

# THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

JUNE 2023



International Council of Community Churches

Volume 73

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

Number 8

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## Conference 2023:

*Time to get motivated, excited, inspired and encouraged*

*Jerry Brown, VP for Conference Planning*

If you listen to people tell their story, many times, they will say that their faith grew most during the toughest times in their lives. We've all experienced that. And then they'll say that engaging with God, His Word, and their church community is what sustained them through those times.

But often, if you ask an ICCC member when their faith grew most, it may be an experience they remember from our Annual Conference. The friendships we made over a luncheon or dinner, the Biblical knowledge and wisdom shared during our Bible Study, the inspiration of a great preacher or intimacy of a shared communion meal; these are all important memories for me.

At past conferences we have been inspired in many ways. We have prayed for compassion on the St Louis courthouse steps where Dred Scott was declared to be property, and slave auctions were held. We have prayed for an end to violence in the shadow of Jacksonville Landing where more than a dozen people had been shot just the year before. We have seen the determined words of perseverance from Mohammed Ali in Louisville. These were all special moments for me. But this year we will have the opportunity to tour the recently renovated Billy Graham Museum and Library to experience and remember the life of a preacher who touched millions of lives around the world.

Speaking of dynamic preachers who have shared with so many, we are so glad to have Rev. Dr. Clifford Jones as our keynote preacher for the conference. He has a large, vibrant church in the Charlotte area, and I am confident that you will be inspired by his preaching.

We are also excited to have Shane Claiborne as our Bible Study leader. He is totally dedicated to living the example of Jesus; and is in demand around the country and around the world. We are so very fortunate to be able to have him join us at our conference this year.



And the best part of having these two great Christian leaders with us this year, is that not only will we be blessed with their preaching and teaching, but we have also scheduled interactive time with them. We will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss with them directly about their topics and experiences. I am so excited that we were able to bring to the ICCC Annual Conference these two outstanding Christian authorities to speak to us. What an amazing opportunity!

And of course, our Missions folks have been working diligently to put together a program of Outreach presentations and hands-on activities for those interested in opportunities to share and serve. Jesus said that how we treat the "least of these", we do to Him. And as members of ICCC, we realize that no one should be treated as the least of these, we are all children of God, and all are deserving of our compassion and love.

So, whatever your interest, whatever your passion, whatever inspires you, we will have the chance for you to be motivated, inspired, excited, and encouraged. I have seen this

*continued on page 5*



## Executive Director's Message

Phil Tom

## Be the Light!

Lately, it seems that every time you turn on the tv, read the newspaper or watch the news on the tv or online, there is nothing but bad news. We hear about acts of violence on the street, the war in Ukraine and Somalia, ethnic cleansing, gender discrimination, acts of racism, people falling through the "safety net," conspiracy theories, political conflict, etc. Hate and fear seem to dominate the headlines. A feeling of hopelessness and helplessness seems to prevail in our society and daily lives! Some days, all the bad news is so overbearing that all you want to do is to shut the world out!

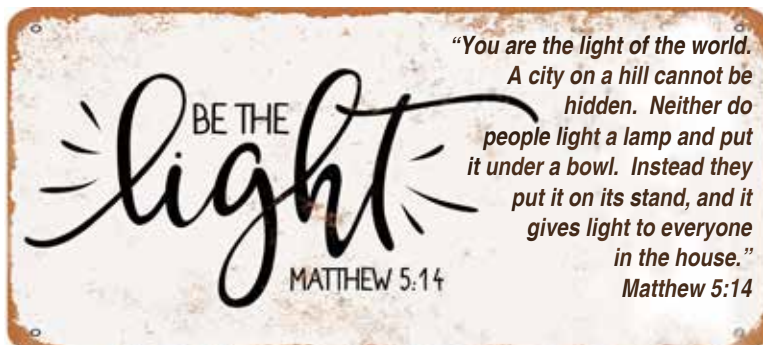
How are you and your congregation and center letting God's light shine to shatter the powers of darkness in your communities? How are you bringing light and hope to your communities? How are you and your congregation bringing healing to a broken world? How are you building God's beloved community? How are you putting God's light on a stand in your community so

everyone will see it and experience God's love, mercy, and justice?

Sometimes we can get focused on institutional maintenance and survival that we set aside the mission that God has called us to carry forth, "to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8)."

When African American and European American community churches merged in 1949 to create the ICCC, it shone God's Light in the public arena, boldly proclaiming to our nation that segregation and acts of racism were wrong and that all of God's people are created equal. Let us continue to BE THE LIGHT. Our world needs the LIGHT! So, as members of the ICCC family, let us move boldly and fearlessly into sharing God's Good News in word and deed and work for justice, compassion, healing, and reconciliation in our communities, nation, and world!

*Phil*



### Sharing Joys with

- **The Church at Litchfield Park, AZ** is in the process of the PAX Capital Campaign for the remodeling and expansion of their church campus. The process has been in progress for over 2 years, and the new campus vision will soon come to fruition.



