

Ecumenical Connection

A publication of the Illinois Conference of Churches



August, 2019

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Laurie says farewell....

It is with bittersweet feelings that I announce that I am stepping down from my role with the Illinois Conference of Churches. I have accepted a full-time position with the Mennonite Church of Normal.

The interviewing committee of the ICC took a leap of faith eight years ago in tapping me for the position of executive director with a diverse resume that did not include being ordained clergy. Thank you.

Accepting the ICC position has been life changing in many ways. I never expected to earn a living in the work of the church. It has stretched me and expanded my horizons and I have met amazing people from all over the country. Thank you for believing in me. Most of all it has deepened my faith over and over again.

I am proud of the work we have accomplished over the last eight years adding programming and events. Most of all I am proud of the bold and never wavering public statements we have made on gun violence, immigration, the state budget, the death penalty, and many other issues. Being a voice to the press and our legislators and being the conduit of networking with our ecumenical partners and our 13 member denominations is what makes us vital and vibrant.

My last day will be Aug. 14 and after that email will forward to the interim executive director, co-chair of the Leadership Team, Wally Carlson who is taking on this role as a volunteer. That's stepping up to the plate big time. I hope and pray you will support Wally in every way that you can.

I hope in some way, our paths will cross again. Grace and Peace, Laurie

Everyone welcome to gather for dinner the evening before Annual Assembly

Many of those who attend our Annual Assembly are in town the Thursday evening before. We are organizing dinner at a restaurant for fellowship and conversation. **This is open to everyone.** Each attendee will pay their own bill. Please RSVP by email to execdir@illinoisconferenceofchurches.org with **Annual Assembly Dinner** as the subject - just indicate how many people. Please do not use any other words in the subject line - please respond by 10 a.m. on Thursday. We will meet at Baxter's American Grille at 6:30 p.m. at 3212 E Empire St, Bloomington, IL 61704. Ask for the ICC table. They have a large parking lot. This is supposed to be a quiet restaurant.

We are seeking nominations for the Rev. Donald E. Mason Ecumenical Award which will be presented at Annual Assembly. For a simple nomination form, due Sept. 1, 2019 please email us and request one. The award recognizes ecumenical initiatives of individuals, leaders, local churches, judicatories, or other organizations which serve to: nurture growing relationships among Christian churches through worship, education, and fellowship; and generate ecumenical witness and mission expressing the reconciling love of Jesus Christ.

July 21, 2019

The Illinois Conference of Churches signs on to the following statement of the National Council of Churches.

“Thus says the Lord of hosts: Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another; do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.”
Zechariah 7:9-10 NRSV

The National Council of Churches urges the Trump administration not to go forward with the widely publicized raids that are intended to round up and deport thousands of families and individuals. Indeed, these raids may very well take place while millions of Christians are attending Sunday services. The raids have struck fear and dread into the hearts of countless people who are living peaceful and productive lives in our nation.

These unnecessary acts of “enforcement” terrorize children, women, and men who live in our communities. It is unconscionable and immoral. We see these threatened deportations as part of a program of extreme intimidation and harm, and we urge the U.S. government not to move ahead with these raids.

This is a moment in which God is calling the Church to do all it can to stand with those who have sought refuge within our borders and to resist these measures and show compassion toward persons threatened with deportation. Many of the congregations associated with the NCC are praying for those impacted and are prepared to act in ways that protect threatened persons.

Since the earliest times in which Christians gathered together, churches have been places of sanctuary in which persons in danger of harm from an oppressive government can find safety and protection. We urge all churches to be places of sanctuary for those in danger today.

People of faith cannot turn a blind eye this weekend and we must rely upon the strength of God, revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, to accept the freedom and power to resist evil, injustice, and oppression.

To learn more about the sanctuary movement, please begin here. For those facing raids this weekend, we are reminded of our scriptures which teach us:

O how abundant is your goodness
that you have laid up for those who fear you,
and accomplished for those who take refuge in you,
in the sight of everyone!
In the shelter of your presence you hide them
from human plots;
you hold them safe under your shelter

July 31, 2019

The Leadership Team of the Illinois Conference of Churches has signed onto the following statement from the National Council of Churches. The ICC is the ecumenical body of Illinois with 13 member Christian denominations.

National Council of Churches Opposes Federal Death Penalty

The National Council of Churches opposes the Justice Department’s decision to reinstate the federal death penalty and to schedule the execution of five persons. We affirm our longstanding view that the death penalty is both a violation of the dignity and worth of human beings and has also proven to be ineffective as a deterrent (see the 2 1st

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Century Social Creed and our statement of Sept. 13, 1968).

