

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 2024



International Council of Community Churches

Volume 74

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

Number 4

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74th ICCC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PRIORITIES for Christian Living

July 16 – 19, 2024

"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

Romans 12:9-12

See you in KC in July!

Why come to Annual Conference in Kansas City this summer?

Well, first of all, I'm a little prejudiced and very proud of the city in the heartland of America that I have called home for almost a half century. But really, the conference is more than a particular city, or an accommodating hotel, or great food. It is an event that is difficult to explain or describe. You'll find it's an experience that you will not soon forget.

As I'm writing this, we just celebrated Christmas last week. I can close my eyes and remember so many years ago, the excitement, the enthusiasm, the anticipation of those Christmas mornings as a child in the little house where I grew up. The thrill I remember is difficult to express.

For me, the Annual Conference is equally beyond words. Over the years there have been great speakers to hear, lessons to learn, opportunities to share, friends to meet, chances to grow, faith to build. And this year will be no different.

Do you remember what it was like when you first met Jesus? Would you like to get closer and know Him better? How might your

life be different, be better? This conference week could do just that.

Great speakers, great friends, great opportunities to learn and grow your faith. You can't miss it. Register today.

We can't wait to welcome you to Kansas City.

Jerry Brown

VP for Planning

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

KC Trivia:

Kansas City was nearly named "Possum Trot" and "Rabbitville" in 1853 — two animals that were popular barbecue delicacies at the time. Speaking of barbecue the Kansas City Barbecue Society has over 8,000 members, making it the largest barbecue/grilling organization in the world. And if you join us for Supper Club on Wed night, you'll get to sample some of the best.



President's Message

Abraham Wright

wrightmw@aol.com

240-432-2910

BREAKING NEWS

FUTURE CONFERENCES IN JEOPARDY

The existence of the ICCC Annual Conference is at stake due to penalty expenditures

Most of us who regularly attend the Annual ICCC Conference place Jesus Christ at the heart of the event; others of us who attend Annual Conference quite often regard the event as the center of our existence with each other; yet others consider the two events as one. To exist with one and not the other is heartbreaking for most of us; it would be the loss of much of our quality lives, long established by meeting together "live" in Annual Conferences. In practical reality, this life that we genuinely live through Annual Conference is closer and closer and closer to abandonment **if** we fail to do something immediately to concretely sustain it with genuine and financial support to further the work of reconciliation of the body of Christ both within ICCC and the larger body of Christ.

So now is the time to act prudently. Otherwise, the demise of a life gathering annually for 4-5 days of sharing one-on-one in meetings and inter-family assemblies with excellent sermons, bible studies and follow-ups that are relevant to personal and home-church settings and elsewhere, with music that touches the very soul of the group, with workshops and other offerings related to work and study, with a mission focus and personal growth activities, together with further connections for personal and professional studies, and available opportunities to keep the relationships active from year to year by participating and by contributing to it.

It costs approximately \$1,000 to sponsor a 4-day Annual Conference for each individual including registration, room night requirements, and paying for rentals such as electronic equipment

and an assessed percentage on purchase of food for group use and on rental equipment. Each year the hotel site is booked in advance. However, for the past three years the Council has paid an overbalance of \$30,000 - \$40,000 in penalty expenditures because the Council did not meet its hotel requirement for food or beverage or a combination of the two. When the hotel nights and the food and beverage requirement are not met, the Council/Conference pays for the use of hotel space for programming. However, the Council can no longer afford to absorb such costs. *So the essential question is, Does the Annual Conference of the International Council of Community Churches continue to live and with a network of our love and our support, or does it perish?*

I pray that you pray with us that the Annual Conference of the International Council of Community Churches continue to reflect more seriously **now** on this issue, use a new frame of mind with clearer lens and sincerely frame the question of how can we as agape-bonding Christians use the bulleted points to the right or a combination of refraining questions that we have already asked silently but was not invited to ask aloud and ask ourselves, *"What if we do all that we can do in time and on time, and let God freely do the rest?"* →

PRAY THAT GOD WILL CONTINUE TO TOUCH ALL OF OUR HEARTS AND MINDS TO DO THAT WHICH WILL ENABLE THE COUNCIL TO THRIVE, ESPECIALLY DURING AND AFTER THE 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Reimagining Financially for ICCC Annual Conference

