

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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International Council of Community Churches

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A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

Number 5

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Animosity, Arrogance, Aggression, Antagonism

Jerry Brown, VP for Conference Planning

Attitudes are seen much too often in our communities lately. I certainly wouldn't give our society an A+ for our behavior as "civilized people". But there is an answer – Jesus! The empathy and love Jesus showed and shared should be the standard for all of us.

Join us at Annual Conference in Dublin, Ohio, July 18-21 as we consider the promise God made to Solomon, to heal their land (and ours, if only we "seek His face").



The line-up of workshops will be encouraging and enlightening. We have some great topics and helpful subjects planned.

We have a hands-on mission project scheduled for everyone's participation (we're looking at packaging 10,000 meals for food insecure recipients), and a visit to the First Community Church in Columbus, the birthplace of the ICCC.

Of course, returning to the wonderful Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, OH will feel like returning to an old friend. But the best part is that we will be returning to old friends as we rekindle those warm friendships of fellow ICCC members, some of whom we haven't seen for several years.

Join us this July, and I'll see you in Dublin.

It's time to come back together again for a wonderful, warm, welcoming week of sharing, growing, and fellowship found nowhere else than a gathering of the ICCC family.

Check out pages 6-12 of this issue of the Christian Community for Annual Conference material. Be sure to watch upcoming issues of the newsletter and our website for more information! www.ICCCNOW.org



We are excited to have **Dr. Leah Schade** join us this year not only as our Ministerium speaker, but also as our Bible Study leader. She is Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, KY.

Dr. Schade has served as the pastor of several congregations in Pennsylvania. She has also served as an adjunct religion and philosophy instructor at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA, and Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA, teaching courses on ethics, religion, gender, and ecology.

Annual Conference theme 2022 – God, Heal Us

IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME
HUMBLE THEMSELVES, & PRAY AND SEEK
MY FACE AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS
THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN AND WILL FORGIVE
THEIR SIN AND HEAL THEIR LAND.

2 CHRONICLES 7:14



President's Message

Abraham Wright

The Spiritual Benefits of Fasting

Within at least the last two decades, through our business, our misplaced priorities, and our remiss in taking advantage of the invitation to walk more frequently beside God, to go where Jesus leads us, at his pace (Godspeed), too many of us have become discouraged, worn-out disciples who have lost hope. But God speaks to us and says, "Hold on a little while longer; help is on the way, but you've got to change some ways of doing things, beginning with strengthening your relationship with me. Now, some of us may be saying, "Strengthen my relationship with You? We can't get any closer"; but inwardly God is probably asking, "Then why are you so burned out; and by the way, 'What's your name'?"

One effective spiritual way to address this issue is to slow down and spend more genuine time with God through fasting and reflection, not necessarily for 40 days, not necessarily by not eating and drinking, but by slowing down and spending 10 or 15 minutes or so on a regular basis communing with God. For example, at some point during the day, after completing a task, pause and reflect on how God was present with you while you performed that task; then, reflectively fast forward to the next task and reflect on how you can let God be more "visible" with you during the next task or appointment; or just read and reflect on a scripture or a song or observe the things around you that remind you of God's promise and His goodness. If you do this on a regular basis, or some similar exercise where in your focus is on your relationship with God, you no doubt will begin to see things in a different light.

I tried the exercise in between writing a meditation on a selected passage for Psalm 63 and writing this message. I thought of the joy of God's presence in giving me insight into the psalm to write an insightful meditation. God enabled the meaningful juices to just flow in the writing. In the meantime, the second part of the reflection was on notes I had taken to write this article. I needed to find an appropriate angle. Two weeks prior I asked God for an angle. But God had not answered me, or I was too busy to listen. In this part of the reflection, I

transferred the joy of the success in writing the Psalm 63 meditation to a short prayer for this article, and I had the focus and outline written in approximately 6 minutes. The time span for this practice in a class on Spiritual Formation was 3-10 days. I started the practice three weeks ago, and I've used it practically every day since. In the process what I am also realizing is that I don't have to ask God to be present because he is already there; I simply need to listen to him and let him have his way in every thing I do on a daily basis. Further, these kinds of reflections impel you to seriously consider whether some of the things we do in the name of Christianity are actually the work of the Lord.

When you get a good spiritual practice or practices that work, that encourage you to accept God's presence because he is always there, willing and able to aid you, the burden you carry becomes much lighter because it is given to Jesus, and he carries the load. Some of the other students took regular walks through their neighborhoods and neighboring neighborhoods and evangelized through their work: helping an elder person remove the snow, buying another a cup of coffee, waiting patiently in line when several individuals are ahead of them, speaking to a stranger and finding out whether that individual is OK, and learning the names of individuals, which strengthens the relationship by letting the individual know that he or she is important as one who reflects the image of God.