Additionally, the pervasiveness of systemic racism and classism intrinsic within the criminal legal process means the death penalty is neither fair nor just. In fact, we know that hundreds of people who have been sentenced to death — or actually executed by the state — have been determined to be innocent. In a time when states are ceasing this abominable practice, it is abhorrent that the federal government would seek to revive it.

Our Christian faith is clear that life and the dignity of human personhood are sacred gifts of God and as such shall not be violated.

Institutionalized killing contributes to the brutalization of society. Such a final and heinous decision should not be left to the discretion of flawed humans and broken systems. Furthermore, society is served better by a system of restorative justice: as all are made in the image of God, we stand firm in our belief as Christians that all can be redeemed.

Private facilities for immigrants banned in Illinois

Dear Laurie, Wally and Garnet,

Thank you once again for your support of HB2040. Governor Pritzker will be signing the bill tomorrow, Friday, along with two other immigrant-friendly bills (see below). This is a huge milestone for immigration justice in our state. Thank you so much for being part of making this happen. For a decade, advocates have been fighting each individual proposal for private facilities around the state. We have succeeded in every case, but only after dedicating many resources. What an amazing thing it is to finally be able to say we have defeated the private detention business in Illinois. Godspeed with your further endeavors. In Christ, Sara Wollrab

Dear ICIRR members and allies:

I'm very pleased to share that tomorrow, Friday, June 21, Gov. Pritzker will be signing all three of our Campaign for a Welcoming Illinois bills:

- RISE Act (HB 2691): Provides access to financial aid for undocumented students, trans students, African American and other students who have had limited access to aid.
- Private Detention Facility Moratorium Act (HB 2040): Bars the state and local communities from entering into contracts for private immigration detention centers.
- Keep Illinois Families Together Act (HB 1637): Bars 287g agreements that deputize police to act as ICE agents.

Today, we also participated in Gov. Pritzker's press conference, where he issued Executive Order 19-10. The order establishes a new Census Office within the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and a 12-member bipartisan, bicameral Census Advisory Panel. Sara Wollrab

Please forward our newsletter and share a link to our website on yours

Some exciting and positive progress has happened with the ICC in recent months due to clergy reading our newsletter. Pastors have felt called to join teams, committees and task forces that speak to their passion. Churches have asked to share resources. Congregations have reached across the street to work together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

This all happens because judicatory leaders share our newsletter (four issues/year) with their pastors and congregations. Thank you! If you are not already doing this, please remember to forward our newsletter on.

On a related note, please consider putting a link to our website on yours. We're all in this together! Thank you. www.illinoisconferenceofchurches.org

ICC and Eureka College offered the second annual Spiritual Leaders Retreat for Illinois campus spiritual leaders.

The second annual Spiritual Leaders Retreat was held at Eureka College in early April with 11 campus chaplains and spiritual leaders participating. The Eureka College dean of students, Dr. Duane Bruce and the Eureka College professor of religion, Joseph Cunningham facilitated sessions on topics chosen by a panel of Illinois campus spiritual leaders. There was also time for networking and sharing.

You can all be Ecumenical Partners!

The Illinois Conference of Churches voted to forge a new membership structure. Previously, the governing bodies of denominations, located in Illinois were members – judicatories and they continue to be the foundation of our organization.

But the ICC is broadening this structure. Going forward, individual persons, individual congregations or churches (regardless of its judicatory being a member) and organizations, can become ecumenical partners and attend Annual Assembly where they will have a voice at the table. Voting is done by consensus and will continue to be the responsibility of the judicatory leaders and delegates.

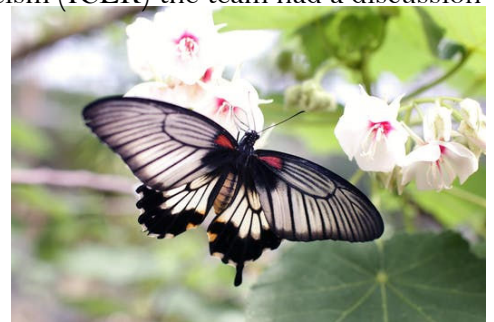
All members and ecumenical partners must agree with the Mission Statement of the ICC:

“The Illinois Conference of Churches seeks to be an inclusive community of churches that celebrates and makes visible our sacred bonds of unity in Christ. We will do this by: Promoting an honest sharing and understanding of both our common and divergent theological convictions; and Making public, prophetic witness to Christ’s love for all people, particularly by addressing poverty and racism. To these ends the members of the Illinois Conference of Churches proclaim our common faith in Jesus Christ. In word and deed, we give expression to Ephesians 4:5 – there is “...one Lord, one faith, one baptism...” – as we unite in cooperative ministries.”