- Support your church in making at least the **minimum** annual contribution to the Council's office.
- Attend the Annual Conference for the duration of the four/five days.
- Support your church by supporting the attendance of two delegates at the Annual ICCC Conference.
- Encourage your church to contribute at least a **\$2,000 Council Conference** expense if no one from your Church can attend the Annual Conference.
- Contribute **personally** an Annual Conference contribution if you cannot attend the Annual Conference.
- Ask a Friend or a Family Member to attend the ICCC Annual Conference with you.
- Make a Contribution to help Sponsor one of the Annual Conference Presenters: Preacher or Bible Study Presenter, Workshop Presenter, Mission Program or Give a Contribution to the Conference Youth Program or Mission Program
- Sponsor a Number of Annual Conference Registrations from your Church or Area or from the Conference Office (Cost of Registration)
- Sponsor an Annual Conference Support Program at your church or in your area.
- Invite Relatives and Friends who live within the Kansas City, Missouri Area to Spend a Day or Two at the Kansas City, Missouri Annual Conference
- Consider making a **Life-Time Financial Gift** to the International Council of Community Churches.
- Communicate with your congregation about the ICCC on a regular basis through your regional trustee, the Executive Director, the Board of Directors, the President, the Office Administrator, through the Council Newsletter, and through other Council representatives.

Abraham



Executive Director's Message

Phil Tom

Churches Need to Lift Up Christ and Not Itself

When I engage with a congregation which is struggling and totally focused on how to sustain its institution, I often ask the hard question, where is the fire and focus on fulfilling God's mission and calling to you! Sadly, too many congregations are focused on institution maintenance and survival rather being a missional Church.

In a recent email to his congregation Rev. R.C. Fleeman, the pastor of Peace Community Church, Ft. Myers, FL., posted the following quote by Dr. Leonard Sweet -

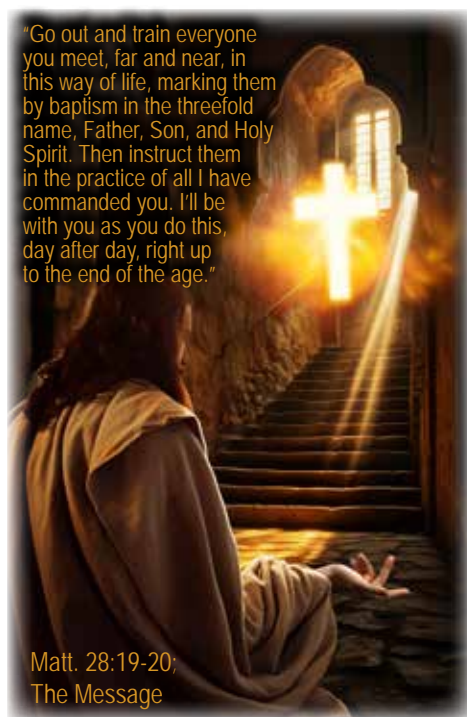
Pew Research Center is one of the most reliable and reputable sources of information on religion in the United States. Pew finds that as of 2019, 65% of American adults described themselves as Christian, down 12 percentage points over the past decade. The 2020 data shows 64% Christian identity. In other words, every year the Christian faith is being abandoned by 1% of the U.S. population. This is more than a "steady, rapid" decline. This is a precipitous plummet.

In summary, the percentage of American adults identifying as Christian dropped from 77% in 2009 to 65% in 2019 to 64% in 2020. (See Pew Research Center, "In U.S., Decline of Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace" (October 17, 2019).

"The road to obsolescence is paved with status quo," as someone once said. Maybe it's time for the church in the U.S. to lift up Christ and not itself?"

As the CHURCH is wrestling with how to navigate our new social and increasing secular context, perhaps the CHURCH may experience a new reformation where we reclaim our mission and refocus on developing new disciples to carry out God's mission of compassion, justice and peace in the world, rather than spend our energy on how we can sustain or increase the 3 Bs - buildings, budgets and butts in the pew!

Food for thought! I welcome your thoughts!



Thank you

to all of you who contributed to my year-end gift. Thank you for your generosity!
Not necessary but thank you!

Phil

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations
(ISSN - 0145-3297)

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

Published Oct., Nov., Dec., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June by the International Council of Community Churches. Home Office: P.O. Box 846, Longmont, CO 80502. Subscription rate: \$12.00 per year.

