



*International Council of Community Churches*

## “That they might all be one.”

The ICCC is the visible manifestation of the community church movement, which sees faith and ministry arising from the local community, in a wide variety of forms and expressions. Community churches include differing patterns of governance and a broad array of styles of worship, in congregations composed of every race and ethnicity. Guided by Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane “that they might all be one” (John 17: 20-21), the congregations of the movement enjoy unity without insisting on uniformity, and celebrate diversity without division. We invite all Christians to join us in seeking to be a fulfillment of Jesus' prayer.

## Committed to community, treasuring diversity, living our faith in service and

To gain membership in the ICCC, a church or ministry center must:

- affirm by official action that it is in the Christian tradition.
- accept the diverse nature of the Council, whose members are all racial and ethnic groups, and whose views on points of theological doctrine are likewise diverse.
- agree to support the vision and mission of the Council with annual gifts and a promise to be faithful in your financial stewardship in the future.
- agree to make a good faith effort to send delegates to at least one Council event per year, including representation at Annual Conference.

For an ICCC membership application form, please see the ICCC's website [iccnw.org](http://iccnw.org). Return your completed and signed application form to the Council by postal mail or email to the address listed below.

The churches and ministry centers of the ICCC enjoy an Annual Conference that is held in a new location each year. The 2025 conference will be July 22—24 at the Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, IL.

The letters that spell the word for “fish” in the Greek language are also the first letters in the words “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.” For that reason the fish has been used as a Christian symbol for many centuries. When used by the ICCC, the fish is always swimming “upstream” against this world's currents of division and toward Christian unity.

### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CHURCHES

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## Become a Member of the International Council of Community Churches



# Who we are

The International Council of Community Churches (ICCC) is a voluntary fellowship of self-governing churches and ministry centers. The ICCC was formed in 1950 as a merger between a group of Afro-American congregations and a similarly sized group of Caucasian congregations. From its beginnings the fellowship has been committed to justice, reconciliation and Christian unity. Formed with just a very few non-US congregations, the fellowship now includes churches in several nations in Europe, Africa and Asia, though the majority are US based.



*The International Council of Community Churches is an international, intercultural, interracial fellowship of churches and ministry centers which seeks Christian unity in local, national and world relations.*

**VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP:** A church or ministry center may join the Council at any time, and may withdraw from membership at any time. Membership is always voluntary for each and every member body.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHARING:** Member churches and ministry centers may participate in as many or as few cooperative events, programs and ministries as they are led.

**LOCAL AUTONOMY:** Each member church or ministry center organizes its own governance and selects its own leadership including pastoral leadership. The Council has no authority over any member body.

**EQUAL STANDING:** Within the ICCC, every member church or ministry center has equal standing. No member body has more votes in Council decisions because of size of membership or budget, or any other criteria.

**INVERTED POWER PYRAMID:** Most organizations have a power pyramid, with the members at the bottom, while staff and officers are at the top. The ICCC turns this pyramid upside-down.

**NO LIEN:** The International Council of Community Churches will never take, assume or wish to have a lien on the real estate or other property of any member body.

**COST CONTAINMENT:** As with any organization, the life and vitality of the ICCC can only be as strong as the treasure given by its members. As the ICCC seeks to be valuable and relevant in service to our churches and centers, it must rely totally on financial contributions to carry out our various programs and services. An annual contribution for the ICCC's general ministry and a promise to be faithful in your financial stewardship in the future is required.

**HONOR SYSTEM:** Nobody from the Council will ask to inspect the membership or financial records of a member church or ministry center.

**PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES:** Pastoral leaders of member churches and ministry centers are invited to submit sermons, poetry and worship materials each year for publication in the ICCC's annual journal *The Inclusive Pulpit*.

**MEMBER-CENTERED RESOURCING:** Most Christian communions hire extensive staff to provide resources to churches. The ICCC has minimal staff; most resourcing is done peer-to-peer, at minimal cost and more up-to-date understanding.

**ECUMENICAL CONNECTIONS:** Through the ICCC, churches and ministry centers are connected to the wider church through a variety of ecumenical organizations in which the Council holds membership.