

# THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

December 2020



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Number 3

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## President's Message

by Harry Fooockle



★  
YEAR  
ENDINGS  
Calendar runs  
DAYS out of days  
of a tumultuous year  
Pandemic and Politics  
but there is more  
IT HAPPENS ON NUMBER  
TWENTY FIVE  
OUR Savior <sup>new birth</sup> WAS born  
NEW BEGINNINGS  
HOPE!!!

*Harry*



## ICCC MEET AND GREET TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1 7:00 PM

We have scheduled our next Zoom meet and greet time for Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at 7:00 pm EST. It will be an opportunity to share holiday greetings with one another and a time to lift up prayers.

Zoom info can be found at  
<https://www.icccnow.org/headlines/>



## ICCC NEW ADDRESS

Effective December 2nd the mailing address for the ICCC is:

**PO Box 846  
Longmont, CO. 80502**

Mail sent to the Frankfort address will be forwarded for a short time.

The Council Office phone number remains the same: 815-464-5690



## Executive Director's Message

**Phil Tom**

**“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body- Jews or Greeks, slaves or frees, and all were made to drink of one Spirit..... If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.” I Corinthians 12:12-13, 26**

Several years ago, I was called to serve as the Interim Pastor for a congregation experiencing conflict and division. When I began my ministry with this congregation, I appealed to the members that we should learn to agree to disagree and continue to stay together as the body of Christ. Sadly, several families chose to leave. One member who left continued to call members to encourage them to leave the congregation as he continued to demonize some members. This split was a very painful experience for the congregation since many of the families who left had been long-time members and friends. As the first year passed, the division and pain of these losses did not go away. Still, with much work, prayer, spirited worship services, and one-on-one conversations, the congregation began to heal from its wounds slowly and experience a spirit of unity again.

In Paul's letter to the Corinth Church, the congregation is experiencing conflict and strife over theological and ethical issues. In the familiar passage from I Corinthians 12, Paul reminds the Corinth Church that the body has many parts, but they are all members of one body. In vs. 13, Paul proclaims, there is neither Jews

or Greeks, slaves or frees, and all were made to drink of one Spirit.” Paul declares this same message in Roman 12:5, “so in Christ, we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” And Paul reminds us in I Corinthians 12:26 – “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”

Our nation and the broader Church are experiencing severe division. My question is, how shall we, as members of the ICCC family, work to bring healing and unity in our communities, our nation, and the broader Church? The ICCC was founded 70 years ago on the principles of racial unity, harmony, and equity. ICCC believes, values, and practices diversity – theological, polity, and inclusiveness. Our members do not all agree on every issue, but we decide to remain in communion because we are members of the one body of Christ.

We cannot stand back or remain silent as this division grows. Let us continue to pray and work for reconciliation, harmony, and unity in our Churches, communities, and our nation because it is our calling from God.

Peace,

### THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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**Editors:** Phil Tom, DeAnn Anzaldi

**Circulation:** DeAnn Anzaldi

Telephone: 815/464-5690

Fax: 815/464-5692

**E-Mail:** [ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net)

**Website:** [www.ICCCNOW.org](http://www.ICCCNOW.org)



*International Council of Community Churches*

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

## Short Conference Note

by Jerry Brown, VP for Planning



As I write this, the number of COVID cases is skyrocketing; that's the bad news. But the promise of a viable vaccine is imminent; that's the good news. Bottom line, we have no idea what our situation will be by the time you read this. But don't think the Conference Planning Committee has been coasting.

We are preparing a great conference for you in Dublin, OH next July. God willing, it will be another gathering of fellowship, Bible study, workshops and worship that will enlighten, encourage, and inspire you. Having said that, however, we realize that, like everything else in our lives this year, it is all subject to change.

But at this point, we are looking forward to putting 2020 behind us in a few weeks, and look forward to a new year of new possibilities and opportunities to worship and serve our God, and spread the good news of Jesus Christ. In that spirit we are looking forward to seeing you in Dublin (I can't wait)!

## Ecumenews

By Rev. Bob Fread

With recent emphasis and concern in the country on racial justice, two of the national ecumenical organizations to which the ICCC holds membership, Christian Churches Together and the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA recently met for their annual gatherings. Both organizations met just days apart via Zoom and devoted their meetings to issues of race and justice.



