



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 “that they might all be one” (John 17: 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.

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.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE. The churches and ministry centers of the ICCC gather for an Annual Conference held in a new location each year. In recent years we have met in Columbus, OH, Charlotte, NC, and Kansas City, MO. In 2025 we will return to the place of our 1950 birth, as we gather at Lake Forest College in suburban Chicago to celebrate our 75th anniversary. Each Annual Conference is a time of fellowship, worship, learning and mission.

**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 fellowship of self-governing churches and ministry centers. The ICCC was formed in 1950 as a merger between a group of Black congregations and a group of white congregations, seeking to be a fellowship of ecumenically-minded, freedom-loving congregations cooperating in fulfilling the mission of Christ and the Church in the world.

From its beginnings the Council, as a post-denominational movement, has witnessed and worked for Christian unity and has been committed to justice and reconciliation in human society.

Formed with just a very few non-US congregations, the fellowship now includes churches in Canada, France, England, Nigeria and Liberia though the majority are US based.



Why Belong to the International Council of Community Churches

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.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS. Unlike many denominations which may own or operate their own mission agencies, instead the ICCC partners with certain mission partners to accomplish common mission. These partners include Church World Service and World Neighbors. In recent years the ICCC has worked together on an annual international mission project plus supported other projects and special offerings following natural or humanitarian disasters.

Our Annual Conference is also a time to engage in local mission in support of the host city where we gather.

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR LAITY & CLERGY.

A wide variety of educational opportunities are offered through Lexington Theological Seminary, including continuing education for clergy, degree programs for those seeking ordained or other professional ministries, and certificate programs for laity seeking to strengthen their gifts. Financial resources for these educational opportunities may be available from the ICCC.

The ICCC Annual Conference each summer also provides opportunities for continuing education and learning for clergy and laity.

PASTORAL SEARCHES. The ICCC offers on-line resources 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.

PENSION PLAN. Through the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB) the ICCC offers a pension plan for staff of local congregations. The plan has options for pension, disability, and life insurance. Membership in the pension plan is at the option of the local congregation.

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL CHURCHES IN MISSION & MINISTRY. Most importantly the ICCC exists for the support of our local churches in their ministry and mission. In recent years the ICCC has given mission grants to our local churches who are engaged in significant ministries to benefit their communities.

Our Annual Conference is also a time to network with other likeminded church leaders to learn and share ideas on local ministry and mission.

OUR ECUMENICAL WITNESS. 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.