



ICCJ Executive Board

(elected at the ICCJ Annual General Meeting in Buenos Aires, August 2014)

Name (Denomination / Country)	Position
Dr Philip A. Cunningham (Christian / USA)	President
Ms Liliane Apotheker (Jew / France)	1 st Vice President
Dr Michael Trainor (Christian / Australia)	2 nd Vice President
Dr Abi Pitum (Jew / Germany)	Treasurer
Rabbi Ehud Bandel (Jew / Israel)	Board Member
Dr Pavol Bargár (Christian / Czech Republic)	Board Member
Rabbi J. Samuel Sztainhendler (Jew / Chile)	Board Member



PHILIP A. CUNNINGHAM, PH.D.

Country: United States of America

Denomination: Christian

Curriculum Vitae

Philip A. Cunningham, Ph.D. is Professor of Theology and Director of the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations of Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, PA. As Secretary of the Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations, he manages its resource website dialogika.us. He has previously served as a member of the Advisory Committee on Catholic-Jewish Relations for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and as a delegate for the Vatican at three international conferences on Catholic-Jewish relations.

Specializing in biblical studies, religious education, and theologies of Christian-Jewish relations, Prof. Cunningham is the author of several books and dozens of articles on these subjects. Most recently he co-edited *The Catholic Church and the Jewish People: Recent Reflections from Rome* (Fordham) and the major international research project, *Christ Jesus and the Jewish People Today: New Explorations of Theological Interrelationships* (Eerdmans). A member of the ecumenical Christian Scholars Group on Christian-Jewish Relations, Prof. Cunningham contributed to their statement, "A Sacred Obligation: Rethinking Christian Faith in Relation to Judaism and the Jewish People" and to the companion book, *Seeing Judaism Anew: Christianity's Sacred Obligation*. His new book, *Seeking Shalom: Roads to Right Relationship between Christians and Jews* (Eerdmans) will be published in 2015.

Prof. Cunningham has extensive experience working with highly diverse audiences. He teaches university courses (often co-teaching with Jewish colleagues), organizes interfaith high school dialogues and study-tours, leads sessions for adult learners in Jewish and Christian congregations, and partners with and advises civil and religious organizations.

As ICCJ's second vice-president and chair of its theology committee since 2008, Prof. Cunningham was:

- Editor-in-chief, "A Time for Recommitment: Building the New Relationship between Jews and Christians," which includes "The Nine Points of Berlin" (2009)
- Principal author, "Reflections on the August 2008 'Berlin Declaration on the Uniqueness of Christianity and Jewish Evangelism in Europe Today' of the Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance" (2009)
- Principal author, "'Let us Have Mercy Upon Words': A Plea from the International Council of Christians and Jews to All Who Seek Interreligious Understanding," on the Kairos Palestine statement (2010)
- Organizer and participant in ICCJ theological panel with some of the Kairos Palestine statement authors (2011)
- Editorial advisor for ICCJ statements on the topics of the attempted legal bans on male circumcision and ritual slaughter in certain European countries (2011-2013)

- Principle organizer and liaison to the scholarly team of ICCJ research project “Promise, Land, and Hope: Jews and Christians Seeking Understanding to Enable Constructive Dialogue about Israeli-Palestinian Issues” (2011-present)
- Principle author, ICCJ statement: “‘As Long as You Believe in a Living God, You Must Have Hope’: Reflections on the Role of Religious and Interreligious Groups in Promoting Reconciliation in and about the Troubled Middle East” (2013)

☺ **Expectations for ICCJ's next three years:**

Besides the items mentioned above and below, I would continue as co-chair of the planning committee for the 2015 annual meeting in Rome (50th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*), would spearhead a 2016 meeting in Philadelphia (240th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence), and energetically plan a 2017 meeting in Germany (500th anniversary of the Reformation).