Christian Churches Together (CCT) sponsored their Annual Forum on October 7 & 8 using the theme "A Call to Do Justly, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly" from Micah 6:8. CCT organizes their members into five "families" of churches: Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Historic Black, Historic Protestant, and Evangelical & Pentecostal, plus is unique among ecumenical organizations as its membership also includes social and parachurch agencies and organizations. On the first day we heard reports from various churches such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, National Baptist Convention, the Mennonite Church and the US Conference of Catholic Bishops on how they are addressing racial injustice. This included an announcement on a new encyclical by Pope Francis on human fraternity and social friendship which was published just three days prior. The first day also included a dynamic Bible study on Micah 6:8 by the Rev. William Lamar IV, pastor of Metropolitan AME Church in Washington DC, as he reflected on the prophets call to dismantle the religious structures in favor of living justice, and the role of the religious leader in transforming religious structures into the work of justice. On the second day time was spent on a panel discussion with a representative from each church "family" on how we seek justice and unity amid the diversity our church structures and the society in general.

The CCT Forum also included a brief business meeting. This meeting shared the news that 2019 was a year that CCT paid off all its debt. But now moving through 2020 with giving seriously down, the position of CCT Director was cut to half time beginning in August.

Just days later the National Council of Churches (NCC) met for its annual Christian Unity Gathering using the theme "Breathing New Life into Our Nation: Repentance, Re-formation, Reparation". In the first session on repentance we were reminded that slavery was not just a bad idea of the past but a continuing travesty inflicting moral injury on generations for which the white church must be educated and brought to repentance - not just in words but actions. The second session reflected on how today's church is involved in re-formation of today's society in the midst of ongoing racial protests, political upheaval and the election, and a global pandemic. The third session considered reparations and what they could look like moving into the future to help provide true healing for past injustice and white privilege.



*Sharing Joys With:*

- Congratulations to **Rev. Ella Clay, Historic First Community Church**, Nashville, TN. On Nov. 15th, Rev. Clay was ordained and installed as their new Senior Pastor. To view the service, visit <https://www.facebook.com/526657234126797/videos/923638194830950>
- **Reminder:** Please mark your calendars for the next **ICCC Meet & Greet**, to spread holiday cheer! **December 1, 7:00 pm.** Info can be found on the ICCC website <https://www.icccnow.org/headlines/>
- **Dona Wilson** recently contacted the ICCC office. Since no church conferences met in person this year, she has listed her stoles on Etsy! The Etsy address is MadeleineStoles. Many of you may remember Dona having a booth at each Annual Conference selling crafts. Take a peek! [https://www.etsy.com/shop/MadeleineStoles?ref=search\\_shop\\_redirect](https://www.etsy.com/shop/MadeleineStoles?ref=search_shop_redirect)
- **Don't forget!** The ICCC changes it's mailing address December 2nd. The new mailing address is **PO Box 846, Longmont, CO 80502.** Email addresses and the phone number remains the same.

*Let Us Lift Up Prayers for:*

- **Harry Foockle**, ICCC President, as he recovers from oral surgery.
- **Tom Peters** as he battles a cancer diagnosis. Tom is husband to **Rev. Barbara Peters, Wilson Memorial Union Church**, NJ.
- Please continue to keep the following in your prayers as they face health challenges:

**Rev. Dr. Sharyon Cosey, ICCC Regional Trustee**

**Christ Foockle, son of ICCC President Harry Foockle**

**Mike Donahue, ICCC VP for Informational and Outreach Services**

**Rev. Dr. Stephen York, ICCC Clergy in Special Standing**

**Mrs. Elaine McCreary, People's Community Church, OH.**

*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 team.

Required qualifications include having a theological degree from an accredited institution, being ordained in a recognized Christian denomination, having a servant's heart, being willing to minister to all people without discrimination, the ability to work well in a multi-denominational/generational setting, and the ability to lead and guide others.

Specific areas of ministry will include providing a safe and nurturing environment for middle and high school youth, coordinating and leading annual youth mission trips, connecting with post-high young adults, overseeing all-church fellowship, providing counseling & support, some teaching, and occasional preaching.

Known as a House of Prayer for All People, we strive to love and serve ALL people through Christ. Qualified candidates should e-mail a resume and cover letter to: [info@clp.church](mailto:info@clp.church) with Associate Pastor in the subject line.

*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.icccnow.org/careers/> or contact People's Community Church office (313) 871-4676.