

VISION 2020

WHAT?

In 2013, the International Council of Community Churches' annual conference adopted a new initiative for the Council for the next seven years. This initiative is based on a vision of a growing fellowship committed to Christian unity and reconciliation.

WHEN?

The initiative will be victorious in 2020. Any church or ministry center may endorse the initiative as its own at any time throughout the life of the initiative.

WHERE?

The initiative reaches out to the entire world. Specific goals have been established for the U.S. and suggested goals established for overseas fellowships of community churches who will refine and expand the initiative based on their own situations.

WHO?

Every member of every community church and ministry center is invited to participate as she or he is able.

WHY?

The community church movement is based on a vision of Christian unity and reconciliation. We invite all to share in this vision and to work with us in the light of God's love.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CHURCHES

In 1950, two fellowships in the Community Church movement joined in a historic merger. At the time, their joining represented the largest interracial merger of religious bodies in America. The new creation was the International Council of Community Churches. Member churches united to be a fellowship of ecumenically minded, freedom-loving churches co-operating in fulfilling the mission of the Church in the world.

As a post-denominational movement, the Council has witnessed and worked for Christian unity and reconciliation in human society. That is the work we consistently carry into the future.

The Council is an international, intercultural, interracial and inclusive fellowship of churches and ministry centers which seeks to realize Christian unity in local, national, and world relations. The Council seeks fellowship, mutual support, and common ministries that reflect the unity of all who see themselves within the Christian tradition. The Council seeks:

- To be faithful to the prayer of Jesus Christ that "they may all be one;"
- To witness to the inclusive love of God that overcomes all divisions;
- To love and serve God, God's people, and God's creation;
- To seek and share the truth;
- To build toward a new world of peace;
- To affirm individual freedom of conscience;
- To affirm communities of justice, mercy, and love;
- To be an integral partner in the worldwide ecumenical movement.

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THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CHURCHES



VISION 2020

YOUR CHALLENGE

YOU ARE CHALLENGED TO INVEST YOURSELF IN THE VISION 2020 INITIATIVE

Pray daily for Vision 2020 and its goal of expanding Christian unity and reconciliation.

Encourage your church or ministry center to endorse Vision 2020

Choose the particular part of Vision 2020 that fits your gifts and talents, and volunteer to be an active part of the national or regional task force that is working to achieve the goal.

Encourage your church or ministry center to select a particular part of Vision 2020 as a part of your mission outreach and involvement.

Prayerfully consider what God may be leading you to do to support Vision 2020 through your financial gifts.

OUR VISION 2020 COMMITMENT

Beginning today, we commit ourselves to launching seven new community churches in the USA in the next seven years (one per year) in those parts of the nation where population is growing and where there is a need for new Christian congregations. At least four of these need to be in areas where various ethnic and linguistic minority populations are growing. Simultaneously we commit ourselves to cooperating with our non-USA churches to launch seven new community churches outside the USA.

Beginning today, we commit ourselves to enlisting ten existing unaffiliated congregations in the USA per year over the next seven years into the community church movement. That's ten churches and centers "net" per year. There will be some shrinkage. Some will grow weary and faint. Some will fall away. But we will not be deterred. We will grow by ten USA congregations per year for the next seven years. Simultaneously, we commit ourselves to cooperating with our non-USA churches for similar growth in numbers of churches that participate fully in the Council's work.

Beginning today, we commit ourselves to nothing less than excellence in our regional and area meetings. Regions and area fellowships will meet twice per year. One of the meetings will feature a speaker or presenter of national or regional note. Each such meeting will be heavily publicized to non-Council clergy and laity. The registration fee will be low enough and the venue large enough to attract and accommodate all who wish to participate.

Beginning today, we commit ourselves to an annual continuing education assembly for clergy beyond our Annual Conference, each at an attractive venue and featuring a noted theologian or Biblical scholar whose presentations will strengthen ministries on the way to Christian unity.

Beginning today, we commit ourselves to deeper fellowship within the community church movement. This includes regularly scheduled gatherings of clergy both Council and non-ICCC; pulpit and choir exchanges among community churches; and joint gatherings of men's, women's, young-adult and youth groups without tarrying for anybody's urging. Regional Trustees will take the lead in administering this initiative, helping pastors and others to arrange schedules so that the exchanges and gatherings actually take as scheduled.

Beginning today, we commit ourselves to the revitalization and expansion of those ministry initiatives already approved by the Board. The following is not a complete list:

Agape. Recently renewed and updated, this high-intensity, face-to-face program fosters the Council's goal of seeking racial and inter-ethnic reconciliation. Congregations continue to ask for this program. Based on experience within the ICCC, the program could be offered to congregations and other Christian groups not currently affiliated with the Council. Based on this wider experience, a version of the program could be offered eventually to secular entities, many of which are under pressure or actual court order to offer a program that raises sensitivity.

Sister church initiative. We truly are an international fellowship. This initiative provides hands-on experience in sharing in Christian witness worldwide, joining US with overseas congregations in a variety of ways. Participating congregations are thankful for the fellowship they experience through their connection with an overseas church.

Peer-to-peer resourcing initiative. Our individual congregations are repositories of experience and expertise in a large number of areas essential to church life. To the extent that we can call upon these resources we strengthen the relationships among churches and centers that are at the heart of our identity and provide much-needed resources to other congregations.