Editors: Phil Tom, DeAnn Bath

Circulation: DeAnn Bath

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International Council of Community Churches

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

ICCC FEBRUARY 2024



Book REVIEW

By Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson

We pray that you have a blessed new year!!!

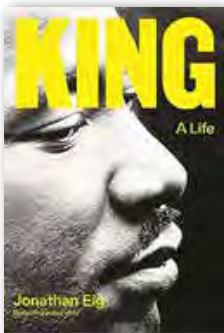
We pray all is well with you and the everlasting blessings of God are with you.

Moreover, we pray that our sharing captures the idea of fellowship from First John 1:3.



Black History Month evokes various meanings in every segment of our community of faith. Some focus on the diverse contributions to fiction; others concentrate on nonfiction and poetry, and others inspire children's literature and picture books. We encourage all to investigate old and new venues of expression and learn from the experience of our shared humanity.

A notable starting point comes from Syracuse.com (<https://www.syracuse.com/opinion/2023/02/24-essential-reads-for-black-history-month-and-beyond.html>). "A collage of some of the two dozen books nominated by a handful of Central New York thought leaders as 'essential reads' for understanding the Black experience" (Images via Amazon).

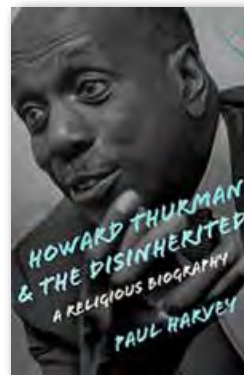


King: A Life by Jonathan Eig. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$35 (688p) ISBN 978-0-374-27929-5

Martin Luther King Jr. went beyond meek nonviolence into far-reaching radicalism, according to this sweeping biography. Eig (*King: A Life*) gives a rousing recap of King's triumphs as a civil rights leader—the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott, his "I Have a Dream" speech at the 1963 march on Washington,

the 1965 procession from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.—as well as his despondency later in the 1960s as his anti-poverty campaigns struggled and Black energies drifted from nonviolent protest toward armed militance and "Black power." Contesting accusations by Malcolm X and others that King was an "Uncle Tom," Eig casts him as a revolutionary who reshaped the South with his integrationism, became an outspoken opponent of the Vietnam War despite losing political support and drawing the ire of the FBI, and developed a deep critique of systemic racism and economic inequality that called for reparations for slavery and a guaranteed minimum income. King is no saint in this complex, nuanced portrait—his plagiarism and womanizing are probed in detail—but Eig's evocative prose ably

conveys his bravery, charisma, and spell-binding oratory (rallying the Montgomery boycotters, "he called out in his deep, throbbing voice, and the people responded, the noise of the crowd rolling and pounding in waves that shook the building as he built to a climax"). It's an enthralling reappraisal that confirms King's relevance to today's debates over racial justice (*Publishers Weekly*, May 2023).



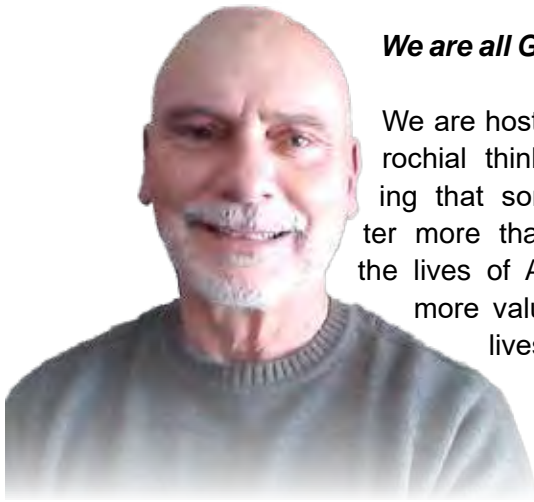
Howard Thurman and the Disinherited: A Religious Biography by Paul Harvey. Eerdmans, \$28.99 (256p) ISBN 978-0-8028-7677-5

