

# THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

APRIL 2024



International Council of Community Churches

Volume 74

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

Number 6

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Abraham Wright

### Treasurer

Tim Meadows

### Secretary

Bruce Merton

### VP for Planning

Jerry Brown

### VP for Regional Relationships

Wendy Childress

### VP for Financial Development

Dorothy Campbell Gardner

### VP for Membership Enlistment

Sharyon Cosey

### VP for Membership Services

Michael Donahue

### VP for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

Rock Fremont, Jr.

### VP for Leadership Development

Rhonda Blevins

### VP for Informational Services and Outreach

Robert Fread

### Auxiliary Representatives

John Hardman-Zimmerman

Winessa Crutchfield

Rock Fremont, Jr.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### President

Abraham Wright

### VP for Regional Relationships

Wendy Childress

### VP for Membership Enlistment

Sharyon Cosey

### VP for Membership Services

Michael Donahue

### Secretary

Bruce Merton

### Regional Trustees

Sandra Roberts, Sandra Nelson,

Linda Hopkins, Jean Tillman,

John Woodcock, Bruce Merton,

Rock Fremont, Jr., Vicky Kirkman

### Chaplain Trustee

Hare Varnon

## AUXILIARY HEADS

### Samaritans:

John Hardman-Zimmerman

### Women's Christian Fellowship:

Winessa Crutchfield

Ministerium: Rock Fremont, Jr.



## International Council of Community Churches

### 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

July 16 – 19, 2024

Kansas City, Missouri



### Priorities for Christian Living

Romans 12:9-14



Be Our  
Special  
Guests

**Early bird  
registration ends  
May 1**

We look forward to having some really special guests join us at our Annual Conference this year.

You know, when you have special guests coming to visit you, you tend to spruce up the house, make particular plans, “get out the fine china”, and roll out the red carpet in order to make them feel especially welcomed and appreciated.

Well, y'all are coming to “my house” here in Kansas City this summer, and you will be our special guests. So, that's exactly what we plan to do. We'll be rolling out the red carpet to show off our city and our midwestern hospitality.

If you arrive early, you can head over to Independence to visit the Harry S Truman Presidential Library and Museum. Or you can stay after the conference and check out the National World War I Museum and Memorial. During the conference, we've planned a visit to the historic 18th & Vine Jazz District and the American Jazz Museum, and/or go next door to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. And on Wednesday night at Supper Club, you'll be treated to the best KC barbeque you'll ever find in our private dining room at Smokehouse Barbeque.

But the rest of the conference will be so very special too. We're so grateful and fortunate to have Dr Leah Schade joining us again to share not only our Bible Study sessions, but

also our worship opportunities with in-depth follow-up discussions to get the most out of our time with her. And the workshop/break-out sessions promise to be outstanding growth and learning opportunities as well. I've heard most of our presenters, and you can look forward to great opportunities to learn and strengthen your Christian relationship.

I'm really excited about our Youth Program too. Rachele Still is enthused and excited to share the story of the Prodigal Son with our teenagers, as they also face challenges and temptations at a critical time in their lives. It is a story that in many ways mirrors Rachele's own faith journey. I'm sure her perspective, her enthusiasm and passion for following the example and teachings of Jesus will resonate with them.

We're really looking forward to your visit here in KC this summer, it will be a great week. So send in your registration, and make plans to join us. We'll be rolling out the red carpet. And if you arrive early or stay late, you are certainly welcome to come join us for worship at Antioch Community Church (we have two services: Sat eve at 5:00pm and Sun morning at 10:30am). See you in KC (we'll leave the light on for you)!

**Jerry Brown**  
VP for Planning



## President's Message

**Abraham Wright**

wrightmw@aol.com

240-432-2910

*Created for  
Good Works*

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advanced for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).

Almost since the beginning of the practice of Christianity, millions of us have reenacted the genuine story of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and we learn more every time we re-enact it. For example, this year when I reread the biblical history of the resurrection, it clearly registered that not only did the disciples let Jesus down, partly with understandable reasons: there was physical fear, and Jesus instructed them to go into Galilee and wait for him. But the other realization is that when the Angel revealed to the women at the tomb that Jesus was not there, that he had risen, and instructed them what to do, they too, apparently, because of fear, hastened from the scene. This leads me to ponder, whether the center of our worship has Jesus Christ at the Center of Christianity, or do we occupy that space?

