

# THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

*A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World*

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## How to Become a Sister Church

The ICCC exists by relationships. But the fact is that few congregations from Canada or the United States have continuing friendships with the members of overseas churches. We may have thought about the possibilities, but we're not sure where to start. International inter-church relationships have become easier to begin and to sustain in recent years. Pen pals can correspond by instant email rather than by long distance post. Ideas about joint observances of festival days can be developed, shared and refined by electronic means nearly as quickly with a congregation in a foreign land as with a church just down the block. Your congregation and an overseas church can become "sister churches" with a continuing relationship that is a joy to all involved.

There are some facts about sister church relationships that any congregation needs to know before considering such a commitment:

- ❖ A successful interchange between congregations is one between equals. If a church from the "developed" world wants to instruct and enlighten others out of its own great stock of wisdom, that is probably best done by funding a theological school. After all, seminarians want and need education. But other churches do not need our wisdom and our education. Rather, they and we will grow from collaboration and friendship.

- ❖ Inter-church relationships need to be based on transparent honesty. It's fun to brag about our victories. But no matter what the cultural setting may be, not everything that a church attempts to do will be successful. In fact, it a church hasn't experienced any failure in the last few years that's simply a sign it hasn't been attempting anything great. If we dare to share something about our churches' struggles, vulnerabilities and disappointments, everyone involved will be able to discover new insights and understandings.

- ❖ A sister church relationship requires long-term commitment. Not a one-year, "do it and be done with it" sort of thing, an interchurch partnership of people and pastoral leaders requires staying power. If your congregation cannot enter into a relationship that can last a decade or more, it would be better not to begin.

- ❖ A sister church relationship will be cross-cultural, and those who participate in it will find that they are discovering the boundaries of their own personal comfort zones. Just as cooks in the two congregations exchange recipes and discover the occasional "yucky" ingredient in the other church's cuisine, others may discover that varied expressions and interpretations of faith lead us in directions we didn't anticipate and challenge our own understandings. That's a good thing, and it can lead to new insights and new ways of witnessing and serving in our own local communities.

- ❖ A sister church relationship is both practical and spiritual. An intercultural relationship can be empowering to both sides. New insights are realized; new possibilities are discovered; and new ways of communicating our faith, hope and love are developed. Above all, our devotion is invigorated as we discover again the core of our Christian faith that transcends location, culture and climate.

Expressions of sister-church relationships will be as varied as the congregations involved. The possibilities that follow are just a few. Your own creative ideas will be many.

- ❖ Development of email "pen pal" relationships among members of the congregations.

- ❖ Exchanges of recipes and information about local customs, holidays, children's games, etc. that can give insights into the cultures in which the participating congregations serve.

- ❖ "International festivals" during which participating congregations celebrate one another's cultures; prepare meals using the other's recipes; encourage children to play games of the other culture; etc.

- ❖ Mission trips, exchange visits and other opportunities for face-to-face meetings.

- ❖ "Simultaneous Sundays" on which the worship hymns and other music, scriptural texts, and sermon topics are the same in each church – combining elements common to and different among both cultures.

It is a fact that many overseas churches function with minimal resources. A US or Canadian congregation may want to assist its overseas sister church in undertaking a special project, and/or it may want to underwrite the annual financial participation of the sister church in the ICCC. However, for the health of both congregations it should be clear to all involved that the relationship between churches is primarily spiritual rather than financial. The two congregations should cooperate in developing a set of mutually-agreed expectations for their relationship as they begin their journey together.

The Council can and will help you to develop a sister church relationship with an overseas congregation. Contact Council House at any time.

## President's Message

*Rev. Dr. Bruce N. Merton*

In 1833 The Rev. Leonard Bacon penned this hymn:  
"O God, beneath your guiding hand  
Our exiled fathers crossed the sea;  
And when they trod the wintry stand,  
With prayer and psalm  
the worshiped Thee.  
Thou heard'st, well pleased,  
the song, the prayer;  
Thy blessing came; and still its power  
Shall onward, through all ages, bear  
The memory of the holy hour.  
Laws, freedom, truth and faith in God  
Came with those exiles o'er the waves;  
And, where their pilgrim feet have trod,  
The God they trusted guards their graves.  
And here Thy name, O God of Love,  
Their children's children shall adore,  
Till these eternal hills remove,  
And spring adorns this earth no more."

