

Volume 72

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

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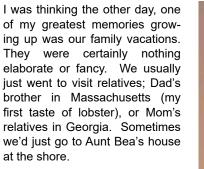
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God, Heal Us! II Chronicles 7:14

Jerry Brown, VP for Conference Planning



But I always looked forward to it.

It was an opportunity to get away from the routine, see or do something new and different. or just relax with family.

Maybe that's why I look forward to our Annual Conference so much. Like those vacations of my youth, it's an opportunity to get away from the routine, see or do things that are new and different, and best of all, just relax and enjoy time with our ICCC family.

But so much more. I am always inspired with the words and experiences of our worship together; amazing preaching and music.

We seek out informative Workshops and dedicated leaders. This year's lineup is no exception. I am eagerly looking forward to learning and being challenged by the workshop topics we have arranged. I would encourage you to participate as much as you can; your efforts will be so greatly rewarded.



We always try to get enlightening and informative Bible Study leaders. I am so looking forward this year to Rev Dr Leah Scahde. From Lexington Theological Seminary she will be our teacher; she is the perfect speaker for this troubled, divisive time in our nation. Partisan political ideology has divided our country to the extent that we even view our theology through the eyes of a "Red-state Jesus" or a "Blue-state Jesus". She will help us find the "Purple Zone" where we can, "Listen with hos-

pitality, engage with integrity and prayer, and learn with intellectual rigor in order to speak a Word that ...addresses and proclaims the crucified and risen Christ." Only then will we be able to come together, seeking God's guidance to fulfill His promise to "Heal our Land", as stated in II Chronicles 7:14.

So, I'm really looking forward to our Annual Conference. It will be a time where we can all gather to get away from the routine, see or do something new and different, grow in our Christian faith, and just relax and be rejuvenated with our ICCC family. It will be a great week.

See you in Dublin!

See Annual Conference information starting on page 9 of the Conference Section of this newsletter!

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

2 CHRONICLES 7:14



President's Message Abraham Wright

Silence/Solitude And/Or Noiseness

Recently I had a class assignment to read a book on contemplative worship practices and to co-lead a class discussion with a fellow student. Consciously and unconsciously I have always participated in contemplative worship practices, partly because of habit and partly because of need; but I had not thought seriously and objectively about contemplative practices as a vital part of believers' lives. I had repeatedly listened to the late Marion Bascom's recommendation to use Dr. Howard Thurman's meditation practices, especially those contained in Meditations of the Heart, and each Sunday under the pastorate of Rev. Shirley B. Cooper, I recall her saying, "Let us center ourselves," and moments of silence followed, sometimes accompanied with soft background music. However, the full realization of the significance of such moments as these was awakened when I briefly refreshed my memory of contemplative practices before reading Barbara A. Holmes' Joy Unspeakable. That review clearly brought to life the significance of prayer and penance, deep and serious thoughts (silent and audible), retreat from the business of life in a desire to seek God so that our call to service in whatever capacity, will begin in our hearts, with the cycle of sustenance instead of the cycle of approval; for the heart must change in order to genuinely love and serve the Lord. Prof. Howard Baker correctly defines the contemplative individual as one who notices what God is doing, saying, and initiating so that we can give attention to the inner life, with a balance between the inner and the external, and respond appropriately, including paying attention to others. The process is a sustained connectivity with God, morning, noon, and night.

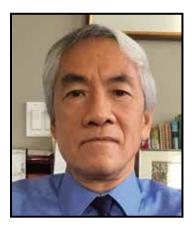
Then, what did Holmes contribute to the mix? Holmes observes correctly that this form of contemplative practices was once a vital part of the black church that helped to cement communal life in the African American community. However, she noted that this model of service is no longer prevalent, that the pace of today's order of service moves so rapidly that there seems not to be space for congregations to unify in spirit, and that where the practices still exist their effects have been lessened. Joy Unspeakable was published almost two decades ago. If we look at churches' use of contemplative practices today, we will most likely discover that churches and other venues do use effective contemplative practices to help individuals establish and maintain a closer relationship with God across denominational/ communion lines. Churches are learningand we learned part of this by surviving the coronavirus pandemic-that we can actually do less and be just as effective, or even more so, with less of our trying to lead God and more of our commitment to follow Him.

St. John United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas has an effective practice for their two Sunday services. When worshippers enter the sanctuary they are given a chance to identify whether they need prayer or other spiritual guidance. If so, they can identify the need by placing a cloth that is provided on the back of their seat. A member of the prayer team comes and gets the worshipper, takes him or her upstairs to the prayer room for prayer, and ushers the worshipper back to his or her seat. Then, during the period of praise songs by professional singers, worshippers also are given opportunities to express themselves by standing, singing along, clapping, to enter moments of silence, or express themselves in other ways. There also is a communal altar call and a midweek Prayer and Bible Reading hour. The auditorium is packed. Worshippers also respond to the spirit with call-and-response during the sermon, which is not too long, and worshippers appear to be transformed at the end of service, without having been restless during the service.