God tells us through the prophets, especially Isaiah (7:14; 9:6); John proclaims (1:1) that in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. It also was predicted that Jesus would come from the line of David. Jesus was preordained to die to save humankind from sin; it is part of the divine order for salvation. John describes him in

Rev. 5:5 as the "Lion of Judas" and in Genesis 49:10 as the "Lamb of God" to take away the sins of the world. The clarity is that Jesus Christ came as a baby, described by servants' name (not as a subservant). He served individuals of all classes, but he especially had a direct concern and love for the poor and the needy, for women and children, for the blind and the cripple, and gave attention to the souls of the rich.

Ephesians 10:2 (as well as other New Testament scriptures) unequivocally declares that all of us once lived with the sinners, not just Adam and Eve, and that God saved us through the death of Jesus Christ, through his great love and mercy. We have been saved, through faith in the Resurrected Christ; so we have nothing to "brag" about in this matter. We were not saved by our works; we were saved to do great works: to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, to be servants (as was Christ), to serve, not to be a demeaning servant, nor to be the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

During this significant season, let us continue to sincerely pray that we have a renewal of Spirit that Jesus gave us as disciples of God's handiwork, created in Jesus Christ to do good works, "which God prepared in abundance for us to do" (Cor. 2:10).

*Abraham Wright*

### 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

**Telephone:** 815/464-5690

**E-Mail:** ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net

**Website:** www.ICCCNOW.org



*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."*



## Executive Director's Message

**Phil Tom**

### *Open the Doors*

NEW  
CREATION  
IN CHRIST  
2 Corinthians 5:17

*"Therefore if any one is in Christ, he/she is a new creation, the old has passed away, behold, the new has come."*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

In one of the congregations where I served as pastor, when our worship service became very spirited, one of our members would cry out, "Open the doors!" She implied by saying that we should let God's spirit come into our sanctuary and into our lives to transform our lives so that we could continue to joyfully praise God and serve God with a glad heart.

In 2 Corinthians 5, Paul tells us that when we accept Jesus as our Messiah, our lives are transformed, and we become a new person. We gain a fresh perspective on life and a new life with God.

Spiritual transformation applies to our individual lives and the lives of God's beloved community. I recently read an article that described the reorganization and unification of two communication divisions within a major denomination. The unifying process was described as including "Review and Reflect, Revise and Re-envision and Rebuild." In other words, it involved making something new!

ICCC has its own "Reimaging, Re-Vision, and Reframe" team, working hard to discern how God's spirit is leading us to reform our lives and work as the ICCC family to strengthen and further ICCC's mission and work. The outcome of this important spirit-led work is not simply to move chairs and tables into a different pattern but maybe to get rid of the "old" chairs and tables and make space for something new.

In this post-COVID period, along with the challenging decline of congregational attendance and participation, pastors and church leaders are also discerning how to continue to serve and praise God in ways that will continue to transform people's lives, to live a life with God. Reorganizing and restructuring the old ways may not bring renewal to our congregation and the Church-at-large. Let us open the doors and let God's spirit enter our lives and congregations so we may discern how God is calling us to be God's church in ways we might never have imagined!

*Phil*

## ICCC APRIL 2024

2023-2024 Theme: Call to Fellowship (1 John 1:3 ESV)

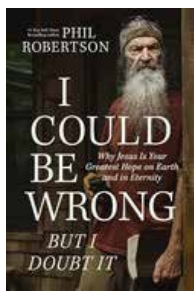


# Book REVIEW

By Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson



Welcome to Spring 2024. I am sharing three reviews from *Publishers Weekly* this month. Two books aren't available until May. As we move in the Pentecost season, sometimes we wonder about spiritual progress and relationship with our God and the world. The following three books, I pray, will broaden your interests and renew your faith in telling His story. Whether a testimony of faith (Robertson), whether healing a broken heart (McNeil) or whether you are seeking a new melody for your soul (Leonard), we pray that our sharing captures the idea of fellowship from First John 1:3.