The hymn can compel reflection in numerous ways.

Reflection can be rooted in the history of the Mayflower's Pilgrims, who crossed the sea, tread the wintry strand and worshiped God with prayer and psalm.

Reflection can be rooted in the God 'whose blessing came,' who 'guards their graves,' and continues to bless 'onward, through all ages.'

Reflection can also be rooted in our continuing response to the God of the ages. As Bacon wrote: "And here Thy name, O God of Love, their children's children shall adore.."

In reality, I believe, we should reflect on all these things for it is the God of Pilgrims past that is still the God in which we, 'their children's children,' live, move and have our being.

On November 11, 1620 the Mayflower dropped anchor on the raw and inhospitable coast of today's Provincetown. The anchoring marked the end of a 66 day journey from England for 102 Pilgrims.

Their journey was rooted in a desire for new life and opportunity based on the freedom to live without dictation and worship as they saw "fit and proper."

The day after Christmas, they moved their ship to Plymouth and on January 4, 1621 they started to build a common house ashore.

Living in fear of the Indians did not prevent them from being impacted by the plague which claimed several Indian tribes. By the Spring of 1621 only about one-half of the original 102 Pilgrims were still living - 4 women, 19 men, and 28 youth and children.

The first Winter was incredibly tragic! It would have driven most people to give up and return to where they had come from. Governor Bradford wrote, "It pleased God to visit us with death daily."



"Give up!" "Return!" "Cave in!" The words were not part of the Pilgrim's vocabulary or found in their spirit!

The Spring of 1621 brought new hope, health and vitality. Forest was cleared, 11 buildings were constructed, the Indians who were once feared had become helpers and friends. Once the Pilgrims set aside their fear and chose to reach out in welcome, they found the Indians were eager to share their knowledge about hunting and fishing. Meat became readily available and greatly enjoyed. The Indians gave enough seed to plant 20 acres of corn and even helped in the planting.

Perseverance began to pay off! In the Fall of 1621, just after the harvest, Pilgrim Edward Winslow wrote in a letter, "Our first harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling so that we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruits of our labors. The four, in one day, killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week."

With the fowl, fish and a meager harvest, the four surviving women assisted by five teenage girls prepared a "feast" for the now 55 Pilgrims plus 90 some "new friend" Indians that showed up unexpectedly.

There was prayer and worship, but mostly there was celebration! Governor Bradford wrote that it was three days of "wild bachinalians" Imagine! Worship, prayer, drinking, feasting and gaming were all parts of a real thanksgiving.

Yes, the first thanksgiving day in the new America (There was no capital T or D) was a "bash" that included the "Sublime" and the "very human" sides of life. It was, however celebrated, steeped in thanksgiving to God for the eternal home prepared for those who

*continued on page 3*

## Giving Thanks

by Don Ashmall  
Council Minister



We're approaching the Thanksgiving season in the US. Other nations have celebrated a similar harvest festival earlier in the year, but no matter what the date or place, extended families try to gather for the festival meal. Then in some homes there is a brief intermission between catching up with everybody's recent activities and the disassembly of the roasted fowl. One by one around the table, those in attendance give voice to something for which they have been thankful during the last twelve months. The little ones pipe up with the name of a favorite tv show or a vacation activity. The teens blush as they think about the names of their current love interests. The oldsters mention good health if they've enjoyed it, and give voice to the names of loved ones present and absent. At least in this forum, this year I get to go first. So for what do I give thanks?

I'm of an age when the list of the people I've known includes more souls in heaven than those on earth. Teachers and Sunday School teachers; neighbors and those who like the Good Samaritan were better neighbors than those who lived nearby; leaders and especially those who led by being servants; the well-known and those who labored behind the scenes; those who were easy to love and those who helped me to gain what little patience and tolerance I possess: all were gifts from God. I'm especially grateful for those who continue to bless my life by their example and their witness.

