

# THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

APRIL 2026



International Council of Community Churches

Volume 76 |

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

| Number 6

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## ICCC NEW ADDRESS

PO Box 50195  
Brooklyn, NY 11205

## Conference Highlights



- ▶ One of our featured speakers and workshop presenters will be Pastor Bruce Jones, Pastor and Co-Creator of Imagine Church in Charlotte, NC. He has extensive experience in congregational development, been a church growth consultant for many years and has served on the boards for United Methodist Campus Ministry and the International Council of Community Churches.
- ▶ Another workshop, presented by Rev Daniel Coffey, will be... **Back to the Center: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus in the ICCC**  
*Who we have been • who we are • who we are becoming*



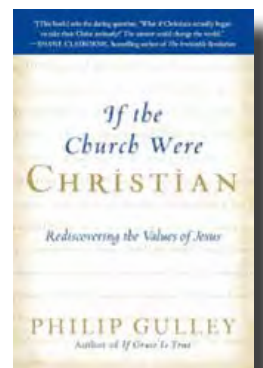
- ▶ **TWO SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH PARTICIPANTS - Completed 6th grade thru entering 12th grade**  
Scholarships will cover the cost of conference registration. To qualify, applicants should submit a letter of endorsement from their pastor and write a one-page statement to the Planning Committee, to tell us why you want to attend the 2026 Conference. It is the expectation of the sponsor that the two young people chosen will attend all conference sessions appropriate for this age group. The endorsement letter and the one-page statement may be sent by email to [rcurtis656@icloud.com](mailto:rcurtis656@icloud.com)

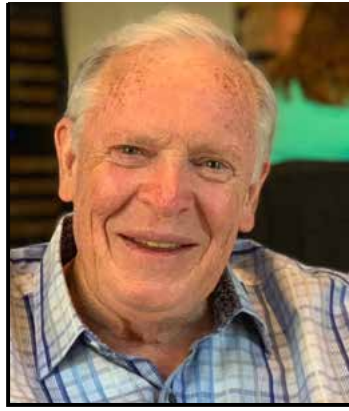
- ▶ **THERE WILL BE A BOOK DISCUSSION SESSION AT CONFERENCE**

*If the Church Were Christian: Rediscovering the values of Jesus* by Philip Gulley.

This book asks the daring question, "What if Christians actually began to take their Christ seriously? The answer could change the world."

All delegates are encouraged to obtain the book and read in advance of the conference. It is available on Amazon and through other book suppliers.





## *Executive Director's Message*

**Bruce Merton**

### *Prayers for a Successful Conference*

The premier event of worship, fellowship, and course setting for the I.C.C.C. will soon be upon us. Our Annual Conference will be held July 21-23. The conference theme is "Our Future: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus." It is particularly relevant for our time and place!

I hope to see many at the conference. The sad reality is that my hope may very well be unrealized. Those that come to conference are blessed, but sadly our attendance in recent years has been declining.

I hope and pray that you will set a course that takes you to conference and helps to prove me very wrong! Registration and hotel information is included in this issue.

As conference approaches and the I.C.C.C. seeks to move forward while buffeted by many challenges, I would invite you personally and your church corporately to consider praying this prayer and working to make it real.

*Gracious and Merciful God,*

*I am/our church is the I.C.C.C. and if it is to be, it is up to me/our church.*

*The I.C.C.C. is composed of people like me/us. I/We help make it what it is.*

*It will be friendly and inclusive if I/We are friendly and inclusive.*

*It will do great work, service and wonderful ministry if I/We will work, serve and minister.*

*It will have a meaningful, well-attended conference if I/We attend and participate.*

*It will make generous contributions to the unity of the church and causes worldwide if I/We are generous in giving.*

*It will bring other people and churches into its fellowship if I/We invite and bring them.*

*It will be a place of loyalty and love, of courage and faith. It will be filled with the Spirit of God's mercy and grace if I am/We are filled with these same things.*

*Guided by the values of Jesus and with your help, Dear God, I/our church shall be dedicated to the task of being all the things that I/we want the I.C.C.C. to be.*

*In Jesus' name I/We pray. Amen.*

Grace and Peace,

*Bruce*

# The ICCC Welcomes Jasmine Greene!



I am excited to introduce myself to the wider community of the International Council of Community Churches in my role as Office Administrator. I am grateful to be joining the ICCC and to support its leadership, member churches, and ongoing work through this position.