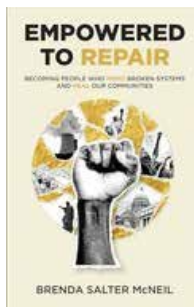


### ***I Could Be Wrong, but I Doubt It: Why Jesus Is Your Greatest Hope on Earth and in Eternity***

Phil Robertson, with Gordon Dasher. Thomas Nelson, \$28.99 (224p) ISBN 978-1-4002-3018-1

*Duck Dynasty* star Robertson (*Uncanceled*) issues a zealous call for readers to embrace Jesus in exchange for "eternal life." Recalling how his own salvation at age 28 helped him "enjoy a new life rooted in an eternal future," the author relays similar

promises to readers ("What if you knew that this star-breathing, death-defeating God also promises you immortality in exchange for you simply believing in him?"). He also contemplates what an eternal life might look like ("an intimate future in the presence of the Father we love and the Son who died for us"), and dispenses advice for how to fortify one's faith, including by confessing sins, renouncing "superficial substitutes" for God's love, and avoiding self-righteousness ("You may be a respectable church member, but so were the Pharisees"). Unfortunately, Robertson's message is often obscured by the somewhat meandering and repetitive structure, apocalyptic commentary on sex ("The growing number of people with STDs" is evidence of "spiritual darkness... creeping across our nation"), and retrograde depictions of what he claims are Satan's effects on Earth, including "broken marriages" and "young men and women confused about their gender and sexuality." Only the author's most devoted fans need apply.



***Empowered to Repair: Becoming People Who Mend Broken Systems and Heal Our Communities***, Brenda Salter McNeil. Brazos, \$19.99 trade paper (160p) ISBN 978-1-58743-448-8

McNeil (*Becoming Brave*), an associate professor of reconciliation at Seattle Pacific University, issues an impassioned call for Christians to bridge racial and social divides by drawing on principles from the biblical book of Nehemiah, an account of a high-ranking Persian official who rebuilds Jerusalem after

the Babylonian exile. To mend "broken relationships and systems" with "forgiveness [and] justice," readers are encouraged to ask questions to uncover "core issues," following the example of Nehemiah, who inquired about the conditions of the Jews in Jerusalem. Elsewhere, McNeil draws lessons on how to form diverse coalitions and empathize with others as they suffer injustice (Nehemiah "lamented" for the plight of those who survived the captivity). The biblical narrative serves as a solid organizing framework but doesn't always add much to Salter's analysis. For example,

readers are reminded that Nehemiah's project was met with resistance and that they too should anticipate "external and internal challenges" in their repair work. Though discussions of reparations and police and education reform are strewn throughout, some readers may wish for more organized action items. Still, McNeil's uplifting message is enriched by her poignant personal musings, including how her recollection of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination highlights the links between faith and social activism. The result is an inspiring starting point for Christians looking to put their beliefs into action. (May)

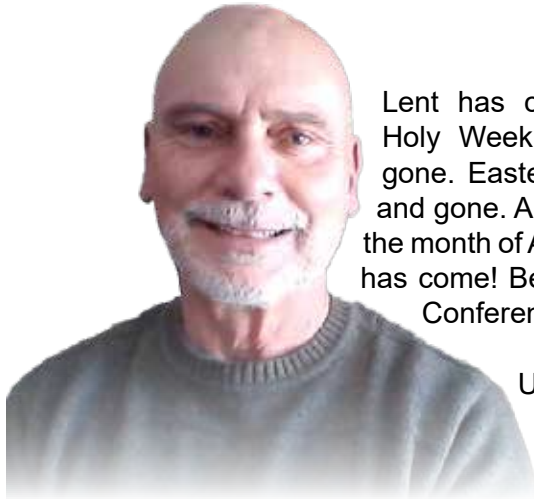


***Do It Anyway: Don't Give Up Before It Gets Good***, Tasha Cobbs Leonard. Waterbrook, \$26 (208p) ISBN 978-0-593-60087-0

Grammy-winning gospel singer Leonard debuts with a rousing call to "follow God when the way seems impossible" or unclear. Crediting her pastor father with teaching her perseverance and reminding her to "stay at the feet of Jesus," Leonard cites examples from her own life, including when she heeded God's "instructions" to move to Atlanta without a job or place to live, and eventually joined the church that kick-started her singing career. Elsewhere, she urges readers to trust friends and family to "help us see the gifts that... we have inside us," noting that friends encouraged her to record her debut album, and to keep one's head above water in periods of crisis and guidance. She illustrates by describing how, about a week after her father's death, she steeled herself to go to the 2014 Grammy awards ceremony, where she won for best gospel/contemporary Christian music performance. While Leonard's advice can feel somewhat trite ("Even if the direction you're headed seems crazy, do it anyway!"), her passion for "taking risks through faith" is infectious, and the inspiring account of her rise to gospel stardom is full of serendipitous breaks, hard-won successes, and spiritual breakthroughs. "It felt like God had just opened a door and I walked right through it," she recalls of her first time singing solo to a congregation. For gospel music fans, this hits all the right notes. (May)