For those who do the 40-day fast, especially during Lent, that is a start. Fasting goes as far back as Moses meeting with Jesus at Mount Sinai, fasting for 40 days before he wrote the 10 Commandments on the tablets; he left the mountain with a glow on his face. Jesus, guided by the Holy Spirit, fasted for 40 days in the desert before being tempted by Satan, and he, during his physically weak hour, withstood the test. Esther, her maids and chamberlains, and the people of Susa fasted for three days so Esther would gain strength to go and see the king *uninvited* in an effort to save the Jewish people. Through God's

working in the background, the Jewish people were spared from slaughter; and you remember Anna, the prophetess at the temple in Jerusalem who never left the temple but fasted and prayed for the people and talked among them about the coming of the Messiah; there were several others, including David and Saul.

God required Israel to fast once yearly, on the Day of Atonement; it was a day of recognition of sin, not a day of forgiveness. Fasting helps us to be more aware of our sins; then we work on removing them, thus becoming closer to God. However, other members of the Jewish community fasted twice a week, but they went to the temple and flaunted it: "I am not like other men are. I fast twice a week and give tithes of all that I possess" (Luke 18:12). This, Jesus rebuked, for their daily living was just the opposite of their pious tithing. Jesus says, "Do not look somber as the hypocrites do with their disfigured faces," evidence of their fasting. Instead, when you fast "put oil on your head and wash your face," so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting; then God will reward you (Matt. 6:16-18). On the other hand, the tax collector, who thought himself not worthy to look up to heaven, stood away from the temple, beating his breast, and asked for forgiveness (Luke 18:13).

Fasting is a private matter; it is not used to gain glory for self, but to bring us in closer relationship with God by removing the materialistic things from center stage in our lives and replacing them with the spiritual. Jesus does not require fasting, but he expects his disciples to fast, for God rewards fasting.

Whatever you do when fasting, please don't give up something for the sake of bragging about what you gave up and then go *right back* to doing what you did before the fast. Fasting is voluntary, but if we participate, we will be better individuals, and our families and friends, and the church will benefit because they will recognize that God and the Holy Spirit are more visible in our lives through our actions.

Abraham



Executive Director's Message

Phil Tom

Blessed are the Peacemakers!

II Corinthians 5:17-19

**THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST,
THE NEW CREATION HAS COME: THE
OLD HAS GONE, THE NEW IS HERE!**

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

Recently, I saw on Facebook this interesting commercial made by a beer company in 2017 – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIEUmKrxwZ0>. The company brought together folks who had diverse opinions on various issues. However, as the various folks expressed their views and said something about their background, they began to find some common humanity. In the end, even though they still disagreed on their issues, they were able to continue their conversation over a beer and, hopefully, to build a relationship.

As I watched this video several times, I was impressed by the video, but then I thought this is what the Church should be doing, building bridges between people of various opinions. Our nation is divided into many different camps such as red vs. blue, vaxxers vs. anti-vaxxers, pro-immigration vs. America first, the racial divide,

and so on. These divisions are happening not just in our society but also in our congregations. During this pandemic, many pastors are becoming frustrated, exhausted and some leave the professional ministry because they are tired of mediating these conflicts with their congregation members.

In his book, *The Company of Strangers*, Parker Palmer discusses the critical role that the Church plays in building community, between strangers, reconciling people of various viewpoints because God calls us to build God's beloved community. Of course, being God's peacemaker does not mean that we will necessarily change the opinions of others. But we can seek to find our common humanity, our common divinity as children of God. If the Church will not play this role of peacemaker, as reconciler, who will? The beer company? Politicians? NO!

As we enter this Lenten season, a time to reflect on our walk with God and our ministry with our neighbors, let us remember again that Jesus gave his life to reconcile us with God and one another. As Paul says in II Corinthians 5:19, Jesus has committed us to this ministry of reconciliation. Doing God's work of reconciliation is not easy. But following Jesus is never an easy road. The founding of ICCC was a powerful symbolic act of reconciliation between Black and White Community Churches. As we walk through the season of Lent toward Calvary and the empty cross, let us reaffirm and renew our call from God to be bridge builders and agents of reconciliation.

Phil

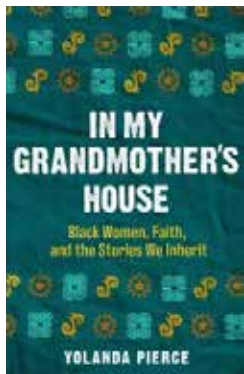
ICCC MARCH 2022



Book REVIEW

By Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson

Encouraging Our Hope
(Romans 15:4)



In My Grandmother's House: Black Women, Faith, and the Stories We Inherit
by Yolanda Pierce (Broadleaf Books, \$13.76
Hardcover, ISBN-13: 978-1506464718

In celebration of Women's History Month, Yolanda Pierce's *In My Grandmother's House* provides a fascinating review of women in the black church. Pierce, who served as the founding director of the Center for the Study of African American Religious Life at the National Museum of African

American History & Culture, believes that "this book is my attempt to retrieve the religious legacy I have inherited and keep it alive for those who are still to come" (p. 12). On the surface, Pierce appears to be at odds with some contemporary views of portraying powerful African American woman, but a closer look reveals a potent review of womanist thought. Pierce writes, "Grandmother's theology is rooted in generational wisdom, in the way that time and age and maturity provide an alternative lens through which to know and understand God" (p. 12).

