

# THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

June 2020



International Council of Community Churches

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A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

Number 8

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## President's Message by Harry Fooockle

### My Prayers for the ICCC

I find myself awash in wonder and waiting.

When will this pandemic lessen enough  
for us to return to our "new " normal?

Not at this moment.

Stay at home? Go to work?

Mask or no mask?

People stepping up and hearts are  
warmed.

Other visibility upset and ugly in response.

The church must witness to a calming  
love and caring compassion.

That is our world at the moment. For  
the ICCC our Board of Director's voted  
to postpone our Annual conference for  
2020. A part of a new normal. We intend  
to gather for Annual Conference in Dublin  
July 2021.

It was the right decision.

Details are being worked out for those  
already registered with payment. Elections  
for all offices also postponed. Everyone  
in an elected position will continue for the  
ensuing year as the churches/ministries  
of the ICCC continue to live out a loving  
witness.

ICCC my hope for us is to continue to be a  
loving and accepting witness for our Lord.  
We can, we must, we need to be the  
example of endless hope to bring us  
through these days.



## Humbly, We Pray

For all suffering from the Coronavirus,  
Lord please heal them.  
For all medical workers,  
Lord please protect them.  
For all affected or anxious,  
Lord please calm them.  
Lord, we pray for a cure.

For all the lives lost, and for all who  
lost loved ones, their homes, or their  
businesses in the Nashville tornadoes,  
we pray for peace and strength.

Lord hear our prayer! Amen





## Executive Director's Message

**Phil Tom**

### *A New Spiritual Reformation*

As we continue to journey through this pandemic crisis, there are many questions being raised by every congregation on how we do church in this "new normal" when we get back into our buildings. How shall we do passing of the peace without handshakes and hugs? How can we not have a choir or sing loudly and boldly in fear of spreading the virus? How do we do coffee hour fellowship time six feet apart? How can we maintain an in-person worship service and still do a Zoom service so that we can keep the people who joined us for our Zoom services but do not plan to attend an in-person service? Do we really need our church home to be a church when it has become a financial albatross for the congregation? And

many more questions will emerge as we discern how to be Church in this new normal.

These questions are somewhat logistical ones, but they are also spiritual issues. The pandemic has forced many congregations to open themselves up to God and to go deeper, to review and to reassess their mission priorities. Hopefully, we have learned which ministries are most important to our congregation and community, and we have learned that some ministries we have been doing forever are not as essential. Perhaps God is calling us to new ways of being the Church!

It will be good to be back in our church homes. However, I pray that as we rush back to our church homes that we do not simply go back to business as usual. May we enter a time of spiritual discernment, seeking God's guidance on how we may be transformed to live and serve in a new world.



## THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Voice for  
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## *COVID-19 Resource Page*

### **Coronavirus/COVID-19 Resources for Congregations and Members**

Along with our sisters and brothers all around the world, we're now coming to terms with the "new normal" brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. It is our hope and goal to equip churches and worshipers with useful information and resources during these trying times.

Please visit our website for an extensive list of resources that may help you navigate through this difficult time. <https://www.icccnow.org/council-other-agency-resources/>

Be sure to watch our own ICC leader, Pastor Rhonda Blevins with her webinar titled *Preaching to a Screen!* <https://vimeo.com/410717615>

If you have ideas or resources that might be of interest to our ICC family, we invite you to email them to Rev. Phil Tom at [icccpt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:icccpt@sbcglobal.net).

Dear ICCC Family.

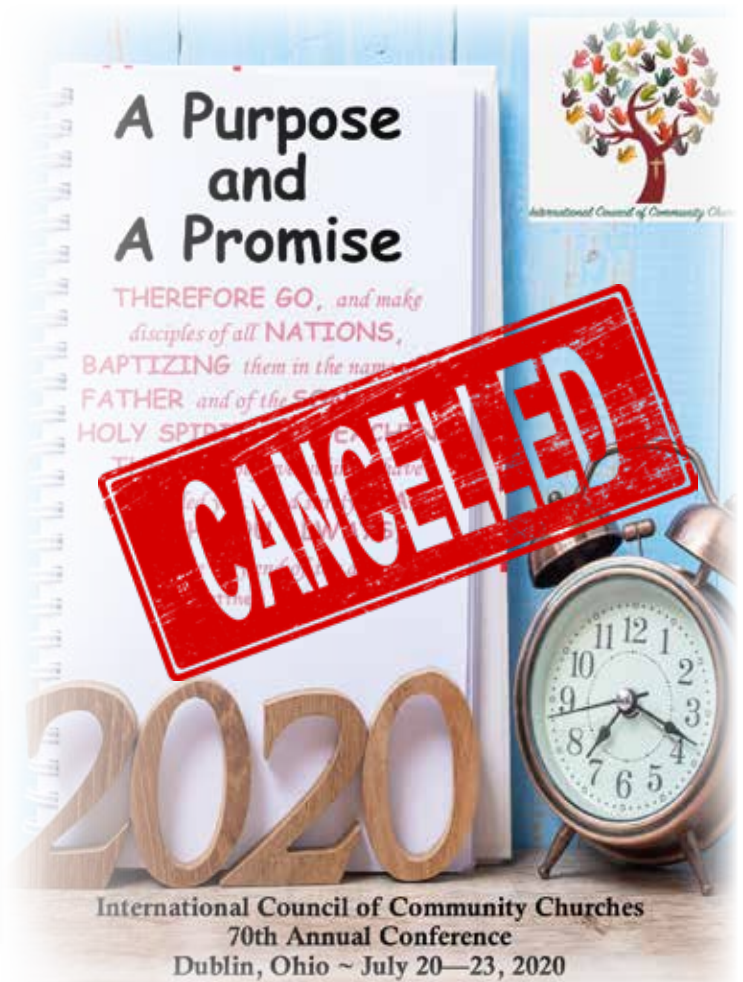
I hope you are all doing well and staying safe during this pandemic.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, the Board acted at its May 13, 2020 meeting to cancel our 2020 Annual Conference in July due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board felt that in the best interest for the welfare and safety of our members, that we should not have our Annual Conference. Instead, the Board agreed to host a smaller online event in July. Watch your emails, our website and possibly a special edition July Christian Community for information.