**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.

## Samaritan Men on the Move



Lent has come and gone. Holy Week has come and gone. Easter day has come and gone. And now we are in the month of April - Yay! Spring has come! Before we know it, Conference will be here!

Uh-oh.. Samaritan men, we're on tap to lead devotions at the

Prayer Luncheon. Our sisters in the Women's Christian Fellowship did a great job last year. So, how can we do likewise?

I'm soliciting your ideas, men of the ICCS, whether or not you are a "Samaritan". I want our pool of ideas to be as large as possible. Sit with this, if you will, and see what the Spirit prompts. Then send your ideas along to me (hzhfam@hotmail.com) or you can give me a call (802-282-7532). Perhaps we could also have a zoom meeting a little later this Spring.

I hope your Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter journeys have brought forth "Christ in you" (Col. 1:27) all the more. Lord knows, our world needs Christ's love. Nothing else will save it.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman  
ICCS Samaritan President

## Meet Our Leadership, One by One



**SANDRA ROBERTS**  
ICCS Regional Trustee

My name is Sandra Roberts from Douglas Memorial Community Church in Baltimore, MD.

I joined DMCC at the age of 12 under Rev. Marion C. Bascom and rededicated at the age of 51 under the leadership of Rev. Raphael G. Warnock. My current Pastor is Rev. S. Todd Yeary.

My first introduction to the ICCS was in 1968 as a youth delegate in Daytona Beach, Florida at Bethume-Cookman College. As an adult I began attending regularly when the Conference was held in Bethesda, MD.

Currently I serve as the Administrative Assistant with the ICCS-WCF (formerly known as the Coordinator) and I am the newly appointed Trustee for Region B Area 1 and locally serve as our Area Coordinator.

Over the years I have enjoyed the ICCS Conference and looking forward to this year's time together.

*Sandra Roberts*

## Community Churches Sunday is coming April 28!



Each year ICCS churches are encouraged to celebrate Community Churches Sunday. The day is always the last Sunday of April or another Sunday selected by the local church. This year Community Churches Sunday is set for April 28 with the theme "Branches Bearing Fruit Together" from John 15:1-8. Resources for this year's celebration are now available on the ICCS website: [iccnw.org/hp\\_wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Community-Churches-Sunday-Kit-2024.pdf](http://iccnw.org/hp_wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Community-Churches-Sunday-Kit-2024.pdf). *Let's prepare as ICCS churches to be "Branches Bearing Fruit Together"!*

## St. Monica Music Department stresses “Outreach”

Submitted by St. Monica Music Ministry



We've experienced that in order to have an effective “Out-Reach” you must first “Reach Out”. Our Minister of Music, Melvin Kerr (of 46 years) encourages us to “GO OUT” and take the Gospel throughout the world.

We have relationships with churches, pastors, and gospel singers locally and internationally. We are regularly invited to sing at anniversary celebrations, weddings, conventions, community celebrations and many, many more Ministry events.

With the influence of Pastor Harry Fockle we were the featured choir at the MLK mass celebrations. Members of the choir appeared in the movie “*Three Blind Saints*.” Our Minister of Music arranged the trailer song for the movie. The church and choir were chosen by Kansas City weekly magazine “Pitch” as the “Best Worship Style” in Kansas City. We sang back up with the fabulous Barry Manilow at Starlight Theater. We have also sung the National Anthem at the opening of the K.C. Royals game.