I give thanks for those who possess the courage to do something new. This year at the ICCC Annual Conference co-chairs Rev's. Lynne Kammeraad and Dale Hopely were not afraid to try a new schedule. Re-arranging the times for worship and Bible study may not seem a big thing to some who have never dealt with the weight of long-standing tradition, but it takes courage to begin a process of change. May their example inspire others!

I give thanks for those who have the commitment to overcome obstacles. You've heard a great deal about the Council's troubles with finances. Here's some good news. During the Annual Conference Past President Sandra Nelson pledged on the spot a sacrificial gift that inspired others to similar gifts. For many present that act began to change worry into hope. (I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't tell you that if you missed that moment, you can still become part of that cadre of leadership in stewardship by your gift to the Council today!)

I give thanks for those possessed of a vision to see a future filled with vitality. This year President Bruce Merton and the Council's Board of Trustees endorsed – and the delegates at Annual Conference enthusiastically approved – a new initiative that lifts before us specific measurable goals for spiritual and numerical growth for the community church movement. Only a few weeks after Conference, Rev. Claude Wilson hosted a gathering of church leaders in Northern California that embraced the goals and promised fast action on "Vision 2020" to begin to fulfill the promise. That gathering has been followed by others around the US and I can tell you now that we are seeing new energy in our midst, in our service of our common Lord.

I give thanks for all the churches and ministry centers whose faithfulness makes a difference. In a world that advocates separation, you proclaim unity. In a culture that wallows in hostility, you live out the message of love. In a society that encourages competition, you gather people in cooperative, life-changing ministries. In a world that ignores and disrespects so many, you welcome and give dignity to all. You have faced trials and tribulations of every sort, and by faith you have endured. But you've done more than endure: you have triumphed in the exercise of every spiritual gift.

Finally, I give thanks for you and for your ministry, whether that ministry is as an ordained person building up the body of Christ, or as a layperson proclaiming God's love by word and deed to the world in which you live. I know that you will continue to join with the rest of the community church movement in building up the fellowship and extending the message. To paraphrase Winston Churchill, "Let us now brace ourselves to our duties and so bear ourselves that, if the community church movement continues to bear fruit for a thousand years, women and men will still say 'This was their finest hour.'" I know that you will do this, and for this also I give thanks.

Happy Thanksgiving!

## REVIEWS



Dr. Robert M. Puckett

**ON GOD'S SIDE:** What Religion Forgets and Politics Hasn't Learned About Serving the Common Good; Jim Wallis, Brazos Press, 2013, 303 pages, \$21.99.

Jim Wallis, editor of *Sojourners* magazine, is an evangelical prophetic voice and social activist for our cynical time. He teaches at Georgetown University, and has taught at Harvard University. He is also a Little League baseball coach. He is the best selling author of "GOD'S POLITICS: why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get it."

This book is a clarion call for a deep commitment to the common good which for Christian faith "derives from Jesus's commandment to love our neighbor—including 'the least of these'—which is still the most transformational social ethic the world has ever known." (p. xii) Insisting that our life together can be better Wallis declares along with John Chrysostom that Christianity can only be made perfect and achieve its highest purpose by seeking the common good by genuinely caring for others. The Lord's prayer teaches us to pray "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. "Christianity is not a religion that gives some people a ticket to heaven and makes them judgmental of all others. Rather, it's a call to a new relationship with God that also changes our relationship with all others." ... "That transformation of all our relationships, especially the clear connection between loving God and loving your neighbor has always—when lived out—been the best catalyst for movements aimed at improving the human community." (pp 3-4)

The title of the book is inspired by Abraham Lincoln who said "My concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side." ( P7) Unfortunately all too often everyone wants God to be on our side with little or no concern for us to be on God's side. Agreeing with God is much more important than getting God to agree with us...trying to understand God's side means being more reflective and critical of ourselves and of 'our side' if we are really concerned about being on God's side (P. 8)"Claiming God's special blessing for

our own race, class, group, country, or even our religious community is a most dangerous example of trying to put God on our side...trying to be on God's side requires much more humility and grace." (P. 9)

"A central purpose of this book is to challenge the hateful ideological warfare between the conservative and liberal sides of our ongoing political battles as well as their inability to listen to or learn anything from each other." (p. 16) Jesus preached of God's kingdom which has come near and calls upon us to proclaim that good news in order to make our world better. It is not primarily about how we can get to heaven but how our world can be changed and how we can be changed with it.