For those of you who have already registered for this year's conference, please contact DeAnn Anzaldi to request a refund or donate your registration fee to ICCC. If you were planning to attend the conference, we invite you to donate your registration fee to ICCC.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact DeAnn Anzaldi. Let us keep one another, our congregations, and centers in our prayers during this challenging time. Have a blessed day. Stay well and be safe.

Peace, Phil



## Gifts have been received for the following:

### As a Memorial to:

Elizabeth Leland Creglow from Carol E. Beyer  
 Glenn Clay from Bob Harris  
 Glenn Clay from Charlene Watkins  
 Rev. Dr. Claude B. Swanson from Brenda R. Swanson  
 Donna O'Sullivan from Bob Harris

### In Honor of:

Virginia L. Shotwell from Carolyn Willey  
 D.J. Nelson from Sandra Nelson  
 Thomas M. Beyer from Carol E. Beyer  
 Bob & Jane Puckett from Tellico Village Community Church

"As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 'Truly I tell you,' he said, 'this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of the wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.'" Luke 21:1-4



Sharing Joys With:

- **Rev. Dr. Stephen York** passed his doctoral thesis in March and has earned his doctorate. Congratulations!
- **Rev. Lorna Hart** and husband Leroy Hart welcomed a new granddaughter March 23, 2020. Welcome Harlem Spring Hart! Congratulations!
- The **ICCC Eastern Zone, Region B, Area 1** held its annual Community Day virtually to encourage togetherness and to inspire "God's Whosoever People during the Pandemic." In less than an hour, they celebrated the true meaning of Community - a feeling of fellowship with others as a result of sharing common beliefs, attitudes, interests and goals. "Our service this morning truly demonstrated and reinforced our common beliefs, our attitude of worship, our interests and commitment in the humanity of our wider community and reinforced our will to be living witnesses of God's mission for us." ~Trustee Myrtis Brame. **Seneca Community Church** hosted the Zoom event, planned by **Sandra Roberts, Winessa Crutchfield, James Jones, Beth McKinney and Mary Summers.**

Let Us Lift Up Prayers of Joy for:

- **ICCC VP for Informational Services and Outreach Mike Donahue** as he continues to struggle with health challenges.
- **ICCC Regional Trustee Julia Powe** as she awaits an upcoming surgery for herself. Also, pray for Julia's 94 year old father who is hospitalized. Besides his health challenges, he also faces the anxiety of being a patient in a hospital for the first time.
- All the Essential workers and this world at this challenging time.
- **Christopher Foockle**, son to **ICCC President Harry Foockle**. Christopher has metastatic cancer and will begin hormone therapy to slow the progress of the malignancy. Please keep him, his wife Carrie and Harry in your thoughts and prayers.
- **ICCC VP for Planning Jerry Brown**, as he recovers from a brief hospital stay for A-Fib.
- The family of **Clara Sutton**, a long-time member of Park Road Community Church and once a regular conference attendee, passed to the Larger Life Monday, May 25th. She was the mother of Rhoda Sutton, who directed music for the Annual Conference several times. Condolences may be sent to Park Road Community Church, the Seretha Renee Pearsall, pastor.





## Senior Minister

Longboat Island Chapel is seeking a Senior Minister who shall be the spiritual leader of Longboat Island Chapel, a Christian-based community church that welcomes people of all walks of life and faiths, and shall be responsible for preaching sermons and teaching the word of God in an inspiring and uplifting manner, administering the sacraments, leading the congregation in prayer and engaging in pastoral care ministries.