☺ **Statement of personal vision for the future:**

I strongly believe that today we live during an unprecedented and blessed moment in history, when genuine religious friendships between Jews and Christians are possible. I believe that ICCJ should lead the way in deepening this new relationship by fostering opportunities for sustained and intensive interfaith dialogue and learning about those topics that define who we are. I wholeheartedly embrace the words of Pope Francis to Israel's Chief Rabbis: “We are ... called, as Christians and Jews, to reflect deeply on the spiritual significance of the bond existing between us. It is a bond whose origins are from on high, one which transcends our own plans and projects, and one which remains intact despite all the difficulties which, sadly, have marked our relationship in the past.” As president I would work hard to bring this vision into reality for more and more people. Thank you for considering my candidacy.



LILIANE APOTHEKER

Country: France

Denomination: Jew

Curriculum Vitae

- Born in Antwerp in 1955 and raised in a traditional Jewish home
- Graduate of Hebrew University of Jerusalem in French and English literature
- Native speaker of French, fluent in 5 languages, including Hebrew
- Active member of Amitié judéo-chrétienne de France and conference chair of ICCJ conference in Aix-en-Provence 2013
- Active member of the Crif (Jewish umbrella organization in France), committee for dialogue with the Christian World
- Contributor to Sens (the magazine of AJCF), to the AJCF website and to Témoignage Chrétien, a Christian monthly
- ICCJ Board member, elected in Krakow in 2011

After a first tenure of 3 years on the ICCJ Board, I feel that the challenges that face us are growing and I have a clearer sense of what it is I would like to achieve.

Here are a few of my core beliefs:

- Diversity is and remains essential to our work as an interfaith organization. Through my continuous exposure to a multicultural environment, I have developed an acute awareness of its importance and this infuses my contribution to the board.
- The ICCJ conference in Aix en Provence demonstrated that while our perceptions were diverse, the theme: French Secularity, attracted the highest number of participants in many years and the contributions by many young intellectuals, including historians and social scientists were excellent. This reinforces my belief that crossing disciplinary boundaries is enriching for us all.
- As a grass root person, I want to ensure that the fruits of theological research irrigate our daily work of furthering understanding between Christians and Jews. Indeed a lot has been achieved in the theological field, but how much of this is shared with a larger public?
- Our Western world is increasingly secular, but rampant radicalism jeopardizes interfaith dialogue in many ways. The ancient and wise voices of our religious traditions are sometimes silenced by strident, heinous extremists. Antisemitism and Xenophobia are on the rise.
- As the recent public debate on circumcision illustrates religions are often perceived as obsolete. Their symbolic language is no longer understood which triggers Anti-Judaism and targets also Islam. Even churches are now regularly defaced in Western Europe. It is time for us to reclaim our position in the public debate and show that our shared values are ethical and humanistic.

As an interfaith organization ICCJ has a vital role to play in restoring the standing of religious discourse and dialogue in our societies.

With your support I hope to continue to serve ICCJ as a Board member.



REV. DR MICHAEL TRAINOR

Country: Australia

Denomination: Christian

Curriculum Vitae

Michael is a Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of Adelaide, South Australia, senior lecturer in biblical studies at the Australian Catholic University, and adjunct senior lecturer in the department of theology, Flinders University, South Australia.

- Michael's contribution to the work of the International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCJ) includes international, national and local involvement, for which the Australian Government awarded him an 'Order of Australia' in 2007. He represents to the ICCJ, the concerns and issues that come from his part of the globe in the southern hemisphere and Australasia. He is executive board member of the International Council of Christians and Jews, member of the theological committee of the ICCJ (contributing to the project, 'Promise, Land and Hope'), an executive member of the Australian Council of Christians and Jews, and co-chair of the South Australian Council of Christians and Jews.
- Michael's expectation for the next three years as ICCJ Board member is to continue to explore avenues of dialogue between different religious groups, raise the profile of ecological-justice concerns which affect inter-religious dialogue, and address issues of anti-Semitism particularly as these emerge within the context of the emergence of fundamentalism.