To become an ecumenical partner please fill out and submit the form on the website under “news” electronically, or download and print the form to mail. By submitting or mailing this form you attest that you agree with the mission statement. Thank you for your generous support of the ICC.

Compliments....and thank yous!

During a recent conference call of Illinois Christians Encountering Racism (ICER) the team had a discussion on compliments. Do you give them? Do you receive them? If you receive them how do they make you feel? The group set as a goal to give more compliments in their daily lives. I think this could also include thank yous. Since we reach a wide percentage of Christians in Illinois, if we all took this on as a goal, we could spread a lot of positive feelings in the state. Be sincere. Be genuine. But increase the number of times a day you give a compliment or a thank you. And if you receive one, receive it humbly and graciously - don't deflect it. Maybe next issue we will have some stories about how this opened you to more of God's grace - what a glorious experience! The ICC gave out these butterfly cards at Annual Assembly to remind everyone to have hope!



ICC unveils “One Voice” concerts

As announced in our previous issue, the Illinois Conference of Churches will embrace fundraising in addition to donations to fund its valuable work in Illinois.

Our fund raising will revolve around music. We will be holding One Voice ecumenical concerts all over the state. We have conversations going on in several cities in Illinois.

The basic format for these concerts, which will include Christian music of all genres, plus some solos and congregational singing, will be a choir director from any church in the community and a church volunteering its sanctuary. The ICC will pay a stipend to the choir director, organist/pianist and sound board system operator. A free will offering will be taken with proceeds going to the ICC. Some concerts will also include special instruments such as brass or drums.

Music has always been an important part of ecumenism. Singing at our Annual Assembly worship service is always a beautiful blending of voices praising God amongst pastors and lay people of many diverse Christian backgrounds.

We hope you will consider hosting a concert.



History of Efforts in The Roman Curia Toward Christian Unity

By Kevin Laughery

I quote from the Vatican website (vatican.va):

“The origin of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity is closely linked with the Second Vatican Council. It was Pope John XXIII’s desire that the Catholic Church’s involvement in the ecumenical movement be one of the Council’s chief concerns. Thus, on June 5, 1960, he established a ‘Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity’ as one of the preparatory commissions for the Council, and appointed Cardinal Augustin Bea as its first President. This was the beginning of the Catholic Church’s formal commitment to the ecumenical movement.

“At first, the main function of the Secretariat was to invite the other Churches and World Communions to send observers to the Second Vatican Council. Then, during the first weeks of the Council, Pope John XXIII placed the Secretariat on an equal footing with other conciliar commissions. The Secretariat thus prepared and presented to the Council documents on ecumenism (*Unitatis redintegratio*), on non-Christian religions (*Nostra aetate*), on religious liberty (*Dignitatis humanae*) and, together with the doctrinal commission, the dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (*Dei Verbum*).” Please note that all these foundational documents of Vatican II are available on the Vatican website.

“In 1963, Pope John specified that the Secretariat would be made up of two sections dealing respectively with the Orthodox Churches and ancient Oriental Churches on the one hand and with the Western Churches and Ecclesial Communities on the other.

“In 1966, after the Council had ended, Pope Paul VI confirmed the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity as a permanent dicastery of the Holy See. Cardinal Bea continued in office as President until his death in 1968. In 1969, Cardinal Johannes Willebrands was named President to succeed him. Twenty years later, he retired and became President Emeritus. Cardinal Edward Idris Cassidy was then named President of this Pontifical Council. In 2001 Cardinal Walter Kasper became President, and he was succeeded in 2010 by Cardinal Kurt Koch.

“In the Apostolic Constitution *Pastor Bonus* (June 28, 1988), Pope John Paul II changed the Secretariat into the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU).”

The desire of Catholic Christians for Christian unity was expressed many decades ago at an official, international level. This desire has, unfortunately, not yet been sensed in many respects at the level of local dioceses and parishes. I have, for instance, heard new Catholics say that they came “from another Christian faith.” But there is only one Christian faith, for there is only one Jesus. One fact which we Catholic Christians must emphasize among ourselves with greater force is the fact that we recognize the baptism of most other Christians. If we would intentionally reflect on this fact, we would recognize, and build upon, this bond of unity which Catholics have with other Christians.

