



***“Jesus came and stood among them and said. ‘Peace be with you’” (John 20:19)***

On the evening of resurrection, the Risen Christ came and stood among the disciples and the first words spoken were “Peace be with you.” A week later, this time with Thomas present, the Risen Christ again greets them with the same words, “Peace be with you”. Both times when speaking words of peace he shows the brokenness of his hands and side. The word “peace” in these verses literally means “to tie together in a whole”. Peace as Jesus speaks of it is not simply the absence of war or strife but is the wholeness and complete sense of well-being that only God can bring.

On this the **Community Churches Sunday** we remember that the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC) exists for the reason of healing the broken and wounded body of Christ - the church, thus the Council proclaims and works for peace, wholeness and completeness within all parts of the human family. No longer can we have race, gender or even theology, stand in the way of God's wholeness for us.



We rejoice that your congregation is a part of the ICCC family, as together we work for the peace offered by the Risen Christ. On this Community Churches Sunday, the ICCC simply says to your congregation,

***“Peace be with you.”***

## What is the International Council of Community Churches?



*International Council of Community Churches*

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the number of Community, Union, Federated, People's, Independent and Ecumenical churches grew in our country. As these churches sought fellowship and needed resources, they formed two organizations, one for mainly Caucasian churches and another for African-American churches. In 1950, these two church groups merged to form the current International Council of Community Churches

(ICCC), the most racially diverse religious body of its time. Since its inception, the ICCC has worked tirelessly for racial justice and reconciliation, and for Christian unity among churches.

Currently, the Council includes about 50 churches/ministries in the United States plus affiliates in 3 other nations. The ICCC is headquartered in Longmont, Colorado, and maintains a minimal staff of an Executive Director and Office Administrator. The Council is governed throughout the year by a Board of Directors and a Board of Trustees.

Each year ICCC members are invited to the ICCC Annual Conference. The 2022 ICCC Annual Conference will be July 18-21, 2022, in Dublin, OH (a suburb of Columbus). The conference is not just a business meeting but is a "family reunion" of clergy and laity from our member units around the country. Annual Conference involves times of fellowship, worship, Bible study, workshops, and business, while making new friends and renewing old relationships. **We hope you will consider joining us this summer!**

For more information on the International Council of Community Churches, please contact P.O. Box 846, Longmont, CO 80502, Phone 815-464-5690, [icccnow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:icccnow@sbcglobal.net). Website: [www.icccnow.org](http://www.icccnow.org)