The role of Office Administrator is, in many ways, a connective one. My work centers on supporting the Executive Director, elected officers, and Board by helping to ensure that the Council's daily operations are organized, responsive, and sustainable. This includes administrative coordination, communication support, managing correspondence and schedules, maintaining digital systems and records, assisting with reporting and financial tracking, and supporting meetings, events, and publications. Much of this work happens behind the scenes, but it plays an important role in allowing the Council's ministries and programs to move forward with clarity and care.

I see this position as rooted in service and stewardship. Strong administrative systems create space for collaboration, discernment, and thoughtful decision-making. Whether coordinating virtual meetings, responding to inquiries, supporting newsletters and digital platforms, or helping to maintain efficient workflows, my goal is to offer consistent, reliable support and to closely attend to details that matter.

My professional background includes administrative and communications work with nonprofit and community-based organizations. I have spent much of my career supporting teams whose work is mission-driven and people-centered, and I am especially drawn to organizations committed to justice, equity, and collective care. I also have an academic background in psychology, which informs my approach to communication, organization, and problem-solving, with a focus on context, relationships, and the human dimensions of institutional life.

Outside of work, I am based in Brooklyn, New York, where I live with my 9 year old son. I enjoy tending to what I like to call my "urban jungle," spending time gardening on my balcony and turning my living room into my little green paradise. I also love to travel and have lived in several places over the years, including London, Costa Rica, Spain, and most recently Berlin, Germany, where my son was born. Living and working across different communities and cultures has shaped my appreciation for adaptability, listening, and the many ways people build meaningful connections and shared purpose.

As I settle into this role, I am committed to learning the rhythms, needs, and priorities of the ICCC and to supporting its work with care, discretion, and attentiveness. I look forward to working closely with leadership and engaging with the broader ICCC community in ways that strengthen communication, organization, and collaboration.

*Jasmin Greene*

## The ICCC Has a New Address! P.O. BOX 50195 BROOKLYN, NY 11205



815-464-5690  
(SAME)



icccnow@sbcglobal.net  
(SAME)



PO Box 50195,  
Brooklyn, NY 11205  
Hours: Eastern Stand Time  
M-Tu: 12-5 • W-Th: 9-2

### Sharing Concerns:

- With Doris Landis and family. Les Riley, Doris's life partner and beloved companion, passed away peacefully on Feb. 19th at the age of 93. Les belonged to Antioch Community Church in Kansas City, MO. "Les was a fervent supporter of the ICCC and a "fixture" at our Annual Conferences. His affable spirit and poignant comments and insights will be missed." ~Rev. Dr. Bruce Merton, ICCC Executive Director.
- With ICCC Treasurer Nick Brame, Seneca Community Church, MD, who underwent a successful surgery, is recovering and awaiting rehab.
- With ICCC Past President Sandra Nelson, Los Angeles, CA, who underwent surgery on March 17th.



### Sharing Joys:

- With Watauga Community Church and their Senior Pastor Rev. Daniel Coffey, in Vilas, NC who is the newest ICCC Church Member. Welcome!

Please remember the Lake Erie Fellowship will hold their Spring Meeting on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at People's Community Church in Detroit, Michigan. The day will begin with registration at 9:00 am and worship will begin at 10:00 am. For more information, you can contact Mike Mahan at 614-266-1395.

