

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

MAY 2026



International Council of Community Churches

Volume 76 |

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

| Number 7

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ICCC NEW ADDRESS

PO Box 50195
Brooklyn, NY 11205

Conference Updates



Are you coming to the conference early?



If so, Park Road Community Church in Washington, DC invites you to join them in worship and fellowship at 10 AM on Sunday morning, July 19. Transportation from the hotel and back will be provided. The church is also providing lunch. To help plan, church officials need to know that you wish to attend. You may let them know by sending an email to Pastor Seretha Pearsall with a copy to Mr. James Jones. Their email addresses are: Pastor Seretha Pearsall - revsrpministries@gmail.com James Jones - jj7499314@gmail.com

The Bible Study

The Conference Planning Committee is excited to announce that on Days 2 and 3 of the conference, Rev. Rock Fremont will lead us through two Bible Study sessions centered on Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. Feel free to read ahead in the Gospel of Matthew. Rev. Fremont Rock has represented the ICCC for several years in the area of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations.



An Evening of Inspirational Music

On the first night of our conference, Tuesday, July 21, we will enjoy of evening of inspirational music provided by churches in the Washington, DC, metro area. Come early for that session to get the best seats.

Reminder: Two Scholarships available For Youth Participants

For youth delegates who have 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

Conference Packets Are Coming

If you registered for the conference, you will receive a packet of information in the mail. It will provide more information about the conference hotel and it's complimentary shuttle to and from Reagan International Airport. When you receive the packet, please take the time to look at it because some items will need your response, such as your choice of entree at the banquet on Thursday evening, July 23.



Executive Director's Message

Bruce Merton

Resurrection Reactions

On Tuesday, April 7, I was engaged in conversation with a ministerial colleague. He is still serving a church and in reflection of the long Lenten, Passion week, and multiple Easter/Resurrection Sunday services he said, with relief and exasperation, "Easter is back in the box until next year." He continued, "The decorations have been put away. We can go back to regular worship services. I can breathe a little easier."

That was quite a **Resurrection Reaction!** It was a reaction centered in the existential, day to day grind of celebrating the Christian church's highest holiday. I ask, "Is it the reaction Christians should have to celebrating our faith's highest **HOLY DAY?**"

The Gospels record the existential, moment in time, resurrection reactions of the first people to grapple with Jesus' resurrection. Those reactions are part of human drama. There is fear, doubt, mistaken identity, and demand of proof before there is joy or celebration. The earliest **resurrection reactions** are defined by current moments in time. They are existential and we wrap our Easter/Resurrection Sunday experiences primarily around those very human narratives.

However, some 20 years before any of the Gospel records of resurrection, Paul was giving a **resurrection reaction** that was very different. In writing to the Corinthians (I Corinthians 15:20-28) he gave a **resurrection reaction** rooted in eternal verity and not existential drama. He noted that Jesus' resurrection defeated the last enemy – death. God, through Jesus, had defeated all the enemies we could imagine, think or live through. Paul's **resurrection reaction** pointed Jesus' followers to the reality that true believers in God, through Jesus, live the eternal in the moment by moment, day by day, existential realities of life. As the song writing duo, Avery and Marsh, noted "Every

morning is Easter morning from now on. Every day is resurrection day. The past is over and gone." Our enemies, the things that would drive us to despair, to the tombs of our daily living have been defeated! We are victorious because the final enemy has been defeated. We will have our struggles. We will fight our battles. We will falter and fail, but we will, by and through Jesus' resurrection, be victorious.

Before the resurrection drama of the Gospels Paul noted that by one man, Jesus, **ALL** will live. We do not live the day to day, existential reality of our lives in the hope of the resurrection. We are living the resurrection **NOW!**

The most promising, powerful and potent **resurrection reaction** for you and me is to live and give witness to the fact that **ALL** will live because the final enemy – death – has already been defeated. Live the victory which belongs to **ALL** because one day every knee will bend and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God in heaven.

"Daily news is so bad it seems the Good News seldom gets heard. Get it straight from the Easter people: God's in charge! Spread the word!

Every morning is Easter morning from now on! Every day is resurrection day, the past is over and gone!

Yesterday I was bored and lonely; but today look and see! I belong to the Easter people! Life's exciting to me!"

What is your **RESURRECTION REACTION?**

Grace and Peace,

Bruce

President's Message

Janet Millben Burch



We are eagerly anticipating the opportunity to reconnect with our cherished friends and meet new faces at the annual conference in Crystal City, Virginia this July. Good friendships are truly a great treasure, and we are encouraged to make an intentional investment in the quality of our relationships with one another, guided by God's wisdom and love. Friendship is not only a blessing, but also a responsibility—one that invites us to nurture, encourage, and support each other as we journey together in faith.

