



# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MISSIONS

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## THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MISSIONS ANNOUNCES AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRANSITION

David Empson is announcing his retirement from the role of executive director of the International Conference on Missions (ICOM). At the same time, the board of ICOM announces an executive transition process that will culminate with David serving as the President of the 2026 ICOM gathering in St. Louis. The board seeks to have a new executive director in place by summer 2026.

Founded in 1948, the annual ICOM conference serves as an in-person connection for missionaries and organizations to interact with churches and individuals interested in mission work. For over 25 years, David has served ICOM, first as director of students, and for the past 17 years as its executive director. David has served faithfully leading this ministry, leading the expansion of ICOM to become one of the largest missions gatherings in the United States.

In announcing his retirement, David Empson offers, *"I am deeply grateful. These years have been filled with purpose, friendship, and family."* [A letter of reflection from David is available here.](#)

Dean Trune, Chairman of the ICOM Board, states, *"On behalf of the board, I want to thank David for his faithful service with ICOM. The ministry has grown tremendously as God used and blessed David's leadership in many ways. The stage is set for a smooth transition to a new executive director. May God continue to use ICOM in powerful ways."*

The board appointed a Search Committee to oversee the selection of the ministry's next executive director. The committee is chaired by Steve Carr of CDF Capital, and consists of Amy Mathis of Amor Ministries, Ben Simms of Lifeline Christian Mission, and Jeff Vines of One and All Church (all current board members). Additionally, the board has secured the services of Mission:Leadership, a faith-based recruiting firm, to assist in the executive director search. While the official search has yet to commence, it will eventually be posted at [www.missionleadership.org/active-searches](http://www.missionleadership.org/active-searches)

As a 501c3 non-profit, ICOM seeks to steward ministry funds wisely, diverting nearly every dollar toward the administration of the annual conference. In order to ensure sufficient funding for this transition, the board is unveiling The Next Chapter Campaign, a special fundraising initiative to cover these one-time expenses. More about this effort will be unveiled in the coming weeks, as well as at the upcoming conference in Atlanta.

For more information about this year's conference, go to [www.theicom.org](http://www.theicom.org).