## ICCC APRIL 2026

*“Anchored by Grace, Transformed by Renewal: A Call to Revival.” Ezra 9:8 and Romans 12:2)*



## Book REVIEW

By Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson



### Returning to the Lord: Books for Spiritual and Organizational Renewal

In every generation of the church, seasons of renewal begin when God’s people pause, reflect, and return to the Lord. The theme of this year’s ICCC conference invites us to ask a simple but powerful question: Where is God calling His church—and each of us—to renewal today?

As the International Council of Community Churches prepares for its annual conference, the theme “Returning to the Lord” invites both personal reflection and organizational renewal. Throughout Scripture, seasons of return—repentance, renewal, and recommitment—often precede seasons of spiritual vitality and mission expansion.

As pastors, ministry leaders, and members of the ICCC family, we share a calling to renew the spiritual life of our congregations and communities. Books that explore spiritual transformation, congregational revitalization, and the global renewal of faith can help leaders and congregations prepare for the work God is calling us to do in the next season.

The following books offer helpful perspectives for clergy and lay leaders as ICCC churches prepare for this season of reflection, renewal, and renewed mission.

#### Spiritual Renewal from the Inside Out



*Renovation of the Heart* by Dallas Willard offers a profound exploration of Christian spiritual formation. Willard argues that authentic transformation involves the renewal of the entire person—mind, heart, body, relationships, and spirit. Rather than focusing only on outward religious behavior, the book emphasizes deep inner

transformation through discipleship to Jesus Christ.

Willard reminds readers that spiritual formation is not accidental; it is intentional. As believers learn to align their thoughts and desires with Christ, their actions and relationships begin to reflect the character of Christ more clearly.

For congregations preparing for seasons of visioning and planning, this message is especially powerful. Organizational renewal cannot occur without personal renewal. When leaders and members grow spiritually, the church becomes better equipped to serve its community with wisdom, compassion, and courage. Reflection: Where might God be inviting you personally to experience renewal in this season? How might that renewal influence the life and mission of your congregation?

#### Practical Guidance for Congregational Renewal



*Church Revitalization: A Pastoral Guide to Church Renewal* by Russell Small provides practical insights for churches seeking renewed vitality. Small outlines several pathways for renewal, including refreshing spiritual life, renovating ministry structures, restoring community engagement, and replanting churches for a new season of mission.

The book challenges churches to move beyond simply maintaining programs and instead rediscover the deeper mission of discipleship, service, and spiritual growth. Healthy congregations focus on discipleship, mission, and service rather than merely maintaining existing structures

#### A Global Perspective on the Renewal of Faith

*God Is Back* by John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge explores the surprising resurgence of religion in many parts of the world. Contrary to predictions that modernization would lead to the decline of faith, the authors demonstrate that religious communities remain vibrant forces in global society.

The book highlights how faith communities have adapted creatively to cultural change while maintaining strong spiritual identities. These examples remind church leaders that renewal often occurs when communities remain rooted in their faith while responding thoughtfully to the needs of their time.

## Book Review cont'd from page 4

**Recommendation:** As ICCC leaders and member churches prepare for the upcoming conference, these books remind us that renewal begins with returning to the Lord. Personal transformation, congregational vitality, and global renewal are deeply connected.

Throughout the history of the church, moments of renewal have often begun with a simple spiritual movement: God's people turning their hearts back toward Him. That same opportunity for renewal is before us today.

**We Want to Hear from You!** As ICCC prepares for this season of renewal, we invite you to join the conversation. Your insights can

help encourage others as we prepare for the upcoming conference. Consider reflecting on one simple question: What is one way God may be calling your church—or your own life—toward renewal?

You can participate by sending a brief note to [iccnw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:iccnw@sbcglobal.net) by the end of the month. Even a few sentences can help inspire conversation across our ICCC community. When you write, feel free to share: • A short reflection from one of the books, • A renewal practice your church is exploring • A question you would like to discuss with other ICCC leaders.

Selected responses may be quoted or summarized in future ICCC communications so that our shared learning can encourage churches throughout the fellowship. Thank you for being part of this season of renewal.