The Lord desires for us to experience fellowship with other believers, creating a strong foundation for collaboration and unity. With this foundation, we can work together to pursue meaningful goals and make a positive impact within our communities. One of the most important factors in bringing forth good outcomes is cultivating healthy, supportive relationships. Through the International Council of Community Churches, we are offered a welcoming environment where fellowship and lasting friendships can flourish, empowering us to serve with purpose and grace.

We look forward to meeting with you this summer at our Annual Conference as we offer hospitality, friendship, and fellowship through our shared service for the Lord. It is our sincere hope that each attendee feels welcomed, valued, and inspired to deepen their connections and grow in faith. Together, let us celebrate the bonds that unite us and the opportunities ahead to strengthen our Christian community.

We look forward to meeting with you this summer at our Annual Conference as we offer hospitality, friendship and fellowship through the service for the Lord.

In Christian love and friendship,

Janet Millben Burch

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

International Council of Community Churches

we have moved NY

815-464-5690 (SAME)

iccnnow@sbcglobal.net (SAME)

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

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?

Please click the link below for an application:
https://www.iccnnow.org/hp_wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Jordan-Scholarship-App-revised-2021.pdf

ICCC MAY 2026

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



Book REVIEW

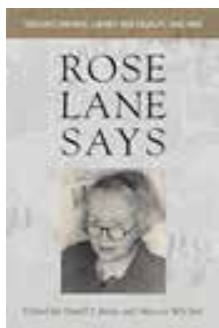
By Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson



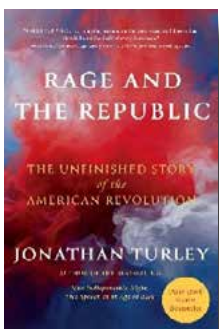
When we gather for the International Council of Community Churches Annual Conference in Arlington County, Virginia, and reflect on the theme, “*Our Future: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus*,” we will be reminded that during the American Revolutionary War, the land that is now Arlington County, Virginia, did not stand at the center of battle. Yet it was deeply connected to the people, relationships, and systems that shaped the nation’s founding. Its influence—quiet, relational, and often unseen—reminds us that transformation does not happen only on the stage but also in the background, through faithful presence and enduring commitment. The witness of the church is not limited to prominent moments. It is formed through **discipleship, community, and daily acts of justice, mercy, and love**. This month’s ICCC Book Review and Resource Reflection invites us into that deeper calling.

A Guiding Resource for Our Time. At the center of this reflection is the *Learning for Justice Anthology: Democracy for the 21st Century (Vol. 1, 2026)*—a resource that, while developed for educational contexts, offers meaningful insight for churches seeking to live out the teachings of Jesus in today’s world (<https://www.splcenter.org/democracy-for-the-21st-century/>). Built around the themes of **Identity, Diversity, Justice, and Action**, this anthology provides a structured pathway that, when viewed through a Christ-centered lens, becomes a four part framework for **discipleship in action**, that is, (1) Identity reminds us of the **image of God in every person**, (2) Diversity calls us into **unity within the Body of Christ**, (3) Justice reflects the **heart of God for righteousness and mercy**, and (4) Action compels us to **live our faith visibly and faithfully**. These themes echo the very values we seek to rediscover as faithful Christians.

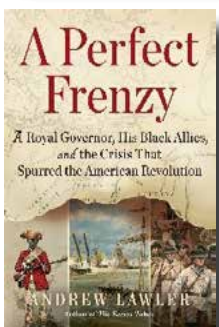
Engaging the Broader Conversation: America at 250. Recent works invite reflection on liberty, justice, and the ongoing journey toward a more perfect union. These books offer important insights that ICCC churches can engage thoughtfully through the teachings of Jesus.



For example, *Rose Lane Says: Thoughts on Race, Liberty, and the Abolition of Racial Bias* (David Beito & Marcus Witcher) revisits Rose Wilder Lane’s writings to examine what has been described as the “unfinished abolition” of racial bias. The pursuit of justice is ongoing, never complete. For the church, this reinforces the call to remain faithful in advancing dignity and equity for all people.



Similarly, *Rage and the Republic* by Jonathan Turley examines democracy, free speech, and the rule of law. Called a strong defense of liberty, it questions how societies balance freedom and responsibility. For believers, it prompts reflection on how **truth, justice, and grace** shape public witness.



