

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

JUNE 2026



International Council of Community Churches

Volume 76 |

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

| Number 8

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Executive Director's Message

Bruce Merton

In one month we will gather for the 76th Annual Conference of the I.C.C.C. The conference, under the leadership of Rev. R.C. Fleeman and ably assisted by members of the planning team, is going to be excellent. We will worship, fellowship, study, and do significant mission.

The conference theme, "**OUR FUTURE: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus**" is very timely for the I.C.C.C., its member churches, centers, individuals and, in fact, for the Christian presence in the United States and around the globe.

The theme's implication is that our future (the Christian presence) is **dependent on rediscovering the values of Jesus**. We need the rediscovering of something the Christian presence once had but now, at best, only exhibits as a "side show" of being church. We need to rediscover the values that drove Jesus' faith, thought, word and action.

I have been engaged in thought and prayer for the conference, for those who are leading its planning, those who will present sermons, workshops, Bible and book studies. I am praying that God's spirit will fall in a mighty way upon them and, that through them, attendees will rediscover the joy, promise, power and abundant life that is the reward of living the values of Jesus in our world.

Being a "**Christian**" is not a matter of denomination, church affiliation, verse knowing, Bible toting, right doctrine, dogma or political persuasion. Being a "**Christian**" is being a follower of Jesus for he is "the Way, the Truth and the Life." A follower/disciple of Jesus seeks to emulate and replicate the values that moved Jesus through life, to death and resurrection.

The "rub" in our world and in the church roots itself in the reality that the church and its members have, in many and varied ways, lost their relationship with Jesus and the values he asked us to live for others and self. "Christians" are into buildings, meetings, worship extravaganzas, promulgation of salvatory spiritual laws, correct Bible translations, and proper liturgy, doctrine and dogma. Where "Christians" are today is not where people are.

As I reflect on the values Jesus owned and demonstrated, I can make a list. On that, non-exhausted, list I find love, grace, mercy, prayer, compassion, equality, diversity, peace, justice, joy, righteousness, and kindness. After making the list I asked myself how much of my time, talent and treasure is invested in living the values of Jesus. I reflected on what the budget of the ICCC says about our commitment to the living and ministering the values of Jesus. I looked at the budget of the church I belong to and pondered the amount of "Jesus value living" it allowed us to do. I was, quite frankly, struck by how desperately I and the Christian church need to be "rediscovering the values of Jesus" and reclaiming them as the prime and central focus of what it is to be "Christian" in our world.

In the flyleaf of Philip Gulley's provocative book, *If the Church Were Christian*, one is struck by these words:

While many denominations claim to be growing, the largest group in American religious life is the disillusioned – people who have been involved in the church yet see few similarities between the church's life and the person of Jesus. In the midst of elaborate programming, professional worship teams and political crusades, they ask, "Is this really what Jesus called us to do?"

While the church has dismissed these people as uncommitted and lacking in faith, perhaps the opposite is true. Their commitment to authentic spirituality over institutional idolatry might be the very corrective the church needs. These people respect Jesus, but question what Christianity has become.

For my life to be one of vital "Christian" presence I am in need of rediscovering the values of Jesus and giving them primacy in my word and action. I believe this is the true need of the ICCC and the church universal. Perhaps it is your true need, too!

No water today. Just priming the pump!

Bruce

ICCC JUNE 2026

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



Book REVIEW

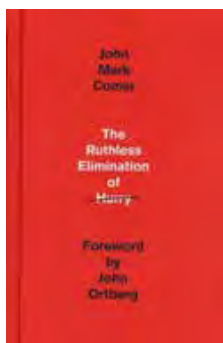
By Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson



As the Annual Conference approaches, let's consider three books that stand out as timely resources for pastors, clergy, ministry leaders, and congregations seeking renewal in a demanding age: John Mark Comer's "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry," Comer's "Practicing the Way," and Eliza Griswold's "Circle of Hope."

These selections are especially relevant for clergy because they do not simply ask, "How can the church do more?" They ask deeper questions: How healthy is the leader's soul? How deeply are disciples being formed? How faithfully is the church handling power, conflict, justice, and community?