I am pastor of St. Jerome Parish in Troy. Jerome (387-420), of course, is best known for having translated the original Hebrew and Greek Scriptural texts into the common tongue of his time, Latin. Next year is the 150th anniversary of St. Jerome Parish, and the 1600th anniversary of Jerome’s death. I am looking forward to organizing an ecumenical service next year, at which the Christians of Troy can together celebrate the common Christian gift of the Word of God, as well as our baptism.

The Venerable Father Tolton

By Kevin Laughery

On Wednesday, June 12, the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints announced that Father Augustus Tolton is in a group of eight candidates for sainthood who are now declared “Venerable.”

I found it particularly interesting that the Congregation’s decree explicitly described Father Tolton as a “diocesan priest.” Given that he studied for the Propagation of the Faith (Missions) in Rome, I was not completely sure that he had the status of a diocesan priest — but so he was, both in our diocese (then headquartered in Alton and extending across the 56 counties of the current Dioceses of Belleville and Springfield) and in the Archdiocese of Chicago. The Venerable Father Tolton is my brother diocesan priest in this diocese. We remember his rejection after three years of service in Quincy (1886-89), and how he then served faithfully in Chicago until his death in 1897 at age 43.

Wikipedia notes: “The Venerable is used as a style or epithet in several Christian churches. It is also the common English translation of a number of Buddhist titles, and is used as a word of praise in some cases.” Wikipedia continues:

“In the Catholic Church, after a deceased Catholic has been declared a Servant of God by a bishop and proposed for beatification by the Pope, such a servant of God may next be declared venerable (‘heroic in virtue’) during the investigation and process leading to possible canonization as a saint. ... Before a person is considered to be venerable, that person must be declared as such by a proclamation, approved by the Pope, of having lived a life that was ‘heroic in virtue,’ the virtues being the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity and the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. The next step is beatification, from which point the person is referred to as The Blessed Finally, the canonization process is consummated when the person is declared a Saint. ... Other examples of Venerables are Pope Pius XII, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen [born 1895 in El Paso, Illinois, and a priest of our neighboring Diocese of Peoria; died 1979], Princess Louise of France, Francis Libermann, and Mother Mary Potter.

“The 7th/8th century English monk St. Bede was referred to as venerable soon after his death and is still very often called ‘the Venerable Bede’ despite having been canonized in 1899.”

As “the Reverend” means “one to be revered,” “the Venerable” means “one to be venerated,” that is, “accorded a great deal of respect, especially because of age, wisdom, or character.” In the case of Father Tolton, that’s an understatement.

Register now!

2019 Illinois Conference of Churches Annual Assembly “Ministerial Alliances: the Cornerstone of Ecumenism”

Dinner the evening before at 6:30 p.m.- open to all! Please pay for your own dinner.

Friday, Sept. 20

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Light breakfast 8-9 a.m.

Worship 9 a.m.

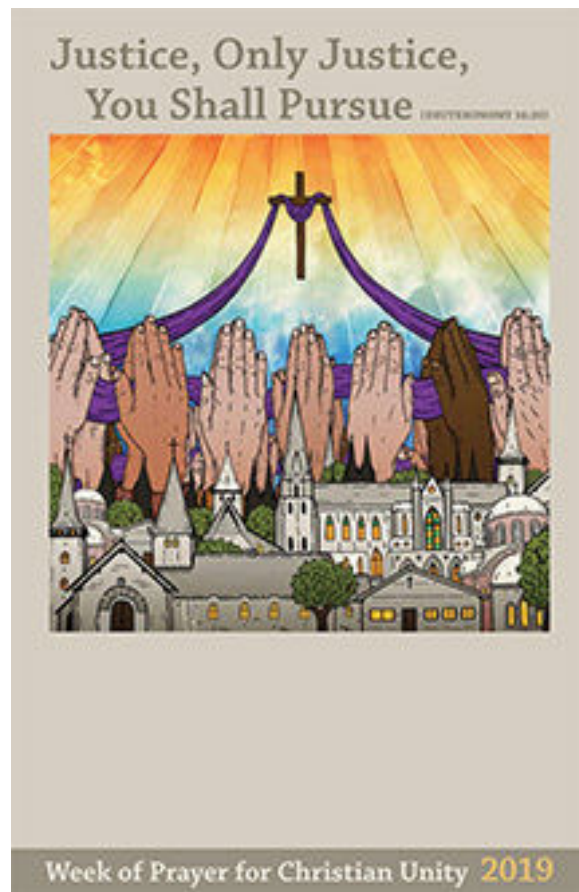
Forum 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Lunch at noon

Business meeting 2 p.m.