Pierce, a professor and dean of Howard University School of Divinity, explores her understanding in an engaging preface and twelve chapters: (1) There Is a Name, (2) Just above My Head, (3) The Work of Her Hands, (4) Leaving, (5) Holy Ghost(ly) Silences, (6) Being Present, (7) Tender Love, (8) A Question of Safety, (9) Valley of the Shadow of Whiteness, (10) Sacraments, (11) How Can I Say Thanks?, (12) Notes on the State of Virginia. The reader will find noteworthy insights about the legacy women and faith.

In Chapter One, There Is a Name, Pierce explores her legacy through her family history and relationships with the prayer and poetry of several powerful women of faith: Reverend Dr. Anna Pauline Murray, Danella Bryant, and her grandmother. In the early morning, Pierce watched and listened to grandmother praying for the daily and future needs of their family with an intimacy with God that was revealing and endearing. Pierce builds on this reflection by sharing an interesting reflection of the civil rights movement by explaining the power of prayer through the image of Danella Bryant praying in the middle of chaos in Birmingham, Alabama. Finally, she explores the poetry of Pauline Murry in the review of the poem, Nazarene. Pierce's retelling of these woman of faith and their legacy opens a new door of discovery for those who have overlooked these women and their commitment to faith and prayer.

In Chapter Nine, Valley of the Shadow of Whiteness, Pierce challenges the reader to understanding the Bible from the perspective of people of color. She explains, "The valley of the shadow of whiteness is a place in which whiteness is normative and righteous. This valley is not merely the place of flawed race relationships, racialized disparities, or the mind-numbing racism of this country; it is also a place justified and sustained by Christian theology" (p. 100). Any readers would realize how culture has retained some social norms that are not relevant today but are implied in our practices. Pierce amplifies this view with a story by the grandmother of the American theologian Howard Thurman. Thurman's grandmother, an enslaved person, could not read or write, and, yet she was an astute listener/reader. She required Thurman to read the Bible to her cautiously. Thurman remembers the words of his grandmother this way:

"During the days of slavery," she said, "the master's minister would occasionally hold services for the slaves. Old man McGhee was so mean that he would not let a Negro minister preach to his slaves. Always the white minister used as his text something from Paul. At least three or four times a year he used as a text: 'Slaves, be obedient to them that are your masters . . . as unto Christ.' Then he would go on to show how it was God's will that we were slaves and how, if we were good and happy slaves, God would bless us. I promised my Maker that if I ever learned to read and if freedom ever came, I would not read that part of the Bible" (p. 106).

In this short story, Pierce offers a sound reason for living our Bibles differently. In other parts of the book, Pierce proposes additional insights that challenges us to be better readers and doers of the Bible. This book is a great read!

SHARE YOUR COMMENTS. Remember, please share your thoughts at ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net by the end of the month. And let us know if we have your permission to quote or paraphrase your comments. *Thank you for your feedback, and have a blessed month.*

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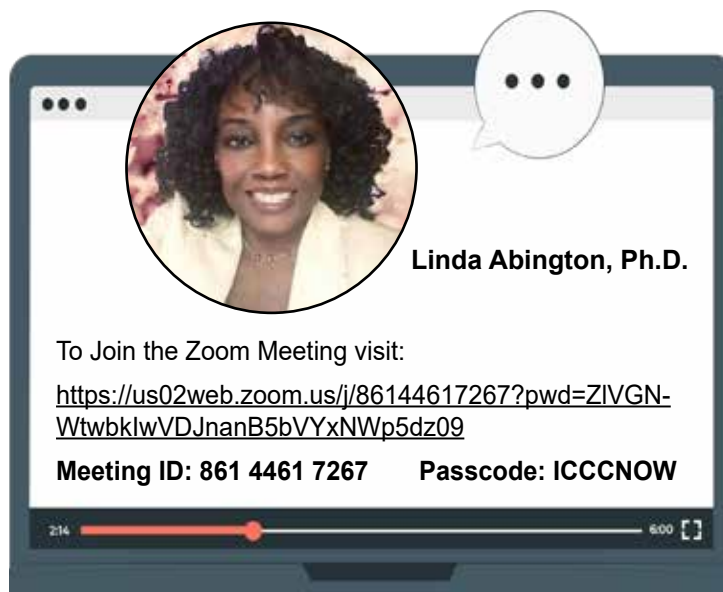
Zoom Book Study

Greetings ICCC Family,

I hope that you and your family are safe, healthy, and happy. My name is Dr. Linda Abington and I am pleased to invite you, your congregation, and your community to participate in a discussion of the New York Times bestseller, 'How To Be An Antiracist', written by Ibram S. Kendi. Antiracism, as described by Kendi, is viewed as transformative, encouraging us to look at ourselves and others through different lenses.

This book study is one of the suggested action steps formulated by Rev. Phil Tom, Rev. Dr. Rhonda Blevins, Rev. Rock Fremont, and myself to ensure that the ICCC 2021 revised resolution on racial justice and inequity will be a living document that helps to catalyze our journey toward racial inclusion, equity, and reconciliation. One (1) hour discussions will take place via zoom for five consecutive Saturdays beginning April 2, 2022, 12:00 PM Central time in an inclusive environment where all comments and opinions will be welcomed, heard, and honored.

