

What is the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC)?

The ICCC is a voluntary fellowship of churches, ministry centers and church bodies joined to advance justice, reconciliation and Christian unity.

Where did the ICCC come from?

The ICCC was formed in 1950 as a merger between two associations of community-based congregations, one majority African-American and the other majority Caucasian.

What do you mean by "International"?

Though the ICCC's offices are in Illinois, USA, the Council has member congregations in nations on several continents. The congregations of any nation with at least seven active member churches, ministry centers and/or church bodies are entitled to elect a member to the ICCC's Board of Trustees.

Is the ICCC a denomination?

No. The ICCC is a voluntary association of congregations. The Council has no ecclesial or other authority over any congregation. The Council does not and cannot hold a lien on any congregation's property. Each congregation has full power to join or to sever its relationship with the Council at any time.

The 70th Annual Conference:

The churches and ministry centers of the ICCC enjoy an annual conference that is held in a new location each year. The 2020 conference will be held July 20-23 at the Embassy Suites Columbus-Dublin in Dublin, Ohio, USA.



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Frequently Asked Questions

**International
Council of
Community Churches
Membership**



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What are the benefits of membership in the ICCC?

The ICCC is the visible face of the community church movement, seeking justice, reconciliation and Christian Unity.

The ICCC provides resources and information from congregations such as funds development, program development and leadership development.

The ICCC provides opportunities for education, inspiration and fellowship for the members of congregations and for their servant-leaders.

The ICCC provides investment and retirement benefits made available to ICCC churches, centers and clergy through the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board.

The ICCC provides peer-to-peer resourcing for congregations' programs and events. The ICCC provides assistance to congregations engaged in pastoral searches, through both printed materials and personal consultations with pastoral search committees.

The ICCC provides a connection to the wider ecumenical movement through its membership in Christian Churches Together in the USA (CCT); Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC); the National Council of Churches of Christ USA (NCC); and the World Council of Churches (WCC).

Perhaps most important, the ICCC provides opportunities for congregations and their servant leaders to overcome isolation and discover fellowship together.

What is expected of a member congregation of the ICCC?

Each congregation and its servant leaders are urged to pray regularly for the Council and its vision of justice, reconciliation, and Christian unity. Each congregation is urged to participate in Council gatherings through representatives and/or delegates. The chief of these is the Annual Conference, usually held in the USA in July. Other meetings and seminars are organized by regional and area fellowships of the Council. Each congregation participates financially in the Council and its work, with an annual contribution of \$1,000.00 U.S. dollars.

Who is in authority in the ICCC?

The member congregations are the authority in the ICCC. Each congregation may send two voting delegates to an Annual Conference. The delegates elect officers and boards among whose responsibilities is the oversight and direction of any paid staff. The delegates determine the Council's budget and program priorities.

How does a congregation become a member of the ICCC?

A brief membership application form is available on the ICCC's website www.icccnow.org. The form asks for the congregation's contact information and a statement that the body has taken action through whatever means are required by its bylaws to signify agreement with the vision of the ICCC and its wish to join. Send the completed form, along with at least the first installment of the congregation's annual financial participation, to the Council office. A communication from the Council welcoming the congregation will be sent without delay.

Is dual alignment possible?

The ICCC's membership includes congregations that also have a relationship with another communion (dual alignment). The Council welcomes dually aligned congregations into full membership without any limitations on their membership.

What if at some future date our congregation decides to withdraw from membership?

Simply send a letter to the Council indicating the decision of the congregation; the congregation will be removed from Council membership and a letter of confirmation will be sent without delay.

Will someone from the ICCC be willing to meet with us about membership before we decide?

Yes. Phone or email the Council office to arrange a mutually convenient meeting time.

Our telephone number is:
815-464-5690.

Please note that our office is in the US Central Time Zone.

Our email address is:
ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net

A member of the board or a staff member will be pleased to meet with you. Because of budget limitations, if you are from outside the USA, the meeting may need to be by electronic means.