Location: Bloomington, IL

Bishop John Franklin White, African Methodist Episcopal Church, 4th Episcopal District, will deliver the message during morning worship.



Bring books you no longer need for a book swap.

For a copy of any proposed by-law changes go to our website under “events” or request a copy by email, after Sept. 1.

Register online using the events tab on our website. \$15 for students, \$50 for all others, includes breakfast, lunch and materials. Deadline Sept. 13.

Questions? Contact Laurie Vial, Executive Director, at laurie@illinoisconferenceofchurches.org or at the phone number below.

Lodging: Rooms are blocked at Eastland Suites, Bloomington at \$85 plus tax. Rooms must be booked prior to Sept. 5 to assure the discounted rate. 309-662-0000.

**Illinois
Conference
of
Churches**



1608 W. Church St., Champaign, IL 61821 217-522-7099
www.illinoisconferenceofchurches.org

Our partner in faith and care for the environment - Faith in Place

We urge you to go to their website **faithin-place.org** and check them out and find events all over the state of Illinois.



Join us at the Field Museum! Green Team Summit 2019

Saturday, Sept. 14, 10 am - 5 pm
The Field Museum, 1400 S Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, IL 60605

Please visit the Green Team Summit information page for important details about the schedule, workshops, speakers, parking, directions and more.

This event is FREE, lunch is \$5. You may request a lunch scholarship, if needed, or bring your own. Make sure that you sign up for either Lunchtime A or B (not both). You will have an opportunity to specify the kind of lunch you would like below. After you register, you will have the opportunity to register your guest(s). If you want to volunteer, please select "volunteer" as you schedule your workshops; select a free volunteer lunch; and know that we appreciate you!

This registration page will close at 5 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 11. After that time, you are more than welcome to join us! However, we cannot guarantee that we will have lunches available for all walk-in registrants, and all day-of registrants will be pre-assigned to workshops and Lunchtime B. See you at the Summit!

Monarch Festival 2019

Date: Saturday, Aug. 17, 10 am to 3 pm
Location: South Shore Cultural Center 7059 S. South Shore Dr., Chicago, IL 60649

Everyone has a migration story! Join us at the beautiful and historic South Shore Cultural Center for a free family fun day highlighting the plight of the Monarch Butterfly and its similarities to the migration of Latinx and Black communities! Learn about how you can help the Monarch butterfly – an important pollinator and the state insect of Illinois.

We are thrilled to partner with the South Shore Park Advisory Council, Sacred Keepers, the U.S. Forest Service, The Field Museum, The Nature Conservancy, and other collaborative partners to bring you a day full of games, educational exhibits, music, entertainment, storytelling, and fun. Thanks to generous support from the Kalliopeia Foundation for making this event possible!

Faith in Place empowers Illinois people of all faiths to be leaders in caring for the Earth, providing resources to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities.

Since 1999, Faith in Place has worked with over 1,000 houses of worship throughout Illinois to protect our common land, water, and air. With outreach staff working across the state and offices located in Chicago, the North & West Suburbs, Lake County, Central Illinois, and Southern Illinois, Faith in Place inspires faithful people to care for the Earth through our four program areas: Energy & Climate Change, Sustainable Food & Land Use, Water Preservation, and Advocacy.

End-of-Life Decisions webpage is almost done!

If you go to the Illinois Conference of Churches website - our name spelled out with no spaces then .org - you will find the long awaited new tab on End-of-Life Decisions. It has an “under construction” sign but as soon as the webmaster gets the photos and text added it will be complete. Next will come a lot of publicity so that many people in Illinois can take advantage of this information. We hope all judicatories will link from their webpage to this one.

The ICC took on a major project to assist all of our denominations to help their congregations better prepare for and deal with end-of-life issues. We started this program by encouraging churches to participate in the Donor Sabbath to increase awareness of organ and tissue donation. The Donor Sabbath is the second weekend of November each year. We encourage your church to start a discussion and plan to participate from now on. The website is www.donatelife.net/nds/.

Members of the Task Force met for a half day session to plan a page on our website with materials covering issues such as:

- hospice
- living wills
- wills
- advance planning
- funeral planning
- green funerals
- and much more

While this is a sensitive topic, it’s one that our members and friends face through the loss of loved ones, and eventually themselves. As Christians we want to give our members the tools and information to ease these decisions whenever possible.