I hope to see you then.



New funding made available for ICCC's mission partnerships!

On February 9, 2022, The Board of Directors unanimously approved tithing 15% of the proceeds from the sale of the ICCC House to support new mission partnership projects. Last year, the board approved the relocation of the ICCC office to Longmont, Colorado. The ICCC House in Frankfort, Illinois, sold in December 2021.

Meet Our Leadership, One by One



JEAN TILLMAN

ICCC Regional Trustee

Jean Tillman, ICCC Regional Trustee, Central Zone, Region A serving Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri and Oklahoma.

Jean is a deacon at ABBA Church Of Renewed Faith –

Non-Denominational, Chicago, Illinois, Pastor, Rev. Dr. Sharyon Cosey. She has served in this position for the last 14 years. She is a retired Chicago Public School educator. Jean is also a mother of 3 and grandmother of soon to be 12. She is honored to be a delegate for Region A of the International Council of Community Churches. It is her goal to reach out to the churches in her region as a support person, encouraging them to remain or become an active member of the ICCC.

Thank You

We would like to extend a big **THANK YOU** for your gracious and generous love gifts given to us in January. We truly appreciate your support of us and the ICCC.

We wish you and your families a blessed, safe and healthy 2022!

Phil & Deane

72nd Annual Conference

July 18-21, 2022 – Dublin, OH

Hotel Information

The 2022 Annual Conference will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 5100 Upper Metro Place, Dublin, OH 43017. Phone: 614-790-9000. Centrally located to a variety of Columbus-Dublin activities, this renovated Embassy Suites hotel is close to a number of attractions including golfing, shopping, sports team venues and the Columbus Zoo, one of the oldest and largest zoos in the country.



At Embassy Suites Hotels every room is a two-room suite perfect to spread out and relax. The private bedroom boasts luxurious Sweet Dreams bedding, while the separate living area has a sofa bed, wet bar, microwave, refrigerator, coffee maker, and internet access. There is a TV in both rooms and more than enough room for your family, work or both. Enjoy amenities such as a 24-hour fitness center, an indoor pool, a spa tub, free Wi-Fi, a business center, concierge services & gift shops/newsstands. Wake up each morning to a free made-to-order breakfast and unwind at the hotel's evening reception with drinks and snacks.

Hotel Dining

E'terie: Guests looking for a quick bite at any hour have an efficient solution at E'terie near the front desk: neatly packaged salads, daily fresh-made sandwiches, in addition to a variety of snacks and beverages. The E'terie also features Starbucks and retail items from local artisans.

Urban Craft: Urban Craft is a casual yet hip dining and lounging destination, featuring innovative American favorites with a regional flair and a focus on fresh ingredients. Open Mon-Sat 4pm-11pm and Sunday 5:30pm-10pm. (pre-COVID)

Room Service is also available, along with eating options within walking distance of the hotel.

Hotel Reservations

To attend, call the Embassy Suites to reserve your room at 800-220-9219. Inform the reservations clerk that you are attending the 2022 ICCA Annual Conference to get the special rate of \$131.00* + tax per night. To register online, visit https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/cmheses-ic5-8d2d8b59-056b-4130-ad4f-5c36a4ab5609/?WT.mc_id=POG. The cut-off date for hotel reservations is June 24, 2022. After this date, normal hotel rates will be in effect and space may no longer be available. *Please note: the special rate of \$131 + tax for a standard king suite (\$136.00 + tax for a standard double suite) is negotiated only for conferees. Those utilizing this special rate are expected to register for the conference.

Check-in: 4:00pm

Check-Out: 11:00pm

Visit www.embassysuites.com for all hotel information.

Transportation To and From the Hotel

Port Columbus International Airport has several options for transportation to the hotel. You can call the Embassy Suites for information on bus and super shuttle services. For airport information, visit their website: <http://flycolumbus.com/> or call 614-239-4000.

Dublin Taxi is a recommendation of the hotel. The cost is approx. \$40 one-way. Dublin Taxi can be called when you get to Baggage Claim at the airport, and a Front Desk Team Member can assist with arrangements to the airport. Dublin Taxi can be reached at 614-759-9999.

Hilton's recommendation for transportation is Lyft. You can request a ride right from the Hilton Honors App.

FREE self-parking is available at the hotel, if you are driving or renting a car.