- **Rev. Debra Tadlock**, an ICCC Clergy in Special Standing, has planted a church! It's called GracePointe Church, meeting in a rented facility on the Charlotte, NC side of Lake Wylie.

### Sharing Concerns with

- **Lonnie Miller**, who was diagnosed with follicular lymphoma over 3 years ago. Recently it has spread and she is now undergoing chemotherapy for the next 6 months. She is staying with her daughter for care. It's difficult for her to talk on the phone or respond to emails and texts, but she would appreciate your thoughts and prayers.
- **Sharon Norris Elliott**, her sister **Sandra Nelson** and their families. Sharon's husband, **James**, passed away in May.
- **Bob Harris**, whose mother, **Beatrice Harris**, passed away May 24th. She passed peacefully in her home in Ohio with family and her caregiver by her side. There will be a memorial service on Aug. 24th and **The Church in Aurora, OH**.

## ICCC Resource About Raising Funds for your Congregation

Did you know that ICCC has a resource that provides ideas on raising funds for your congregation/center/community? It's titled Fundraising 101, and you can download it

from our ICCC webpage at <https://www.icccnow.org/council-other-agency-resources/>.



ICCC JUNE 2023

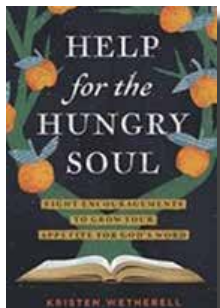


# Book REVIEW

By Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson

2023 Theme: *The beginning of wisdom is this:*

*Get wisdom, and whatever else you get, get insight*—Pro 4:7 NRSV.

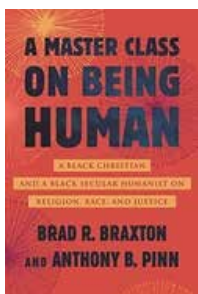


## Help for the Hungry Soul: Eight Encouragements to Grow Your Appetite for God's Word

Kristen Wetherell. Crossway, \$14.99 trade paper (160p) ISBN 978-1-433-58861-7

In this earnest outing, Wetherell (*Humble Moms*) calls on believers to bring true spiritual yearning to their Bible study practice. She describes a deep, existential "craving for more" that many people try to satisfy with job promotions and other external rewards, but contends that this "spiritual hunger"

can only be satisfied by the "life-giving nourishment" of scripture. After listing common roadblocks to Bible study, among them technology and feelings of depression or anxiety, the author invites believers to build an "appetite for God's word" by recognizing God's revelation as a privilege and worshipping at a church that prioritizes scripture in its sermons and services. Wetherell also sets out strategies for engaging with the text itself, such as homing in on a specific passage, asking hard questions ("What do certain words mean, and why did the author choose those words?"), and trying to extract a truth to apply to one's life. Creative alternatives for traditional Bible study might include listening to sermon podcasts or texting favorite verses with friends. Wetherell's candidness about her own faith struggles makes for some of the book's most revealing moments: "for too many years," she explains, "I thought that by opening my Bible I was seeking something good and right to do, rather than... seeking someone to love." Believers at any spiritual stage will be inspired to approach the Bible with fresh eyes. (*Reviewed by Publisher's Weekly and release in August 2023*).



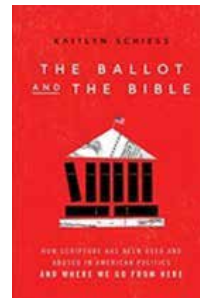
## A Master Class on Being Human: A Black Christian and a Black Secular Humanist on Religion, Race, and Justice

Brad R. Braxton and Anthony B. Pinn. Beacon, \$28.95 (256p) ISBN 978-0-807-00788-4

Pinn (*Interplay of Things*), a professor of religion at Rice University, and Braxton (Open), a pastor and professor of public theology at Chicago Theological Seminary, explore their "deep differences" regarding an array of moral and social issues in this open-

mind offering. Structured as a dialogue between Braxton, a Christian, and Pinn, a secular humanist, the authors aim to "expose the assumptions undergirding" the arguments of both traditions while envisioning a better, more just world. Topics of discussion include the Black Lives Matter movement, whether suffering can be redemptive, and Black "nones"—the "growing group of religiously unaffiliated people"—whose close commitment to social justice work, Pinn opines, "raises questions concerning the... meaning of religiosity as a guiding orientation for 'good' living." Elsewhere, the two tackle the role

of hope in social movements (Braxton considers it essential, while Pinn advocates instead an attitude of resistance), and religion's place in public life (Braxton views religious communities as key drivers of social change, whether they're registering voters or supporting climate change initiatives; Pinn calls for a "public arena that... doesn't privilege the claims of any particular faith"). The authors' obvious rapport keeps the conversation from lagging despite its theological heft, and their rejection of "Pollyannish call[s]" for simple agreement is appealing. This gives readers a lot to chew on. (*Reviewed by Publisher's Weekly and release in July 2023*).