Though Michael comes out of the Catholic-Christian tradition and has been involved in inter-faith, inter-religious and Jewish-Christian for many years, it was only last year that he discovered that his great grandfather was Jewish and a major contributor to the fledgling Jewish community in the newly founded, nineteenth century colony of Adelaide, South Australia!



PROFESSOR DR ABI PITUM

Country: Germany

Denomination: Jew

Curriculum Vitae

Born 30.06.1948 in Munich, Germany

Home Address: Innstr.2a, 81679 Munich, Germany

E-Mail: pitum@pitum.de

German citizen

Married with Dr Maria Pitum, née Tannenbaum, Dentist

6 children

1948	Born in Munich, Germany
1954-1967	School in Munich and Boston (USA)
1967-1974	University of Munich and of Linz (Austria), Economics and History M.A. (economics) Ph.D. (history)

Offices held:

Since 1972	Member of the Board – <i>Jewish Community Munich</i> (12 times re-elected, Treasurer & Vice President)
Since 1972	Chairman of the Commission for Finance – <i>Central Council of the Jews in Germany</i>
Since 2010	Member of Executive Board – <i>Central Council of the Jews in Germany</i>
Since 1995	Member of the Executive Board – <i>Deutscher Koordinierungsrat</i>
Since 2000	Honorary Consul General – <i>Mongolia</i>
Since 2002	<i>ICCJ</i> Finance and Public Relation Committee
Since 2005	<i>ICCJ</i> Treasurer
Since 2005	Vice President <i>International Martin Buber Foundation</i>



RABBI EHUD BANDEL

Country: Israel

Denomination: Jew

Curriculum Vitae

Rabbi Ehud Bandel is a native of Jerusalem. He is a graduate of the Hebrew University in Jewish History and Jewish Philosophy and holds a Master degree in Judaic studies from The Jewish Theological Seminary of America. In 1988, he graduated the first class of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in Jerusalem and was the first native Israeli to be ordained as a Masorti (Conservative) Rabbi in Israel. For five years, he was the director of “Noam” - the Masorti Youth Movement and between 1997 and 2005; he served as the President and CEO of the Masorti (Conservative) Movement in Israel.

In 2006, he moved with his family to Melbourne Australia and served five years as the rabbi of Kehilat Nitzan, Melbourne's first Conservative (Masorti) congregation.

Rabbi Bandel is very active in interfaith and human rights issues. He was the Chair of the Young Leadership Council of the ICCJ and currently serves as the 1st Vice President of ICCJ and Co-Chair of the International Abrahamic Forum. He also serves as Vice President of the Israeli region of the Rabbinical Assembly and as a member of the Executive of the World Jewish Congress - Israel.

Rabbi Bandel was the Founding Director of Rabbis for Human Rights; in 2011, he received in the US the Gandhi Peace Award for promoting peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Rabbi Bandel is married to Avital, and father of Naama, Hadas and Ro'i.

My contribution to the work of the ICCJ:

The ICCJ plays a very important role in both my personal and professional life. I started my involvement with the ICCJ shortly after my ordination when I attended the Young Leadership Conference and was elected as its chair. I continued my interfaith activities both locally and internationally serving on the boards of the Israel Interfaith Association, the Inter-Religious Coordinating Council in Israel, the Israeli Jewish Committee for Inter-Religious Relation and the Council of Christians and Jews in Victoria, Australia.

I had the privilege of translating the ICCJ's Berlin Document "A Time for Recommitment" into Hebrew and to introduce it to various groups in Israel and abroad. I chaired the 2010 ICCJ Conference in Istanbul and as the Co-Chair of the International Abrahamic Forum; I organized and chaired the most successful Abrahamic Conference we held last year in Aix en Provence.

 **My expectations of the next three-year term of the ICCJ Board:**

If elected, I intend to continue my work on the International Abrahamic Forum, preparing for our second Abrahamic conference in Rome 2015. I would like to strengthen the ties between the ICCJ and other interfaith organizations that I am involved with such as KAICID. I am also interested in furthering the relations with the Eastern Orthodox Churches through the WCC and particularly in deepening our relations with the Catholic Church using the upcoming 50th anniversary of Nostra Aetate as an opportunity to elevate the dialogue to a higher level that includes theology.



