



*International Council of Community Churches*

## “That they might all be one.”

The ICCC is the visible manifestation of the community church movement, which sees faith and ministry arising from the local community, in a wide variety of forms and expressions. Community churches include differing patterns of governance and a broad array of styles of worship, in congregations composed of every race and ethnicity. Guided by Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane "that they might all be one" (John 17: 20-21), the congregations of the movement enjoy unity without insisting on uniformity, and celebrate diversity without division. We invite all Christians to join us in seeking to be a fulfillment of Jesus' prayer.

### ICCC Missions:

- AGAPE
- Initiative to Feed the Hungry
- Forming Community

In keeping with our mandate to seek Christian unity, the ICCC holds membership in the World Council of Churches (WCC), the National Council of Churches (NCC), Christian Churches Together (CCT), and Churches Uniting In Christ (CUIC). Through these groupings we are able to be in dialogue with other Christian communions, some of whose approaches and opinions are quite different from our own.

The churches and ministry centers of the ICCC enjoy an Annual Conference that is held in a new location each year. The 2024 conference will be July 16—19 at the Embassy Suites Kansas City - International Airport in Kansas City, MO, USA.

The letters that spell the word for "fish" in the Greek language are also the first letters in the words "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior." For that reason the fish has been used as a Christian symbol for many centuries. When used by the ICCC, the fish is always swimming "upstream" against this world's currents of division and toward Christian unity.

#### **INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CHURCHES**

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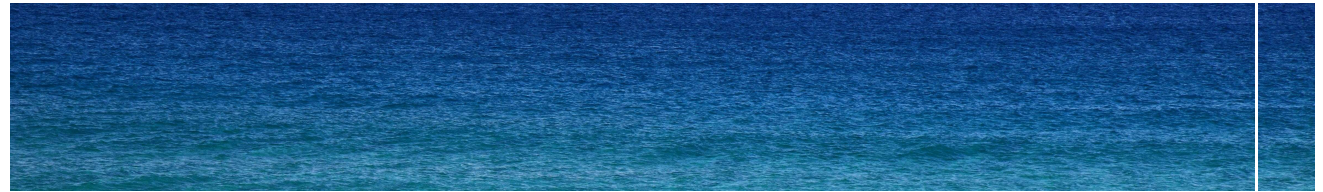
## International Council of Community Churches

Committed to community,  
treasuring diversity, living our faith  
in service and love.



# Who we are

The International Council of Community Churches (ICCC) is a voluntary fellowship of self-governing churches and ministry centers. The ICCC was formed in 1950 as a merger between a group of Afro-American congregations and a similarly sized group of Caucasian congregations. From its beginnings the fellowship has been committed to justice, reconciliation and Christian unity. Formed with just a very few non-US congregations, the fellowship now includes churches in several nations in Europe, Africa and Asia, though the majority are US based.



*The International Council of Community Churches is an international, intercultural, interracial fellowship of churches and ministry centers which seeks Christian unity in local, national and world relations.*

**FELLOWSHIP.** The ICCC is non-creedal, claims no authority over local churches, does not hold a lien on any congregation's property, and has no hierarchy. The ICCC is centered instead on relationships: our common relationship to Jesus, and our relationships among the laity and clergy of our congregations.

**AGAPE.** AGAPE is a disciplined series of small group sessions that allow people of different backgrounds to better understand one another's experiences and thus to bridge the gaps between human beings. The sessions, moderated by ICCC staff and/or volunteers, may be held as a series of weekly gatherings or concentrated in a weekend retreat.

**REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS.** Collegial, locally organized fellowships of congregations offer a regular schedule of gatherings to provide resources for both laity and clergy.

**BUILDING COMMUNITY.** There are "best practices" for initiating and nurturing partnerships with secular, ecumenical and interfaith organizations and their servant leaders. ICCC staff and/or volunteers can assist local congregations with such initiatives.

**FEEDING THE BODY AS WELL AS THE SOUL.** "Best practices" in food-related programming by local congregations and interchurch groups have been developed over time. Food related programming includes pantries, meal delivery, in-house feeding programs and more. The ICCC offers consultative services and collects and shares information on programs offered by member congregations.

**PASTORAL SEARCHES.** The ICCC offers a printed and on-line manual for search committees, direct visits with committees by Council staff, and neutral third-party advice on sorting, vetting and interviewing candidates, without interfering in any way with the congregation's own decision-making.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING.** The ICCC offers a printed and on-line manual for a multi-month process for strategic planning for a congregation that involves the entire church membership, as well as in-person consultations with pastoral leaders and boards.

**INTERNATIONAL SISTER CHURCHES.** North American churches and those outside the continent can develop cooperative programming, shared worship experiences and even cuisine exchanges. The relationship is spiritual rather than financial.

**PENSION PLAN.** Through the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board the ICCC offers a pension plan for staff of local congregations. Membership in the pension plan is at the option of the local congregation.

**EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES.** Regional and area gatherings as well as the ICCC's Annual Conference are designed to provide resources that help local congregations in their witness and service. Limited scholarship help is available for continuing education for clergy.