## The Ballot and the Bible: How Scripture Has Been Used and Abused in American Politics and Where We Go from Here

Kaitlyn Schiess. Brazos, \$19.99 trade paper (224p) ISBN 978-1-587-43596-6

Journalist Schiess (*The Liturgy of Politics*) presents an erudite history of both America's "proper application" and "deep misuse" of scripture during pivotal events, from the Revolutionary and Civil wars through the Cold War and 9/11. Among other topics, Schiess examines politicians' invocations of biblical blessings and the idea of America as a nation "uniquely covenanted with God." Citing 1960s civil rights activists' references to the exodus from Egypt, she explains that the Black church community recognized itself in "the plights of Israel" and looked to the Bible for "a divine mission for justice," making for powerful oratory, while segregationists drew on hazy, misapplied "appeals to the unmistakable natural order of God's creation." Schiess sets out a new vision for biblical language use: instead of "plucking passages out of their context" and retrofitting them for predetermined political agendas, those combing the Bible for present-day insight should consider "the larger context of God's redemptive story." Buttressing her claims with impressive close analysis, Schiess sets out a nuanced look at America's legacy of scriptural language, and readers will find especially useful her guidelines for responsible biblical interpretation when engaging in political discourse. This is a boon for activists looking to the Bible for inspiration. (*Reviewed by Publisher's Weekly and release in August 2023*).

SHARE YOUR COMMENTS. Remember, please share your thoughts at [ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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..*



## ICCC Annual Conference Workshops



### *"Praying for Dear Life"*

This workshop is led by **Dr. Thomas R. Steagald**. "Once, twice, thrice or seven times a day, O God, I lift up my voice to you who answers prayers." In this session, we will talk about how the daily office of prayer may provide spiritual focus, theological grounding, biblical imagination and serenity of spirit. An integration of hand and heart, private devotion and corporate worship, along with unity in the Body of Christ begins with a grateful, prayerful response to God's lavish grace.

**Dr. Thomas R. Steagald** recently retired after a decade as Senior Pastor of Charlotte's Hawthorne Lane United Methodist Church and is the author of six books. His reviews, exegesis and essays have appeared in the Abingdon Preaching Journal (contributor for eleven years), The Christian Century, Circuit Rider, Lectionary Homiletics, Ministry Matters, Preaching, United Methodist Reporter, and Upper Room Disciplines. He is a former adjunct professor of preaching, worship, ministry and evangelism at Hood Theological Seminary and holds degrees from Belmont University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and the Candler School of Theology.



### *"The God Who Grieves Us: Leading People Through Grief and Lament"*

This workshop is led by **Rev. Deana Nail**. Grief and broken hearts abound. We all know someone who is grieving, and many times we feel helpless to ease their pain. "The God Who Grieves with Us" will engage participants in 1) an explanation of lament; 2) an understanding of the faith struggle grief can ignite; and 3) a look at the ways we love and serve people who grieve.

**The Rev. Deana Nail** lives to help people fall in love with Jesus. Deana currently serves as Dean of Students and Master of Divinity (MDiv) Program Director at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Charlotte. She is also founder of Mission 12:11, a Bible-teaching and spiritual formation consulting ministry. Deana is an ordained pastor and has served at several churches in the Charlotte area, including Forest Hill Church and Briar Creek Road Baptist Church, a multi-racial, multi-cultural church. Deana earned her Master of Divinity degree at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and is pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Theology in Practice.



### *"Helping Anxious Children Thrive: What Parents and Churches Can Do"*

This workshop is led by **Dr. Pamela Davis**. The pandemic, school shootings, and a deeply divided nation are all taking a toll with worried adults and worried children. This workshop will highlight key reasons that children experience heightened levels of anxiety and will provide coping strategies for parents and caregivers. It will specifically explore ways to build resilience in stressed, anxious, and worried children (and yes, many of the strategies for anxious children can be applied to anxious teens and adults).

**Dr. Pamela Davis** is Associate Professor of Counseling and Director of Graduate Programs in Counseling at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Charlotte. She served for twenty-two years as a missionary in China and Thailand before returning to the United States to teach, first at Wheaton College in Illinois, and since 2017, at Gordon-Conwell in Charlotte. She has also trained counselors in the last few years in both Turkey and the Philippines. Pam received her MA at Wheaton University and her Ph.D. at Regent University, and is a sought-after speaker across the U.S. and internationally on topics involving member care and counseling for children and families.



### *Give Hope Global*

**Give Hope Global** will present a workshop about the Christian organization's life changing efforts for more than a decade to provide nutritional meals, educational supplies and schooling to impoverished Haitian Children.

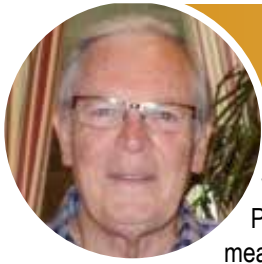


### *World Neighbors*

**World Neighbors** is working in 6 nations offering agricultural support, human development and drought mitigation and will share how they use our donations in this informative workshop.

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## ICCC Annual Conference Workshops cont'd.