In a different but equally important direction, *A Perfect Frenzy: A Royal Governor, His Black Allies, and the Crisis that Spurred the American Revolution* by Andrew Lawler challenges traditional narratives of the nation’s founding. By highlighting the role of Black Americans and the complexities of early alliances, it offers a fuller, more honest account of history. For the church, this kind of reflection encourages humility, truth-telling, and a deeper commitment to justice.

A Christ-Centered Response. These resources do not replace Scripture. Instead, they invite us to **engage the world more faithfully through it**. As ICCC churches, we are called to: (1) Discern justice through the teachings of Jesus. (2) Uphold dignity as rooted in the image of God. (3) Practice unity across differences. (4) Live out faith through action. This requires clarity. Justice is not merely a social concept; it reflects the character of God. Community is not simply an aspiration; it is the expression of the Body of Christ. Action is not only activity; it is **discipleship made visible**. The *Learning for Justice Anthology* and these *America250* reflections offer more than information. They offer invitations: (1) Reexamine who we are in Christ. (2) Recommit to unity in diversity. (3) Reengage the call to justice. (4) Renew our commitment to faithful action. As we move toward the ICCC Annual Conference, may this season of reading and reflection prepare us to gather and grow. We are called by these resources to grow in clarity about our mission, deepen compassion for others, and strengthen our commitment to justice and unity. The key takeaways are to anchor our actions in the values of Jesus—living faithfully, courageously, and together.

We Want to Hear from You! Share your thoughts or interest in a book discussion by emailing iccnw@sbcglobal.net by the month’s end. Tell us: Did the book inspire action, change your behavior, or shift your perspective? How has it shaped your daily life? Let us know if we may quote or paraphrase your insights. Your feedback is valuable, and we appreciate your time. May your month be richly blessed!

A Message from the WCF President

by Winessa Crutchfield, ICCC WCF President



Dear Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to each of you. It is with a grateful heart that I greet you on behalf of the Women’s Christian Fellowship. I continue to be inspired by the strength, compassion, and unwavering faith that each of you bring into your homes, churches, and communities.



As we move forward together in purpose and unity, I warmly invite you to join us for the International

Council of Community Churches Annual Conference, taking place in the Washington Metropolitan Area (Crystal City, Virginia) from July 21–23, 2026, with arrival beginning Monday, July 20. This year’s theme, “Our Future: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus,” calls us to reflect deeply on our faith, our mission, and our role in today’s world. The conference will offer spirit-filled worship, transformational workshops, and opportunities for connection, renewal, and spiritual growth. This is more than a conference—it is a divine appointment, and I encourage every woman who is able to attend to make plans to be present.

In addition to gathering together, we are also called to serve. We are encouraging all women and local fellowships to collect



and distribute gift cards to families in need within your communities. Whether for groceries, gas, or daily es-

entials, these gifts can make a meaningful difference. If you have questions about how your WCF or church can participate in the community gift card initiative, please reach out to me or our 2nd Vice President, Elaine Dennis.

I would also like to extend heartfelt appreciation to Mary Louise Woodcock and Sandra Roberts for their exceptional leadership in coordinating our Annual Women’s History Celebration held via Zoom on March 12, 2026. Their dedication ensured a meaningful and inspiring program that honored the legacy and contributions of women, and we are truly grateful for their service.



Happy Mother's Day

As we celebrate women, it is important that we recognize and honor all expressions of motherhood. We celebrate those who are mothers by birth, and we also uplift those who nurture, mentor, teach, guide, and care for others. Many women pour into the lives of children and families in ways that are profound and life-changing, and their love and influence do not go unnoticed. Your role is sacred, and your impact is immeasurable.

To every woman reading this: you are seen, you are valued, and you are called.

I look forward to gathering with you in July and witnessing all that God will do through us as we continue to serve His people and uplift one another in faith.

Unfulfilled Potential

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

Samson is likely the most recognizable of all the judges. His name is synonymous with great strength, and a number of movies have been made about his life. One of John Milton's most famous poems is "Samson Agonistes", in which he explores the interplay between the divine and human will.

What we may not know, however, about Samson is that he was in many ways entirely different from all the judges preceding him. He stands apart from the others for a variety of reasons. His story begins with his mother, the wife of Manoa, and the first thing the writer tells us is that she is "barren." Childless. The word "barren," however, is a tip off that something wonderful is about to happen. Practically every time a woman in the Old Testament is described as barren—well, we can be sure that God is about to intervene and create a future where none was thought possible. So, there's a hint of the miraculous in Samson's beginning. As well, the writer tells us that Samson will be a Nazirite, one who is consecrated wholly to the Lord. Because of this vow, Samson is supposed to avoid strong drink, unclean foods, and never, ever cut his hair. From these details, we learn Samson is someone special, and we should expect great things from him.