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## Thwarting Sabotage

*Submitted by Rev. Bill Ireland  
Senior Pastor at Norris Religious Fellowship*

*The following is an excerpt from Preaching the Word: Philippians and Philemon; Colossians published by Smyth & Helwys.*

Sabotage happens all the time and everywhere. Take, for example, the politician who attaches a “poison pill” amendment to a popular piece of legislation to ensure its defeat. An unhappy person can resort to acting out in a passive-aggressive manner to manipulate others. Sadly, sabotage shows up in congregations. Church members can work their “constituents” to undermine a pastor’s leadership.



"Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the flesh!"

Paul's language here is hot! He identified his enemies and underscored the dangers they posed by using harsh language. This abrupt change in tone signals the seriousness with which he considered this threat. Whatever the precise content of their teaching, Paul saw it as a distortion of the gospel.

Throughout his ministry, Paul had to counter the moves of saboteurs who sought to undermine his mission to preach the gospel and start new communities of faith. As soon as Paul departed from a particular area, his opponents moved in and attempted to undo his work, either by discrediting Paul himself or by arguing that Paul's message was somehow off target. The apostle's letter to the Philippians is a case in point. In 3:1-16, Paul clearly recognized the threat of sabotage and acted decisively to thwart it. Paul's wise response offers some timely guidance as we seek to thwart sabotage in our own contexts.

Paul's first move was to speak truthfully. As he began to counter his opponents, Paul wasted no time in getting started:

The key thing to note here is not the angry tone with which he began—indeed that may in fact be counterproductive. Instead, our takeaway is that Paul emptied the threat of sabotage of its danger by speaking the truth. Sabotage flourishes in dark corners and spreads through innuendo. Sabotage dresses up as good and works evil. Sabotage proceeds indirectly by asking a loaded question or by raising suspicion with a wink and a nod. In such circumstances, our best response is to speak the truth as clearly and forthrightly as possible. When there's a lot at stake, one way to limit the damage of sabotage is to speak the truth as we know it.

*continued on page 6*

## Sabotage cont'd from page 5

In his second move, Paul appealed to his experience as a way of negating the claims of the saboteurs. I find it interesting that Paul dealt with the threat posed by this false teaching, not by offering a point-by-point rebuttal of it, but by talking about where he's been and how Christ has changed his life. This appeal was likely successful because Paul was less interested in changing minds than in winning hearts.

Years ago, I read about what test pilots did when they pushed the boundaries too far in an untried aircraft. If the plane began to twist or spin erratically and go out of control, the test pilot would describe over the radio to ground personnel how the aircraft was behaving. He would stay with the aircraft as long as possible, reciting all the procedures he had tried in order to regain control: "I've tried this and this and this. Nothing has worked. I'm about to try this." Relating the details of his experience would provide a helpful guide for future pilots who might find themselves in a similar situation. The test pilot's experience would likely result in some sort of engineering fix or become a part of an emergency procedures manual.

"I've tried that." That's the essence of Paul's testimony in verses 4-6. By recalling his past and his heritage, Paul was in essence saying, "I've tried that. I've been down that path. I know where it leads. I've found a different path that is worth everything." The new life he had in Christ far surpassed everything he had once known and lived. He willingly consigned it all the compost pile for what he called "the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ my Lord."

By means of this testimony, Paul defined himself over against his adversaries. Thwarting sabotage requires just such a self-defining move on the part of leaders. Allowing others to define us enables sabotage to persist. Defining ourselves and offering clarity about who and what we are.

Finally, Paul countered the potential sabotage by offering an alternative vision.

Whatever the identity of Paul's adversaries and the precise content of their teaching, the one thing they insisted on was adherence to traditional rules. If the

Philippians adopted their perspective, they would have the right kind of faith, the right kind of belief, and all would be well. All that was necessary was to embrace the old rules and practices. Likewise, sabotage flourishes in an environment that is resistant to change. Saboteurs work hard to maintain things as they are instead of devoting energy to making things better.