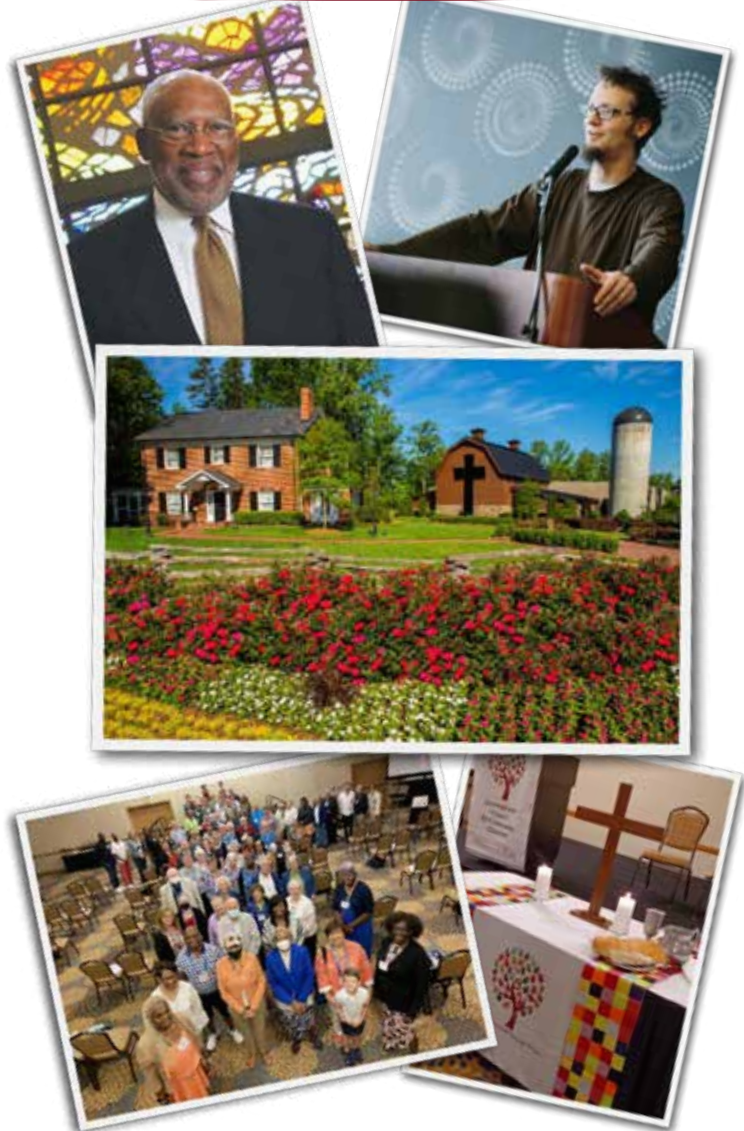


*Bruce Merton will lead the following workshops:*

- **The Lord's POWER Prayer** is a 2 session workshop will focus on using the Lord's Prayer as a model for the development of a meaningful and powerful discipline of prayer.
- **East Meets West: Contemplative Coloring** is a 2 session workshop with a hands-on activity. The focus in session one is the use of two Western spiritual disciplines. The first, known as Lectio Divina, will focus on purposely reading and coloring Scripture using the Eastern faith tradition of mandalas. The second, intercessory prayer, will encourage meaningful prayer on behalf of others and then the prayer(s) will be transformed into madala art. Each session stands independently.
- **Resourcing Worship in the Liturgical Church** is a time where you can come, receive and share information about high quality resources that are available to aid your church in dynamic and meaningful worship and preaching within the liturgical tradition.
- **Using Social Media and Video in Worship** is a workshop where you will be introduced to the various ways in which social media and video resources can be used to enrich and strengthen your church's worship experience.
- **Worship at Home** is a workshop where you can join others as we explore some of the ways that you can make your home an inviting, inspiring and exciting place of worship.
- **Resourcing the Advent-Christmas Season and Resourcing the Lent-Easter Season** are 2 workshops that will allow you to receive and share hints and helps for developing dynamic and meaningful worship for these special seasons of the year. Bring your ideas and suggestions.

## "Conference 2023" *cont'd. from p1*

conference come together, from notes and preliminary discussion before we even left Dublin last year, to the detailed schedule that you will find in your conference book when you arrive in Charlotte. I have seen the many hours of discussions and phone calls and Zoom meetings that it took to put this all together; and I am so very impressed with what we have to offer this year. Definitely, better than ever before. So, get excited, get registered; be inspired, be impressed. I know you'll go home having experienced an amazing week, and you'll be changed.



*"Racial Equity and It's Impact on Mental Health in Underserved Communities"*

This workshop is led by Dr. **Linda Abington**. This is a workshop that hopes as faith-based communities we can help close the gap by providing support, information and spiritual leadership for the underserved communities most impacted. Dr. Linda Abington returns this year to continue her passion for racial equity.



## Calling All ICCC Youth Join us at Annual Conference July 18-21 in Charlotte, NC

Greetings ICCC Youth and Parents of Youth!