Harvey (*Bounds of Their Habitation*), professor of history at the University of Colorado, offers an illuminating account of the life and legacy of Howard Thurman (1899–1981), the grandson of a slave who became a well-known preacher, teacher, author, mystic, and mentor to

a generation of civil rights activists. Harvey recounts Thurman's drive for educational advancement despite numerous obstacles—his hometown of Daytona, Fla., lacked a high school for Black students—and the learning and leadership opportunities he pursued at the YMCA, Morehouse College, and Rochester Theological Seminary. Later chapters cover Thurman's six-month trip to India in 1935 as part of the American Christian Student Movement's "Negro delegation," during which he met Gandhi; his career as dean of the chapel at Howard University and, later, Boston University; and his efforts to establish an interracial church in San Francisco. Harvey astutely unpacks the development of Thurman's understanding of Christian faith, which was greatly influenced by the spirituals and Quaker thought, defied Baptist orthodoxy, incorporated mysticism and pacifism, and led to his seminal work, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, which influenced Martin Luther King Jr. This should go far to raise the profile of a lesser-known spiritual leader whose writings, sermons, and mentorship helped lay the foundation for the civil rights movement. (*Publishers Weekly*, October 2020).

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..*

Samaritan Men on the Move



We are all God's children.

We are hostage to our parochial thinking, to thinking that some lives matter more than others. Are the lives of Americans any more valuable than the lives of Israelis?

Or the lives of Israelis any more valuable than

the lives of Palestinians? Or the lives of Palestinians any more valuable than anyone else's? Devaluing the lives of others is a prelude to prejudice, racism, violence and war.

"We are all God's children" is the recognition and saving message of religions around the globe. Actually relating to one another as brothers and sisters has been our perpetual challenge. As an interrelated human family and interdependent human community, we must mature beyond sectarian, tribal, nationalistic, us-them thinking, lest animosity, blame, oppression and war continue to tear us apart.

The call of Life goes forth to recognize the sacred dignity of everyone, even when others don't, and to assure our brothers and sisters that we mean no harm and will do no harm. Let our interests and efforts promote one another's well-being and thereby foster mutual security. And given their influence, we must also guard against leadership that preys upon fears and stokes hostilities, leadership that betrays the good of people and undermines unity and peace.

Taking sides that are bias and exclusive is to submit to a spirit of strife. As we remember our common humanity and our sacred dignity, we can transcend self-righteous thinking and its divisiveness. Let us repent a recourse to violence in word or deed, and work toward the reconciliation and equitable justice that is in the best-interest of all. May we be free enough to do so.

Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman
ICCC Samaritan President

Sharing Joys with

- **James W. Jones**, Park Road Community Church, DC James celebrated his retirement on January 18th, surrounded by friends and family. Enjoy what's ahead!
- Congratulations to ICCC **Chaplain Conner Simms**, who in November, received a grant from the ICCC Ministerial Effectiveness Training Fund. Conner is pursuing a dual Masters of Business Administration and a Masters of Leadership, to help him carry out his responsibilities as an USAF Chaplain and MP with increased impact. Best wishes towards your educational endeavor!



Sharing Concerns with

- The Family of **Rev. David Alan White**, ICCC Clergy in Special Standing, who passed away unexpectedly on October 31, 2023.
- Douglas Memorial Community Church, MD and the Family of **Maxine Gaskins**, who passed away January 6th, 2024. Maxine was an active member and supporter of the ICCC for many years.
- **Leslie Crutchfield Tiller** and her family who lost her husband, Christopher Tiller. He passed away New Year's Eve. Leslie is sister to Keith Crutchfield, sister-in-law to ICCC WCF President **Winessa Crutchfield**.



ICCC Resource About Raising Funds for your Congregation

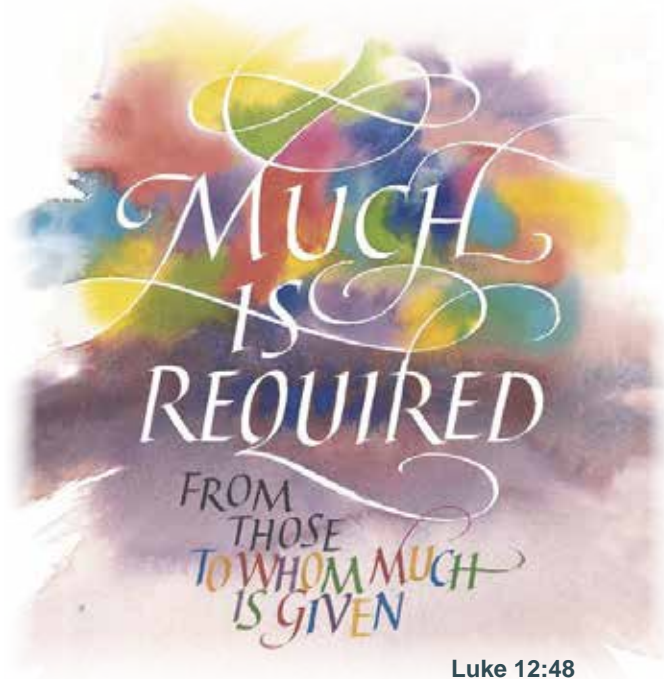
Did you know that ICCC has a resource that provides ideas on raising funds for your congregation/center/community? It's titled Fundraising 101, and