I experience a similar practice at Park Road Community Church in a call to reflect on God's goodness just before the main morning prayer or a call to be still and prepare to help usher in the Spirit or at the end of morning prayer through the prayer chant which ranges from "He's Sweet I Know" to "I Don't Feel No Way Tired" to "He Knows My Name" to "We Are One in the Spirit," etc. with several occasional "Amens," "Thank you, Jesus," hands uplifted and sometimes waving, and parishioners voluntarily standing and singing along. There also is a communal and personal prayer call. Deacons are on hand to assist with prayer and other special needs during and after prayer call. The prayers and songs are planned, but the call for centering self in the Spirit and the direction of the choral chant are genuine and spontaneous. A midweek service, consisting of testimonies, scripture reading and prayer, and a biblical reflection or short sermon, is held via Zoom Wednesday evening. Invitations for communal and individual prayer and prayer requests take place Tuesday and Thursday mornings. And yes, as Holmes correctly observes, we know those who are genuine from those who are likely pretenders.

I've also recently seen similar effective contemplative practices in other venues. Two of the most effective are Hezekiah Walker's "Every Praise Is to Our God" and the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir's rendition of "Psalm 34."

Deliberately, I'm sure, the scene for "Every Praise Is to Our God" is Five Points, Birmingham, Alabama. All traffic stops. Walker emerges in the center of the circle and announces, "Let me hear the worshippers. Where are all of my praisers?" Walker, quickly surrounded by a group of diverse singers/dancers, with a popular pronounced beat to the music, and instantly ushers in the Spirit. Walker and his team of singers and dancers are as naturally animated as a classical Disney performance, yet they are very real in their transformation of Five Points. There are individuals of multiple colors and ages, including onlookers pleasantly surprised or wondering what in the world is going on. Cell phones and extended-lens cameras capture the scene: hands and arms are extended, bodies rock to the beat, hands clap, people are on-beat with a few offbeats



Executive Director's Message

Phil Tom

Unity in the Midst of Community?

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to dwell together in unity." Psalm 133:1



Last month, I attended a National Council of Churches' (NCC) Boardmeeting.

As we addressed the future of the NCC, we discussed the ongoing challenges of maintaining unity amid our broader communions. One board member asked if we may compromise our mission to preserve peace and unity within our communion? I thought this was a good question for the Church at large and local congregations. We are experiencing division and conflicts over various social issues such as abortion, racism, same-sex marriage, immigration, wearing masks, etc.

The speaker for our clergy gathering and our bible study leader for our Annual Conference, July 18-21, 2022, is the Rev. Dr. Leah Schade. You can read her bio in the latest Christian Community. Dr. Leah D. Schade is the Author of Preaching in the Purple Zone: Ministry in a House Divided: Discovering Our "Theologies of Conflict." Rev. Dr. Schade will be addressing how we can seek to maintain inclusivity, diversity, and equity within the life of the Church. So come and join us for the conference and hear Rev. Dr. Schade speak.

Last month, ICCC hosted a five-session study of Dr. Ibram Kendi's book, How To Be An Antiracist. Led by Dr. Linda Abington and LaDonna Gordon, we had fruitful conversations about how difficult it is to talk about racism at times. The challenge for us is that we need to have these difficult yet honest conversations to find ways to work together to address this issue impacting our congregations and our nation. A footnote here: The five sessions are taped and posted on the ICCC website. I invite you to listen to these conversations.

As the ICCC family, we proclaim unity amid community. But, we know that it requires faith, trust, hard conversations, and work to build this unity. So, let us continue to be led by God's Spirit to build God's beloved community within our ICCC family, congregations, communities, and nation.

Shel

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

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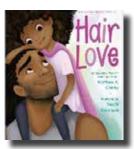
"As people devoted to following Christ we are committed to community, to treasuring diversity, to living our faith in service and love."

ICCC JUNE 2022 BOOK REVIEW By Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson

Restoration and Revival. Encouraging Our Hope (Romans 15:4)

As we prepare for celebrating our national freedom on Flag Day and we celebrate our dads on Father's Day, I wanted to share selected words and books for theses occasions.

Four Selected Father's Day Books from 30 Best Books About Dads to read for Father's Day by Robins Raven, Reader's Digest, https://www.rd.com/list/fathers-day-books/



Hair Love by Matthew A. Cherry

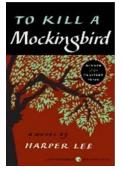
When it comes to Father's Day books, this one is really special. It's a sweet, illustrated tale he can share with his young kids as he also shares an important message. As the dad in the book helps his daughter with a special hairstyle, he boosts his bond with her and shows her how to be confident in the process and love her natural hair. This

book was a tie-in with the Academy Award-winning short film of the same name, and it was a New York Times bestseller. It's sure to inspire excellent daddy-daughter time, good conversations, and maybe even some new hairstyles.



