament in the order in which each part was written with an awareness of the context that helped to shape its meaning. Seeing, reading and hearing these documents in the historical context of the first century and shortly thereafter make a big difference in how they are understood.

“The relationship of Jesus and early Christianity to the Jewish world that shaped them and the imperial context to which they responded” (p. 10) is the focus of this study of the New Testament. Reading the texts seriously in that context avoids confusion and inspires the reader with deeper understanding.

Reading the New Testament in the order found in this book will go a long way in abolishing biblical illiteracy!

### Mission Statement

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



### THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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

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### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CHURCHES OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

**President:** Bruce Merton

**Vice Presidents:** Richard Griffith, Charlene Watkins

**Treasurer:** Nicholas Brame; **Secretary,** Abraham Wright

**Immediate Past President:** Sandra Nelson

**Trustees:** Roberta Smith, Winifred R. West, Nanci Harris, William Samuels, Glenn Clay, Ted Fielland, Denise Sager, Vermelle Barnes, Charles Addison

**Auxiliary Heads:** Women’s Christian Fellowship, Eloise Crenshaw; Samaritans, Wayne Sanuels; Youth, Sarah Wells; Ministerium, Ina Brooks

## 2013 Optional Conference Meal Programs

The 2013 Annual Conference offers 3 optional meal program opportunities: the Koinonia Luncheon, the Mission Luncheon and the Prayer Breakfast (hosted by the Samaritans). Both the All Conference Welcome Luncheon and the Conference Banquet Dinner are included in your registration fee. Additional quantities can be reserved for a fee.

**Sunday, July 21, 2013 at 12:30 p.m.** is the **All Conference Welcome Luncheon**. **New for 2013, included in your registration fee!** This meal includes: Caesar Salad, Sautéed Breast of Chicken in a White Wine and Lemon Caper Sauce, Chef's Selection of Starch and Vegetable, Rolls & Butter, Baked Apple Pie, Regular and Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea and Water. Vegetarian option: Pasta Primavera / Kid's Meal: Fruit Cup, Chicken Fingers, French Fries, Cookie, Iced Tea and Water.

**Monday, July 22, 2013 at 12:30 p.m.** is the **Koinonia Luncheon**. This meal includes: Fresh Fruit Bowl, Grilled Skewer Chicken Kabobs served with Fresh Marinated Vegetables, Chef's Choice of Starch, Rolls & Butter, Chocolate Mousse, Regular and Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea and Water. Vegetarian Option: Vegetarian Wrap, including Homemade Bistro Chips and a House Salad.

**Tuesday, July 23, 2013 at 12:30 p.m.** is the **Mission Luncheon**. This meal includes: A Traditional Deli Buffet with Mixed Greens Salad, Two Dressings, Chef's Assorted Sliced Bread Selection, Sliced Roast Beef, Honey Baked Ham, & Smoked Breast of Turkey, Sliced Cheddar, Swiss and Provolone Cheeses, Shaved Red Onions, Kosher Pickles, Leaf Lettuce & Sliced Tomatoes, Pasta Salad, Potato Chips, Chef's Choice of Dessert, Regular and Decaf Coffee, Assorted Hot Teas, Iced Tea and Water.

**Wednesday, July 24, 2013 at 7:30 a.m.** is the **Prayer Breakfast**. This meal includes: Fresh Eggs Scrambled with Cheddar Cheese, Crisp Applewood Bacon and Sausage, Seasoned Home Fries, Assorted Fresh Breakfast Pastries, Served with Jam & Butter, Chilled Fruit Juice, Regular and Decaf Coffee, and Specialty Hot Teas.

Also on **Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m.** is the **Conference Banquet**. This meal includes: Pear & Spinach Salad, Grilled Bistro Filet topped with Bordelaise Sauce paired with Tuscan Chicken stuffed with Prosciutto, Spinach & Herb Cheese, Chef's Choice of Starch and Vegetable, Rolls & Butter, Cheesecake, Regular and Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea and Water. Vegetarian Option: Eggplant Parmesan/ Kid's Meal: Fruit Cup, Spaghetti and meatballs, Cookie, Iced Tea and Water.