But that was not to be.

The writer alerts us to the fact that despite all he had going for him, Samson would fail. Unlike the other judges before him, he would not succeed in delivering his people. In fact, his mother was told before he was born that he would only *begin to deliver his people* (Judges 13:5). In other words, he wouldn't get the job done. Despite his legendary strength and prowess, he would never fulfill his potential and accomplish his mission.

In this respect, Samson's negative example serves as a cautionary tale, revealing some of the ways we leave our work undone and never live into our full potential.



For one, Samson was terribly *undisciplined*. He was a prisoner of his desires. Consequently, his story is not dominated by accounts of military victories, but instead by detailed stories of his failed relationships with three women. Against his parents' wishes, Samson first marries a woman named Timnah. He insisted he be allowed to marry her because as he says, "she pleases me" or "she looks right in my eyes." Later on, he will fall in love with a prostitute, a relationship that goes nowhere. Last but not least, he is captivated by a Philistine woman named Delilah. Samson's enemies pay her well to induce Samson to disclose the source of his strength. Despite her charms, Samson holds her off until he cannot resist her any longer. He eventually tells her his secret, and as a result, he becomes the captive of the Philistines.

What we have then, is a portrait of someone who didn't think things through but instead acted on impulse. He flew off in all directions. His strength and talent were wasted because he could not govern himself.

As well, the unfinished and incomplete nature of Samson's life resulted from his *lack of purpose and an overriding sense of mission*.

This facet shows up in Samson's episodic use of his wit and strength. As the writer tells us, at Samson's wedding to Timnah, he asked his guests to solve a riddle. If they solved it, he would give them a lot of very fine garments. If they couldn't solve it, they had to pay him. The only way his friends could solve the riddle was to enlist Timnah's help, and she nagged Samson until he told her the answer to the riddle. She passed the answer along to his guests, and when they gave him the right answer, he was furious. To pay what he owed, he went on a violent rampage and killed thirty men and used their garments to pay his debt.

continued on page 8

International Council of Community Churches 2026 Budget as of March 31, 2026

INCOME	2026 BUDGET	ACTUAL
Churches & Centers (N1)	\$ 84,100.00	\$ 23,120.30
Individuals (N2)	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 5,815.73
Individuals - Clergy Membership (N2m)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 4,552.99
Areas, regions Zones (N3)	\$ 2,500.00	
Christian Community (N5)	\$ 200.00	\$ 12.00
Endowment Earnings Distribution	\$ 14,643.00 **	\$ 14,646.18
Miscellaneous Income (N11)	\$ 200.00	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 161,643.00	\$ 48,147.20
EXPENDITURES		
	2026 BUDGET	ACTUAL
STAFF		
Executive Director, Interim (D1)	\$ 46,000.00	\$ 11,499.99
Executive Expenses (D2)	\$ 4,000.00	
Associate for Administration (E1)	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -
Health Benefits (E3)	\$ -	
Retirement (E7)	\$ -	
Admin Assistance Contracted (F1)	\$ -	\$ 9,999.99
Payroll Liabilities (F1)	\$ 3,000.00	\$ (383.71)
TOTAL STAFF	\$ 93,000.00	\$ 21,116.27
OPERATIONS		
Office Space (A1)	\$ -	\$ 454.03
Utilities & Services (A2)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,221.34
Telephone (A3)	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 288.62
Supplies (A5)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 607.72
Equipment (A6)	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 1,151.43
Property Insurance (A7)	\$ 1,000.00	
D&O Insurance/Other Insurance (A8)	\$ 2,800.00	
Printing (A9)	\$ 1,000.00	
Postage (A10)	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 561.55
Office Maintenance (A12)	\$ -	
Professional Services (A13)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,050.00
Board of Trustees (C4)	\$ 500.00	
Executive Field Services (C10)	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 1,574.06
Miscellaneous (A14)	\$ 300.00	
Credit Card Merchant Fees (16)	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 390.02
TOTAL OPERATIONS	\$ 41,800.00	\$ 11,298.77
PROGRAM		
Ecumenics (B)	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,561.00
Christian Community (C8)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 250.00
Missions	\$ 9,000.00	
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 5,811.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 151,300.00	\$ 38,226.04

FRANKLY on FINANCES

By Bruce Merton, Executive Director

We are doing better! Let's keep moving forward.

There is good news on the financial front! We are financially undergirding our 2026 budget better than we have done in the past couple of years.

The news is also sobering! We are still not meeting our 2026 approved budget.