2022 Annual Conference Bible Study Leader

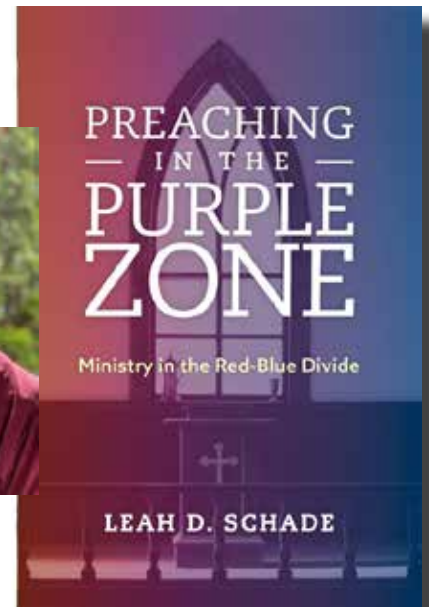
THE REV. DR.
LEAH D. SCHADE

Speaker • Author • Preacher • Professor

Preaching Political Divides Dialogue Research

The Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade is the Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky. An ordained Lutheran minister (ELCA) for more than twenty years, Leah earned both her MDiv and PhD degrees from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary). She has pastored three Pennsylvania congregations in suburban, urban, and rural contexts. Her book, *Preaching in the Purple Zone: Ministry in the Red-Blue Divide* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019), explores how clergy and congregations can address controversial social issues using nonpartisan, biblically-centered approaches and deliberative dialogue. She is also the author of *Creation-Crisis Preaching: Ecology, Theology, and the Pulpit* (Chalice Press, 2015), and co-editor with Margaret Bullitt-Jonas of *Rooted and Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019).

Dr. Schade received a \$30,000 grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion to study deliberative dialogue in classrooms and congregations. She has conducted longitudinal research on ministry, preaching, and social issues that has surveyed nearly 3,000 clergy and 1,000 laity since 2017. Dr. Schade received the Kentucky Council of Churches award in 2019 and is the *EcoPreacher* blogger for Patheos.



Below is a brief description of Dr. Schade's planned Bible Study lecture.

► Can We Talk? What the Bible Can Teach Us about Dialogue in a Divisive Time

Ministry in the red-blue divide is fraught with risks, but also offers opportunities for proclaiming the gospel and building community in profound and contextual ways. Informed by insights from her longitudinal research of nearly 3000 clergy and 1000 laity from 2017-2021, the Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade will help clergy and laity focus on insights from Scripture that can offer us wisdom in the midst of our fractured society. Based on her book *Preaching in the Purple Zone: Ministry in the Red-Blue Divide* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019), Dr. Schade will introduce a "dialogical lens" for reading the Bible.

► Navigating the Red-Blue Divide: Clergy and Congregations in Collaboration

How can clergy and laity work together to navigate the political divides that plague our society and our congregations? What are ways that congregations can support their pastors when they preach and teach about the social issues that affect the people of God? In this conversation, we'll practice using the "dialogical lens" for exploring passages of the Bible and how it can help build relationships of trust and dialogue so that both pastors and parishioners can feel heard, respected, and held in God's grace.

We eagerly look forward to hearing what she, led by the Holy Spirit, has to share with us at our Annual Conference in July.

2022 Annual Conference Workshop

"Stress in a Restricted Environment" led by Chaplain Ken Lewis



Ken will draw some parallels from his combat experience (not too graphic) and current stress of today in our restricted or constrained environment. How unsuccessful soldiers struggled with stress. How successful believers in combat handled it and how successful believers in the civilian populace handle it.

Chaplain Ken Lewis was born in Lima, Ohio in 1966. He grew up in Clyde, Ohio and graduated from Harvest Temple Christian Academy in 1985.

He entered the US Army in 1986. After basic training, Airborne School and RIP (Ranger Indoctrination Program), he was assigned as an Infantry Rifleman in 3d BN, 75th Ranger Regiment where he served until 1988. He was then assigned as an instructor at the 29th Infantry Regiment, Fort Benning, GA until his ETS in 1990.

Chaplain Lewis then entered the full-time ministry service in 1990 where he worked as the Associate Pastor at Harvest Baptist Temple in Clyde, Ohio. He served in this position until his re-entry into the active duty Chaplain Corp until 2005. While serving as the Associate Pastor, he completed his Bachelor of Arts in Theology in 1994 and his Master of Divinity in 2001 both from Baptist Bible College and Seminary, Clarks Summit, PA.

Chaplain Lewis entered the US Army Chaplaincy in 2005 at Fort Jackson, SC. After graduating from the Chaplain Officer Basic Course in SEP 2005 he was assigned to Fort Knox, KY as the 2-81 Armor Battalion Chaplain. In 2007 he was assigned as the 19th Engineer Battalion Chaplain, Fort Knox, KY. He deployed to Iraq with the 19th EN BN in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2008 he was assigned to USASOC as the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion Chaplain, Fort Bragg, NC. His next assignment was with 1st BN, 3d Special Forces group, Fort Bragg, NC as the Battalion Chaplain and deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Next he was assigned to the 1/507th Parachute Infantry Regiment (Airborne), Fort Benning, GA as the Battalion Chaplain. In May of 2013 he was assigned to the 199th Infantry Brigade, Fort Benning, GA serving as the Brigade Chaplain. After graduating from Command and General Staff College in Leavenworth, KS, he was assigned as

the Deputy Command Chaplain for 1st Special Forces Command, Fort Bragg, NC. In December, 2017 assumed duties as the Brigade Chaplain for 3rd Recruiting Brigade, Fort Knox, KY. In 2019 he was assigned to 1BCT, 10th MTN DIV serving as the Brigade Chaplain and deployed to Afghanistan. In December 2020 he was assigned as the Chief of Concepts for Futures Command, Chaplain-CDID section, Fort Jackson, SC. **In June 2022 he was assigned as the Division Chaplain for First Army Division East, Fort Knox, KY where he currently serves.