Things My Son Needs to Know About the World by Fredrik Backman

Dads who don't mind laughing and crying while they read will enjoy the moving and fun essays in this book. It was conceived (so to speak) after the birth of Backman's son when he was contemplating everything he wanted to share with his child as he grew up. Written with care, unflinching honesty, and a hefty dose of humor, it's a book that any dad will be able to relate to.



To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Harper Lee's masterpiece about race, gender, class, and justice centers on Atticus Finch, a small-town Alabama lawyer who is steeped in integrity. He's also a devoted dad, and the story is told through the eyes of his child. He explains to his daughter why he took the case that is at the heart of the book, the defense of a Black man who has been unjustly accused of a crime. He says, "I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that

courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It's when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what."



Daughters of Men: Portraits of African American Women and Their Fathers by Rachel Vassel

In Daughters of Men, Rachel Vassel pairs gorgeous photographs of famous women and their loving fathers with well-written, compelling essays. The result is an intimate look at fatherhood and the irreplaceable role that dads play in the lives of their daughters. Any girl dads (and daddy's girls) will delight in

this book that's a wholehearted celebration of the special connection that dads have with their daughters.

Words To Celebrate Flag Day

In June, our country will celebrate Flag Day, and below are quotes selected from a Reader's Digest article on April 08, 2022, by Meghan Jones.

- "Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it." —Mark Twain, author.
- "You can't separate peace and freedom, because no one can be at peace unless he has his freedom." —Malcolm X, human rights activist, and Muslim minister.
- "May we think of freedom not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right." —Peter Marshall, TV personality
- "We're blessed with the opportunity to stand for something—for liberty, freedom, and fairness. And these are things worth fighting for, worth devoting our lives to." —*Ronald Reagan, 40th president of the United States*
- "Freedom is never given; it is won."—A. Philip Randolph, American labor unionist and civil rights activist
- "In the face of impossible odds, people who love this country can change it."—Barack Obama, 44th president of the United States.
- "The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous." —*Frederick Douglass, abolitionist, orator, and writer.*"
- Freedom lies in being bold." Robert Frost, American poet

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.

Meet Our Leadership, One by One

BRUCE MERTON ICCC Secretary for Board of Directors

and Board of Trustees

I may well be the "wandering Aramean" of I.C.C.C. leaders. In 2002 I was serving as the pastor of Peace Community Church in Fort Myers Beach, Florida. The church and I were searching for a connection to the larger church and we became

active members of the I.C.C.C. In 2003, at our annual conferences, I was elected a trustee (no one else wanted the position). Since that time, I have wandered/ served among several positions of leadership. They include Trustee, Vice-President, President, Conference Planning Chair

and chair of several different committees. I am currently serving as Secretary for the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees.

In 2015 I retired from my position as the minister of Peace Community Church. The church gave me the title of "Pastor Emeritus" and with great ceremony sent me out to pasture! I was tempted with that retirement to "retire" from active involvement with the I.C.C.C. After much thought and prayer, I decided that retirement or "retreat" from the I.C.C.C. was not a wise decision for me (perhaps it would be deemed wise by others).

The reason? I firmly and passionately believe in the stated purpose, mission, and vision of the I.C.C.C. I will go so far as to say that our foundational documents speak defining words for the REAL and TRUE Church of Jesus Christ in our nation and the world.

Our past and our currently expressed commitment to finding unity in diversity, living radical inclusion, and celebrating the love of God in Jesus, the Christ, are laudable. That being said, I believe that the I.C.C.C. is at a crucible that demands and requires us to move beyond living the past and laudable aspirations. We are being called to more fully and completely live our laudable aspirations and use the past as a springboard that will allow us to redefine the need for human beings of all races, faiths and varietal persuasions to be in relationships of kindness, support and love.

Believing the call and recognizing that the I.C.C.C. is at a crucible, I also believe that I cannot sit on the sidelines and wait patiently for others to do the work and ministry that moves the I.C.C.C. forward, serves the world, and honors the claim of Christ on our life together. I AM COMPELLED TO LEAD BY SERVICE. I will, to the best of my God given ability, continue to lead by serving in any capacity to which I might be called, appointed or voted.

I further believe that all members of the I.C.C.C. – churches, centers and individuals – are called to be leaders by demonstrating our servanthood in the name of Jesus to the world around us. Some "leaders" collect titles without really serving! Real leaders serve without the need for titles and with the full recognition that, if service was the hallmark of Jesus' life, it should be the hallmark of our lives, too. I take Jesus seriously. He said, "The greatest among you is the one who serves."

Like many, I can put a lot of letters after my name. All those letters and \$3 may buy me a cup of coffee, but the opportunities to lead by service bring me an intrinsic sense of spiritual satisfaction that no amount of money could buy and letters from the alphabet simply spell: JOY!

President's Message cont'd from page 2

danced. Even a small child (about three years old) on the shoulders of an adult male, claps and moves in sync to the music, rocking on the adult's shoulders. Outdoor workers pleasantly pause from their work or move to the beat as they continue to work. The scene transforms almost every barrier imaginable, even the firm belief that contemplative practices can *only* be done in silence or solitude.

