



Illinois  
Conference  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES ANNOUNCES POVERTY SUMMIT ON MARCH 11-12, 2011 AT THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS, BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS**

SPRINGFIELD, IL, USA – February 1, 2011 – The Illinois Conference of Churches announces a poverty summit to bring together those who work with Illinois individuals and families struggling during the economic downturn.

Reverend Peg Chamberlin, President of the National Council of Churches and Executive Director of the Minnesota Council of Churches, will make the opening address and will also lead a Bible-based poverty study titled “*Is God Really on the Side of the Poor?*”

Amy Terpstra, Associate Director of the Social IMPACT Center, a program Heartland Alliance, will discuss the faces of poverty in Illinois.

The Reverend Donald E. Mason Ecumenical Award for Christian Unity will be presented at the award banquet that evening, followed by a concert given by the internationally acclaimed Rev. Mike Rayson.

Organizations such as Churches United of the Quad City Area (Illinois/Iowa), Good Samaritan Ministries (Carbondale), Dove, Inc. (Decatur), BEACON Ministry (Belleville), and Catholic Urban Programs (East St. Louis), will be presenting information about their services and how to begin collaboration with other agencies.

The Illinois Conference of Churches would like to thank the sponsors of this event: Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House (East St. Louis), Catholic Urban Programs (East St. Louis), Memorial Hospital (Belleville), United Church of Christ (Illinois South Conference), Mr. Joseph Hubbard, BEACON Ministry (Belleville), Call for Help, Inc. (Belleville), Carbondale Interfaith Council (Carbondale), Homeless Action Council (Belleville), and Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church (Carbondale).

Registrations will be accepted through February 24, 2011. Registration forms are available online at the Illinois Conference of Churches website, [www.ilconfchurches.org](http://www.ilconfchurches.org), or by phoning 217.522.7099. The cost is \$90 for the conference with overnight lodging and banquet, \$55 for the conference and banquet (no lodging), and \$35 for the conference (no meals or lodging). Scholarships are available – please contact the ICC for additional information.

The Illinois Conference of Churches (ICC) is a statewide ecumenical (unifying) organization with 28 judicatory members of 14 denominations representing Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant traditions of the Christian faith. The mission of the ICC is “to make visible our sacred bonds of unity in Christ.” For additional information, visit us online at [www.ilconfchurches.org](http://www.ilconfchurches.org).

### **Our Mission**

*We seek 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.*

### **Leadership Team**

Bishop Gary Wollersheim, Co-Chair ~ Rev. Terry L. Clark, Co-Chair ~ Rev. Robert Sherman, Secretary ~ Rev. Dr. John Charlton III, Treasurer  
Rev. Robin Barrow ~ Rev. Bill Coley ~ Rev. Fr. Michael Condos ~ Ms. Honna Eichler ~ Very Rev. Robert Flannery ~ Mr. Robert Gilligan  
Rev. Kevin Kessler ~ Rev. Catiana McKay ~ Mrs. Marianne Stowers ~ Rev. Janice West  
Ms. Pamela Tackett, Administrative Coordinator