As a result of having attended the Joyce Meyer Women’s Conference, we decided to organize and host our own “Phenomenal Women’s Conference” which featured a 100 voice women’s choir, a great panel interaction and outstanding speakers. Our Ministry directed Gospel Dinner-Plays and utilized cast members from other local churches. The Music



Ministry **FUN**-raises our travel expenses, robe purchases/cleaning, music instrumental maintenance and purchases of instruments and other projects. Our choir travels extensively. To diversify our Outreach Ministry, we developed a Travel Ministry. We arranged hotel accommodations, tour bus transportation, admission tickets to popular attractions; all at a “LEAST OF THEM” pricing. We attract lots of seniors. Travel trips included: Oldenburg IN., Chicago, Detroit, Windsor Ontario Canada, a cruise to the Bahamas, Cozumel Mexico, St. Thomas Virgin Islands, Rome Italy and too many more to mention.

We collaborate with local churches and choirs to worship one God. Our Ministry requests for the next few months include; the Wyandotte County Ethnic Fair, your ICCC Annual Conference, “BEHOLD” (an Evangelical event to be held at the Liberty Memorial) that promises to attract up to 5,000.

**ICCC**, we are **delighted** to be **invited** to this conference. We pray for success and safe travels for everyone. Saint Monica Catholic Church is located at 1616 Paseo, Kansas City, Mo 64108.

St Monica Music Ministry Youtube video  
<https://youtu.be/PsJoYoBWqi8?si=GcrZCe65FITm6m4s>

## ICCC Annual Conference Workshops



**Seminar title: "Who am I, or rather who are WE to Judge"  
an introspective of ministry to the LGBTQ Community and beyond!  
Led by Rev. Dr. Joseph Ciccone**

Interviewing Pope Francis in July, Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli asked the pope how he might act as a confessor to a gay person in light of his now famous remarks in a press conference in 2013, when he asked: "Who am I to judge?"

Francis' reply appears in a new book *The Name of God is Mercy* to be released soon will be used. It will be used in this workshop.

"On that occasion I said this: If a person is gay and seeks out the Lord and is willing, who am I to judge that person?" the pope says. "I was paraphrasing by heart the Catechism of the Catholic Church where it says that these people should be treated with delicacy and not be marginalized."

This workshop will explore the communities we leave out and reasons the church has weaponized Sacred Scripture against so many. We will talk about morality vs. love, hate vs. tolerance, wounds vs healing and how all faith communities can deal with the spiritual poverty of our time and truly live that idea that "ALL" people are truly welcome with honesty and compassion.

Rev. Dr. Joseph Ciccone is a Priest in the Order of Franciscan Servants, a Progressive Catholic Church and a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. Fr. Joe is the Pastor of Saint Joseph Mission Church in Cliffside Park/Union City NJ, bringing the Gospel to those in the margins and to people in need wherever they may be. Fr Joe completed 9 years of CPE (Chaplain Program) at the Jewish Theological Seminary in NYC and is a member of the National Spiritual Care Association. Fr Joe is also the Police Chaplain for the NJ Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 46. Fr Joe retired after 20 years of service in Law Enforcement in the NJ/NYC Metropolitan area. Fr Joe is married and has been with his partner Darroll, a public-school teacher for the past 28 years. Both truly know the sharp and cutting edge of discrimination and intolerance and now dedicate their lives to making the world a kinder and better place. You have seen, met and talked with Fr. Joe and Darroll at annual conference many times and he is excited to have you attend his workshop.



### **WORSHIP TRACK WORKSHOPS - SCRIPTURE IN VERSE:**

You are invited to celebrate, learn and interpret our conference Scripture, Romans 12:9-13, through the verse(s) of selected hymns and songs. Join with others as we lift our voices and make a "joyful noise to the Lord."  
Rev. Dr. Bruce Merton leads the worship track.

**I BELIEVE IN...** Many Christians say/recite the Apostles' Creed each Sunday in worship. The Creed, if not recited each Sunday, is almost universally recognized by Christians around the globe. It is a PERSONAL statement of faith! Join fellow Conferees as we look at each "faith statement" of the Apostle's Creed and share what we mean and understand as we make the UNIQUELY personal declaration: "I believe in..." (This will be a two-part workshop/session.)

**PRAYER THAT CHANGES YOU AND YOUR CHURCH.** Our conference Scripture issues the imperative, "Persevere in prayer." Prayer is and has been an integral part of the faith experience, both personally and corporately. It is obvious that the early church found prayer effectual and powerful. Prayer changed persons and the church! Join others as we discover/rediscovers the elements that make for prayer that is life changing and enhancing for you and your church. (This will be a two-part workshop session on the Worship Track.)