The school year is nearly over and summer fun is coming up fast! Why not make the ICCC Annual Conference part of that summer fun? The Conference Planning Committee has been hard at work putting together a great conference. That includes a special conference program for youth going into 7th grade through 12th grade in our ICCC churches and friends.

Those who attended last year will remember what a fantastic time we had. This year promises to be even better! You will not want to miss any of the fun. Some of the activities we are planning include the following:

- 1 Mixer and team-building games
- 2 Meaningful discussions
- 3 Off-site mission project on Wednesday of conference week at the Tender Hearts Mission. This is a road trip in a 12-seat professionally-driven van to help sort and organize donated goods for the homeless.
- 4 Tour of the Rev. Billy Graham Library—one of Charlotte's most popular attractions.
- 5 Participation in an on-site mission project to stuff hundreds of school backpacks for children in Haiti. This will be a multi-generational event working with other conference attendees.
- 6 Planning and conducting the conference closing worship service on Friday morning.
- 7 Much, much more!



So join us for conference this year. It will be the highlight of your summer! Watch for more information in the weeks to come. To register, go to <https://iccnw.org>



Looking forward to seeing you  
in Charlotte July 18!

Blessings,

Mike Mahan  
ICCC Youth Leader

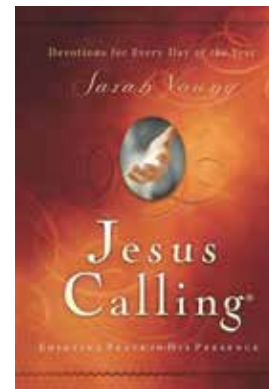
YOUTH LEADER

## Jesus Calling

A book study led by  
Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman

Jesus is calling you to a deeper intimacy with him. Do you sense his invitation, his longing? Do you long to hear from him, to experience the risen Christ in your daily life? **Jesus Calling**, by Sarah Young, has helped numerous people do so and can help you do so too.

**Jesus Calling** is a devotional resource meant to nurture our relationship with



the risen Jesus and heighten our awareness of the presence of the living Christ in our day-to-day living.

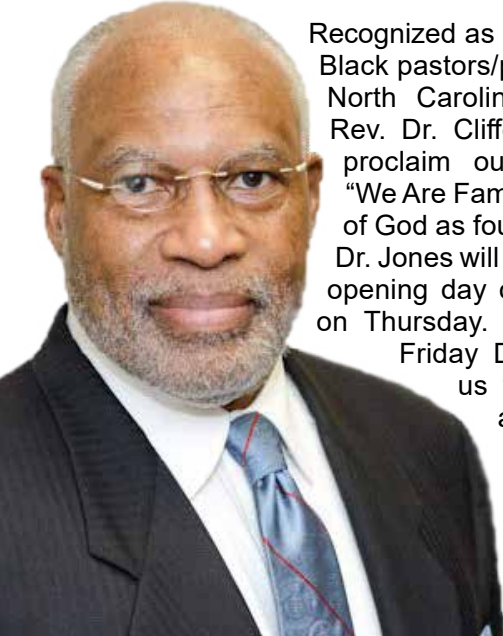
In this conference session, we will use **Jesus Calling** as a means of entering into the classical spiritual practices of sacred reading, meditation, prayer and contemplation that reveal the reality of God in our lives.

I hope you hear Jesus calling you to this session in Charlotte, there to be addressed by the living Christ.



# *We are family*

*The Word Proclaimed by Rev. Dr. Clifford A. Jones*



Recognized as one of the outstanding Black pastors/preachers in Charlotte, North Carolina and America, The Rev. Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr. will proclaim our conference theme, "We Are Family," rooted in the Word of God as found in I Corinthians 12. Dr. Jones will deliver sermons on the opening day of the conference and on Thursday. On Wednesday and Friday Dr. Jones will be with us for a one hour "Q, A and Comment" session. The "Q, A and Comment" time will allow conferees to enter into extended discussion and interchange with Dr. Jones.

Dr. Jones has been the Senior Pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte for 40 years. Born in Philadelphia and reared in New Jersey, Dr. Jones received his Bachelor of Science degree from Maryland State College; the Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; and the Doctor of Ministry degree from the Boston School of Theology. As part of his outstanding ministry, he has done further study at Regents Park College in Oxford, England and the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

In addition to his outstanding ability to explain and deliver God's Word, Dr. Jones has a great and compelling compassion for the needs of others, locally and globally. Dr. Jones led a delegation to form a solid and working partnership with the Winterveldt School in Mabopane, South Africa. The partnership led to the purchase and building of a fully equipped Christian education center for grades K – 12. In addition, a farm was purchased, three greenhouses were built to provide vegetables for sale, and a brick making machine was acquired so that homes and business buildings could be built while also providing a means for economic interdependence.

In response to children and families struggling with severe poverty, Dr. Jones has organized and led numerous medical and religious mission teams to provide needed healthcare, medical supplies and educational training in Jamaica, Africa and Guyana, South America.