Justice for all is an integral part of his Gospel. Wallis then goes on to spell out in great detail how that Gospel affects individuals, the economy, our world, and all of humanity. His prophetic voice is best when he addresses American exceptionalism. He insists that "there is no divine mandate for American exceptionalism in the sense of a unique, special, and exceptional relationship between God and the American nation...when politicians say that God has granted the United States a special role in human history, they are theologically wrong and politically dangerous...The danger comes in making 'exceptions' for America's actions when we violate our best values or accepted international rules of behavior." (PP. 114 - 115)

Abraham Lincoln encouraged our nation to be guided by our "better angels." Quoting Michael Dyson, Wallis offers this definition of patriotism: "Patriotism is the critical affirmation of one's country in the light of its best values, including the attempt to correct it when it is in error." (PP118-119) Instead of talking about American exceptionalism we need to ask, "Do we love America enough to tell the truth about our bad behaviors?" ( P 120)

### ICCC GENERAL FUND - JAN. THRU SEPT., 2013

Total Cash Balance as of January 1, 2013:.....	\$ 70,529.66
Total Income year to date as of September 30: .....	\$163,953.62
Total Expenses year to date as of September 30:.....	\$171,128.74
Total Cash Balance as of September 30, 2013:.....	\$ 63,354.54

### THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CHURCHES OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

**President:** Bruce Merton

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**Trustees:** Roberta Smith, Nanci Harris, Glenn Clay, Ted Fielland, Denise Sager, Vermelle Barnes, Charles Addison, Michael Donahue, Janet Burch

**Auxiliary Heads:** Women's Christian Fellowship, Ella Clay; Samaritans, Wayne Samuels; Youth, Sarah Wells; Ministerium, William Samuels

**Sharing Joys:**

• **Greendale People's Church** has called **Rev. Carla Dietz** as their new Senior Pastor. Her first Worship Service was Sunday, October 20th. **Ron Wilson** has been their interim pastor and will be heading back to Arizona with his wife Dona. We celebrate with Greendale People's Church as they look toward the future together in ministry.

• **Antioch Community Church, Rev. Harry Fooockle**, Senior Pastor, celebrated its 160th anniversary in September!!! Antioch started in 1853 and they have worshipped in their historic sanctuary, built in 1859, for 154 years! Congratulations!

• Please welcome **Glory 2 Glory Ministries** to the ICCC as our latest new member. You can find their

information on our website [www.iccusa.com](http://www.iccusa.com).... They are located in Pakistan!

• Recently two Jordan Scholarships were awarded. The first recipient was **Kyle Hoes, Seneca Community Church**. Kyle is pursuing a career in Hotel and Restaurant Management. **Ikia Fletcher, Emmanuel Independent Community Church**, also received a scholarship. She is pursuing a major in Art Education. We wish them the best in their educational endeavors.

**Our prayers are with:**

• **Carl Davis, St. James Independent Methodist Church**, who's brother, **Frank Davis Jr.** passed away on September 19th.



## A Reality and A Challenge for ICCC Laity and Clergy

What if there was a communion that was committed to diversity without division, unity without uniformity? What if there was a communion that didn't put a real estate lien on local churches, and asked only a tithe of a tithe (1%) of a local congregation's income to fund the larger whole? What if there was a communion that didn't ask for agreement on a lengthy creed, but simply asked that local churches affirm that they are within the Christian tradition? What if there was a communion that saw itself as post-denominational - inviting local congregations to serve together on level ground instead of erecting a hierarchy? What if there was a communion that was broad enough to welcome local congregations and groups of congregations that organized

themselves with bishops AND those who organized themselves without bishops? What if there was a communion that didn't legislate for local congregations? What if there was a communion that was a voluntary association of churches and ministry centers instead of a forced-march lash-up? Impossible? There is such a communion. Its name is the International Council of Community Churches.