**PSALMS: THE PRAYER BOOK OF THE BIBLE.** Using Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, *Psalms: the Prayer Book of the Bible*, we will explore how the Psalms can form a foundation for personal and corporate prayer. The themes and expressions of the Psalms are as fresh and relevant today as they were when written. In addition to considering Bonhoeffer's insights, participants will be asked to share their favorite Psalm prayer and share their reason for its choice. If possible, participants should read Bonhoeffer's little book on prayer before coming to the sessions. It will be helpful, but not a necessity! (This will be a two-part workshop on the Worship Track.)

**Watch upcoming newsletters and the ICCC website for additional workshops!**



### Sharing Joys with:

- **Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman**, ICCC Samaritan President, who retired March 11, 2024 to be able to spend more time with his father and family.

### Sharing Concerns with:

- **Rev. Dr. Michael Donahue**, ICCC VP for Membership Services who recently underwent surgery and continues his battle with MS.
- **Rev. Dr. Sharyon Cosey**, ICCC VP for Membership Enlistment, who had hip surgery April 9th.

**Central Zone Region C** will have a regional meeting "Restore Region C" on **Saturday, April 27, 2024** at 10:00am Central Time. Please email ICCC Regional Trustee Rev. Vicky Kirkman ([vkirkman07@gmail.com](mailto:vkirkman07@gmail.com)) or the ICCC Office for the Zoom information.

## *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 Youth Leader Announced*



Hello, my name is Rachelle Still. I am the Youth Leader at this year's 2024 ICCC Annual Conference here in Kansas City. I am very excited and blessed to have this opportunity to share an exciting lesson from God's word with our youth.

We will be exploring the story of the Prodigal Son with fun videos, lessons, and discussions (how does this story reflect my situation or apply to my life?). We will also be planning a presentation and a short play to bring all the excitement to life and to share at the Banquet on Friday evening. Each evening during the week, we will end our day with a short devotion.

We also have a really fun activity planned for Friday afternoon at Disciples of Gaming, a Virtual Reality studio nearby. We've checked it out, and it is awesome!

This will be my first year as Youth Leader and I can't wait to get together to meet all of you, discuss God's living Word and what it means to each of us personally, and have lots of fun learning with you all!

So, get your registration in, and plan to join us in Kansas City. By the way, did you know that there is a Youth Scholarship available to pay your registration fee? Check out the ICCC website for more information. If interested, you'll need to get your application in asap.

# *YOUTH LEADER*



**NEVER BEFORE**

**... MAYBE,**

**NEVER AGAIN!**

*Rev. Dr. Bruce Merton  
Board Secretary and Trustee*

**NEVER BEFORE** has such a bold move to increase conference attendance been offered to our churches and centers.

This is the offer your Board of Directors has approved.

***Any church or center sending at least three (3) more attendees to the 2024 Annual Conference than was sent to last year's conference AND the new attendees occupy at least two (2) hotel rooms for five (5) nights shall receive a maximum credit up to \$1000 toward their normal annual budgeted contribution to the I.C.C.C. for 2025.***

I will be blunt and not mince words! Our conference deficits have reached a point where conference may be in jeopardy as well as the very existence of our beloved I.C.C.C.

Long before the conference is held the Board must approve a hotel. We must contract to fill a certain number of rooms for a certain number of nights. In addition, we must contract to abide by food and budget minimums so the hotel will provide us space for conference meetings and workshops. When we fail to meet any of the contractual obligations with conference revenue, the balance is paid from our general funds. The conference deficits of 2022 and 2023 amounted to \$63,696.57. Simply put, conference as we know and enjoy it, cannot be sustained unless we stop the deficits. **If we are to continue conferences that we have come to look forward to and enjoy, more people must attend, stay in the chosen venue and, if possible, eat more of the meals that are offered.**

Our conferences are well planned. They have offered excellent speakers and many meaningful workshop, worship and fellowship opportunities. Your conference planning committee begins its work on the succeeding year's conference the very day that the current conference closes.

This year's conference has an outstanding worship and Bible study leader in The Rev, Dr. Leah Schade. We will have great music, meaningful workshops, a super mission opportunity and plenty of warm fellowship.

The incentive being offered, if utilized, will go a long way to wiping out, what is now expected to be, a massive deficit. It will also help your own church's budget!