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



Help Give Foster Children Hope

To whom much is given, much is required. Luke 12:48



Luke 12:48

The ICCC Missions Committee needs your congregation's help with the Foster Children backpacking event to be held at the 2024 annual conference for children entering foster care in Kansas City. **We are asking your congregation to sponsor as many backpacks as you can support;** this campaign request ends February 28, 2024.

Each year 220,000 children in the U.S. with an average age of just 7 ½ are hastily removed from unsafe home living conditions and sent to a foster care facility; more than 12,000 of these children live in Missouri. Each child has just a few minutes to stuff their personal belongings into something handy, typically a trash bag, before going to foster care. It's a traumatic experience that you can help make easier by donating comfort cases for up to 200 Kansas City, Missouri youngsters at this year's Annual Conference.

What is a Comfort Case you ask? It is a backpack or duffel bag, filled with age-appropriate essentials such as pajamas, blanket, socks, a cuddle toy, dental kit, personal grooming - hygiene items, book, pencils, etc. When a child is removed from his or her home due to a traumatic event, the Comfort Case is given to the child to eliminate the demoralizing practice of placing his or her belongings in trash bags at this very stressful time in the child's life.

Our goal is to sponsor 200 backpacks at a cost of \$55 each to be assembled at Conference and delivered to the Kansas City Missouri Social Services/Police Departments specifically for foster children.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

1. First, print this page with the Comfort Cases Donation Form.
2. Prayerfully complete the **Comfort Cases Donation Form** making a donation for the number of Comfort Cases you choose to give, and
3. Mail/send your tax-deductible gift before February 28th to DeAnn Bath at the ICCC Home Office address on the form. **Thank you from your ICCC Missions Committee.**

Comfort Cases Donation Form

I/we will prayerfully donate Comfort Cases at \$55 each for uprooted foster care children.

Name of Church/ ICCC Member/Friend _____

_____ 2 Comfort Cases	\$110
_____ 5 Comfort Cases	\$275
_____ 10 Comfort Cases	\$550
_____ 20 Comfort Cases	\$1,100
_____ 25 Comfort Cases	\$1,375
_____ Number of Comfort Cases	\$_____

Street Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Signature _____

Please make your donation payable to ICCC "For Comfort Cases". You may donate via check or online at www.ICCCNOW.org/donate/, or text 815-506-9017 to set up a one-time donation.






Thank you! Your Comfort Cases gift is sure to bring a generous blessing of dignity and hope to the foster children in Kansas City as well as enhancing and enriching the conference experience for all attendees.

Mail to:

International Council of Community Churches (ICCC)
PO Box 846
Longmont, CO 80502
(815) 464-5690
Email: ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net

Conference Youth Scholarship

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

- 1 The scholarship is open to any **Youth attendee** (entering grade 7 through 12) and covers the regular registration fee and Fellowship Luncheon. 
- 2 Pastors from any member church may submit their **confidential nomination** for the award with a letter of recommendation introducing the candidate and explaining why they would like this person to receive the scholarship. 
- 3 The submissions will be reviewed and presented to the ICCC Board of Directors for **approval**. 
- 4 Nominations must be submitted for review no later than **April 30, 2024**. They should be sent to the Council Office at PO Box 846, Longmont, CO 80502, attn: Youth Scholarship. Or email to ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net. 
- 5 The ICCC President will communicate the board's decision to the recommending pastor to notify the recipient. The decision will also be announced in the June issue of the Christian Community. The **winning recipient** would be notified soon after the April 30th deadline. 

APPLY TODAY!