## 2013 Meal Reservation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$21.00 each for **Monday's Koinonia Luncheon**

Check for Vegetarian Option preference

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$23.00 each for **Tuesday's Mission Luncheon**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$20.00 each for **Wednesday's Prayer Breakfast**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ add'l. places at \$20.00 each for **Sunday's Welcome Luncheon**

Check for Vegetarian Option preference

\_\_\_\_\_ places at \$16.00 each for children under 12 yrs.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ add'l. places at \$38.00 each for **Wednesday's Banquet Dinner**

Check for Vegetarian Option preference

\_\_\_\_\_ places at \$18.00 each for children under 12 yrs.

*An All Conference Welcome Luncheon and Banquet ticket are already included in registration.*

*Mark only if additional ticket is 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form with your payment to: ICCC, 21116 Washington Pkwy, Frankfort, IL 60423**  
*Deadline for meal function reservations is June 27th. 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 27th deadline meal reservations will not be accepted in the Council Office. \*\*The Welcome Luncheon and Conference Banquet are included in the registration fee. You do not need to reserve a ticket for this meal, unless you require additional tickets.*

## Hello ICCC Brothers and Sisters,

### Happy New Year!

My name is Wayne L. Samuels and I am the Samaritans President for the International Council of Community Churches. The Samaritans is an international Men's group designed to strengthen and develop male participation in our churches. It is my hope to develop this coalition of men from identified churches to stimulate participation in the churches of men through a newsletter, e-mail directory and job referrals.

First I would like to thank the past President Abraham Wright.

Second, I would like to lay-out my plan for the Samaritans and this year's "Prayer Breakfast" at the ICCC conference.

### Two Themes for this year's Samaritans:

1. Gideon's Three Hundred (300): Ten Men (10) from each church should have a membership.
2. The theme for the Prayer Breakfast: Psalm 43:3 " Oh, Send them your light and your truth"

I plan to send you updates on the plan for Samaritans thru the newsletters and e-mail.

I am also planning on giving you information on the "Prayer Breakfast" and the details of the program in the upcoming months.

## ICCC Registration Form 2013 Annual Conference: July 21-24 "A time of reflection...reflect the Light" Grand Rapids, Michigan

Name (as you would like it on badge) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Church (member of) \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:  Male  Female First Conference: Yes  No

Status:  Clergy  Laity  Infant  Child  Elementary  Youth  Young Adult  Adult

Name and Telephone number of a person to be notified in an emergency (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

### FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND YOUTH PROGRAMS ONLY!

■ Age (on 7-1-2013) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade completed by (7-1-2013) \_\_\_\_\_

■ If 18 years or under, an adult who is registered for the Conference and who will serve as a sponsor and assume responsibility for said young person and must sign below.

Sponsor Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Sponsor Name \_\_\_\_\_

### CONFERENCE FEES

Fill in Dollar Amount for this Registration

Infants (not occupying chair at banquet)	\$ 0.00	\$
Child (Ages 1-5)	\$ 35.00	\$
Elementary (Completed Grade K through Grade 6)	\$ 60.00	\$
Youth (Completed Grade 7 through Grade 12)	\$ 145.00	\$
Young Adult (Ages 18-23)	\$ 170.00	\$
Adult	\$ 195.00	\$
Continuing Education Certificate (for Clergy only)	\$ 10.00	\$
Daily Registrants Circle Day(s) S M T W	\$ 35.00/day	\$
Late Fee - Add After June 30, 2013	\$ 35.00	\$
CC	TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$

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

Check or Money Order made payable to ICCC

VISA  MASTERCARD  AMERICAN EXPRESS  DISCOVER

Acct. #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

One form per person. Pre-Registration ends on June 27th. All registrations after this time will be assessed a late fee of \$35.00. Late registrations will be accepted at Conference only. Do not send to the Council Office.

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

## The Council is on Facebook!



The Council is on Facebook! The Council has a website! Check us out on your computer, tablet, smart phone or other device. If you have none of these, ask about our carrier pigeon service. (If you've read this, send us a postcard, email us or respond on Facebook.)