Paul countered his adversaries by putting himself forward as one, who for all his rich experience with the grace of God, was still incomplete and still in process. His personal image of following Christ wasn't a check list but a marathon:

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Do you catch the vibrancy in Paul's confession? I'm not there yet! I'm restless, and I yearn to be made complete. I'm pressing forward, and I'm leaning into the finish!

Thriving congregations possess a healthy restlessness. Looking for new opportunities to live out the gospel and minister to those in need offsets the negativity of sabotage. A compelling vision robs sabotage of its power. An alternative way of looking at things inspires hope and refreshes our courage. When we're able to paint a clear picture of where we're headed and what's next, we generate new energy.

Paul's strategy for thwarting sabotage offers us an extremely healthy approach whenever and wherever we find our efforts to be faithful undermined. Devotion to truth, defining ourselves by speaking out of our experience, and a fierce determination not to yield to complacency: these things mark the path to a mature and uncompromised faith.

# *Building the Beloved Community: A Practical and Impactful Service Project*

*Submitted by Rev. CJ Harkness, People's Community Church, Berea, OH.*

As we look for ways to live out our mission within the International Council of Community Churches, I am often reminded that our greatest impact occurs when we bridge the gap between our sanctuary walls and the streets of our neighborhoods. Recently, in my role at Baldwin Wallace University, I had the privilege of helping lead a "Day of Service" as part of our week-long tribute to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

At People's Community Church and in my campus work, I've seen firsthand how a simple project can spark a profound sense of purpose. We gathered over 50 students, members of our faculty and staff, community members, and some who simply found our event on the internet to assemble winter care kits and sort donations for the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank. As I shared with our volunteers that evening, coming together for the needs of others is truly why we are here. It is the very spirit of Dr. King, and I am deeply grateful for everyone who donated their time and energy to that successful effort.

To that end, I was asked to share with the ICCC community a little about how the effort came together specifically focused on the winter care kits for the unhoused in our region. What follows are tips from my experience that I hope will inspire and equip similar efforts in congregations in the ICCC.

The winter care kits we created—filled with emergency blankets, bathing wipes, hand warmers, snacks, and toothbrushes, socks, gloves hand warmers, and several other items—were distributed to local organizations and directly to participants who were encouraged to keep them in their cars to have available when they encountered those who were navigating the hardships of the winter season. I have already had and heard testimony from others who have had the humbling experience of having these blessings ready to give when engaging someone in need. I highly recommend this as a meaningful, manageable service project for any of our member churches looking to make a tangible difference.

## **Quick Tips: Organizing Your Own Care Kit Project**

If your congregation is interested in hosting a similar event, I've found that a bit of forward planning goes a long way in ensuring the day runs smoothly. Here are a few pointers to get you started:

- **Define Your Capacity:** Begin by determining your budget and how many volunteers you can reasonably expect to join you. This will help you set a realistic goal for how many kits you intend to make.
- **Plan Your Logistics:** Think through the time and facilities required. You'll want a space large enough for an assembly line and a clear window of time for both setup and packing.
- **Research and Resource:** Use search engines to look for "homeless kits" or visit the National Coalition for the Homeless "Care Bag Project" <https://nationalhomeless.org/carebag-project/> for excellent ideas on what to include.
- **Finalize Your Contents:** Choose specific items based on your budget and local needs. Also, remember to source the bags or boxes you'll use to hold the kits themselves.
- **Master the Bulk Order:** This is where it gets technical! Carefully order your items in bulk, keeping in mind that different items come in different quantities (multiples of 8, 10, 12, etc.).
  - o *Calculation Tip:* Always calculate the total count based on what you need **per kit**. For example, if you want 3 pairs of socks and 1 emergency blanket in each of your 100 kits, you must ensure your orders total at least 300 pairs of socks and 100 blankets.