Members are Mike Wakeland, Gloria Marshall, Kathy Gingrich, Katherine Ball, Kristel Clayville, Anna Lee Hisey Pierson, and Amy Zietlow. They were enthusiastic and organized. We thank them for their commitment to this project.

God’s blessings, Laurie



This can be observed any time during 2019. For additional information and materials see the website www.geii.org.

**2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Justice, Only Justice, You Shall Pursue
(cf. Deuteronomy 16:20)**

By: Fr. Thomas Orians, SA
Associate Director – Graymoor
Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute

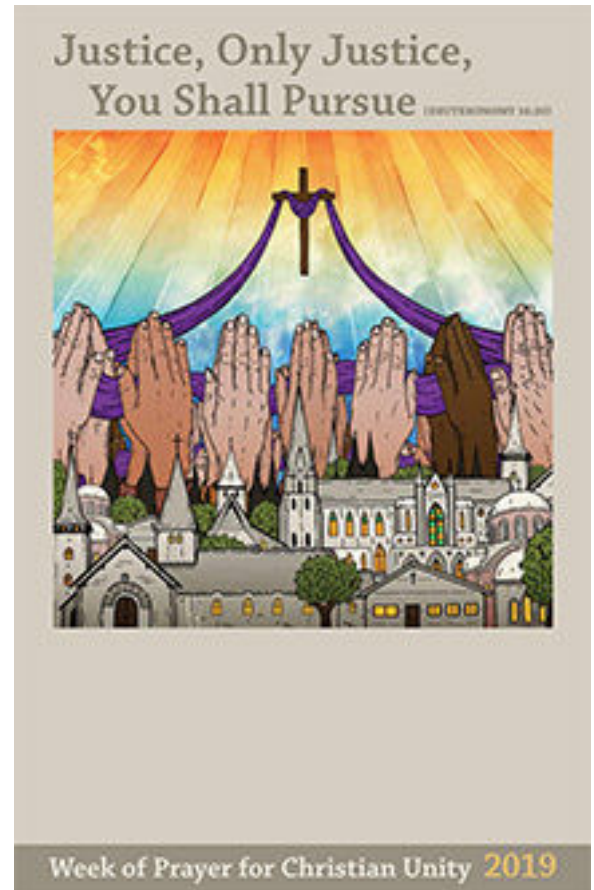
The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019 theme has been selected, and finds its origins in Deuteronomy. “Justice, Only Justice, You Shall Pursue” (cf. Deuteronomy 16:20) was chosen for its powerful message of promoting truth, equality and unity.

The initial work on the theme for this year’s Week of Prayer was prepared by a group of representatives from different parts of Indonesia, including the Communion of Churches in Indonesia and the Indonesian Catholic Bishops’ Conference. The texts were finalized during a meeting of the International Committee of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

Fr. Tom Orians, SA Associate Director of the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute noted, “Every year, Christians across the world gather in prayer for growth in unity. We do this in a world where corruption, greed and injustice bring about inequality and division. We are called together to form a united witness for justice and for Christian Unity that becomes a means of Christ’s healing grace for the brokenness of the world. Only by heeding Jesus’s prayer “that they all may be one” can we witness to living unity in diversity.”

The Christians of Indonesia found that the words of Deuteronomy, “Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue ...” (cf. Deuteronomy 16:18-20) spoke powerfully to their situation and needs, and recognized this common need throughout the world.

The traditional period in the northern hemisphere for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is Jan.18 to 25. Those dates were proposed in 1908 by Servant of God, Fr. Paul Wattson, Founder of the Society of the Atonement, to cover the original days of the Feasts of the Chair of St. Peter (Jan.18) and the Conversion of St. Paul (Jan. 25), and therefore have a symbolic significance.



The National Workshop on Christian Unity



Houston, TX
March 23-26, 2020
www.nwcu.org

Book Corner

Send suggestions for books for this page for our next issue. I know you are all voracious readers of church-related books. Let's share some great choices. Laurie



Judicatory visits and major meetings

Laurie Vial, executive director of the Illinois Conference of Churches, is traveling around the state and meeting individually with all Judicatory executives.

Another of Laurie's goals is to attend the major meetings of each denomination and where possible have an information table in the exhibition space. Please help out the ICC by communicating about your major meetings and forwarding registration forms for exhibition space. She could also address these gatherings and bring a brief greeting from the ICC.

Would you like to join an ICC Team?