Local congregations across the USA and around the world are yearning for such a communion and such a fellowship. Our challenge is to share the news that there IS such a communion. Please don't wait for somebody "out there" to share the word. Do it yourself. Do it today. Do it this week. Do it often. Don't wait for somebody to tell you to do it - just do it!

### Mission Statement



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

### President's Message cont'd. from page 1

had died and the new home that was continuing to take shape and form in a brave new world.

Now, almost 400 years since the first thanksgiving of 1621, what can we, "their children's children," glean and celebrate as our Thanksgiving Day approaches?

Here are some of the gleanings we can take. (You may be able to identify even more!)

First, there is a certain "power for life" that is found in the strong belief that the guiding hand of God is with us in ALL things, ALL times, and ALL circumstances. The faith-full know the truth of the adage: "If God brings you to it, God will bring you through it!"

Second, there is "value for life" in discovering new places that challenge us to invest and give all we have got and then ultimately to trust and rely on God for positive results. I am reminded of St. Augustine's words: "Pray as if everything depends on God. Work as if everything depends on you."

Third, there is "opportunity for life" as you expand your circle of connection and relationship. The world draws circles to keep people out - rebels, heretics, things to flout. But, by God's love, we have the wit to win. We draw circles that take others in!

Fourth, there is "miracle for life" in always preparing the Table for unexpected guests! Imagine how the celebration was enhanced and expanded when the 55 'expected' at the Table were able and willing to welcome the 90 that came seeking fellowship and joy in a common meal!

Fifth, the true celebration of thanksgiving involves "all that is life." Life is feasting at the table, laughing with friends - old and new, maybe some drinking. Certainly there is the gaming - football, of course. Always - ALWAYS - there should be prayer and worship!

Recently one 8th grade class was asked to jot down the one word which came to mind first when they heard the word "thanksgiving." Ninety percent wrote, "turkey." The remaining 10 percent wrote words such as football, vacation, no school and Pilgrim. Not one student wrote "thanks," "God," "blessings" or "family."

We, "their children's children," still have much to glean and much to celebrate as another day of thanksgiving approaches.

The unbridled cheer and celebration of the first harvest home thanksgiving was done in the reality that all the Pilgrims would spend the coming Winter on half rations!

So it is with us in the I.C.C.C., in our churches, our families, our very selves! We have endured much! We have even more to be thankful for! We have come a long way. We have not fully arrived! We still live on a "half ration" of God's grace until that day when every knee in heaven, on earth and under the earth will bend and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God in heaven. And on that day the we will all feast at the Table and thanksgiving will become an eternal reality!

### A Time To Laugh



## 2014 Stetson University Pastors' School

The 2014 Stetson University Pastors' School in DeLand, Florida, will be held Tuesday through Friday, January 28 - 31. It begins on Tuesday with afternoon sessions and concludes on Friday with lunch and a dialogue session with one of the speakers. The cost will be \$399...and this includes all programming, a continental breakfast each morning, and your main meal of the day. Transportation and hotel accommodations would be extra. This year's speakers are:

**Dr. Jane Childers** on "Preaching in the Age of the Spirit". She is Professor of Homiletics and Speech-Communication at San Francisco Theological Seminary and a Presbyterian minister with degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary and the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California.

**Dr. Richard Hays** on "Preaching Backwards: Israel's Scripture through the Eyes of the Gospel Writers". He is the Dean and the George Washington Ivey Professor of New Testament at Duke Divinity School. His book, "The Moral Vision of the New Testament: Community, Cross, New Creation", has been selected by "Christianity Today" as one of the 100 most important religious books of the twentieth century.

**Dr. Michael Hawn** on "You Are What You Sing: Shaping Faith through Congregational Singing". He is a Distinguished Professor of Music and Director of the Sacred Music Program at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. He has published over 300 articles, reviews, books, and curriculum materials in the areas of church music education and hymnology.