## Service Project cont'd from page 7

- **Empower Distribution:** While many kits can be earmarked for community partners, I encourage you to let your volunteers take a few kits with them. It allows them to distribute the care personally as they see a need in their daily lives.

Whether you decide to organize a large group to do hundreds of kits from a bulk order, or if a committee

of three is determined to create 20 kits with items sources from a local discount store, the impact to the individuals who are blessed will be the same. Building a beloved community happens brick by brick each time we share the Love of Christ with someone else. In doing so, we also fulfill the call of scripture as our service to “the least of these” is service to Christ!



# Join the Grocery Gift Card Campaign to Reduce Food Insecurity in Your Local Community

by Winessa Crutchfield, ICCC WCF President



I am excited to announce the ICCC Women Christian Fellowship (WCF) is partnering with the Samaritan Men (SM) and the Mission Outreach Committee to expand its Shoebox gift card campaign to reduce hunger and food insecurity. This year, we are inviting you to collect and give grocery store gift cards to your local community. The grocery gift cards may be of any dollar denomination with funding sourced through donations, acts of kindness, special fundraisers, church offerings, etc.

**Why the Cards:** - *“For I was hungry and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in.” - Matthew 25 :35*

The Grocery Gift cards are intended to help our neighbors buy food, especially near the end of the month when their reduced/discontinued Medicaid food benefits are typically depleted. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients are frequently experiencing this challenge in providing food for their children.

Our immigrant neighbors are also stressed because many of their families are forced to isolate and hide from cruelty and detention. And there are many other examples of economical and food challenged groups we see in our neighborhoods. The ICCC family cares and wants to help all of God’s children to have food and household essentials.

**Who are Called and When to Help:** All ICCC congregations, WCF, SM, similar auxiliaries and individuals, working together, to reach neighbors with food in our towns and cities from April 1st thru June 30th.

## Grocery Gift Card Program Actions:

1. The campaign includes gift cards, in any dollar amount, that can be used at local grocery stores. The program can be managed as a standalone activity or can easily be added to complement any existing church food pantry program. The local group decides who and or what organization will

receive the grocery cards. For example, the local group determines if the cards are best donated through a local non-profit or to individuals known to need help, etc.

2. A digital Grocery Gift Card companion sheet with a “We See and Care about You” message along with a welcome invitation to worship with your church family is available from this link <https://tinyurl.com/GiftCardGivingPostcard> or by using QR code at the bottom of the article. The message is provided by the ICCC Mission Outreach team and can be downloaded and personalized to include the name of your church with contact information, etc. The intent is to affix/attach the gift card to the companion sheet for card distribution.
3. Upon completion of the campaign, please share a short- written summary of your grocery gift card success stories, and any photos if taken with Elaine Dennis (elaineparker55@icloud.com or Beatrice Winfrey (beatricewinfrey62@gmail.com by July 10th. We can share the collective impact of your experiences and good news stories in an upcoming Christian Community article.

By participating in the Grocery Gift Card campaign, you will make sharing and feeding others matter to our neighbors in many communities, across the ICCC footprint because “Together, from little, we can accomplish much”.



## Digital Grocery Gift Card companion

*We See and Care About You*

*You are most welcome to worship with our church family at:*

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Web Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_



ICCC Women’s Christian Fellowship and the Samaritan Men  
The International Council of Community Churches



**International Council of Community Churches**  
**ICCC Registration Form – 2026 Annual Conference**  
**July 21-23 Crystal City, VA near Washington, DC**  
**“OUR FUTURE: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus”**

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 7-1-2026) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade completed by (7-1-2026) \_\_\_\_\_
- 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:**