"The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry," by John Mark Comer

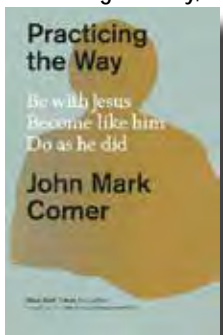


John Mark Comer's "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry: How to Stay Emotionally Healthy and Spiritually Alive in the Chaos of the Modern World" may be the most immediately pastoral of the three books. Comer recalled a key idea from psychologist Carl Jung, who said, Hurry is not of the devil; hurry is the devil." Our hurrying is indicative of how we use our time. In fact, "the number one problem you will face is time. People are just too busy to live emotionally and spiritually rich and vibrant lives", said Comer.

Comer speaks directly to pastoral exhaustion. His central argument is that hurry is not only a calendar problem. It is a spiritual problem. The hurried soul becomes distracted, reactive, shallow, and disconnected from God. Pastors and congregations will recognize this condition. A pastor can be busy with sermons, funerals, hospital visits, community meetings, counseling, advocacy, and administration, yet still feel spiritually dry.

The book's strongest contribution is its invitation back to the practices of Jesus: Sabbath, silence, solitude, simplicity, and slower rhythms of life. Comer tells readers to reconsider who they are becoming under the pressure of constant motion. Comer maintains that this book is both a question and an answer. But mostly it's an invitation, from one invitee to another. 'Come to me.... Find rest for your souls (Matthew 11:28-30).

"Practicing the Way," by John Mark Comer

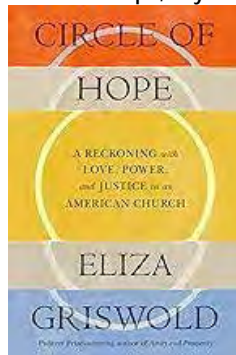


Comer's "Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus. Become Like Him. Do as He Did" builds naturally on "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry." Where the first book addresses the pace of the leader's life, this book addresses the shape of Christian discipleship. Comer organizes the book around three movements: being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and doing what Jesus did. The framework is simple enough for congregational use and rich enough for pastoral reflection. It gives churches a memorable discipleship pathway.

This book is useful not only as a personal reading resource but also as a tool for leadership formation. It can help pastors and congregations ask important questions: Are we producing church attenders, or are we forming apprentices of Jesus? Are our ministries helping people become more loving, holy, courageous, merciful, and spiritually grounded?

Used wisely, "Practicing the Way" can help leaders recover a central claim of Christian ministry: Christianity is not merely a set of beliefs to affirm or services to attend. It is a way of life shaped by Jesus Christ.

"Circle of Hope," by Eliza Griswold



Eliza Griswold's "Circle of Hope: A Reckoning with Love, Power, and Justice in an American Church" offers a different but necessary contribution. Griswold, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, follows the story of Circle of Hope, a Philadelphia-area church community seeking to live out a radical vision of love, justice, and Christian community. The National Book Foundation named it a finalist for the National Book Award.

Griswold's book focuses on communal and institutional formation. It asks what happens when a church committed to love and justice must also confront leadership transition, conflict, race, gender, power, ideology, and organizational strain.

This book is valuable because it does not romanticize church life. It shows that churches can have beautiful values and still struggle to sustain healthy practices. A congregation may preach love, justice, and welcome, yet still face hard questions about authority, accountability, trust, and truth-telling.

"Circle of Hope" could be especially helpful in conversations about church governance, pastoral transitions, congregational conflict, prophetic ministry, and justice-centered leadership. It reminds leaders that love must be practiced structurally, not merely proclaimed verbally. Justice must be joined with patience, humility, accountability, and spiritual maturity. Community requires more than shared ideals. It requires trust, time, truth-telling, and wise leadership.

These books can help ICCC frame a conference conversation that is spiritually honest, pastorally useful, and publicly relevant.