THANK YOU to a 2023 Annual Conference Sponsor
People's Community Church, Berea, OH

JORDAN SCHOLARSHIP

Hey Family, the Jordan Scholarship Committee is looking for applicants.

- ✓ Any High School Seniors seeking higher education?
- ✓ Anyone thinking about going back to school to finish working on your goal?

Contact DeAnn for an application, questions or concerns.



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.icccnow.org/sponsorship/>

74th Annual Conference

July 16-19, 2024 – Kansas City, MO

Hotel Information

The 2024 Annual Conference will be held at the Embassy Suites Kansas City-International Airport Hotel, 7640 NW Tiffany Springs Pkwy, Kansas City, MO 64153. Phone: 816-891-7788. When you stay at this Embassy Suites Hotel, you will be 10 minutes from the Kansas City Airport via a free shuttle service and two miles from shopping and entertainment at Zona Rosa. The Union Station and downtown Kansas City are half an hour away.

Make yourself at home in a guestroom with features such as a mini refrigerator, Embassy Essentials Bedding, a microwave and a seating area with a sofa sleeper. Private bathrooms feature complimentary toiletries and hair dryers. WiFi is available for a daily fee. Take advantage of recreation opportunities including an indoor salt water pool and a fitness center. There is also a business center and digital check-in. Pet-friendly, ADA accessible and connecting rooms are all available, but limited, so register early. Guests can catch a ride on the complimentary shuttle, which operates within a 2mi. radius. Wake up each morning to a complimentary made-to-order breakfast and unwind at the hotel's evening reception with drinks and snacks.



Hotel Dining

Fountain Court Bar & Grill: Sandwiches, salads, grilled fare and an assortment of appetizers & desserts that will fill any appetite. Or, if you are ready to wrap up the day, enjoy your favorite beverage and the game of the night. Their menu of bar favorites will not leave you hungry. Open Monday-Sunday 5:00pm-11:00pm

Room Service is also available, along with eating options within walking distance of the hotel or within the 2mi free shuttle radius.

Hotel Reservations

Call the Embassy Suites to reserve your room at 800-445-8667. Inform the reservations clerk that you are attending the ICCC 2024 Annual Conference to get the special rate of \$139.00* + tax per night.

To register online, visit the ICCC Website for the hotel link. www.icccnow.org/hotel-information/

The cut-off date for hotel reservations is June 24, 2024. After this date, normal hotel rates will be in effect and space may no longer be available. ***Please note:** the special rate of \$139 + 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 by the hotel.

Check-in: 4:00pm

Check-Out: 11:00am

Visit <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/mkcpdes-embassy-suites-kansas-city-international-airport/hotel-info/> for hotel information.

Transportation To and From the Hotel

Kansas City International Airport (MCI) is 10 minutes away from the Embassy Suites via a free hotel shuttle. Attendees should call the hotel directly (816-891-7788) when you have your bags from baggage claim for instruction.

Parking: Self-parking is complimentary for our group.

The ICCC Welcomes Back

THE REV. DR. LEAH D. SCHADE

as the 2024 Annual Conference Bible Study Leader and Keynote Speaker!

The Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade is the Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary in 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 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), as well as *For the Beauty of the Earth*, a Creation-centered Lenten devotional (Chalice Press, 2019). She is co-editor and author with Margaret Bullitt-Jonas of [*Rooted and Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis*](#) (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019), and co-author with Jerry Sumney of [*Apocalypse When?: A Guide to Interpreting and Preaching Apocalyptic Texts*](#). She is also the [EcoPreacher](#) blogger for Patheos.

Dr. Schade is serving as President of the Academy of Homiletics in 2024. She has been a featured speaker for the Festival of Homiletics, leads workshops and retreats, and keynotes events throughout the country. She is the director of a Wabash grant exploring the use of deliberative dialogue in congregations and theological education and is part of a research exchange with the Kettering Foundation studying the role of religious organizations in democratic community building. Dr. Schade is also conducting a longitudinal research study about ministry, preaching, and social issues that has surveyed nearly 3,000 clergy and 1,000 laity since 2017.

We are excited to have Dr. Schade lead us once again! Register for the 2024 ICCC Annual Conference in Kansas City today at www.ICCCNOW.org!

Meet our Youth Leader



Rachelle Bagby will be leading our Youth Program this year. The mother of a soon-to-be teen, she also manages a full-time job along with her theology studies at Calvary University in Belton, MO. Her vivacious smile and overwhelming enthusiasm for Jesus are contagious.