\$ 0.00	<b>Infants</b> (not occupying chair at banquet)	\$
\$ 35.00	<b>Child*</b> (Ages 1-5)	\$
\$ 60.00	<b>Elementary*</b> (entering kindergarten - entering 6 <sup>th</sup> grade)	\$
\$ 50.00	**Add-on <b>ONLY if Adult meal is preferred for Banquet Child/Elementary registration</b>	\$
\$ 145.00	<b>Youth</b> (completed 6 <sup>th</sup> grade - entering 12 <sup>th</sup> grade)	\$
\$ 195.00	<b>Young Adult</b> (completed 12 <sup>th</sup> grade - age 23)	\$
\$ 230.00	<b>Adult</b> <b>Register by April 1, 2026 for the Early Bird Special \$200</b>	\$
\$ 75.00/day	<b>Daily Registrants</b> Circle Day(s) T W Th (meals not included)	\$
<b>Total Enclosed</b>		\$

**THE MENU FOR OUR PLANNED THURSDAY EVENING BANQUET HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED. YOU WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY BEFORE THE CONFERENCE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO ENTREE OPTIONS.**

**Please return this form with payment to: ICCC, PO Box 50195, Brooklyn, NY 11205**

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 April 1st.** Registrations after June 30, 2026 will be accepted at Conference only. **CANCELLATIONS:** A \$25 administration fee will be assessed for each cancellation.

**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.

# *The ICCC Annual Conference Will Be Held at the Double Tree Hotel*

in beautiful **Crystal City, VA**

It is just across the Potomac River from Washington, DC

**Here's the link to make a reservation under our room block.**

<https://book.passkey.com/go/dcaaeiccc26>



The conference will actually begin the morning of Tuesday, July 21 but we encourage everyone to arrive in the afternoon or evening of Monday, July 20. Registration materials will be available that evening in the hotel lobby.

Standard check out and departure will be Friday, July 24 **BUT...** if you want to come early or stay after the conference and do some sightseeing in our nation's capital, you can reserve up to three days before the conference or three days after the conference at the same room rate.

**There is a complimentary hotel shuttle to and from Ronald Reagan Washington International Airport (DCA)**

**Information about how to contact the shuttle service will be included in the registration packet you receive prior to the conference.**

We have some complimentary parking passes for delegates who may be driving in from east coast locations. 10 passes will be available on a first come first served basis. They will cover parking for all four evenings at the hotel – Monday, July 20 through Thursday, July 23. To qualify, send a copy of your hotel reservation confirmation to [peacechurchnow@gmail.com](mailto:peacechurchnow@gmail.com). Pastor RC Fleeman, Conference Planning Chairman will reserve the parking passes for you.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Voice for Ecumenical  
Congregations  
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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 Churches: Purchase an Ad for ICCC's 2026 Conference Booklet!*

The 2026 Conference Planning Committee is seeking ads for the Conference Booklet. Hopefully, every member church will participate by purchasing an ad. Individuals may also purchase an ad for themselves or, if they have a business, they may also purchase an ad for their business or company.

### HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

- Ad prices are below. Despite inflation, the prices have not increased in several years.
- Choose the size of the ad you want to have included in the booklet.
- Create your ad copy / layout and send it to Rev. RC Fleeman (address below).
- Hopefully your ad will highlight your church and offer congratulations to the ICCC as we look to the future at our 76th annual conference. You might also wish to include the number of years your church has been a member of the ICCC.

Please send the ad copy Pastor RC Fleeman at [iccc2026ads@gmail.com](mailto:iccc2026ads@gmail.com)

Ads may be presented in JPEG, pdf, and MS Word, PowerPoint and Publisher formats.

If you prefer, you may also mail the ad copy to Rev. R.C. Fleeman c/o Peace Community Church, P.O. Box 60958, Fort Myers, FL 33906. Rev. Fleeman is the Planning Committee Chair. He is willing to help you with the layout for an ad if you wish.

Please send funds to cover the cost of the ad to the ICCC office by mail and indicate that the payment is for an ad in the booklet. Payment by check should be mailed to: ICCC, P.O. Box 50195, Brooklyn, NY 11205. You can also pay through this website at: <https://www.icccnow.org/donate/>. Please note that your payment is for an ad.

### DEADLINE: May 16, 2026

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

Thank you for your support!



## PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

### *Seeking A Full-Time Pastoral Director*

The Pastoral Director serves as the primary spiritual leader of The Center. This role nurtures the spiritual heart of the organization and ensures that worship, pastoral care, and spiritual programming reflect The Center's mission, values, and founding vision.

The Pastoral Director provides compassionate spiritual leadership to the fellowship, staff, volunteers, and broader community. This is a relational, incarnational ministry rooted in presence, listening, service, and community. The role aims to cultivate spiritual culture and help people recognize God's presence in ordinary work, community, and creation. We strive to live what Jesus taught in Matthew 26: when you do it for the least of them, you do it to me.

The Pastoral Director works closely with the Executive Director, staff, and volunteers to steward The Center's mission and to walk faithfully with the community through seasons of growth, challenge, and transition.

#### Key Responsibilities:

- Pastoral care of The Center's fellowship and staff, including individual meetings, home and hospital visits, programs and special events.
- Plan and conduct 8:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. chapel services and memorial services.
- Work with other Program Directors to integrate the values of Christ and the Center into all offerings of the Center.
- Chapel Oversight:
  - a) Oversee the care and maintenance of the Chapel, chapel garden and labyrinth
  - b) Identify facility and housekeeping of the above areas and coordinate with the appropriate staff.
  - c) Recruit and hire Chapel-related staff such as auxiliary ministers, soloists, musicians and hostesses.
- Write content for The Center's newsletter related spiritual programming.
- Work with leadership to set financial goals and manage budgets for Chapel and spiritual programs.

#### Qualifications

- Masters in Divinity preferred
- Ordained as a Christian minister
- Ability to learn the basic software and technology used for scheduling, communication, and administration.
- Valid driver's license and the ability to perform the physical duties of the role.
- Must be at least 21 years old.

#### General Expectations

- Collaborate across the departments and support major Center events when needed.
- Demonstrate flexibility, initiative, and a strong commitment to The Center's mission.
- Participate actively in staff meetings and community life.
- Represent The Center with professionalism, humility, and warmth.

#### Schedule and Compensation:

This is a full-time, year-round position. Regular office hours are required, along with weekend and evening availability to support chapel services, pastoral care, and special events. Compensation is based on experience and includes a supportive and well-rounded benefits package, including individual medical, dental, and vision insurance; a non-contributory pension plan with a 5% annual employer contribution; generous paid time off; meals during work hours; and discounted access to Center programs.

#### How to Apply

All candidates must apply through our online application form, available at <https://thecenterpalos.org/pastoral-director/>. The application includes submission of a resume, a writing sample, professional references, and several questions related to spiritual beliefs, ministry experience, and alignment with The Center's mission and values.

To ensure a fair, thoughtful, and consistent review process, we kindly ask that all inquiries and materials be submitted exclusively through this electronic application. Phone calls, emails, or mailed materials will not be accepted.

### *Seeking Pastor*

Seeking a Shepherd for Our Little Church in the Woods.

Bradford Woods Community Church, nestled in the heart of Bradford Woods, PA, (just a stone's throw from Pittsburgh), a vibrant non-denominational congregation, seeks a dynamic pastor who embodies warmth, charisma, and a passion for community. We are looking for someone who can connect with people, inspire growth, and lead our church. We're a close-knit congregation averaging about 30-35 in Sunday attendance, with a rich history dating back to 1915.

Our ideal candidate will embody Christ's love, foster inclusivity, and guide us in spiritual growth and community service. We are also looking for someone who can connect with people to grow the congregation in an intentional and meaningful way. If you are driven to make a difference and eager to engage with our congregation and the broader community, we want to hear from you!

Come help us continue our mission of spreading God's love through worship, education, and outreach in our serene woodland sanctuary. For more details, please contact us at [BWCC2025@gmail.com](mailto:BWCC2025@gmail.com).

Bradford Woods  
Community Church  
4836 Wexford Run Road,  
Bradford Woods PA 15015  
724-935-3135