Chaplain Lewis's awards include: Bronze Star Medal (2 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), ARCOM (4 OLC), AAM (2 OLC), NCO Development Ribbon, NATO Ribbon, OIF Ribbon, OEF Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Combat Action Badge.

His military education includes: Ranger Indoctrination Program, Chaplain Officer Basic Course, Air Assault School, Airborne School, US Army Jumpmaster School, SF Operations Course, Resident Command and General Staff College, Chaplain Captains Career Course, Brigade Chaplain Functional Area course, Warrior Leader Course, German Parachute Badge, El Salvador Parachute Badge, and Suicide Prevention Trainer.






Chaplain Lewis is married to the former Lynn Lindemann of Port Clinton, Ohio. Ken and Lynn have seven children; Katie Wax (Lewis), Andrew Lewis, Hannah Vazquez (Lewis), Jenna Vaughan (Lewis), Kendra Lewis, Heather Norris and Holly Koch. Additionally Ken and Lynn have 12 grandchildren. Ken and Lynn reside in Columbia, SC and Port Clinton, Ohio. Chaplain Lewis is endorsed by the International Council of Community Churches in Longmont, CO.

Ken will also be leading a Worship Service at the 2022 Annual Conference. We are pleased he is able to join us to create a successful annual conference and look forward to his leadership and preaching.

Continue to watch for more workshop information in the upcoming Christian Community newsletters and on our website. www.ICCCNOW.org

Conference Youth Scholarship

If you know a teen who would like to attend the conference in Dublin, but needs some financial assistance, we have a plan. We have scholarship assistance available to pay for the registration fee of a Youth attendee. To apply for the scholarship, the following procedure will be used:

- 1 The scholarship is open to any **Youth attendee** (entering grade 7 through 12) and covers the regular registration fee and Fellowship Luncheon. 
- 2 Pastors from any member church may submit their **confidential nomination** for the award with a letter of recommendation introducing the candidate and explaining why they would like this person to receive the scholarship. 
- 3 The submissions will be reviewed and presented to the ICCCNOW Board of Directors for **approval**. 
- 4 Nominations must be submitted for review no later than **April 30, 2022**. They should be sent to the Council Office at PO Box 846, Longmont, CO 80502, attn: Youth Scholarship. Or email to ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net. 
- 5 The ICCCNOW President will communicate the board's decision to the recommending pastor to notify the recipient. The decision will also be announced in the June issue of the Christian Community. The **winning recipient** would be notified soon after the April 30th deadline. 

APPLY TODAY!

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations
(ISSN - 0145-3297)

A periodical of news, reviews, and reflections for ecumenically oriented and community-minded churches, ministry centers, and clergy.

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Nomination Recommendations are needed

Under the ICCCNOW Bylaws, the Board of Directors acts as the Nominating Committee for the Council. Terms of office begin at the close of the Annual Conference. If you have suggestions for nominees or if you wish to be considered as a nominee for an office, please respond no later than May 1, 2022. Nominations will be presented to the Annual conference business session, at which time additional nominations from the floor are in order. The available positions are:

Officers:

Treasurer - Serves one term for three years. Class of 2025

Board of Directors:

Vice President for Financial Development - Serves one term for three years. Class of 2025

Vice President for Membership Enlistment - Serves one term for three years. Class of 2025

Board of Trustees:

Chaplain Trustee - Serves one term for three years. Class of 2025

Western Zone, Region B - Serves one term for three years. Class of 2025

Eastern Zone, Region C - Serves one term for three years. Class of 2025

Your Input is vital:

When recommending an individual for service in any of the above positions, please be sure that the individual is willing to serve. Descriptions of all ICCCNOW leadership positions can be found at <https://www.icccnow.org/constitution-bylaws/>. Then, inform the nominating committee of the name of the individual, their contact information and the position for which you are recommending them.

Please include with your recommendation, a brief profile of the individual, including the name of the church or ministry center in which the person holds membership, activities with that congregation, and activities with the ICCCNOW. Please send this information to both ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net and cs83nick@aol.com.

Thank you!

The Nominating Committee

Our prayers are with:

- **Monica Brame, Seneca Community Church**, as she recovers from surgery.

Sharing Joys with:

- **Greendale People's Church** in Worcester, MA recently named their Interim Pastor **Rev. Douglas Cederberg** as their Senior Pastor. Congratulations!
- We rejoice with **Imagine Church of the Carolinas, Rev. Bruce Jones Senior Pastor**, as its congregation approved the building of its new church campus.



The International Council of Community Churches is excited to share information with you on our **"40 Days Toward Life"** Lent/pre-Easter program. This initiative has been specifically designed for the ICCC in 2022 as a time of common devotion, prayer and giving as a means of strengthening our fellowship and assisting our common witness to the world. Visit www.ICCCNOW.org/headlines/ for information and resources.