She is absolutely thrilled to be working with the Youth at our conference this year, and to share her faith with them. They will be discussing the story of the Prodigal Son, and how his attitude and desire for independence might relate to their lives.

Like the Prodigal Son, at some point, all young people have questioned their faith, and have asked questions like: Is Christianity worth it? If we go all-in following Jesus, will we miss out on some of life's pleasures? After what I've done, can I still be forgiven? Am I good enough?

Why are we so tempted by the allure of a life apart from God's will? Why are so many people today (especially young people who may be challenged to make difficult life decisions) coming to the dangerous and false conclusion that life is somehow more fulfilling outside of God's love? Thankfully, Jesus addressed these questions through the familiar parable of the prodigal son from the Gospel of Luke.

Rachelle's own personal life story parallels that of the Prodigal Son (rebellion, regret, and repentance), so she can relate to him and teach from her own first-hand perspective. She completely understands and has experienced God's overwhelming grace and can confirm that God is a loving Father whose forgiveness knows no limit.

But wait, we'll have fun too! We have reserved a Virtual Reality center for Fri afternoon that is a mind-blowing VR experience like no other. We will visit "Disciples of Gaming" where they utilize the latest technology and setups to bring you an insanely immersive experience. It will be a blast, and a great way to conclude our week together.

So, register early to save your spot for a wonderful week of faith, fellowship, and fun!

***Also, there are a few Youth Scholarships available to pay for your registration. Information is in this newsletter and on our website.**



WCF

Dear Christian Community,

Reflecting on the 2023 ICCC Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, my heart is warm with fond memories. As a conference, we fellowshiped together as one body. Our Women's Christian Fellowship had great meetings, shared an engaging Prayer Luncheon, and presented more than \$1,600 in various gift cards to Promise Youth Development, a nonprofit organization that provides for children in Charlotte. As our fundraiser, the WCF held a silent auction. Through contributions from our officers, the auction raised \$1,200.

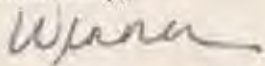
To continue our fellowship, we held our 2nd annual Virtual Holiday fellowship. I am pleased to say we had more attendees than last year. Thanks to technology, we might be spread across the country, but we gathered in love.

I look forward to holding our 2nd Women's gathering in March in honor of Women's History Month. Please look for more information in the Christian Community and the ICCC Facebook page.

For our ICCC 2024 Conference, I hope to meet you in Kansas City, Missouri. Our goal is to assist those interested in attending the Conference this year. Please reach out to me if this piques your interest.

Best to you and your family in 2024.

Sincerely,



Winessa Crutchfield, President

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CHURCHES

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOOK/CHURCH DIRECTORY AD SPACE

Indicate below the ad size you will submit:

<u>WIDTH</u>	<u>HEIGHT</u>	<u>PAGE SIZE</u>	<u>COST</u>
_____ 8" x 11"		Full	\$200.00
_____ 8" x 5.5"		One Half	110.00
_____ 4" x 5"		One Quarter	60.00

NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____

STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: () _____

FAX: () _____

E-MAIL: _____

Mail this completed form along with your ad and payment to:

International Council of Community Churches

PO Box 846, Longmont, CO 80502

Or email to ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net (must be paid by credit/debit card)

☐ Check or Money Order made payable to ICCC

☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS ☐ DISCOVER

Acct.# _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV: _____

Print name as it appears on card:

Signature of card holder:

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: May 31, 2024

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR AD IS CAMERA-READY (THE AD WILL GO IN BOOK AS IS). THE COUNCIL CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DESIGNING ADS.

REQUEST FOR EXHIBIT SPACE I.C.C.C. Annual Conference July 16-19, 2024 • Kansas City, MO

Please reserve a 6' x 30" space in the exhibit area of the 2024 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 16-19, 2024 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, 2024 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.