We Want to Hear from You! Do you have thoughts to share, or would you like to start a book discussion? We invite you to send your comments or express interest in a discussion by emailing us at iccnw@sbcglobal.net by the end of the month. Consider sharing: Did the book inspire you to take action, change a behavior, or see things differently? How has it impacted your perspective or daily life? Let us know if we may quote or paraphrase your insights. Your feedback is valuable, and we appreciate the time you take to share it. Thank you, and may your month be richly blessed!

Listening for the Spirit: ICCC and the Future of Churches Uniting in Christ

By Rev. Rock Fremont Jr, Ecumenical, Interfaith & Partner Relationships Moderator

For nearly twenty-five years, the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC) has been part of an extraordinary ecumenical witness known as Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC). Since its inception, ICCC has stood alongside partner communions committed to a bold vision: growing more closely together in Christian unity while confronting the sin of racism in church and society. That commitment traces back to the historic gathering in Memphis, Tennessee, where ten Christian communions formally committed themselves to a deeper life together in Christ. Born out of the vision of the Consultation on Church Union (COCU), CUIC emerged from a conviction that Christian unity is not simply an aspiration, but a calling rooted in the prayer of Jesus “that they may all be one” (John 17:21). Over the years, this witness has created relationships across traditions, fostered shared worship and theological dialogue, and encouraged churches to stand together for justice and reconciliation.



John’s wisdom, presence, and commitment have been a gift to our shared work, and I am deeply grateful for his partnership. As part of this discernment, CUIC is actively seeking feedback from our member communions. We want to hear from you: What should the mission and vision of Churches Uniting in Christ be in this moment? What witness is most needed now? If you have thoughts, hopes, or questions about the future of CUIC, I invite you to reach out to either Rev. John Woodcock or me. Your voice matters as we seek together to discern the next faithful steps.

And finally, save the date. Plans are underway for the 25th Anniversary Celebration of Churches Uniting in Christ in Memphis, Tennessee, where we will celebrate the journey thus far and recommit ourselves to the work ahead. More details will be forthcoming, but we hope many from the ICCC family will join us as we celebrate the past and embody unity for the future. After all, perhaps now more than ever, the Church is called to listen carefully for what the Spirit is saying.

In Unity,
Rev. Rock Fremont
Rock@MayAllBeOne.org

Now, as CUIC approaches its 25th anniversary, we find ourselves asking an important question: What is the Spirit calling us to become in this next season? Like many organizations, CUIC has engaged in strategic planning processes over the years. Yet, too often, plans can remain words on paper rather than living commitments. Recognizing this, the CUIC Coordinating Council made a different commitment this year: not simply to plan, but to discern.

Since February, representatives from our communions have been gathering monthly by Zoom in an intentional process of communal discernment, listening together for God’s invitation for the future. Rather than beginning with predetermined outcomes, we are seeking to hear, in the words of Revelation, “what the Spirit is saying to the churches” (2:7). Through prayer, sacred memory, listening, conversation, and reflection, we are asking what faithful witness and visible unity might look like in a divided world.

This work feels especially urgent today. Nearly twenty-five years after CUIC’s founding, our churches face deep political polarization, growing isolation, racial injustice, war, ecological crisis, and profound societal fragmentation. Yet perhaps these very realities make the witness of Christian unity even more important. In a world fractured by division, CUIC continues to ask what it means for churches to walk together in relationship, justice, and shared mission.

I want to offer special thanks to Rev. John Woodcock, who has joined me in representing ICCC in this discernment process.

Churches Uniting in Christ

25TH ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Many Parts. One Body: The Journey to Beloved Community

In 2002, 10 Christian communions committed to living more closely together in unity and confronting racism through Church Uniting in Christ.

Nearly 25 years later, amid global crises and deep societal divisions, these churches continue to strengthen their relationships and witness to unity with justice. Save the date and plan to join CUIC in celebrating past work and demonstrating unity for the work ahead.