In addition to his many global interests and concerns, Dr. Jones is a dedicated supporter of senior citizen programs. His leadership led Friendship Church to open the first satellite center for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Senior Centers, offering exercise and other classes for seniors living in the area where the church is located. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership, Inc.

Dr. Jones holds or has held many leadership positions including being a trustee for Morris College and Hood Theological Seminary, Vice President of the Baptist World Alliance and President of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

The Friendship Missionary Baptist Church has been blessed by God and the exercise of Dr. Jones' gifts and talents with a 115 acre campus. In addition to the church and its facilities, this land is being developed to provide intergenerational daycare, assisted living for seniors, an Alzheimer's center, a hospice house, single family dwellings, offices, a park shelter and amphitheater.

Among the many, many awards and recognitions he has received are "Senior Father of the Year", "Black Fathers Rock," "The Nelson Mandela Award" from the National Baptist Convention in the USA, keynote for the 2007 National Political Black Caucus Prayer Breakfast, the Duke Divinity School – Gardner C. Taylor Lecturer, and the "Beautiful Are the Feet Award," at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference.

Published works include "The Star book of Stewardship," "Becoming and Practicing What It Means to Be a Christian," "Consuming Passion: Christianity and the Consumer Culture," and "From Proclamation to Practice: A Unique African American Approach to Stewardship."

Dr. Jones is married to the former Carolyn Brenda Reynolds. They are the proud parents of Mrs. E. Renee Darity, Rev. Michelle A. Jones, Pastor Anthony Jones, Jr. (Courtney) and Miss Alexa Mariah Fortune Jones. Dr. and Mrs. Jones have one adored granddaughter, Miss Michelle A. Jones (Jr.).

Our conference, in general, and you, specifically, will be richly blessed as we listen to and absorb the proclamation and insights that Dr. Jones will bring to us.

## 2023 Annual Conference Bible Study Leader Shane Claiborne



**We are excited to announce the 2023 Annual Conference Bible Study Leader, Shane Claiborne!**

Shane Claiborne is a prominent speaker, activist, and best-selling author. Shane worked with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, and founded The Simple Way in Philadelphia. He heads up Red Letter Christians, a movement of folks who are committed to living “as if Jesus meant the things he said.” Shane is a champion for grace which has led him to jail advocating for the homeless, and to places like Iraq and Afghanistan to stand against war. Now grace fuels his passion to end the death penalty and help stop gun violence.

Shane’s books include *Jesus for President*, *Red Letter Revolution*, *Common Prayer*, *Follow Me to Freedom*, *Jesus, Bombs and Ice Cream*, *Becoming the Answer to Our Prayers*, *Executing Grace*, his classic *The Irresistible Revolution*, *Beating Guns*, and his newest book, *Rethinking Life* (released Feb 2023). He has been featured in a number of films including “Another World Is Possible” and “Ordinary Radicals.” His books have been translated into more than a dozen languages.

Shane speaks over one hundred times a year, nationally and internationally. His work has appeared in *Esquire*, *SPIN*, *Christianity Today*, *TIME*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, and he has been on everything from Fox News and Al Jazeera to CNN and NPR. He’s given academic lectures at Harvard, Princeton, Liberty, Duke, and Notre Dame.

Shane speaks regularly at denominational gatherings, festivals, and conferences around the globe.



## 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	Fellowship luncheon.....\$1500
Bible Study & Keynote Speaker – multiple plenary sessions .....\$2500	Clergy continuing education event.....\$3000
Prayer Room .....\$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.iccnw.org/sponsorship/>





# 73rd Annual Conference

## July 18-21, 2023 – Charlotte, NC

### Hotel Information

The 2023 Annual Conference will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 4800 S. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28217. Phone: 704-527-8400 (Reservations: 800-445-8667). When you stay at this Embassy Suites Hotel, you will be near the airport, within a 5-minute drive of the Billy Graham Library and Renaissance Park.

Make yourself at home in a guestroom featuring refrigerators and LCD televisions. Your bed comes with down comforters and all rooms are furnished with a double bed sofa. Satellite programming and MP3 docking stations are provided for your entertainment, with wired and wireless internet access available for a surcharge. Private bathrooms with showers feature complimentary toiletries and hair dryers. Take advantage of recreation opportunities including an indoor pool and a fitness center. There is also a 24-hour business center and express check-out. Guests can catch a ride on the complimentary shuttle, which operates within a 3mi. radius. Roundtrip airport shuttle is complimentary and available 24 hours. Wake up each morning to a complimentary on-the-go or made-to-order breakfast and unwind at the hotel's evening reception with drinks and snacks.



### Hotel Dining

**E'terie Bar & Grill:** E'Terie is the casual, lounge-centric hub of Embassy Suites. Located in the open-air atrium, it features a lively and comfortable dining experience. At E'terie, they offer the comforting consistency of familiar selections, contemporary cuisine and regional favorites. Open Monday-Friday, 5:30pm-10:00pm

*Room Service* is also available, along with eating options within walking distance of the hotel or within the 3mi free shuttle radius.