**Dr. Philip Jenkins** on "Holy Wars, Jihads, and Christian History". A Distinguished Professor of History at Baylor University, he also serves in the Institute for Studies of Religion. He has published 24 books, including the recent, "Laying Down the Sword: Why We Can't Ignore the Bible's Violent Verses".

You can register online at [www.stetson.edu/pastors-school/](http://www.stetson.edu/pastors-school/). You can also contact the Department of Continuing Education at (386) 822-7500. Remember... the price goes up to \$425 after November 30. Upon registering, you will receive information concerning lodging options and transportation to Stetson. Unfortunately, the hotel at which Herb Freitag has made reservations for our group for many years has been sold to the university and now consists of dorms.

This is a great educational and "fun" opportunity. Join other ICCC clergy (and spouses if they so desire) at Stetson this coming January. You will love the program and the weather.

## Gifts have been received for the following:

- As a Memorial to the family of Donald Ashmall who lost his brother from the ICCC WCF.
- As a Memorial to Carl F. Burke from Caroline E. Burke
- As a Memorial to Malcolm O. Gaskins from Maxine Gaskins
- As a Memorial to William & Gloria Copelin and Helen Copelin-Slyke from Rev. Shirley Cooper
- As a Memorial to Leona Moore from Vermelle Barnes
- As a Memorial to Paul E. Smith from Maxine Gaskins
- As a Memorial to Jess Wilhite & Jeff Newhall from Nanci Harris
- As a Memorial to Dr. Marion C. Bascom, Sr. from Sheridan Yeary
- As a Memorial to Jarrell Mack & Ruth Mims from Marilyn Stevenson (3)
- As a Memorial to Jarrell Mack from Mary Frances Garner (2)
- As a Memorial to Jarrell Mack from Rev. Carter S.R. Garner
- As a Memorial to Jeff Newhall from Lydia & John Tobian
- As a Memorial to Carlyle Fielding Stewart from Jacquelyn Ace
- As a Memorial to D.J. Nelson Sr. from Saundra Nelson
- As a Memorial to Marion Bascom from James Rogers
- As a Memorial to Serena Smith from Sandra L. Roberts
- As a Memorial to Marguerite Kimbrew from Clementine Johnson
- As a Memorial to Jeff Newhall from James Rogers
- As a Memorial to Leona Moore, Miltie Green, Nancy Artis, Brenda Newsome from Vermelle Barnes
- As a Memorial to Frances Hill from Carolyn Ford

- In Honor of Chaplain Bradley E. Walgren from Dr. Harold N. Walgren (5)
- In Honor of April V. Martin and Cathy D. Brown from James & Ruth Glenn
- In Honor of Saundra Nelson from Lonnie & Ron Miller
- In Honor of Mrs. Dorothy B. Bascom from Sheridan Yeary
- In Honor of Rose Addison from Charles Addison
- In Honor of Kermit Long from Jud & Cay Randall-May
- In Honor of Park Road Community Church from Marilyn Stevenson (2)
- In Honor of Charlene Agee & Park Road Community Church from Marion Bright
- In Honor of Marion Henley from Barbara Ratliff
- In Honor of Denny Landis from Doris Landis
- In Honor of Mary M. King from Eloise M. Crenshaw
- In Honor of Lawrence & Cecil Millben from Janet Burch
- In Honor of Rev. Kermit Long from Judson May

## Women's Christian Fellowship

By Ella Clay  
President



Greetings to all in the Majestic and Powerful name of Jesus! I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve WCF/ICCC as your President.

Again, we come to you with a thankful heart and with an attitude of gratitude. The first WCF/ICCC Conference call was very rewarding. Our leadership team expressed many approaches to achieve goals set by the WCF/ICCC. Working in the spirit of harmony and love, we can continue to build upon the foundation that has been laid by our past leadership teams.

We want to say thank you to our Coordinator, Sandra Roberts, in her expertise with sending communication to everyone informing them of scheduled matters.

We welcome your gifts, ideas and talents. When we come together on one accord, the Body of Christ is encouraged and profoundly blessed. Your financial contributions are welcomed not only at conference time but you may send your contributions throughout the year to our treasurer, Mary Summers.