SEP 16, 2026 | 6 P M | MEMPHIS, TN (LOCATION TBD)

Mission Outreach Committee Spotlight: Seneca Community Church

by Myrtis Brame, Mission Outreach Committee Chair

Myrtis Brame is the chair the Mission Outreach Committee, and they make every effort to share an article monthly related to mission projects/activities underway within the ICCC, as well as mission work taking place at member churches. Below we feature Seneca Community Church.

New Member Leads God's Love in Mission to the Community

Thanks to the leadership and compassion of one of our new young adult members, Deiondra Walton, affectionately known as Dee, Seneca Community Church recently implemented several mission initiatives that provided services needed to individuals and families in our community. Dee introduced the outreach ideas and invited the church's ministries to support these meaningful mission events.

Dee is the founder and Chief Executive Director of Waltoness Helps, Inc., an official nonprofit organization that provides food and health-related services. The organization is grounded in the principles of compassionate giving and bridging access gaps for those in need. Dee shares that her passion for service is rooted in her own lived understanding of what it means to navigate life with limited resources, as well as her desire to create spaces where people feel supported, seen, and valued.

With Dee organizing and leading the effort, Seneca Community Church's mission ministry successfully completed the following outreach events:

- **Holiday Care Package Initiative:** Specially prepared care packages were provided to families during the

holiday season. The packages included household essentials, personal hygiene products, and food. This initiative helped ease some of the financial worries families may experience during the holidays while reminding them that they are seen, cared for, and supported.

- **Drive & Go Community Food Distribution Event:** A drive-through outreach event was coordinated to provide food, essential household items, and community resources with ease and dignity. Residents were not required to leave their vehicles, which reduced time barriers and made access more convenient. To further demonstrate a commitment to meeting people where they are, personal deliveries were made to families who needed assistance but did not have transportation.
- **Pop-Up Pantry Outreach:** In partnership with local organizations and community partners, fresh farm produce was distributed within neighborhoods to increase food access for underserved populations and build stronger community relationships. One recipient shared, "This came right on time. You don't understand how much this helped my family this week."

Seneca Community Church is blessed when we engage the youth and young adults of the church and create opportunities that call them into leadership. They are our future, and they bring fresh ideas, energy, and compassionate ways of helping others. As we continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, may we always do so in a welcoming, loving, and judgment-free environment.



Pop Up Pantry



Deiondra 'Dee' Walton



Drive By & Go

International Council of Community Churches 2026 Budget as of April 30, 2026

INCOME	2026 BUDGET	ACTUAL
Churches & Centers (N1)	\$ 84,100.00	\$ 28,412.03
Individuals (N2)	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 6,023.48
Individuals - Clergy Membership (N2m)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 4,807.89
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	\$ 53,901.58
EXPENDITURES		
	2026 BUDGET	ACTUAL
STAFF		
Executive Director, Interim (D1)	\$ 46,000.00	\$ 15,333.32
Executive Expenses (D2)	\$ 4,000.00	
Associate for Administration (E1)	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 3,770.84
Health Benefits (E3)	\$ -	
Retirement (E7)	\$ -	
Admin Assistance Contracted (F1)	\$ -	\$ 12,386.24
Payroll Liabilities (F1)	\$ 3,000.00	\$ (383.71)
TOTAL STAFF	\$ 93,000.00	\$ 31,106.69
OPERATIONS		
Office Space (A1)	\$ -	\$ 454.03
Utilities & Services (A2)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,380.19
Telephone (A3)	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 384.80
Supplies (A5)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 667.36
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	\$ 892.21
Credit Card Merchant Fees (16)	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 559.87
TOTAL OPERATIONS	\$ 41,800.00	\$ 12,675.50
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	\$ 49,593.19

FRANKLY on FINANCES

By Bruce Merton, Executive Director

A look at our I.C.C.C. finances through April, 2026 reveals "by the skin of our teeth" surplus when comparing our annual budget needs on a monthly basis to current contributions. In order to meet our annual budget, the I.C.C.C. needs \$13,470.25 each month. Through April 30, 2026 that amounts to \$53.88. Receipts, through April, from all income sources total \$53901.58. This translates into a surplus of \$20.58.