Team members needed

The ICC operates with five teams: Leadership, Public Policy, Annual Assembly Forum (planning the Forum) Illinois Christians Encountering Racism (ICER) (anti-racism) and Interreligious (a newer team trying to deepen our relationship with other faiths). Our Interreligious Team is seeking new members, particularly those of other faiths. And the other teams are also accepting new members. These teams meet mostly by conference call and only a few times a year. If the mission of any of these teams speaks to your heart please contact Laurie at laurie@illinoisconferenceofchurches.org for more information.

Grants

Now that the Illinois Conference of Churches will be seeking grants to supplement denomination donations in our working budget, we need you to be our eyes and ears. If you hear of appropriate grant opportunities from foundations or your own denomination, please notify the executive director. Thank you for helping in this way.

Is there a way for Judicatories to share more resources such as training sessions?

The Christian Church Disciples of Christ has led the charge by opening their annual anti-racism training to anyone in our 13 member denominations. Everyone is watching their budget including travel budget and trying to be good stewards of the environment by not driving as much. If your denomination has a training session, a special speaker, an event, a workshop or any other "happening"



that you would like to open to your fellow ICC members, please let us know. We will promote these events on our website and in our newsletter. Our Leadership Team would really like to grow this opportunity for more ecumenical encounters. And we'll all meet more brothers and sisters in Christ and have more networking opportunities.

Like us on Facebook!



Keep up with the Illinois Conference of Churches and be prepared to have a little fun along the way.

www.facebook.com/pages/Illinois-Conference-of-Churches

URGENT NEED:

Email lists - media and state and national legislators

A friend of the ICC recently shared their media email list with the ICC - thank you so much. It is not a comprehensive list that covers the entire state. If you have an up-to-date email list for most all media in Illinois - newspaper, radio stations, TV stations etc, please share it with us for our public policy work.

Also, we have an urgent need for an email list for our state and national legislators. Thanks very much.



Teams of the Illinois Conference of Churches

We welcome new members to our teams. Please contact Laurie Vial, executive director, with questions or to join a team.

Leadership Team

Rev. Gary McCants, co-chair

African Methodist Episcopal Church
4th Episcopal District
Springfield

Rev. Wally Carlson, co-chair

United Methodist Church
Great Rivers Conference
Peoria Heights

Dr. John Charlton, treasurer

American Baptist Church
Great Rivers Region
Rochester

Fr. Kevin Laughery

Catholic Church
Diocese of Springfield
Troy

Rev. Galda McCants

African Methodist Episcopal Church
4th Episcopal District
Springfield

Rev. Matt Mathews

Presbyterian Church – USA
Southeastern Illinois Presbytery
Champaign

E. Garnet Fay

Religious Society of Friends
Oak Park

Rev. Sharon Patton

Christian Church, Disciples of Christ
Region of Illinois/Wisconsin
Charleston

Greg Krohm

Catholic Church
Archdiocese of Chicago
Wilmette

Fr. George Pyle

Greek Orthodox Church
Springfield/Champaign

Rev. Catiana McKay

United Methodist Church
Northern Illinois Conference
Galena

Annual Assembly Forum Team

Rev. Wally Carlson, chair

United Methodist Church
Great Rivers Conference
Peoria Heights

Rev. Catiana McKay

United Methodist Church
Northern Illinois Conference
Galena

Fr. Bob Flannery

Catholic Church
Diocese of Belleville
Carbondale

Rev. Robert Sherman

United Church of Christ
Illinois Conference
Minier

Illinois Christians Encountering Racism (ICER)

Rev. Kevin Laughery, co-chair

Catholic Church
Diocese of Springfield
Troy

Rev. Galda McCants, co-chair

African Methodist Episcopal Church
Springfield

Rev. Mark Harkness

United Methodist Church
Northern Illinois District
Cherry Valley

Martha Herrin

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Region of Illinois/Wisconsin
Stewardson

Rev. Christine Hopkins

Episcopal Church
Diocese of Springfield
Champaign

Rev. Sharon Patton

Christian Church, Disciples of Christ
Region of Illinois/Wisconsin
Charleston

Rev. Ryan Landino

Presbyterian Church - USA
Presbytery of Great Rivers
Peoria

Continued on next page

Interreligious Team

Rev. Catiana McKay, chair

United Methodist Church
Northern Illinois Conference
Galena

Dr. John Charlton

American Baptist Church
Great Rivers Region
Rochester

Fr. Kevin Laughery

Catholic Church
Diocese of Springfield
Troy

Hakan Berberoglu

Niagra Foundation
Chicago

Greg Krohm

Catholic Church
Archdiocese of Chicago
Wilmette

Fr. Bob Flannery

Catholic Church
Diocese of Belleville
Carbondale

Rev. Joel Jackle-Hugh

Presbyterian Church USA
Southeastern Illinois Presbytery
United Church of Christ
Illinois South Conference