Please remember to join us for our prayer call line, every second Monday of each month. Call 1-712-432-0175-code 887889 and follow the prompts.

Always in my Prayers

### Seeking a Senior Pastor

"I am come that they might have life and that they may have it more abundantly." – St. John 10:10

People's Community Church is a Singing, Praying, Tithing, Serving and Loving congregation, seeking a spiritual and energetic pastor. People's Community Church was organized in 1954 and is a charter member of the International Council of Community Churches. In response to God's call and through the Power of the Holy Spirit, it is the mission of People's Community Church to be a Community of Faith through which the Kingdom of God might be revealed. The Pastoral Search Committee request your resume along with a video, CD or recording of a recent sermon.

The candidate must be an ordained minister, a graduate of a university and an accredited theological seminary with a divinity degree or its equivalence.

He/she must also have actively pastored for at least three years in a congregation that is recognized by the International Council of Community Churches. Must have the love of the gospel; demonstrating qualities of strong leadership in the areas of preaching, teaching, administration, community relations and be able to relate to all generations of the congregation. He/she must demonstrate the ability to stimulate positive church growth in the inter-city area of Detroit.

Interested candidates may submit requested documents to the attention of the Search Committee for Pastoral Leadership, People's Community Church, 8601 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202 – Carolyn Ford, Chairperson. Initial interest may also communicate via email at [personaltouch\\_22@att.net](mailto:personaltouch_22@att.net).

### Non-Denominational Church Seeks Full-Time Pastor

Roser Community Church ([www.roschurch.com](http://www.roschurch.com)) is a Lay-Led 400 member church. We seek an energetic Pastor with post-graduate congregational experience. Ability to work within our traditional worship format along with the skills to build on our youth and adult Christian education programs. Applicants must be a graduate of a divinity school recognized by the American Association of Theological Schools and an ordained Christian minister of the Gospel. If interested send resume, salary requirements and recent sermon to Search Committee - Roser Community Church, P.O. Box 2141, Anna Maria, FL 34216 by Dec. 15, 2013.

### Seeking a Senior Minister

Emmanuel Baptist Church of Ridgewood, NJ has an opening for a Senior Minister. We are a progressive church which emphasizes inclusiveness and social justice as our understanding of Christianity. We are interested in pastoral candidates who are supportive of this philosophy and theology.

The community of Ridgewood is known for its excellent schools, community services, transportation facilities to NY City, the arts, and quality of life. Our church is a member of the American Baptist Churches, and maintains affiliation with the International Council of Community Churches and the Center for Progressive Christianity.

Please contact search committee chair Brent Saardema at 973-427-7310 or [profbrent@juno.com](mailto:profbrent@juno.com) with expressions of interest.

### International Council of Community Churches Resource Sharing

You are the experts! Your church or center has developed a variety of ministries and initiatives. Are you able to share your experience and expertise with others? Please complete the chart below and return it to Council House. Your time is valuable – in place of a simple check-mark, please enter in the appropriate box the number of hours you can invest in a single project. Thank you!

AREA OF INTEREST AND EXPERTISE	I/We have experience in this area	Can lead an annual conference workshop	Can visit to teach others	Can teach on our site	Can distance teach
Internet web site development					
Using social network internet sites					
Church day-care/nursery					
Music resources, materials, hints					
Cooperative buying for churches and centers					
Sunday School growth/development					
Establishing, running a food bank					
Establishing, running a meal site					
Capital funds campaigns					
Annual support/pledge campaigns					
Financial systems and controls					
Organizing, running a short term mission trip					
Parish nurse program					
Other health ministry (please specify below)					
New church/new ministry development					
Residential camping					

Other areas of expertise (please specify below or on an additional page):

Your Church/Center: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Person(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Those with whom you share your expertise will be expected to cover your out-of-pocket expenses. If any entry above requires additional payment, please describe in full on an additional page, with fee schedule.

Please return this page to:

International Council of Community Churches  
 21116 Washington Parkway, Frankfort, Illinois 60423  
 Phone 815-464-5690 • Fax 815-464-5692 • [www.icccusa.com](http://www.icccusa.com)