

Grace, peace and joy to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church! It is our privilege to greet you and officially extend an invitation to your faith community to become part of the Illinois Conference of Churches (ICC). We rejoice in your interest in the ICC and want to provide you with whatever information will be most helpful in your process of making this decision. Following is some basic information about the expectations of membership and enclosed is a copy of the constitution/by-laws, our 2007 budget and our organizational document.

In order to move forward with your application for membership, we will need a letter from your judicatory executive or governing body affirming the mission statement and expressing your desire to enter full ICC membership. Then we will invite your presence (Judicatory leader and one delegate) at the Fall Assembly meeting on September 26, 2008 where you will be introduced and the application for membership will be considered by the full body. If you have questions, please feel free to call either one of us or our Administrative Coordinator.

Member Expectations:

As a member of the Illinois Conference of Churches, a faith community affirms our common mission, as adopted in September 2006:

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.

The Illinois Conference of Churches relies on its member judicatories to provide 100% of its primary operating budget (see enclosed). As a member of the Illinois Conference of Churches you also pledge your participation in the budget support of the ICC. As a judicatory of [number] congregations, you affirm your commitment to pledge [amount] for the year [year].

Finally, as a member of the Illinois Conference of Churches you agree to participate in the Annual Assembly by sending at least your judicatory executive and one delegate to represent your faith community. The Assembly is a time to gather as an ecumenical community for prayer, theological dialogue and fellowship as well as conducting the ‘business’ of the ICC.

If after prayer and consideration of the above requirements you wish to become a member of the Illinois Conference of Churches, please sign where indicated below, make a copy for your records and return this original letter to the office of the Illinois Conference of Churches.