The Senior Minister shall be responsible for the overall spiritual care and counsel of the members of the Chapel including the development and administration of programs, involving the congregation in such ministries. He/she shall provide oversight of all areas of church life. He/she shall support and energize the outreach ministries of the Chapel and develop meaningful connections with key leaders in the local community. He/she shall oversee and encourage Chapel growth and the welcoming and integration of newcomers to the church.

The Senior Pastor shall be the visionary leader of the Chapel who, in conjunction with the Board of Trustees, embraces, oversees and coordinates the development and implementation of the Chapel's vision, mission core values and strategic plan. The Minister shall supervise, lead and evaluate Chapel staff and recommend personnel actions to the Board of Trustees. Additional duties and responsibilities of the Senior Minister may be set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and By Laws and may include additional and specific duties as agreed upon on an annual basis by the Senior Minister and the Board of Trustees.

Please visit the ICCC website for qualification requirements and duties. <https://www.iccnw.org/careers/>

## Pastor

Norris Religious Fellowship [www.norrisrf.org](http://www.norrisrf.org) in Norris, TN is seeking a full time pastor. We are a suburban church located in East Tennessee. We are an interdenominational church and a member of the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC), that not only accepts and tolerates differences but encourages diverse groups of people to come together. Our minister must be ordained as a graduate from an accredited divinity school, have ministerial experience, and must be comfortable with a moderate-to-liberal theology. We seek an open-minded, non-judgmental spiritual leader, counselor and guide, with strong moral and religious commitments, demonstrated leadership skills, an ability to inspire and teach through engaging and relevant sermons, and a passion for counselling the ill and grieving.

Our pastor will be responsible for weekly worship services, providing pastoral care, and counseling for the congregation. Also, the pastor will have a leadership role in increasing and revitalizing both our membership and our religious education programs. Our pastor will be responsible for managing the staff of the church. For consideration, applicants must be willing to relocate to Norris, TN. Interested candidates should email [nrfsearchcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:nrfsearchcommittee@gmail.com) to request a pastoral search profile for more information and an application.

## Associate Pastor

The Church at Litchfield Park, a historic and dynamic independent community church located in a beautiful resort community west of Phoenix, is searching for an Associate Pastor to join our wonderful staff.

Preferred qualifications include having a theological degree from an accredited institution, being ordained in a recognized Christian denomination, and having a servant's heart, manifested in the pastoral gifts.

Specific areas of ministry will include small groups, fellowship, missions, visitation, counseling & support, some teaching, and occasional preaching.

CLP is a progressive church that "strives to love and serve ALL people through Christ".

Qualified candidates should e-mail a resume and cover letter to: [personnel-chair@clp.church](mailto:personnel-chair@clp.church) with Associate Pastor in the subject line. Visit the ICCC website [www.iccnw.org/careers/](http://www.iccnw.org/careers/) for the entire job description.

## Senior Minister

The Historic People's Community Church (PCC) fosters a tradition of being a singing, praying, tithing, teaching, serving, and loving church, and is guided by one of its golden text 'I am come that they might have life and that they may have it more abundantly.' – John 10:10.

This Historic Church, a member of the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC) and located in the vibrant city of Detroit, Michigan is currently seeking an experienced Senior Minister to be the Spiritual Leader of its Congregation.

The Senior Minister is responsible for leading and moving the Congregation toward the fulfillment of God's mission for PCC. The Senior Minister will have an unwavering faith and a firm relationship with Jesus Christ and is dedicated to cultivating others in Christ.

For complete information visit <http://www.iccnw.org/careers/> or contact People's Community Church office (313) 871-4676.

Due to recent events, this was just added ...

## **A Time for Prayer, Lament and Action.**

I hope you are staying well and safe as we continue to experience the two viruses impacting our churches, communities, and nation - the coronavirus and the virus of systemic racism. The expression by Civil Rights leader Fannie Lou Hammer in 1964 captures my heart right now - "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired." Her statement expressed her frustration about the ongoing discrimination and acts of violence, hate and injustice against African Americans in Mississippi and throughout the south. And here we are in 2020, where everything has changed but nothing has changed! A pastor I listened to this past Sunday said that things seem worse than where we were 12 years ago when President Obama was elected. He also said that we need not only to change society but also the churches that continue to maintain the value of white supremacy!

ICCC was organized 70 years ago as a powerful symbol of racial reconciliation and unity to the Church at-large and to our larger society. We need to continue to press forth this powerful message, that we are all one in Christ, and that we are all created and equally loved by God.

As a member of the National Council of Churches, ICCC supports the recent public statement put out by the NCC regarding the killing of George Floyd - <https://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/floyd-murder/>.

The 2020 ICCC Annual Conference has been canceled, where we would have gathered in Unity and Prayer. It is important that the ICCC host a time for our congregations and leaders to come together to pray (details to come).

Stay well and be safe.

Phil, ICCC Executive Director.