International Council of Community Churches
ICCC Registration Form – 2023 Annual Conference: July 16-19
“Priorities for Christian Living” – Kansas City, MO

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 7-1-2024) _____ Grade completed by (7-1-2024) _____

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

Sponsor Signature

Print Sponsor Name

CONFERENCE FEES

Fill in Dollar Amount for this
Registration

Infants (not occupying chair at banquet)	\$ 0.00	\$
Child* with Kid's Meal** (Ages 1-5)	\$ 35.00	\$
Elementary* with Kid's Meal** (entering kindergarten - entering 6th grade)	\$ 60.00	\$
**Add-on ONLY if Adult meal is preferred for Banquet Child/Elementary regis.	\$ 30.00	\$
Youth (completed 6th grade - entering 12th grade)	\$ 145.00	\$
Young Adult (completed 12th grade - age 23)	\$ 170.00	\$
Adult Register by May 1, 2024 - Early Bird Special \$195.00	\$ 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: Mixed Green Salad with Sliced Cucumbers, Cherry Tomatoes, Julienne Carrots, and Croutons with choice of Ranch or Balsamic Dressing, Roasted Bourbon Street Chicken Breast topped with Chopped Bacon, Cheddar Cheese and Bourbon Cream Sauce, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetable, Assorted Breads & Butter, Chef's Choice Dessert, Decaffeinated Coffee, Assorted Hot Herbal Teas, Ice Water and Iced Tea. Fish Option: Honey Grilled Salmon with Lemon Herb Sauce and Wild Rice Pilaf. *Kid's Meal Option:* Chicken Tenders, French Fries, Cup of Fruit. Meals are subject to change.

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

Bourbon Street Chicken (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 May 1st.** Registrations after June 30, 2024 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.

2024 Conference Meal Programs

The **2024 Annual Conference** offers 3 optional meal program opportunities: the **Fellowship Luncheon** hosted by the Agape Team, the **Mission Luncheon** and the **Prayer Luncheon** hosted by the Samaritan Men's Group. 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 16, 2024 at 12:00pm is the **Fellowship Luncheon**: This meal includes Roasted Turkey BLT Sandwich with Smoked Gouda, Sliced Bacon, Tomatoes, Lettuce and Herb Mayo on Whole-Grain Bread, Chips, Pasta Salad and Assorted Beverages. Vegetarian Option: Southwest Quinoa Wrap that includes Tri-Colored Quinoa, Roasted Corn, Black Beans, Peppers, Avocado with Chipotle Dressing in an Herb Tortilla. **Kid's Meal Option**: Plain Burger, French Fries, Cup of Fruit.

Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 12:00pm is the **Mission Luncheon**. This meal includes Mixed Green Salad with Sliced Cucumbers, Cherry Tomatoes, Julienne Carrots, and Croutons, Pan-Seared Chicken with Marsala Sauce, Butter Herb Rice, Seasonal Vegetable, Assorted Breads, Chef's Choice Dessert, Ice Water and Iced Tea. **Vegetarian Option**: Grilled Salmon Filet with Lemon Dill Cream Sauce and Rice Pilaf.

Thursday, July 18, 2024 at 12:00pm is the **Prayer Luncheon**. This meal includes Caesar Salad, Kansas City Strip Steak Rubbed and Grilled to medium temperature with Butter, Sautéed Onions and Red Wine Demi-Glaze, Buttery Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetable, Assorted Breads, Chef's Choice Dessert, Ice Water and Iced Tea. **Vegetarian Option**: Cheese Tortellini with Creamy Pesto Sauce.

Friday, July 19, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. is the **Conference Banquet***. This meal includes: Mixed Green Salad, Roasted Bourbon Street Chicken Breast topped with Chopped Bacon, Cheddar Cheese and Bourbon Cream Sauce, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetable, Assorted Breads & Butter, Chef's Choice Dessert, Decaffeinated Coffee, Assorted Hot Herbal Teas, Ice Water and Iced Tea. **Fish Option**: Honey Grilled Salmon with Lemon Herb Sauce and Wild Rice Pilaf.

Kid's Meal Option: Chicken Tenders, French Fries, Cup of Fruit.

All meals are subject to change.

2024 MEAL RESERVATION FORM

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

Name: _____

Please reserve _____ places at \$30.00 each for **Tuesdays Fellowship Luncheon**

☐ Check for Vegetarian Option

☐ Check for Kid's Meal Option \$25.00

Please reserve _____ places at \$37.00 each for **Wednesday's Mission Luncheon**

☐ Check for Vegetarian Option

Please reserve _____ places at \$40.00 each for **Thursday's Prayer Luncheon**

☐ Check for Vegetarian Option at \$30.00 each

*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.