The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir's rendition of Psalm 34, in a different venue, is equally effective. With over 200 voices of interracial men and women, with two professional male soloists, using appropriate overt gestures, the group magnifies the Lord by pumping music from the bottom of their hearts. The Choir passionately sings with raised hands, with many worshippers in the audience singing with extended arms in praise to God. Musicians shake their heads in ascent to the working of the Spirit. At the end of the selection, the directress, as if to say, "Be still and know that He is God," simply extends her arms upward, signaling a unified contemplative moment for the choir and an extended moment of spontaneous praise for the audience. Some were overwhelmed with tears. To end the sustained moment, the directress simply lowers her arms, but the moment continues until the video ends. An equally excellent example is "Ride on King Jesus" by the York University Gospel Choir.

These practices, used with old and young, across cultural and racial lines, are an effective part of contemporary worship that allows worshippers to have freedom in the way they deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ in a quiet or "noisy" manner. If you are bothered with the audible versus silence or solitude, don't plan to go to heaven because in God's direct presence, there will be loud music and plenty of hallelujahs (Rev. 4:8;5:12-13;15:3-4). Also, remember that there are approximately 282 instances of the use of rejoice in the Bible, including at least 11 in Luke and 9 in Philippians.

So as we continue the quality of worship we provide in our respective congregations after the Lenten-Easter season and move toward preparation to attend Annual ICCC Conference July 18-21 in Dublin, Ohio, let us not forget effective use of contemplative practices, silently and audibly, that help to keep us centered in the love of God as we work daily with Him to reconcile the body of Christ.

abraham

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Our prayers are with:

• **Bob Fread**, father of **Rev. Bob Fread**, VP for Informational Services and Outreach. Mr. Fread is suffering from Alzheimers, along with other challenges.



- **Rev. Lorna Hart**, who is now home from the hospital.
- **Rev. Julia Powe**, ICCC Trustee, who's health is improving. She is recovering at her daughter's house.
- Barb Granahan, ICCC's Administrator DeAnn's Mom.

Sharing Joys with:

- Bethany Union Church, Chicago, IL. The congregation celebrated the church's 150th Anniversary! Regional Trustee Jean Tillman attended the Sunday service.
- Chaplain Hare Varnon, ICCC Chaplain Trustee who is preparing for Army retirement on August 23, 2022. The service will be on August 20th.
- Peace Community Church, Ft. Myers, FL just posted that they raised and budgeted 9.5% of their total expenses from their last fiscal year for local organizations as part of their Community Outreach and Missions. They supported organizations such as the Harry Chapin Food Bank, The Salvation Army, Community Cooperate, the Helping Hand projects, and UNICEF just to name a few. They have budgeted 15% for this fiscal year. To see more of what Peace Community Church does, visit their Facebook page: https://facebook.com/peacecommunityftmyers/
- Roberta Smith, VP for Financial Development and Annual Conference Music Director. On Sunday, April 24th, her church, Wilson



Memorial Union Church, Watchung, NJ honored

Roberta with a celebration for 20 years as their church organist.

• Imagine Church of the Carolinas. Groundbreaking ceremonies took place May 15th with over 300 people attending for their new church! Rev. Phil Tom (pictured below with Pastor Bruce Jones) participated in the heartwarming, uplifting and energizing celebration.





Who Is United Christian Insurance Group?



June 2022

Serving over 4,000 church clients nationwide, Heffernan Insurance Brokers developed a comprehensive insurance program for UCC, DOC and ICCC churches. Heffernan is made up of a team of professionals who are dedicated to the insurance policy placement and customer service to our clients.

Coverages offered include: Property Directors & Officers Sexual Abuse Wrongful Termination

Liability Auto Workers' Compensation Cybe Professional Liability Volur Financial Services Healt

Auto Cyber Volunteer Coverage Health Benefits

CONTACT: Heffernan Insurance Brokers Kerry Dantzig – <u>Kerryd@heffins.com</u> heffins.com 800-234-6787

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Someone You Should Know

We've been going through old photos here in the office. Recognize this ICCC faithful supporter?



It's **Carolyn Ford**! Pictured here at the 1995 Annual Conference, Carolyn has held many leadership positions at the ICCC such as Nominating Cmte Moderator, Endowment Fund Cmte, Executive Director Search Cmte, Annual Conference Program Chair, Regional Trustee and more. She's attended 15 Annual Conferences. Not to forget how great of a baker she is!!

Thank you, Carolyn, for all your support and love! We certainly miss seeing you at the Annual Conference!



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.



Senior Minister

Join us in turning the tide from surviving to thriving in 2021 and beyond. 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 persons with faithful commitment.

The position requires an experienced, ordained Protestant minister with youthful enthusiasm to reestablish CCEW as the "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), only 25 minutes from Manhattan via railroad.

The Pastoral Search Committee is accepting packages containing (but not limited to) your resume, your calling (share your call to ministry), style of ministry (share your beliefs) and samples of your sermons on a website, blog or Facebook.