Rev. Cory Hartz

United Church of Christ
Illinois South Conference
Belleville

Pastor Debra Sutter

Mennonite Church
Champaign-Urbana

Rev. Tim Doty

Presbyterian Church - USA
Clinton

Public Policy Team

E. Garnet Fay, chair

Religious Society of Friends
Oak Park

Robert Gilligan

Catholic Church
Archdiocese of Chicago
Chicago

Rev. Gary McCants

African Methodist Episcopal
4th Episcopal District
Springfield

Rev. Wally Carlson

United Methodist Church
Great Rivers Conference
Peoria Heights

Rev. Dr. John Rickard

Presbyterian Church - USA
Blackhawk Presbytery
Oregon

Dr. Mary Milano

Episcopal Church
Diocese of Chicago
Chicago

Dates to remember:

Sept. 20 Annual Assembly in Bloomington with dinner the evening before.

\$\$\$\$\$ Thank you for your generous response to our 2019 pledge drive. If you have not yet filled out and returned your pledge card please do. Donations are always welcome - one easy way to donate is to use PayPal on our website. Again, thank you for your generous gifts. A copy of our budget is always the final page of our newsletter

Illinois Conference of Churches

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Champaign, IL 61821

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	A	B	C	F	G	I	J	K	L	M
1	2019 Illinois Conference of Churches Budget									
2				2015	2016*	2017	2018	2019	2019	
3				Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget new	*
4	Income									
5		Member Denominations		43,096	44,239	41,514	\$ 32,705	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000
6		Contributions (individual/congregation)		475	1,823	5,265	\$ 4,064	\$ 4,000		
7		Cash back reward, other		-		85	111			
8		Fund raising						15,000		
9		TOTAL INCOME		43,571	46,062	46,864	36,880	47,000	28,000	28,000
10										
11	Expense									
12		Personnel						**	**	**
13		Exec Director Salary*		54,574	44,610	30,597	34,571	35,971	25,680	19,260
14		Exec Director Pension		5,913	4,899	3,376	-	-	-	-
15		Payroll Taxes		2,728	3,183	2,162	2,379	2,589	\$1,376	\$1,376
16		Total Personnel		63,215	52,692	36,135	36,950	38,560	27,056	20,636
17										
18		Governance/Mission								
19		Meeting Expense		470	174	546	725	250	250	250
20		Annual Assembly		214	85	1,677	265	500	500	500
21		Annual Meetings		469	664	983	482	900	900	900
22		Total Governance/Mission		1,153	923	3,206	1,472	1,650	1,650	1,650
23										
24		Travel								
25		Mileage		1,415	1,932	1,392	3,122	1,800	1,800	1,800
26		Professional Development		601	191	1,184	855	900	900	900
27		Total Travel		2,016	2,123	2,576	3,977	2,700	2,700	2,700
28										
29		Administrative/Operating								
30		Payroll Expense		18	447	482	515	475	475	475
31		Bookkeeping/Accounting		122	342	90	135	90	90	90
32		Insurance		1,207	1,198	1,328	1,175	1,300	1,300	1,300
33		Computers/Software		1,107	534	869	219	1,000	1,000	1,000
34		Office Supplies		25	39	-	334	300	300	300
35		Postage		59	109	97	-	100	100	100
36		Telephone		778	691	636	614	650	650	650
37		Printing				63	22	100	100	100
38		Miscellaneous		10	49	243	53	200	200	200
39		Public Policy						300	300	300
40		End-of-Life Decision Task Force					102			
41		Chicago Bronze					(991)			
42		Spiritual Leaders Retreat					140			
43		Buses to Washington					258			
44		Donation Campaign Expense			2,142	25		-	-	-
45		Total Administrative/Operating		3,326	5,551	3,833	2,576	4,515	4,515	4,515
46										
47		TOTAL EXPENSE		\$ 69,710	\$ 61,289	\$ 45,750	\$ 44,975	\$ 47,425	\$ 35,921	\$ 29,501
48										
49		Surplus / Deficit		(26,139)	(15,227)	1,114	(8,095)	(425)	(7,921)	(1,501)
50		* lowered salary for 12 months								
51										
52										
53										
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56										