DR PAVOL BARGÁR

Country: Czech Republic

Denomination: Christian

Curriculum Vitae

Pavol is a post-doctoral research fellow at the Protestant Theological Faculty, Charles University of Prague, the Czech Republic. His research focuses on narrative theology, myth, and symbols. Born in 1981 in Martin, Slovakia, Pavol has been living, studying and working in the Czech Republic for almost a decade. He took degrees in Protestant theology (an M.Div. equivalent from Comenius University in Bratislava) and in Jewish-Christian relations (an M.St. at the University of Cambridge). In 2009 he was awarded a Th.D. at Charles University in Prague.

Pavol has experience with teaching and tutoring in theology at a university level. He regularly publishes both scholarly and more popular articles as well as book and film reviews in various journals in both Slovak/Czech and English. He serves on editorial boards of several journals.

In 2011–2013, Pavol served as chair of the Czech Council of Christians and Jews (Společnost křesťanů a Židů - SKŽ). He currently is a member of the Board of this organization. In addition, he is editor of a journal published by SKŽ.

Pavol is married to Ivana. They have a daughter, Sofia Laila (2), and another baby – a son – on the way. They live in Nupaky near Prague. Pavol is an ordained elder in the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, a mainline Protestant church which unites both the Lutheran and Reformed tradition with the legacy of the Bohemian reformation.

My Contribution to the Work of the ICCJ

I perceive my possible contribution in four particular areas or perspectives which I might be able to offer. Coming from a post-Communist background, first, I could contribute with some unique insights drawn from the transformation processes within my society, regarding social, cultural, economic and religious issues. In addition, my experience with both a more traditional (i.e. Slovakia) and a secularized (i.e. the Czech Republic) form of a post-Communist society might be of use.

Second, I believe that my background in the study of Jewish-Christian relations could find a good use for the position of an ICCJ board member. In addition to these academic skills, my more practical experience in the field of Jewish-Christian (and, generally, interfaith) relations and cooperation might be of interest.

Third, I have contacts with numerous people, especially but not only Christians from different traditions and contexts who could be involved in cooperation with the ICCJ on various projects.

And finally, I believe I am able to contribute to the work of the ICCJ with a youth perspective of a person who regularly interacts with people of various age groups and professions.

My Expectations of the Next 3-Year Term of the ICCJ Board

I expect that the ICCJ will continue to be a relevant and cutting-edge voice in the field of interfaith relations in general, and of Jewish-Christian relations in particular. I hope it will further seek to pursue both academic and practical projects, with a special regard to grass-roots levels. I expect the ICCJ will stand up against all kinds and expressions of racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism around the world, pursuing the way of peace, justice, reconciliation and mutual understanding not only among Jews and Christians, but among people of all faiths and none. On a more concrete note, I hope the ICCJ will be able to make use of the upcoming anniversaries, including especially the publication of *Nostra aetate* (2015) and the Lutheran Reformation (2017) to bring fresh and inspiring insights for both research and practice.



RABBI J. SAMUEL SZTEINHENDLER

Country: Chile

Denomination: Jew

Curriculum Vitae

Born in Argentina

DEGREES

Rabbi (Ordained by the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano Marshall T. Meyer)

Lawyer (Argentina- México)

Hebrew Teacher (Graduated in Argentina and Israel)

Professor and BA in Jewish Sciences (graduated in Argentina and improvement in Israel)

Degree in Management and Community Development (graduated in Argentina)

Degree in Public and International Relations (graduated in Argentina)