To view their ideal candidate thoughts, visit the ICCC website for the full ad. https://www.icccnow.org/careers/

<u>Please email your response to:</u> maryellen@ccew.org,

or mail a hard copy to: **Community Church of East Williston** Pastoral Search Committee Mary Ellen Williams, Chairperson 45 East Williston Avenue East Williston, NY 11596

Full-Time Pastor

Speed Memorial Church of Sellersburg, Indiana is prayerfully seeking to fill the position of pastor. Nearly 100 years ago, the residents in Speed, Indiana, came together to worship God in a manner that respected their diverse denominational and theological backgrounds, but which expressed their common faith in Jesus Christ and to help carry His message to the community and world. With the support of the Louisville Cement Company, that vision became a reality in the form of Speed Memorial Church. Speed Memorial Church remains a vibrant expression of the faith that inspired its founders to action. We are a stable church, with an approximate attendance of 50-75 in worship, which has experienced years of slow, but steady growth. Sellersburg is a community of approximately 10,000 located in Southern Indiana and less than fifteen minutes from downtown Louisville, Kentucky. The successful candidate will have preferably 8 to 10 years of vocational ministry and at least 8 years leading a church experience with an undergraduate or graduate degree from an accredited Bible college or seminary. The candidate must have a demonstrated ability to effectively communicate God's Word through a solid, biblically based expositional style. The candidate should have an established record of "making disciples" and have the capability to lead the church in deeper discipleship and evangelism. The candidate should possess a shepherd's heart, providing pastoral care and relational investment for the membership. In addition, he or she should be able to provide administrative leadership and organizational structure in all areas of church life.

To view the entire ad, please visit https://www.icccnow.org/careers/

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY





Interim Pastor

The First Church of Evans is seeking to fill the position of Interim Pastor. This will be a parttime, temporary position until the position of permanent pastor is filled. The First Church of Evans is a non-denominational and congregationally governed church of 60-65 average attendance founded over 200 years ago and is located in a small town setting in Derby, NY, approximately 25 miles south of Buffalo, NY.

The duties of the Interim Pastor will include:

- Collaborating with the church secretary to prepare a weekly bulletin
- Completing an Order of Worship for Sunday Service
- Preaching the weekly Sermon on Sunday mornings
- Administering the Sacraments of Communion and Baptism
- Able to perform weddings and funerals

Ministerial Status and Qualifications

- Must hold a degree from a Seminary or Bible College
- Must be an Ordained and/or Licensed Minister
- Would prefer at least 3-5 years ministry experience as a Lead or Senior Pastor

If interested in this position, please submit the following:

- Cover letter that includes salary expectation
- Current resume (including email address and contact telephone numbers)
- · Personal Statement of Faith
- Submit three personal and two professional (minister/pastor) letters of reference
- Copy of Ministerial License and/or Certificate of Ordination

Full-Time Pastor

The First Church of Evans is seeking to fill the position of full-time Pastor. The First Church of Evans is a non-denominational and congregationally governed community church of 60-65 average attendance founded over 200 years ago and is located in a small town setting in Derby, NY, approximately 25 miles south of Buffalo, NY.

Ministerial status and qualifications will include:

- must hold a degree from an accredited seminary or Bible college
- must be an ordained and/or licensed minister
- must have a minimum of 3-5 years' experience as a lead or senior pastor or commensurate position or very exceptional experience as an associate pastor
- · must be in agreement with our church's Statement of Faith
- · must have strong interpersonal, verbal and written communication skills

The duties of the Pastor will include:

- coordinating with the church secretary to prepare a weekly bulletin
- · completing an Order of Worship for Sunday service
- preaching the weekly sermon on Sunday mornings
- · conducting a weekly adult Bible study
- · teaching a weekly Sunday School class
- · preparing a devotional article for the monthly newsletter
- administering the Sacraments of Communion and Baptism
- · officiating at all weddings, funerals and other ceremonial occasions as needed
- responsible for the recording of births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, admissions and dismissions
- participating in community organizations, such as The Lake Shore Association of Christian Churches and the International Council of Community Churches to develop relationships with area churches and Christ-centered ministries to proactively serve our community and share the gospel of Jesus Christ
- sits on the Board of Directors of the Steepleview Housing Corporation, a residential facility for disabled and elderly, sponsored by The First Church of Evans. Additional responsibilities may also include communion services at the facility and/or tenantrelations meetings, etc.
- works with deacons on visitations to address the physical and spiritual needs of individuals
- serves as an ex-officio member of all church committees and as a non-voting member and spiritual advisor at all monthly church council meetings
- · provides pastoral counseling to help members deal with personal issues

If interested in this position, please submit the following:

- cover letter that includes salary expectation, a little bit about you and why you believe God is calling you to apply for this ministry
- current resume (including email address and contact telephone numbers)
- personal Statement of Faith
- submit three personal and two professional (minister/pastor) letters of reference
- · copy of Ministerial License and/or Certificate of Ordination

Information may be submitted to:

The First Church of Evans • PO Box 364 • Derby, NY 14047

Attn: Carl Mende, Search Committee Chairman

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

<u>E'terie</u>: 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.