### Hotel Reservations

To attend, call the Embassy Suites to reserve your room at 800-445-8667. Inform the reservations clerk that you are attending the ICCC 2023 Annual Conference (Group Code ICC) to get the special rate of \$129.00\* + tax per night.

To register online, visit <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/iccc-2023-conference/>

**The cut-off date for hotel reservations is June 24, 2023.** After this date, normal hotel rates will be in effect and space may no longer be available. For those attendees that book a room for the conference, our room rate will be offered for the 3 days before and after our event, so you can visit Charlotte longer. **\*Please note:** the special rate of \$129 + tax for a standard suite is negotiated only for conferees. Those utilizing this special rate are expected to register for the conference. An additional \$10.00 will be added to the room rate per adult above double occupancy. Thank you for your cooperation.

Check-in: 4:00pm

Check-Out: 11:00am

Visit [www.hilton.com/en/hotels/clttyes-embassy-suites-charlotte/](http://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/clttyes-embassy-suites-charlotte/) for all hotel information.

### Transportation To and From the Hotel

Charlotte Douglas International Airport is 10 minutes away from the Embassy Suites via a free shuttle. Attendees should call the hotel directly (704-527-8400) when you have your bags from baggage claim. Pick up area is Zone 1 of the bus, shuttle, taxi lane.

Parking: Self-parking is complimentary for our group.

## REQUEST FOR EXHIBIT SPACE

**I.C.C.C. Annual Conference**

**July 18-21, 2023**

**Charlotte, NC**

Please reserve a 6' x 30" space in the exhibit area of the 2023 Annual Conference of the International Council of Community Churches.

An attendant \_\_\_\_\_ will be present  
\_\_\_\_\_ will not be present

Name of Attendant: \_\_\_\_\_

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**There is a fee of \$50.00 per exhibit space, for the July 18-21, 2023 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 1, 2023 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:

Monday 7/17	6:00pm-9:00pm
Tuesday 7/18	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? 800-445-8667  
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?

*If you need more information, contact the Council office.*





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](mailto:icccnow@sbcglobal.net)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Email electronic photo to [ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net)

The ICCC intends to insert the information you provided for a Picture Directory of all interested ICCC members. Only include the contact information you prefer. The purpose of this directory is to be able to identify members with a photo. Only entries with a photo included will be added. By returning this form and photo, you are agreeing to the use of your information for ICCC members only.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



PASTORAL  
SEARCH

### *Full-Time Minister*

**Pembroke Township, IL- Minister/Pastor- St. Anne Woods Chapel Community Church-Non-Denominational. St. Anne Woods Chapel Community Church is prayerfully seeking a full time Minister who is called by God, ordained, and dedicated to the ministry of Jesus Christ.**

#### **Status and qualifications will include:**

- Must hold a degree from an accredited seminar or Bible college.
- Must be an ordained and/or licensed minister.
- Must have a minimum of 3-6 years of experience as a minister or minister assistance.
- Must have great leadership skills, ability to reach out to the youth, and open to growing the ministry.

#### **Duties:**

- Coordinating with the church secretary to prepare a weekly bulletin.
- Conducting weekly adult bible study.
- Preaching the weekly sermon on Sunday mornings.
- Teaching weekly Sunday School class
- Administering the Sacraments of communion and baptism.
- Officiating at all weddings, funerals, and other ceremonial occasions as needed.
- Participating in community events.
- Works with the deacons and board regarding the future of the church.

**If interested in the position, please submit the following information listed below to [stannewoodschapelc@gmail.com](mailto:stannewoodschapelc@gmail.com). Please submit documents in a PDF format only.**

- Cover letter that includes salary expectations, a little information about yourself, and why you believe that God is calling you to apply for this position.
- Resume
- Copy of Ministerial License and/or Certificate of Ordination.
- Degree from seminar or bible college
- Three references which would include one personal reference and two professional (minister/pastor) letters of preference.



## SUPPER CLUB

**Wednesday, July 19, 2023 • 5:15-6:30 approx.**

Looking for BBQ restaurants that have a local restaurant following in Charlotte? Well, we found it! McKoy's strives to make you feel at home. They've perfected the art of BBQ and their family recipes. Visit [www.mckoys.net](http://www.mckoys.net) for restaurant information. Below are the menu choices for this optional event.

**Choice 1: McKoy's Smokehouse Wings \$34.00**

Ten wings, smoked in-house with pecan wood and tossed in McKoy's Sweet BBQ sauce, french fries and homemade Cornbread topped with cheese.

**Choice 2: Buffalo Shrimp \$32.00**

Lightly breaded and deep fried, tossed in McKoy's Sweet BBQ sauce with celery, carrots and ranch dressing, Mac-n-Cheese and homemade Cornbread topped with cheese.

**Choice 3: Triple Threat Sandwich \$30.00**

Three of McKoy's meat all on one sandwich! BBQ Pulled Pork, Spicy Sausage and Beef Pot Roast, topped with coleslaw, french fries and homemade Cornbread topped with cheese.