I love conference and all that it offers to me. I know many of you share the same feeling! I encourage you to find a way to attend conference and bring someone else with you!

**MAYBE, NEVER AGAIN!** The incentive may not be offered again because, unless the conference finances are turned around, there simply, plainly and truthfully will be no conference as we have known it.

Many of you have told us, the Board of Directors and Trustees, that conference is absolutely necessary to maintain the identity and mission of the I.C.C.C. Now is the time to put that spoken belief into a living reality! Together we can! Together we must!

**To God be the glory!**

## *Nominations for Officers are Welcomed!*

The Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for the following leadership positions to be presented and elected at our 2024 Conference:

### **President, Class of 2027 (three-year term)**

The President shall serve as the elected leader of the Council and preside at meetings of the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees, appoint moderators and members of committees, and represent the Council, when possible, in relation to other religious and public bodies.

### **Secretary, Class of 2027 (three-year term)**

Develop minutes for all meetings of the Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees, and all business meetings of the Annual Conference.

### **Vice-President for Planning, Class of 2027 (three-year term)**

Plan the Annual Conference.

### **Vice-President for Leadership Development, Class of 2027 (three-year term)**

Develop and implement programs and recommend programs developed by others for leadership development.

### **Vice-President for Regional Relationships, Class of 2027, (three-year term)**

Develop, maintain, and enhance relationships between member churches and centers and their regional associations.

### **Regional Trustees, Class of 2027 (three-year term)**

Central Zone, Region C (Alabama and Tennessee)

Western Zone, Region A (Northern California)

Central Zone, Region B (Ohio, Michigan, Western Pennsylvania)

Western Zone, Region B. (Texas, Arizona, and Southern California)

Regional Trustee, Class of 2025 (one-year term)

Eastern Zone, Region C (Florida, Georgia and North Carolina)

Trustees are to visit in person or by electronic means each church and center in his/her region. They are to encourage the involvement and participation of each church and center in regional gatherings and other Council-related activities.

Please submit your nominations for any of these positions to Carolyn Nichols at [cs83nick@aol.com](mailto:cs83nick@aol.com).

*You can find additional job descriptions for the President, Officers, and Trustees in Articles V and VI of the ICCC Constitution and Bylaws.*

*You can find the ICCC constitution and Bylaws at*

*<https://www.icccnow.org/constitution-bylaws/>.*



# 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.



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.



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.



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.



3 The submissions will be reviewed and presented to the ICCC Board of Directors for **approval**.



**APPLY TODAY!**



## 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/>



*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 <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 <b>Register by May 1, 2024 - Early Bird Special \$195.00</b>	\$ 230.00	\$
Daily Registrants Circle Day(s) T W Th F (meals not included)	\$ 75.00/day	\$
<b>CC</b>	<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	<b>\$</b>

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.**



## SUPPER CLUB

**Wednesday, July 17, 2024 • 5:15-6:30 approx.**

Looking for BBQ restaurants that have a local following in Kansas City? Well, we found one! Smokehouse Barbecue is Kansas City's best and favorite bbq providing highest quality along with unparalleled service. They offer only the best hickory smoked brisket and succulent ribs, famous pulled pork and the best baked beans in the world, as well as savory seasonings, delicious sauces and rubs (all according to their website). Visit [www.smokehousebbq.com](http://www.smokehousebbq.com) for more information.

### All-You-Can-Eat Buffet Meal Includes:

**Hickory Smoked Pit Beans**  
**Homemade Creamy Coleslaw**  
**Cheesy Corn**  
**Beef Brisket**  
**Pulled Pork**  
**Dinner Rolls**  
**Barbecue Sauce**  
**Soft Drinks**

**\$33.00 per person**

Each meal includes the cost of the buffet, tax & gratuity.  
 Alcoholic beverages are available, billed separately, individually.

**Submit payment to the Council Office by June 30, 2024. Limited to 40 people. Register soon!**

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

***If paying by credit card:*** circle one VISA MASTERCARD AMEX DISCOVER

Print name(s) as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ C V V: \_\_\_\_\_

**ICCC, PO Box 846, Longmont, CO 80502**

**815-464-5690**

**ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net**

**Smokehouse Barbecue is three miles from the hotel at 8451 NW Prairie View Rd., Kansas City, MO.**

**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**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net).

Thank you for taking advantage of this opportunity for exhibiting.