

International Council of Community Churches

An invitation to...

◆ Freedom

Individual Conscience
Congregational Autonomy

◆ Community

One in Community
Diverse in our Unity

◆ Love

Loving God and Neighbor
Serving Christ and Community



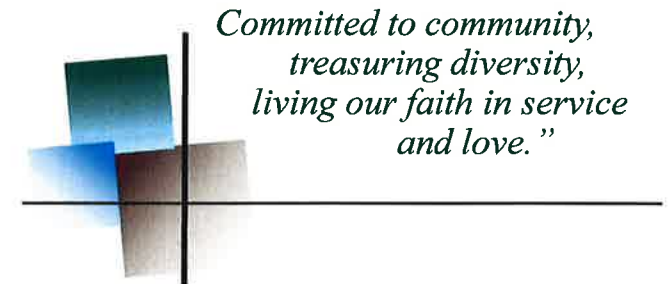
International Council of Community Churches

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*Committed to community,
treasuring diversity,
living our faith in service
and love."*



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History

In 1950, two fellowships in the Community Church Movement joined in a historic merger. At the time, their joining represented the largest interracial merger of religious bodies in America. The new creation was the ***International Council of Community Churches***. Member churches and centers united to be a fellowship of ecumenically-minded, freedom-loving churches cooperating in fulfilling the mission of the Church in the world.

As a post-denominational movement for over 60 years, the Council has witnessed and worked for Christian unity and reconciliation in human society.

Purpose

The International Council of Community Churches is an international, intercultural, interracial fellowship of churches and ministry centers which seeks Christian unity in local, national and world relations.

Vision

- To be an answer to Christ's Prayer: "That they may all be one" (John 17:23).
- To affirm individual freedom of conscience.
- To protect and promote congregational self-determination.
- To proclaim that the uniting love of God can overcome any division.
- To be an integral partner in the worldwide ecumenical movement.

Services

The Council offers...

- help in establishing, recruiting, and assimilating new Council-related churches and centers;
- fellowship, worship and study gatherings;
- area, regional and national fellowship and growth gatherings;
- placement services for churches and clergy;
- continuing education for clergy;
- confidential counseling for clergy;
- consultation for churches in times of challenge and change;
- ecclesiastical endorsement of institutional chaplaincy;
- a newspaper, *The Christian Community*, a collegial publication, *The Inclusive Pulpit*;
- a fully designated, dollar-for-dollar mission and benevolence program;
- scholarship aid through the Jordan Scholarship for Council persons seeking undergraduate education;
- participation in the ecumenical movement;
- Pension benefits for clergy and church employees.

Organization

The ICCC has its home office near Chicago in Frankfort, Illinois. From that office, the Council Minister and a small staff coordinate Council projects and offer services to member and non-member bodies.

The Council holds an Annual Conference to which every member church and center can send two voting delegates, only one of which can be a cleric. The voting delegates elect a Board of Trustees, as well as a President and two Vice Presidents. The Trustees and officers oversee and conduct the Council's business between Conferences.

Besides the international and national fellowship available through Annual Conferences, the Council is organized into Regions and Areas to facilitate

communication and mutual support among churches and centers.

Ecumenical Affiliations

The ICCC is a member of the National Council of Churches, Church World Service, the World Council of Churches, Christian Churches Together and Churches Uniting in Christ. Through these conciliar bodies, the Council witnesses and works for Christian unity.

Membership and Support

Council affiliation is voluntary and by application requested from the Council Office. Membership is congregational and based upon acceptance of the Council's constitution and willingness to enter into covenant with the Council and its member congregations and centers. Membership is maintained by participation and annual financial support.

Fellowship

Churches and ministry centers from five continents are included in the current membership of the Council. Northern and Southern hemisphere churches and centers are encouraged to enter into "sister church" relationships that enrich the life and worship of the participating congregations. Churches and centers in the Council share ideas and experience through peer to peer resourcing. Individuals and congregations post information and inspirational material on the Council's open-membership Facebook page. Geographically based regional and area meetings of churches provide inspiration and practical training on a regular basis. All this is undergirded by prayer, including prayer gatherings across state and national boundaries enabled by conference calls and other electronic means.