**Choice 4: BBQ Pork Platter \$32.00**

BBQ Pork smoked for 14 hours over pecan wood, coleslaw, mashed potatoes with gravy and homemade Cornbread topped with cheese.

**Choice 4: Smokehouse Salad \$29.00**

Mixed greens, tomatoes, carrots, onions, cheddar cheese, homemade garlic croutons topped with Pulled Smoked Chicken and homemade Cornbread topped with cheese.

Each choice includes soft drinks or iced tea, tax and gratuity. Alcoholic beverages are available, billed separately, individually.

**Circle your choice.**

**Submit payment to the Council Office by June 30, 2023. Limited to 35 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**

**McKoy's is one mile from the hotel at 4630 Old Pineville Rd., Charlotte. If you are driving to conference and are willing to carpool to the Supper Club, please let the Council Office know.**





*International Council of Community Churches*  
**ICCC Registration Form – 2023 Annual Conference: July 18-21**  
*"We are family" - Charlotte, NC*

Name (as you would like it on badge) \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address \_\_\_\_\_

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 7-1-2023) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade completed by (7-1-2023) \_\_\_\_\_

■ 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 <b>ONLY</b> 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	\$ 230.00	\$
Daily Registrants Circle Day(s) T W Th F (meals not included)	\$ 75.00/day	\$
CC TOTAL ENCLOSED		\$

Which TRACK are you most interested to follow (circle one):

WORSHIP

FELLOWSHIP

MISSION

EDUCATION

BUSINESS

**A Banquet ticket** is included in your registration fee. This meal includes: Caesar Salad, Chicken Artichoke Piccata, Red Bliss Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetable, White Wine Lemon Sauce, Artisanal Rolls & Butter, Chef's Choice Dessert, Coffee, Hot Herbal Tea and Iced Tea. *Fish Option:* Southern Spiced Sautéed Shrimp & Grits with Tomato Glaze. *Kid's Meal Option:* Chicken Tenders, Fries, Lemonade and a Cookie. Meals are subject to change.

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

Chicken Piccata (Default Option)

Fish Option

Kid's Meal Option

**\*\*Child & Elementary registrations include the Kid's Meal option. If the adult meal for Child/Elementary 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 30, 2023 will be accepted at Conference only.

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

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS MAY BE VIDEOTAPED for advertising or Social Media.** By registering for conference, you agree the ICCC may use your 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.

## 2023 Conference Meal Programs

The **2023 Annual Conference** offers 3 optional meal program opportunities: the **Fellowship Luncheon**, the **Mission Luncheon** and the **Prayer Luncheon** hosted by the Women's Christian Fellowship. 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.

**Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 12:00pm** is the **Fellowship Luncheon**. This meal includes Baby Green Salad, Roasted Vegetable Ravioli, Herb Shallot Burr Blanc, Artisanal Rolls, Creamy Butter, Chef's Choice Dessert, Coffee and Iced Tea.

**Kid's Meal Option:** Chicken Tenders, Fries, Lemonade and a Cookie.

**Wednesday, July 19, 2023 at 12:00pm** is the **Mission Luncheon**. This meal includes Baby Green Salad, Bourbon Brown Sugar Meatloaf, Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Artisanal Rolls, Creamy Butter, Chef's Choice Dessert, Coffee and Iced Tea. **Vegetarian Option:** Roasted Vegetable Wrap and Carolina Cole Slaw.

**Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 12:00pm** is the **Prayer Luncheon**. This meal includes Baby Green Salad, Baked Macaroni & Cheese with Chicken, Seasonal Vegetables, Artisanal Rolls, Creamy Butter, Chef's Choice Dessert, Coffee and Iced Tea.

**Vegetarian Option:** Broccoli Alfredo

**Friday, July 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** is the **Conference Banquet\***. This meal includes: Caesar Salad, Chicken Artichoke Piccata, Red Bliss Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetable, White Wine Lemon Sauce, Artisanal Rolls & Butter, Chef's Choice Dessert, Coffee, Hot Herbal Tea and Iced Tea.

**Fish Option:** Southern Spiced Sautéed Shrimp & Grits with Tomato Glaze.

**Kid's Meal Option:** Chicken Tenders, Fries, Lemonade and a Cookie.

All meals are subject to change.

### 2023 MEAL RESERVATION FORM

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$28.00 each for **Tuesdays Fellowship Luncheon**

☐ Check for Kid's Meal Option \$15.00

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$32.00 each for **Wednesday's Mission Luncheon**

☐ Check for Vegetarian Option

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$32.00 each for **Thursday's Prayer Luncheon**

☐ Check for Vegetarian Option

\*Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ add'l places at \$54.00 each for **Friday's Banquet Dinner**

☐ Chicken

☐ Fish

\*Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ add'l places at \$27.00 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 30th.** There will only be a VERY LIMITED supply of tickets available at Conference registration, so please purchase your tickets before the deadline. After June 30, 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.**