

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Illinois Christians Encountering Racism (ICER) team ministry is to dismantle systematic racism and build bridges to racial wholeness within churches, institutions, and communities.

This mission is implemented through offering training to members within the Illinois Conference of Churches (ICC) network of churches and to the communities in which we serve.

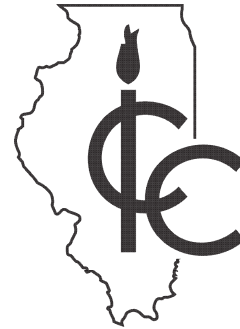
ILLINOIS CHRISTIANS ENCOUNTERING RACISM TEAM HISTORY

The Illinois Christians Encountering Racism (ICER) team is the outgrowth of an Illinois Conference of Churches (ICC) task force formed in 1998. The task force was formed to address racism within its own body of members and beyond.

In 2005, the ICC called an anti-racism team of fourteen together from ICC member judicatories and/or churches assembled to be trained and equipped for providing anti-racism transformation training as a ministry of the Illinois Conference of Churches.

In 2005 and 2006, the ICER team trained in two one-week intensives to develop training courses for presentation throughout the state of Illinois.

In 2010, the ICER team renewed its commitment to cooperatively address the spiritual evil of racism. The team is dedicated to actively pursuing engagements in local communities throughout the state of Illinois where they can work to eliminate racism and foster racial harmony.



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Illinois Christians Encountering Racism

Breaking through our barriers to
become one in Christ



A team of the
Illinois Conference of Churches

WHY THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES NEEDS TO ADDRESS RACISM

Whereas racism exists as a social, political, and psychological element in our society, it is also a spiritual evil that needs to be intentionally addressed from the perspective of faith traditions. Racism is a sin separating the children of God.

The Illinois Conference of Churches (ICC) has chosen to address racism through education and training to provide strategies to dismantle racism within the ICC organization and its member judicatories.

The Illinois Christians Encountering Racism (ICER) team is equipped to provide resources for implementing and maintaining this ongoing educational process.

OUR SERVICES

The Illinois Christians Encountering Racism (ICER) team offers a variety of educational resources and experiences that significantly increase the understanding of the issues of racism. This understanding allows the building of open relationships among the whole family of God.

We offer:

- seminars
- speakers
- community outreach
- resources for personal and small group growth

ABOUT THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES (ICC)

The Illinois Conference of Churches (ICC) is a state-wide ecumenical organization of 28 member Judicatories of 14 denominations representing the Protestant, Anglican, Catholic, and Orthodox Christian traditions. The ICC is an ecumenical table that brings together religious leaders, judicatory staff, clergy, and lay representatives from the member churches for dialogue, deliberation, and decisions to celebrate and make visible our sacred bonds of unity in Christ. The ICC is an institutional expression of the ecumenical movement, a vehicle for the church's mission in Illinois for bearing witness together to the gospel of reconciliation.

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES (ICC) HISTORY

On March 4, 1930, the Illinois Council of Churches was established during an Illinois Convocation of Ministers convened by the Midwest Committee of the Federal Council of Churches and the Springfield Council of Churches. The birth of the Illinois Council of Churches reflected the ecumenical fervor of the 20th century in the United States that witnessed the creation of state, regional, and local councils of churches. This historic act by the churches to create a state ecumenical body was rooted in a theological vision embodied in the founding constitutional document in affirming that “. . . *the time has come when it seems fitting more fully to manifest the essential oneness of the Christian churches of Illinois in Jesus Christ as their Divine Lord and Saviour, and to promote the spirit of fellowship, service, and cooperation among them . . .*”

The ecumenical movement reached a memorable milestone beyond Protestant circles at the Second Vatican Council in the early 1960's. The yearning for Christian unity, to restore broken relationships within the Christian community, became the catalyst within the Catholic Church for church reforms and initiatives for reconciliation to heal the wounds of division within the one Body of Christ. One of the fruits of Vatican II was the growing participation of Catholic Dioceses in state and local ecumenical organizations.

In Illinois, negotiations between the Protestant members of the ICC and the Catholic Church resulted in the formation of the Illinois Conference of Churches in 1972. Under a new Constitution and By-laws, the ICC marked the beginning of a new ecumenical journey that extended beyond the Protestant churches to include the Catholic Church. In the 1990's, the ecumenical table was extended again as the ICC welcomed into membership churches from the Orthodox tradition.

ICC 2010 AREAS OF MINISTRY

The Illinois Conference of Churches is committed to addressing those issues and concerns that impact the Church. With the overarching theme of poverty, in 2010 the ICC will focus on the following items for the 2010 Annual Assembly year:

- Abolition of the death penalty
- Closely monitor developments in health care reform
- Advocate for the funding of state programs and state services that serve the most vulnerable
- Concerns for those incarcerated; especially the youth who have barriers to employment because of prior convictions
- Monitoring legal issues affecting churches

MEMBER CHURCHES

African Methodist Episcopal Church
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
American Baptist Church - USA
Catholic Church - Archdiocese of Chicago
Catholic Church - Diocese of Belleville
Catholic Church - Diocese of Joliet
Catholic Church - Diocese of Rockford
Catholic Church - Diocese of Springfield
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois/Wisconsin
Church of the Brethren - Illinois/Wisconsin
Episcopal Church - Diocese of Chicago
Episcopal Church - Diocese of Quincy
Episcopal Church - Diocese of Springfield
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - Central/Southern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - Metropolitan Chicago Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - Northern IL Synod
Greek Orthodox Church
Moravian Church
Presbyterian Church - USA - Blackhawk Presbytery
Presbyterian Church - USA - Chicago Presbytery
Presbyterian Church - USA - Great Rivers Presbytery
Presbyterian Church - USA - Southeastern Illinois Presbytery
Presbyterian Church - USA - Synod of Lincoln Trails
Religious Society of Friends
United Church of Christ - Illinois Conference
United Church of Christ - Illinois South Conference
The United Methodist Church - Illinois Great Rivers Conference
The United Methodist Church - Northern Illinois Conference