<u>Urban Craft</u>: 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 ICCC 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: 11:00am

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

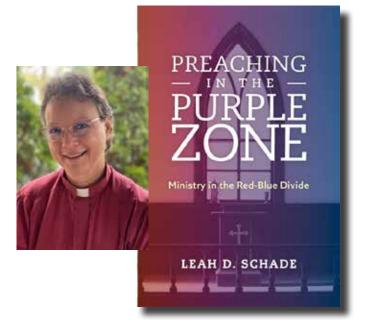


Speaker • Author • Preacher • Professor

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 <u>EcoPreacher</u> 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.

Ministerium Lecture at 2022 Annual Conference

The Ministerium will be having an event on Monday, July 18th from 1:30pm-5pm. All Clergy are invited! Hosting the lecture will be the 2022 Conference Bible Study Lecturer Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade, Author of Preaching in the Purple Zone:

Ministry in a House Divided: Discovering Our "Theologies of Conflict"

Tensions and conflict are normal within churches and among people of faith, but they are also sources of anxiety and dread for many. However, if we look at conflict from a theological perspective, we may discover God's presence in unexpected ways.

This session will explore the unspoken assumptions that people of faith can have about the relationship between God and our human disagreements and skirmishes. *Is it possible to be in conflict and yet remain connected? How do we assess our "theologies of conflict" to understand ourselves and our faith more fully?*

Participants will work with a tool that they can use in their congregations to unearth our beliefs about how God relates to us in the midst of conflict so that we can find common vocabulary and handle tensions in a healthier and growth-producing way. This event is for clergy only. Similar topics will be discussed in the Bible Study.

For up-to-date conference information and registration, visit https://www.icccnow.org/annual-conference/			
	As some of you may have seen, at the Annual Conference, we've had an ICCC Picture Directory available. If you'd like to be in that directory, and are not already, please complete the form below and send it to the office with your photo or email: icccnow@sbcglobal.net		
Address:			
Home phone number:_	Cell phone number:		
Email address	Email electronic photo to ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net		
Only include the contact a photo. Only entries w	sert the information you provided for a Picture Directory of all interested ICCC members. information you prefer. The purpose of this directory is to be able to identify members with ith a photo included will be added. By returning this form and photo, you are agreeing to on for ICCC members only.		
Signature:			



ICCC Annual Conference Workshops



"Stress in a Restricted Environment"

This workshop is 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.



Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation Workshop

This simulation workshop is an interactive tool that helps people understand the connections among racial equity, hunger, poverty and wealth.

The Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation was a joint effort from Bread for the World and NETWORK. Since the simulation emphasizes the importance of racial equity, it can be a helpful companion tool for churches, organizations, agencies, schools, and communities that have begun working on race and want to learn more about the role that public policy has had, over time, in creating structural divides based on race. This workshop will be facilitated by the ICCC Agape Team.



God Cares

This workshop is led by Rev. Eloise Crenshaw. Knowing God cares, the 23rd Psalms comforts you. In your time of sorrow and brokenness, God cares. God's caring is showing regard and

concern for us. Letting us know he is watching over us. Jesus knows the need for him to care for us when we are weak. The 23rd Psalms shows we must depend on God for everything, as the sheep does the shepherd. When we mourn, repent and die to sin we come to see our need for total dependence on God. The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want gives us freedom from devastation. Give us the strength and freedom to release us from the devastation of sin and create a new place that God longs to reveal to us. In this place of satisfaction, we find the comfort David found, giving us peace beyond all understanding.



Workshop on Heating Prayer

This workshop is led by Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman. The prayer and focus of this year's conference is "God, Heal Us." As the Gospels and Acts

make clear, healing was central to the ministry of Jesus and the early church. God has always been and still is in the healing ministry.

This workshop will provide a brief theological and historical overview of the ministry of healing and discuss considerations in praying for physical, emotional and spiritual healing. We will offer an approach to praying for healing and be available to pray for healing throughout the conference.



How Can We Promote Racial Equality in 2022?

This workshop is facilitated by Linda Abington, Ph.D. The question of how we can promote racial equity in 2022 will be examined

and approached from a solution oriented perspective. Racial equity is the process of eliminating racial disparities and policies as individuals, communities, and as a society.

In his book, "How to be an Antiracist", Dr. Ibram X. Kendi suggests in order to promote a racially equitable society, we as individuals must be intentional when interacting with others and must be aware of our actions and behaviors through self-evaluation. This may mean being present in the moment and being in the "now" as much as we can, seeing ourselves and others through the loving eyes of God as much as we can, and not beating ourselves up when we don't; just striving to do better.



ICCC Youth Leader Announced

We are happy to announce the 2022 Youth Director!