So far this is very good news and many thanks are given to all who have made this possible!

All the above being said, we must remain very diligent in our giving as we move into the future if we are going to meet our annual budget for the first time in years. Why is that statement true?

First, our Endowment Fund has made its annual contribution to the budget. The amount was \$14,646.18 and no further contribution will be forth coming this year.

Second, several churches that make larger annual gifts to the I.C.C.C. have already made their contributions and no further income is likely to be received from them.

Third, contributions from individuals, long a backbone of our budget, are running significantly behind monthly needs. At the end of April there was a \$10,643.16 deficit in individual gifts.

Fourth, the significant rise in cost of living due to things like the war in Iran are impacting every person's ability to meet their monthly obligations like food for the table, rent and mortgage payments, medicines, and gas for getting to and from work, home and school.

And, fifth, it is very easy, in the face of all the challenges that life is throwing at us, to de-prioritize giving to the I.C.C.C. even though we profess a love for and commitment to it. **It is easy, but not necessary!**

You and your church can receive assistance with ideas and suggestions to raise funds for local ministries and the I.C.C.C. You can find resources on our website: icccnow.org. You may also contact the Executive Director, Dr. Bruce Merton, through the I.C.C.C. office, or at (239) 851-6821 or via email at mertonbn@gmail.com.

So far? Very good news!

The future? Time will tell and we will make the news.



A Message from the WCF President

by Winessa Crutchfield, ICCC WCF President



*"Let all that you do be done in love."
1 Corinthians 16:14*

Celebrating the Blessing of Mothers



As we reflect on the beautiful celebration of Mother's Day, we thank God for the mothers, grandmothers, spiritual mothers, caregivers, mentors, and women of faith whose love, prayers, sacrifices, and wisdom continue to strengthen our families, churches, and communities. We are grateful for the nurturing spirit and unwavering devotion so many women demonstrate each day. Scripture reminds us in Proverbs 31:28, "Her children arise up, and call her blessed." We pray God's continued blessings upon every woman who leads with grace, compassion, and faith.

Honoring Fathers and Father Figures

As we now move toward Father's Day, we also pause to honor and celebrate the fathers, grandfathers, mentors, and father figures who continue to guide and support others with love, wisdom, strength, and integrity. Their encouragement, protection, and leadership help shape future generations and reflect God's faithfulness in so many meaningful ways.



Looking Ahead to the Annual Conference

The Women's Christian Fellowship is filled with excitement as we prepare for the upcoming International Council of Community Churches 76th Annual Conference this July in the Washington



Metropolitan Area (Crystal City, Virginia). Under this year's inspiring theme, "Our Future: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus," we anticipate a powerful time of worship, fellowship, spiritual renewal, and growth.

Continuing Our Spirit of Giving

As shared in last month's newsletter, we continue encouraging all women and local fellowships to participate in our gift card collection effort in support of those in need. Your generosity and willingness to give are beautiful reflections of Christ's love in action. Whether large or small, every contribution has the potential to encourage, uplift, and bless someone during a difficult season. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed and supported this meaningful outreach ministry.



An Inspiring Word from Within Our Fellowship

We are especially excited to share that Pastor Eloise Crenshaw, one of our very own Women's Christian Fellowship members, will be featured during the Women's Christian Fellowship meeting sessions. You will not want to miss what the Lord has placed upon her heart to motivate, inspire, encourage, and challenge us to grow and live more fully for His glory. We believe her message will truly be a blessing to all who attend.



Gratitude and Encouragement

As always, thank you for your continued prayers, support, and dedication to the work and ministry of the Women's Christian Fellowship. May God continue to bless and strengthen each of you and your families.



2026 Conference Opportunities



Pastor Bruce Jones

"Imagine Doing Church Differently"

*Led by Pastor Bruce Jones and others.
from Imagine Church, Charlotte, NC*

In an era of declining church attendance amidst a post-Christian culture, there is an ICCC congregation that has grown dramatically across the last decade. When organized in 2014, Imagine Church decided to measure spiritual growth relationally, and then asked: How do you design a church around that? By sharing the story of Imagine Church in the Charlotte, NC area, this workshop will describe how to create environments where the Holy Spirit can work in the hearts of people who have never had a relationship with God or who have given up on church.