## Gifts have been received for the following:

- As a Memorial to Elizabeth Glenn-Locke from James & Ruth Glenn
- As a Memorial to Rev. Dr. Marion C. Bascom from Carl & Merlene Adair (3)
- As a Memorial to Joyce S. Berry from Janice Stevenson
- As a Memorial to Betty J. Campbell from Greater Faith Community Church
- As a Memorial to Andrew & Daisy Pumphrey from Roger M. Pumphrey
- As a Memorial to Rev. Marion C. Bascom from Beverly Ann Reid
- As a Memorial to the Connecticut Children from Robert Withrow
- As a Memorial to Rev. Roger Lautzenhiser from Herbert Levi
- As a Memorial to Paul Smith from Maxine Gaskins

- In Honor of Maquelle Manns from Ransford Manigault
- In Honor of Richard R. Repp from Christopher J. Repp
- In Honor of Chaplain Bradley Walgren from Harold Walgren (3)
- In Honor of Light of Christ Community Church from Cynthia McGinnis
- In Honor of Rev. Carol E Parrish-Harra from Carol Beyer
- In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Norman & Olga Mielke from Donn Mielke
- In Honor of Louise Haggett from Michael Aparo
- In Honor of Louise Haggett from Roger Fecher
- In Honor of Mrs. Bernice L. Smith from Maxine Gaskins
- In Honor of Ragnhild Sunstrom from John Wagenhofer

**Sharing Joys:**

The Samaritan Men's Fellowship and Women's Christian Fellowship of **Christ Church of Peace**, Jacksonville, Florida, adopted Cedar Hills/Signature Healthcare Nursing Home as an outreach ministry from the church for the holiday season. On Saturday, December 22, they met at the church and assembled 275 large coffee mugs filled with treats, candies, small toiletries and then traveled to the nursing home where they sang Christmas carols for the patients and staff and presented patients and staff with the gifts. As a result of this outreach, some of the members of the church have decided to "adopt" ambulatory residents to provide them transportation to doctor appointments, shopping, etc. Others say they want to expand this ministry to other facilities in the city. Both groups were formed in September, after the Senior Pastor, **Harvey Carr**, and Pastor of Education, **Ora Ball**, attended the Annual Conference in Charlotte and were introduced to the ministries. Since that time they have also completed one Habijax (Habitat for Humanity) Project and have scheduled another for March 2013. The Samaritans have also undertaken several maintenance remodeling projects at the church.

**Longboat Island Chapel**, Longboat Key, FL has selected **Rev. Dr. Vincent Carroll** for their Senior Minister. For 27 years Rev. Carroll served in the Navy Chaplain Corps, with notable assignments including tours in Vietnam, the Carrier Lexington, Battleship New Jersey and the distinguished honor of preaching at Camp David. He held the post of Senior Chaplain at the United States Naval Academy and Senior Chaplain for Naval Forces in Europe. Prior to his chaplain military career, Rev. Carroll was assistant pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Rochester, MN. Rev. Carroll was educated at the University of Iowa; United Theological Seminary, Minneapolis; Chapman University, Los Angeles and Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, CA. In addition, he did graduate studies at San Diego State University; Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA; Iserlohn Institute, Iserlohn, West Germany and Mansfield College,

Oxford University. A special meeting of the Longboat Island Chapel congregation was held after the worship service on January 13, 2013 to officially vote to accept Dr. Carroll for this calling. On January 13, 1963, the church's first service was officially held at 5144 Gulf of Mexico Drive. This will be the 57th anniversary of the founding of the church, the same day the congregation will vote for Dr. Carroll to become only the 6th senior minister in all these years to hold this position.

- **Rev. J. Scott Crannell** was installed as the Senior Pastor for **New Covenant Community Church**, Akron OH on Jan. 20th. Present were ICCC representatives Rev. Charlene Watkins, 2ndVP, Winifred West, trustee, Bob Harris, Endowment Co-chair, Rev. Phil Smith, past pastor, and Dr. Bruce Merton, President. Rev. Crannell is Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church, USA. He came to New Covenant from a chaplain ministry at Tampa General Hospital, FL
- **Council Minister Donald Ashmall** gave the keynote address on Jan. 20th to a community-wide Martin Luther King celebration in Covert, MI. Members of **Emmanuel Community Church**, South Haven, MI, also gathered for the event.
- **The Florida Fellowship** will have its annual meeting on Jan. 27th at **Temple Terrace Community Church**, where **Ted Fielland** is the Senior Pastor. Ted is also an ICCC Regional Trustee.



**Our prayers are with:**

- **Council Minister Don Ashmall**, whose brother Roy, died Dec. 24th. Memorial services were held on Dec. 29th at the Ypsilanti Missionary Baptist Church where Roy played the organ for 27 years.
- **Helen Long**, wife of deceased **Rev. Dr. Kermit Long, Friendship House**, as she recovers from broken hip surgery. She is currently undergoing rehabilitation at Boswell Hospital in Arizona.
- **James Jones, Park Road Community Church**, Washington, DC, and his family as they mourn the death of James' brother, Willie Jones, Jr. Willie passed on Jan. 9th.