A look at the month ending March, 2026 shows we have a three-month deficit of \$3,248.18 or ONLY \$1,082.73 per month. This is considerably better than we were doing as 2025 drew to a close.

With just a small amount of extra effort we can meet our annual budget.

Meeting the 2026 Budget will go a long way to securing the necessary funds to call an Executive Director while undergirding the compensation paid to our new Administrator, Jasmin Greene.

Meeting the 2026 Budget will also enable us to support mission and outreach in some new areas and endeavors.

We remain incredibly grateful to the contributors and managers of our Endowment Fund. The fund made its annual contribution in the amount of \$14,646.18 to the 2026 Budget. That contribution, fully received, is a significant part of our shown budget "surplus." It is not a recurring item of revenue.

A quick review of the budget through March, 2026 shows GREAT news on the church giving side. Required giving from churches to meet the 2026 Budget is \$7,008.33 per month. At the end of March that giving showed a surplus over monthly need of \$2,095.31.

The giving and support from faithful individuals is not offering great news. Required giving from individuals to meet the 2026 is \$4,166.67 per month. Through the end of March \$5,815.73 had been received which translates to a deficit of \$6,684.28.

The Good News? We are making progress! Better News? We will make up our deficit! Best News? We will move forward to meet and exceed our 2026 Budget. Best News is well within reach. With God's grace and your support, we can do it!

Here's an idea! Put aside a quarter (25 cents) for each day beginning April 1. At year's end you will have \$68.75 to give to the ICC. If 200 take this challenge, there will be \$13,750 added to our giving. God will be glorified and our mission will be increased.



Unfulfilled Potential cont'd. from p 6

Likewise, when his father-in-law refused to allow him to see Timnah, he erupted in a rage and proceeded to burn the Philistine's crops. At the end of his life, when he was mocked by the Philistines and offered up as an example for ridicule, he asked God for strength to collapse the temple where the Philistines worshiped their god.

All these actions reveal Samson was *motivated by revenge rather than a desire for the redemption of the Hebrew people*. He was more interested in getting even rather than working to deliver his people. Although Samson knew himself to be an extraordinarily gifted and strong individual, he never knew *why* he was. All his potential was never harnessed to something greater than himself.

Finally, Samson's unfinished life resulted from his *solitary action*. Because of his outsized strength, Samson didn't think he needed anyone else. He could go at it alone.

If we go back and review the stories of Ehud, Deborah and Barak, Gideon, and Jephthah, we'll see that they rallied the Hebrew people to their side. The tribes answered the call. It's worth noting that none of those judges won their battles all by themselves; they had help. Samson, however, never rallied any of the other Hebrews to his side. He never enlisted others to join him in the fight. As a result, he fought alone and died alone. The only time anyone showed up for Samson was to bury him.

No matter how strong, smart, or self-confident we may be, we still need other people. No wonder then that God, after all that breath-taking work of creation, looked around and said, "As wonderful as this world is, there's something missing. It is not good for anyone to be alone." Samson went off the rails because he had no friends who held him accountable, no friends to push him to be his best rather than his worst.

At the end of his life, Samson died buried in the rubble of a collapsed temple. In a way, that's fitting. Because of his lack of discipline, his inability to link his life to larger purpose, and his determination to go at it alone, his life collapsed, and the ruins of his life show that he never amounted to much.

Meet Tamika Osanyingbemi, Leader of Childrens and Youth Programming at Our Annual Conference



Tamika M. Osanyingbemi is a devoted woman of God and an experienced childcare professional with over 18 years of service in early childhood education. She is passionate about creating safe, nurturing, and impactful environments where children can grow, learn, and thrive. Known for her patience, compassion, and strong leadership, Tamika has dedicated her life to pouring into the next generation both academically and spiritually.

From a young age, Tamika has had a deep love for children and a heart for ministry. Now, years later, she stands in a full-circle moment, honored to help create those same life-changing experiences for today's youth, including her own 3 children. Her mission is to ensure that every child she encounters feels seen, loved, and empowered to walk in their purpose.

Tamika's life and work are grounded in her unwavering love for the Lord. She strives to reflect God's love in everything she does, believing that caring for children is not just a profession, but a calling. Her favorite scripture, "O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him" (Psalm 34:8), is a guiding reminder of God's faithfulness and goodness in her life.

With a servant's heart and a passion for youth development, Tamika continues to impact lives, build strong foundations, and inspire the next generation to grow in both faith and purpose.

Tamika Osanyingbemi



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

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. 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. Pastor RC Fleeman, Conference Planning Chairman will reserve the parking passes for you.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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

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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

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!



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.

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