Someone You Should Know



We've been going through old photos here in the office.

Recognize this ICCC faithful supporter?

It's **Lonnie Miller!** Lonnie has been active with the ICCC in many ways: Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, Nominating Committee, Personnel Committee, Executive Director Search Committee, etc., and has attended many Ecumenical General Assemblies and events representing the ICCC. Lonnie's also attended over 18 ICCC Annual Conferences! Thank you Lonnie!

Annual Conference Sponsorship Opportunities

The International Council of Community Churches is grateful for your empowerment in the community church movement. Your business, professional association, labor union, service group, etc. may invest in the cause of furthering Christian unity by providing a sponsorship in the Annual Conference. We have listed several possibilities below. If you wish to explore other potential opportunities for sponsorship including exclusive sponsorship of a segment of the Conference program, please let us know. Conference sponsorship opportunities begin at \$1000.

General conference sponsorship.....	\$1000
Bible Study – multiple plenary sessions	\$2500
Prayer Room	\$1500
Clergy continuing education event..	\$3000
Fellowship luncheon	\$1500
All-Conference Banquet.....	\$2000
Full Day Sponsorship.....	\$5000

The International Council of Community Churches is a 501(c)3 organization under IRS regulations. All sponsorships are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and your tax situation. Contact the Council Office for details or visit our website: <https://www.iccc-now.org/sponsorship/>



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."**



International Council of Community Churches
2022 Annual Conference: July 18-21
"God, Heal Us"
 Dublin, Ohio

Name (as you would like it on badge) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____ E-mail Address: _____

Emergency Contact Name _____ Phone _____

Church (member of) _____

First Conference: Yes ☐ No ☐

Status: ☐ Clergy ☐ Laity



FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND YOUTH PROGRAMS ONLY!



■ Age (on 7-1-2022) _____ Grade completed by (7-1-2022) _____

■ If **under 18**, an adult who is registered for the Conference and who will serve as a sponsor and assume responsibility for said young person must sign below:

 Sponsor Signature

 Print Sponsor Name

CONFERENCE FEES

Fill in Dollar Amount for this
 Registration

Infants (not occupying chair at banquet)	\$ 0.00	\$
Child* with Kid's Meal** (Ages 1-5)	\$ 35.00	\$
Elementary* with Kid's Meal** (entering kindergarten - entering 6th grade)	\$ 60.00	\$
**Add-on ONLY if Adult meal is preferred for Banquet Child/Elementary regis.	\$ 30.00	\$
Youth (completed 6th grade - entering 12th grade)	\$ 145.00	\$
Young Adult (completed 12th grade - age 23)	\$ 170.00	\$
Adult Register by June 1, 2022 - Early Bird Special \$195.00	\$ 230.00	\$
Daily Registrants Circle Day(s) M T W Th meals not included	\$ 40.00/day	\$
CC	TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$

A Banquet ticket is included in your registration fee. This meal includes: Classic Caesar Salad with Parmesan and Croutons, Herb Roasted Airline Chicken Breast, Garlic Smashed Potatoes, Haricot Verts with Braised Pork Belly and Onion, Apple Cobbler Tart, Coffee, Hot Tea and Iced Tea. Fish Option: Grilled Fresh Salmon with Citrus Butter Kid's Meal Option: Small Garden Salad, Spaghetti and Meatballs, Fruit Punch and a Cookie. Meals are subject to change.

Please circle one of the following for your preference at Thursday's Banquet Dinner.

Chicken Breast (Default Option)

Fish Option

Kid's Meal Option

****Child & Elementary registrations include the Kid's Meal option. If the adult meal is preferred, please add \$30.00 to your total enclosed.**

Please return this form with payment to: ICCC, PO Box 846, Longmont, CO 80502

☐ Check or Money Order made payable to ICCC ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX ☐ DISCOVER

Acct. #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____

Print name as it appears on card: _____ Signature _____

One form per person. **Early Bird registration must be received in the office by June 1st.** Registrations after June 25, 2022 will be accepted at Conference only.

CANCELLATIONS: A \$25 administration fee will be assessed for each.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS MAY BE VIDEOTAPED or placed on Social Media. I agree the ICCC may use my image, name, voice and story in any medium or format, throughout the world forever, free-of-charge, and for any reasonable purpose in furtherance of its mission.

2022 Conference Meal Programs

The **2022 Annual Conference** offers 2 optional meal program opportunities: the **Fellowship Luncheon** and the **Prayer Luncheon** hosted by the Samaritans. The Conference Banquet Dinner is included in your registration fee* (Additional quantities can be reserved for an additional cost). You can visit our website **ICCCNOW.org** to see a brief description of the meal program, or watch for details in upcoming issues of the *Christian Community*.

Monday, July 18, 2022 at 12:00pm is the **Fellowship Luncheon**. This meal includes House-made Chicken Salad Served with Lettuce and Tomato on a Croissant, Pasta Salad, Potato Chips, Peanut Butter Pie, Coffee, Hot Tea, and Iced Tea.

Vegetarian Option: Roasted Vegetable Wrap **Kid's Meal Option:** Chicken Tenders, French Fries, a Cookie and Lemonade.