Rev. Beth McKinney

"Biblical Story Telling"

*Led by Rev. Beth McKinney
from Palisades Community Church, Washington, DC*

Biblical Story Telling

The Bible did not begin as a collection of books. It began as stories that people told to one another about their ancestors in the faith. It was a long time before the average person could read the scriptures for themselves. Along the way we became so reliant upon the words on pages that we lost the experience of telling and hearing the Bible stories. In fact, Biblical storytelling was not considered a legitimate path of seminary learning until the late 1990's. This workshop will introduce you, or re-introduce you, to hearing and telling the Bible stories in a variety of settings and styles. Hopefully it will inspire you to learn and tell Bible stories yourself.



There are still a few slots available for the Bus Tour of Washington, DC. It's scheduled for Wednesday, July 22 from 12 noon to 7:00 PM. If interested, please send an email to Pastor R.C. Fleeman... peacechurchnow@gmail.com

2026 Conference Opportunities



Rev. Dr. Sharyon Cosey

"Chaplaincy Workshop"

Led by Rev. Dr. Sharyon Jones

from ABBA Church of Renewed Faith Church, Chicago, IL

This workshop will give insight regarding the standards which describe chaplaincy in secular arenas such as hospitals, nursing homes or facilities, hospice care centers, colleges or universities and various other locations. It will also provide information for those seeking a chaplaincy career path or for those who are already working as chaplains in various settings, especially those seeking certification by the national APC Organization, i.e., Association of Professional Chaplains which is the most widely recognized chaplain certification body.



Rev. Daniel Coffey

Back to the Center:

Rediscovering the Values of Jesus in the ICCC

Who we have been • Who we are • Who we are becoming

Led by Rev. Daniel Coffey from Blowing Rock, NC

The International Council of Community Churches did not come into being by accident. We were born from a holy impatience with needless division and a deep hunger for a broader table, Christian unity without forced uniformity, local churches rooted in Christ without narrow sectarianism.

In this 45-minute workshop we will (1) briefly reclaim the ICCC story as a theological narrative, (2) name the values of Jesus in concrete, non-sentimental terms—radical hospitality, boundary-crossing love, table fellowship, truth-telling with power, liberation for the marginalized, and transformation of arts and systems—and (3) translate those values into measurable next steps for ICCC life over the next decade.

This is not a lecture. Expect guided reflection, small-group conversation, and strategic imagination. Participants will leave with clarity about ICCC identity and a simple set of 3–5 actionable priorities—ways our inclusivity becomes intentional, our love becomes visible, and our transformation becomes real in our common life.

The underpinning theological groundwork for this comes from Luke 4:18 where Jesus declares, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed.”

Conference Updates

CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are willing to serve as a PHOTOGRAPHER at the conference, please send an email to RC Fleeman. His email address is peacechurchnow@gmail.com.



We would like to have photos of speakers, worship sessions, workshop sessions and delegates enjoying fellowship in informal settings.

SINGERS NEEDED FOR A CONFERENCE CHOIR

Rev. Dr. Sharyon Cosey is serving as the music director for the conference. She is hoping to lead a choir at the final worship service at the conference on Thursday evening. Please let us know you are willing to sing by sending an email to Sharyon. Her email address is abbachurch4u@gmail.com.



Rehearsals will be scheduled on the second and final day of the conference.

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.



THE WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP INVITES YOU TO JOIN OUR

GIFT CARD COLLECTION & DISTRIBUTION DRIVE

Sharing Love. Meeting Needs. Changing Lives.

As followers of Christ, we are called to care for one another. Let's be a blessing in our communities by providing practical help and spreading God's love.