Mike Mahan is a licensed pastor, and a member of Gahanna Community Congregational Church in Ohio where he currently serves as Secretary of the Board of Trustees, sings in the choir and plays hand bells in the bell choir. Previously, he served as the youth group advisor for approximately 25 years and was Assistant Pastor for 4 vears. Since 1985, he has served as a volunteer staff member of CAMP, a faith-based motivational youth camping program. He is employed by the Department of Defense at Defense Finance &

Accounting Service in Columbus, Ohio.

He may have a few other folks from CAMP assist him with part of the youth conference one or two of the days. The youth will program include some "mixers" Monday afternoon to help the youth get to know each other, games, songs, discussions (esp. around the conference theme), planning the Thursday worship service, devotions in the evening and more.

Please encourage and invite your youth and children to attend this year's conference! It will be fun, exciting and fruitful.

Charitable Organization Cancels Conference Meal Packaging Event

On May 23rd, the Hunger Relief Mission Committee received an email from a Rise Against Hunger (RAH) supervisor stating that the organization would not be able to provide bulk food for the hands-on meal packaging event during the upcoming Annual Conference. The event was scheduled to be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 21st.

RAH, apparently due to financial problems related to the COVID-19 pandemic, has had to downsize its staff significantly. As a result, it no longer has the personnel required to undertake the conference meal packaging initiative. Bob Harris, Chair of the Council's Hunger Relief Mission Committee, indicated that the committee will immediately contact Columbus, OH area charitable organizations in an effort to obtain another hands-on mission project to be held on site at the conference hotel in the same time slot as the RAH meal packaging event.

The replacement missional project will not necessarily be hunger related. The goal is to have a multi-generational hands-on charitable activity that can be completed at the Embassy Suites in a 2-hour time span.







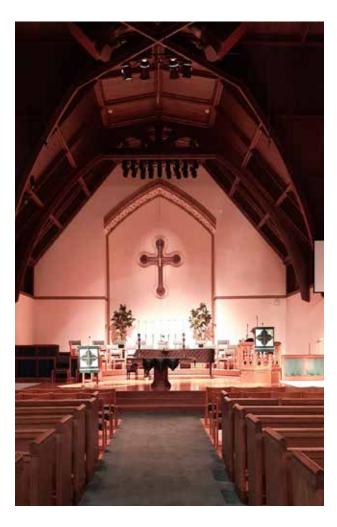
| June 2022

First Community Church (Columbus) Tour

With the organized Community Church Movement nearing the century mark, two churches have often been seen as "mother" churches of our movement. One is Metropolitan Community Church of Chicago, with their long-time former pastor, Rev. Dr. Joseph Evans. The other is First Community Church of Columbus, and their former pastor, Rev. Dr. Roy Burkhart.

Since our 2022 Annual Conference is being held in the Columbus area, a special tour and program is being planned on Monday evening of conference at the historic First Community Church. The evening will begin with a tour of the Roy Burkhart Chapel including an explanation of the chapel's stained glass windows and a presentation on the ministry and teachings of Rev. Burkhart presented by the church's Pastor Emeritus of Pastoral Care, Rev. Jim Long. Next will be a tour of the historic church's main sanctuary, which still contains symbols of Rev. Burkhart's ministry. With the sanctuary tour will be a presentation on the role of First Community in the Community Church Movement and early history of the current ICCC. This presentation will be by Rev. Bob Fread.

Buses will be available to transport people from the hotel to the church. Two evening time slots tentatively will be available. Conferees will need to sign-up for one of the two time slots upon their arrival at conference. If you would like to Sponsor this event, please contact the Council Office icccdc@sbcglobal.net. If bus rental turns out to be too expensive, this event may get cancelled.





Annual Conference Sponsorship LATE!! 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.icccnow.org/sponsorship/

REQUEST FOR EXHIBIT SPACE

I.C.C.C. Annual Conference July 18-21, 2022 Dublin, Ohio

Please reserve a 6' x 30" space in the exhibit area of the 2022 Annual Conference of the International Council of Community Churches.

An attendant	will be present

will not be present

Name of Attendant:	

My N	lame
------	------

My Organization: _____

Organization

Address: ____

Brief Description:

Phone: ()	Fax: ()	
,	/		,	

Email:_____

There is a fee of \$50.00 per exhibit space, for the July 18-21, 2022 time period, payable in advance.

Please return this request form, with payment made payable to the International Council of Community Churches, for consideration by June 20, 2022 to:

International Council of Community Churches PO Box 846 Longmont, CO 80502

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 815-464-5690 or ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net. Thank you for taking advantage of this opportunity for exhibiting.



Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers!

Are you able to help with registration? Hours for Registration are:

Sunday	7/17	
Monday	7/18	

6:00pm-9:00pm 8:00am-9:00am

Are you driving to conference? Or renting a car? Are you able to drive yourself and others to the Supper Club event?

Please contact DeAnn at the Council office if you are available: icccdc@sbcglobal.net or 815-464-5690 Thank you!!



Annual Conference Checklist

Have you done the following yet?