**A Time To Laugh**



**Seeking a Pastor**

If you believe you have the leadership experience, tools and skills needed to assist and encourage an active member supported and governed church-community, then your initial correspondence will inspire us to get to know you. The successful candidate must be ordained and have a master's degree or equivalent from an accredited theological seminary.

For more information about our church please consult our website, [www.greendalepeopleschurch.org](http://www.greendalepeopleschurch.org). Candidates may forward their resume and introduction letter along with a transcript, video or recording of a recent sermon to: [office@greendalepeopleschurch.org](mailto:office@greendalepeopleschurch.org) or mail to Search Committee, c/o Greendale People's Church, 25 Francis St., Worcester, MA 01606.

The **Nominating Committee** is seeking suggestions for individuals to be considered for Council leadership. If you have suggestions or would like to be considered yourself, please submit names no later than May 15, 2013. The listing of names of incumbents is meant to give tribute for their past service and is not an indication whether the individual has or has not yet indicated willingness to serve another term.

**Available Positions**

**Officers:**

The following officer positions, each for a one year term, are up for election. The President, First Vice President and Second Vice President are eligible to be re-elected once to serve not more than two consecutive years. Nominations of new candidates are also in order.

**President:** Incumbent Bruce Merton is eligible for re-election to this position.

**First Vice President:** Incumbent Richard Griffith is eligible for re-election to this position.

**Second Vice President:** Incumbent Charlene Watkins is eligible for re-election to this position.

**Secretary:** Incumbent Abraham Wright is eligible for re-election to this position.

**Treasurer:** Nicholas Brame is eligible for re-election to this position.

**Trustees:**

Central Zone, Region A (IL, IW, IN, WI, MN, Missouri): Incumbent William Samuels is not eligible for re-election. Position is **OPEN**.

Central Zone Region B (Michigan, MI, OH, Western NY and PA): Incumbent Winifred West is eligible for re-election.

Western Zone, Region B (Southern California, AZ): Incumbent Nanci Harris is eligible for re-election.

The following Commissions have 3-year term positions that are up for election. Incumbents may be re-elected. Job description: Commissions are to implement the programs and policies of the Council in regard to matters concerning faith and order, churches, clergy, laity, ecumenical relations, social concerns, information sharing and other area.

**Clergy Relations:** 2 persons for the Class of 2016. Class of 2013, term ending: Brian Merritt and Elaine Richardson.

*Job description: Provide direction for the ministerial Effectiveness Training program and funding.*

**Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations:** 2 persons for Class of 2016. Class of 2013, term ending: Abraham Wright and Gary Batey.

*Job description: Make recommendations to the Board of Trustees and help provide representation in relation to the various ecumenical movements and activities.*

**Faith, Justice and Mission:** 1 person for Class of 2016. Class of 2013, Matthew Stephens.

*Job description: Shall reflect upon ideas and principles inherent in the Community Church movement. Shall develop systemic ways to share these reflections with the development of the wider church.*

**Laity and Church Relations:** 2 persons for Class of 2016. Class of 2013, term ending: Lenard McClain and Toni Harris.

*Job description: Will be involved with matters related to the needs of laity and local churches, Ministry centers and other ministries. Will seek to recruit, inform and support at least one Key Layperson in each member church.*

**Endowment Fund Committee:** 2 persons for Class of 2016. Class of 2013, term ending: Myrtis Brame and Carolyn Ford. Incumbents are not eligible for re-election.

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

**Mail to:**

Carolyn Ford, Nominating Committee Chairperson  
 ICCC, 21116 Washington Parkway, Frankfort, IL 60423-3112  
 or email Carolyn at: [personaltouch\\_22@att.net](mailto:personaltouch_22@att.net)

**Seeking a Music Director**

The Church at Litchfield Park is seeking a Director of Music to oversee the music program of a growing and dynamic interdenominational community church in Litchfield Park, AZ. The director will be responsible for directing the 30+ member Chancel Choir and the Contemporary Music Team as well as working with the directors of the bell choir and children's choirs. Interested applicants should have experience in directing both a traditional worship choir and leading contemporary/blended worship. The position is ¾ time and compensation will be based on experience. Interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and list of references electronically to [info@churchatlitchfieldpark.org](mailto:info@churchatlitchfieldpark.org).