WORK

- School Principal in Argentina (Buenos Aires) and Guadalajara (México)
- Professor of Bible, Development of Jewish thought, Biblical Hebrew and Hebrew in several High Schools in Argentina
- Professor at the Hebrew Teachers Seminar in Argentina (AMIA)
- Professor of Bible, Development of Jewish thought, Biblical Hebrew and Introduction to Jewish Theology in the Jesuitic University (ITESO), the Xaverian Seminary, the Major Diocesan Seminary, the Franciscan Seminary and the Universidad de Guadalajara, all in Guadalajara, México
- Alcoholics Anonymous: Counseling Rabbi in Guadalajara, México and in Santiago, Chile
- Profesor, Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano, Buenos Aires

RABBINIC POSITIONS

- Founding Rabbi and Rabbi of the Beit Emunah Community in Santiago, Chile (2004-today)
- Rabbi of the Or Shalom Congregation, Santiago, Chile (1995- 2004)
- Rabbi of the Jewish Community in Guadalajara, México (1978-1995)
- Rabbi serving the Jewish Community of Cuba (1992-2014)
- Chaplain of the Chilean National Prison system (2013-today)

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

- President of the Latin American Region of the Rabbinical Assembly.(three terms)
- Member of the Executive Council of the International Rabbinical Assembly.
- Vice President for Latin American Affairs of the World Council of Conservative Synagogues (two terms).
- Placement Director for Latin America of the International Rabbinical Assembly.
- Member of the Social Action Committee of the Int'l Rabbinical Assembly
- Member of the Ethics Committee, Universidad de Santiago de Chile

INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOG

- Founder and developer of the Christian-Jewish dialog in the west coast of México
- Active participation in the ongoing interreligious activities in Cuba since 1992
- President of the Chilean Council of Christian and Jews
- Consultant for the religious affairs office of the present Chilean Government (2014)

AWARDS

- Rabbinic Merit Award in recognition for the development of Jewish life in Cuba (The Latin American Region of the Rabbinical Assembly)
- Bnai Brith – Texas Region Chapter – Award for the Rabbinic Work in Latin America
- Rotary Club - Jalisco, México - Award for the promotion Interfaith understanding
- Lyons Club - Jalisco, México- Award in recognition for enhancing and nurturing interfaith work
- Bnai Brith -Chilean Chapter- Member of the Lodge of Honor
- Community Leadership Award in Latin America (conferred by the Conference of Latin American Leadership sponsored by the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC))

LANGUAGES

- Spanish; Hebrew; English; Yiddish

My contribution to the work of the ICCJ:

- Refraining the work and presence of the ICCJ in the region, building a regional strategic agenda besides and beyond the agendas of each individual national council.
- Enhancing the presence and transcendence of the ICCJ all over the region.
- Working on outreach, trying to develop new national Councils of Christian and Jews over the Latin American Region in those countries where there are not yet established and support them in an ongoing way.
- Stimulate the establishing of a regional data bank to serve all the Councils.
- Developing a common website for the region besides the individual ones already existing.
- Create a network between the leadership of all the regional Councils and a common chat to generate and stimulate more contact and learning to work together.
- Serving with full commitment the realization of the goals and agenda of the ICCJ.
- Promote the realization of regional meetings, conferences, seminars at least once a year.
- Establish a Latin American Regional Board of the ICCJ to stimulate more interaction and joint agendas.

My expectations of the next three year term of the ICCJ Board

I expect to make the ICCJ more present not just in those countries over the world where there are affiliated councils but far beyond them.

If it's viable to work all together to get the recognition of the ICCJ as an ONG with presence at the U.N. and/or some of it's worldwide organizations, the same with the Vatican, and the same with any other international organization that will enable the ICCJ to get more presence, participation distribution over the world it's message.

Setting a think tank to develop a strategic agenda, with guidelines, vision, mission and goals for – at least - the next 6 years.

Establish at least one world project as a challenge and goal to nurture and strengthen the presence and need of the pro active existence of the ICCJ.

Promote more regional common agendas.

Enhance and stimulate the inclusion of muslim representatives to build up a strong ICCJ in the spirit of being more inclusive and acting as partners to build a world of peace and understanding.