- Sent -in your registration form and fee?
- ✓ Called the Embassy Suites Hotel and made your reservations? 800-220-9219 Deadline June 24th.
- Made your meal reservations (optional) with the Council office?
- Signed up for the Supper Club (optional)?
- Contacted the office about volunteering at conference?

Sent in or talked to your church about sending their Voting Delegate form or an extra contribution to offset their loss of presence at conference?

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 ()	Е	E-mail Address:		
Emergency Contact Name		Phone		
Church (member of)				
First Conference: Yes 🗆 No 🗖	Status: 🗖 Clergy 🛛 Laity			
> > >	FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND YOU	ITH PROGRAMS ONLY!	< < <	
■ Age (on 7-1-2022) Gra	ade completed by (7-1-2022)			
■ If under 18 , an adult who is registered for a	the Conference and who will serve as a spo	onsor and assume responsibility for	said young person <u>must</u> sign below:	
Sponsor Signa	ture	Prin	t 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		\$ 60.00	\$	
**Add-on ONLY if Adult meal is preferred	for Banquet Child/Elementary regis.	\$ 30.00	\$	
Youth (completed 6th grade - entering 12		\$ 145.00	\$	
Young Adult (completed 12th grade - age	23)	\$ 170.00	\$	
Adult		\$ 230.00	\$	
Daily Registrants Circle Day(s) M T	W Th meals not included	\$ 40.00/day	\$	
cc		TOTAL ENC	LOSED \$	
Chicken Breast	rlic Smashed Potatoes, Haricot Ve n Option: Grilled Fresh Salmon w n and a Cookie. Meals are subjec ne of the following for your prefe t (Default Option) Fis	erts with Braised Pork Belly vith Citrus Butter Kid's Me ct to change. erence at Thursday's Band sh Option Kid's	and Onion, Apple Cobbler Tart, al Option: Small Garden Salad, quet Dinner. s Meal Option	
**Child & Elementary registrations include	The Kid's Meal option. If the adult mea	ii is preferred, please add \$30.00	to your total enclosed.	
Please return this form with payment to:		502 RD 🗆 AMEX 🗖 DISCOVER		
Acct. #:		Exp. Date:	CVV:	
Print name as it appears on card:		Signature		
One form per person. Early Bird registration	n must be received in the office by Jun	e 1st. Registrations after June 25,	2022 will be accepted at Conference only.	
CANCELLATIONS: A \$25 administration fe	e will be assessed for each.			
ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS MAY medium or format, throughout the world fore	•	a ,		

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.

	Mail this form & pay	ment to: ICCC, PO Box 846, Longmont, CO 80502	
ame:		\sim	
	Please reserve pl	aces at \$29.00 each for <i>Monday's Fellowship Luncheon</i>	
		laces at \$32.00 each for Wednesday's Prayer Luncheon\$3.00)Check for Kid's Meal Option \$19.00	
	*Please reserve add'l	places at \$48.00 each for <i>Thursday's Banquet Dinner</i>	Chicken
	*Please reserve add'l	places at \$51.00 each for <i>Thursday's Banquet Dinner</i>	T Fish
		places at \$20.00 each for children under 12yrs. <i>included in registration. Order only if additional tickets are needed.</i>	🗖 Kid's Mea

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

If paying by credit card: 🗖 VISA	MASTERCARD	AMERICAN EXPRESS		
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 25, 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.



At Mezzo, you will find a balance between old-world tradition and new-world cuisine, serving the very best simple yet hardy meals. Modern and classic influences perfectly collide in the dining space, bursting with energy and warmth. Visit www.mezzodublin.com for restaurant information. Below are the menu choices for this optional event.

Choice 1: Sausage & Pepper Pizza \$30.00

Italian sausage, pepperoni, marinara, banana pepper, peppadew, red onion, mozzarella.

Choice 2: Mezzo Chicken \$30.00

Crispy fried chicken breast, whipped ricotta, mozzarella, spaghetti, tomato cream.

Choice 3: Lasagna \$30.00

Italian sausage ragu, marinara, béchamel, mossarella.

Choice 4: Short Rib Gnocchi \$30.00

Gnocchi, braised beef short rib, tomato cream, parmesan, basil.

Each choice includes bread, butter and soft drinks (Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Root beer, Lemonade or Ginger Ale), iced tea, tax and gratuity. Alcoholic beverages are available, billed separately, individually.

Circle your choice.

Submit payment to the Council Office by June 30, 2022. Limited to 40 people. Register soon!

If paying by check: make check payable to: International Council of Community Churches (ICCC) *If paying by credit card:* circle one VISA MASTERCARD AMEX DISCOVER

Account Number on Card:	Exp.Date:

Print name as it appears on card:_____

Signature:_____

_____ C V V: ___

ICCC, PO Box 846, Longmont, CO 80502 815-464-5690 ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net

Mezzo is located 1.4mi from the hotel by foot. We are trying to coordinate attendees with cars to drive, for those who do not wish to walk. If you are driving to conference and are willing to carpool to the Supper Club, please let the Council Office know.