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 12:00pm is the **Prayer Luncheon**. This meal includes Mixed Greens with Bleu Cheese (on the side), Dried Cranberries and Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing, Chicken Marsala with Mushrooms, Herb Roasted Yukon Potatoes, Zucchini Squash Medley, Chocolate Layer Cake, Coffee, Hot Tea and Iced Tea. **Fish Option (Add \$3.00):** Pan Seared Salmon with Mango Salsa. **Kid's Meal Option:** Macaroni and Cheese, Applesauce, a Cookie and Fruit Juice.

Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. is the **Conference Banquet***. This meal includes: Classic Caesar Salad with Parmesan and Croutons, Herb Roasted Airline Chicken Breast, Garlic Smashed Potatoes, Haricot Verts with Braised Pork Belly and Onion, Apple Cobbler Tart, Coffee, Hot Tea and Iced Tea. **Fish Option:** Grilled Fresh Salmon with Citrus Butter **Kid's Meal Option:** Small Garden Salad, Spaghetti and Meatballs, Fruit Punch and a Cookie.

All meals are subject to change.

2022 MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Mail this form & payment to: ICCC, PO Box 846, Longmont, CO 80502

Name: _____

Please reserve _____ places at \$29.00 each for **Monday's Fellowship Luncheon**

☐ Check for Vegetarian Option

☐ Check for Kid's Meal Option \$19.00

Please reserve _____ places at \$32.00 each for **Wednesday's Prayer Luncheon**

☐ Check for Fish Option (add \$3.00)

☐ Check for Kid's Meal Option \$19.00

*Please reserve _____ add'l places at \$48.00 each for **Thursday's Banquet Dinner**

☐ Chicken

*Please reserve _____ add'l places at \$51.00 each for **Thursday's Banquet Dinner**

☐ Fish

*Please reserve _____ add'l places at \$20.00 each for children under 12yrs.

☐ Kid's Meal

***A Banquet ticket is already included in registration. Order only if additional tickets are needed.**

Total Enclosed \$ _____

If paying by check: make check payable to: International Council of Community Churches (ICCC)

If paying by credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS ☐ DISCOVER

Account Number on Card: _____ Expiration Date: _____ CVV: _____

Print name as it appears on card: _____

Signature: _____

Deadline for meal function reservations is June 25th. There will only be a VERY LIMITED supply of tickets available at Conference registration, so please purchase your tickets before the deadline. After June 25th, meal reservations will not be accepted in the Council Office.

***The Conference Banquet is included in the registration fee. You do not need to reserve a ticket for this meal, unless you require additional tickets. Kids 12 yrs & under will automatically receive the kid's meal at the Conference Banquet, unless an Adult Meal upgrade is purchased.**



PASTORAL SEARCH

Senior Minister

Bridgeport Community Church, (Bridgeport, Michigan) is seeking a candidate for Senior Pastor to replace current pastor retiring December 2021.

BCC is an interdenominational church that has been serving the community since 1867.

Responsibilities include spiritual leadership, pastoral and youth ministry, church and community relationships and church administration.

Ideal candidate will have a Bachelor's degree and seminary degree or equivalent. Strong biblical knowledge and proclamation of The Word is required, along with good communication and planning skills.

Qualified individuals should submit a resume to Attention: Pastoral Search Committee via 1867BCC@gmail.com.

Ordained Minister

Join us as we prepare to meet the challenges of our second century. Established in 1925, the historic Community Church of East Williston is a Mainline, Interdenominational Protestant Church serving the needs of persons from all backgrounds. We have a faithful, hardworking congregational core and seek a Senior Minister who, through Christian love and action, will help us turn those with occasional attendance into members with faithful commitment. The position requires an experienced, ordained Protestant minister with youthful enthusiasm to reestablish CCEW as a "Light in the Community." We offer a competitive salary and a beautiful manse in a verdant suburb with a highly ranked school district (top 10% in NY), 45 minutes from Manhattan via railroad.

Our ideal candidate:

- Is an ordained minister and graduate of an accredited Protestant Seminary (CCEW will facilitate ordination if necessary)
- Maintains a cheerful and enthusiastic outlook
- Preaches interesting, thoughtful, and provocative sermons relating Scripture to everyday lives.
- Fosters relationships with youth and young families
- Collaborates with lay leadership and church staff to coordinate and conduct the ministries of the church
- Counsels congregants and committees
- Uses social media to further the goals of the church
- Considers high quality and diverse music to be a vital part of worship
- Demonstrates team building and conflict resolution skills
- Visits congregants in need
- Works to expand the influence of the church in the community
- Provides wedding support including rehearsals
- Has experience in pastoral ministry

The Pastoral Search Committee is accepting packages containing (but not limited to) your resume and online samples of your sermons. We'd like to hear about your call to ministry, your beliefs, and style of ministry.

Please email your response to: maryellen@ccew.org:
 Community Church of East Williston
 Pastoral Search Committee
 Mary Ellen Williams, Chairperson
 45 East Williston Avenue
 East Williston, NY 11596