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."
- GALATIANS 6:2

SUGGESTED GIFT CARDS			WAYS YOU CAN HELP		
GROCERY STORES	GAS STATIONS	RESTAURANTS	DONATE GIFT CARDS Every gift card makes a real impact.	ENCOURAGE OTHERS Invite your church, ministry, friends & family to participate.	IDENTIFY THOSE IN NEED Help us reach individuals and families in our community.
PHARMACIES	WALMART TARGET	GENERAL RETAIL STORES	HELP WITH DISTRIBUTION Be a part of bringing hope right where it's needed.		

Any amount. Any store. Every card helps!

Small Cards. BIG IMPACT. ETERNAL PURPOSE.

LET'S BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST!
Serve with generosity. Love with purpose. Impact for eternity.

Join Us
IN MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES THRIVE THROUGH FAITH & LOVE!

TOGETHER, WE CAN BRING HOPE, ENCOURAGEMENT & PRACTICAL SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST.

COLLECT. GIVE. BLESS. REPEAT. | Thank you for being a blessing!

SPONSORED BY THE WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP | SERVING GOD BY SERVING OTHERS



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

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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.”*



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.

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

Help Reduce Hunger and Strengthen Communities Through the ICCC Global Farm Challenge

Each year at the ICCC Annual Conference, we come together to support a shared mission that turns compassion into action. In past years, we have assembled school supplies for children in Haiti, provided gift cards for unhoused women, and filled backpacks with clothing and toys for children in foster care. Every project reminds us that when we join our hearts and hands, we can become a powerful force for hope. Today, more than 735 million people around the world face extreme hunger. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to act and with compassion and generosity.

This year's conference theme, *Our Future: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus* inspired the Mission Outreach team to conclude we can practice the values of Jesus by helping God's people in need and supporting solutions that reduce hunger and create lasting change.

Through our partnership with Church World Service (CWS), conference attendees, and congregations across the ICCC family can help provide farm animals, food, and essential agricultural resources to families in Honduras, Kenya, and Haiti. A cow can provide milk and income. Chicken offers eggs and nourishment. Beehives support crops and local economies. These gifts do more than meet immediate needs—they help families build long-term stability, strengthen local food systems, and move toward self-sufficiency. Together, we can help families flourish and communities grow stronger.

Our 2026 Goal: Fund three Global Farms. Each farm includes four cows, five goats, six sheep, nine pigs, three

beehives, and five flocks of five chicken. Churches and Individuals can contribute the whole farm (\$5497) and/or individual animals. Below are individual animal prices.

Cow (\$900 each) • Pig (\$60 each)
Goat (\$125 each) • Beehive (\$65 each)
Sheep (\$70 each) • Chicken (\$22 per flock of 5)

Our hope is to fund one Global Farm during the three-day conference and continue building additional Global Farms through participation from ICCC member churches from July through year end. Detailed information will be provided for participation during conference.

How You Can Help: First, your church can support this mission by donating one or more Global Farms/animals. After conference you/or member congregations and auxiliaries can extend the impact by hosting CWS Best Gifts Global Farm event(s) in your church or community from July and through the Thanksgiving and Christmas gift-giving seasons.

To participate online, visit [CWSBestGift.org](https://www.CWSBestGift.org), and choose Animals to purchase for the Global Farm Challenge. In the checkout, under congregation or group, please include **"ICCC" and your church name** to identify your donation with our shared goals. Every gift helps with the impact of this mission endeavor. Together, we can rediscover the values of Jesus Christ by caring for our neighbors, strengthening communities, and helping families live free from hunger.





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TAR HOLLOW STATE PARK (NEAR CHILLICOTHE)**

Join CAMP 2026 for a full week of adventure, new friends, and unforgettable moments of overnight camping at Tar Hollow State Park.

Open to students grades 6-12

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- » Make new friends
- » Get Outside without a phone
- » Get Messy and Wild
- » Get out of the house and actually have fun before school starts back!

\$350 — includes EVERYTHING (meals, snacks, activities, camp shirt & more!)

Questions: info@sfacamp.org

**REGISTER
TODAY!**

WWW.SFACAMP.ORG

