

FEDERATION OF
CHRISTIAN
MINISTRIES

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JULY/AUGUST 2023....VOL 57....NU 4



HAPPY 55TH ANNIVERSARY FCM 1968-2023

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CHAIRPERSON

CHRISTY HOWARD-STEELE
CHAIRPERSON@FCMMAIL.ORG



JULY FLOWERS LARKSPUR

is symbolic of an open heart, beautiful spirit, sincerity,
strong love bonds, and dedication



As stated in the last newsletter I would like to encourage us to engage in the practice of giving flowers metaphorically by expressing our appreciation, gratitude, love to at least one person each month. In each newsletter edition, I hope we can acknowledge and celebrate someone in FCM in a more public way by submitting to the newsletter a brief expression of appreciation.

Based on the saying of "Give me flowers while I can smell them", this month I want to "give flowers" to the following FCM member:

ANTHONY (TONY) ERGOLANO



Tony is currently director of background checks and secretary and member of the Endowment committee. He is also the former commissioning chair of FCM and provided leadership and wisdom to the Circle.

Tony stepped in to continue the background check process after the previous commissioning chair resigned due to family and increased job responsibilities.

Tony is also one of the main contributors to FCM's blog. Tony generously gives of his time and talent in support of FCM. I celebrate Tony's gifts and his many contributions to FCM.

Do you have someone in FCM that you want to acknowledge. If so, please email your brief write-up to chairperson@fcmmail.org or newsletter@fcmmail.org.



CHAIRPERSON

CHRISTY HOWARD-STEELE
CHAIRPERSON@FCMMAIL.ORG

JULY FIREWORKS

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

Nelson Mandela

One of the big celebrations in July is of course the 4th of July which celebrates the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. This document declares the separation of the 13 colonies from Great Britain. Besides burgers, barbeque, and watermelon, the 4th of July is known for its elaborate fireworks displays. While fireworks had historically been a popular way of celebrating important people and events, this 4th of July tradition established in John Adams' letter to his wife: that the day be celebrated "with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and **illuminations** from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forevermore." While I love communal public fireworks displays, from my perspective as a Level 1 trauma hospital chaplain, I am happy that many communities have banned individual private firework displays for safety reasons.

Independence Day is a time when we are reminded of the ideals upon which the United States were founded. We are reminded of the rights and freedoms so dearly fought for. It is also a time when we can focus on those among us who are still fighting; those who belong to groups who still struggle to have and maintain basic human rights and freedoms. In this time when rights gained are being lost or challenged by some and continued momentum to achieve equity for all seems to be stalled, it is more important than ever for us to refresh and expand our commitment to the prophetic, yet limited ideal espoused in the Declaration of Independence, namely,

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men PEOPLE are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

May we as FCM continue empowering and nurturing those inspired for inclusive ministries that transform society.





PRESIDENT

TOM CUSACK
PRESIDENT@FCMMAIL.ORG



A LITTLE THEOLOGY AND A LITTLE ACTIVITY

We admit it's a long reach to describe God or Godde or The Supreme or the Ground of Being. Doing so is above our pay grade as humans. Now we do have a little insight into this "Father" (the name Jesus had to give the Creator, since women were not recognized well, except as property, at the time). Or now, Mother or Mommy. There is a relationship between this Jesus, and the Creator. This relationship seems ongoing and normative for us. His promise he would send an Advocate seems to be holding. Good. We're trying to follow Jesus and His Advocate.

A relationship is not static. This is not eternally the same being. If the Creator is in relationship with us, the Creator is not static but supremely dynamic. We have to attempt to take the same dynamic stance in our personal development (pursuing by intense spiritual practice to deepen our relationship with this Creator) and here, in FCM, in an institutional way. How? Read on.

We are benefited by having several committees of Circle members working on long standing issues within FCM. To let you know, there is work underway to dynamically revise our website, our presentation portal for the world to see FCM. There is another committee looking at the way we announce ourselves to the world. This committee is reviewing our expression of our values and processes, so that those expressions clearly display who we are and what we stand for. Word-smithing our current self-concept.

Here are a few extra comments on the committee looking at our introduction to FCM for new members. Forever we have accepted new folks into FCM with a pleasant "have a good day." Then it rested on the new member's interest and response to check out opportunities within FCM. This approach left many as members, but they were not engaged members. So, this on-boarding committee is looking to set in place a program to improve that vacuum. It is a formal set-an-initial-FCM-relationship program.

It will work this way: a new member joins FCM. That new member is contacted in their first month through their VP by an FCM Host. The Host will meet with the new person in a structured way for a year. Here's how: in the first month the newbie and the Host will meet for 45 minutes on video. Get to know you. Then every following six weeks they will meet on video for a half. hour. They will discuss opportunities for FCM's volunteerism within the newbie's path in FCM, their mutual spirituality, and the like.

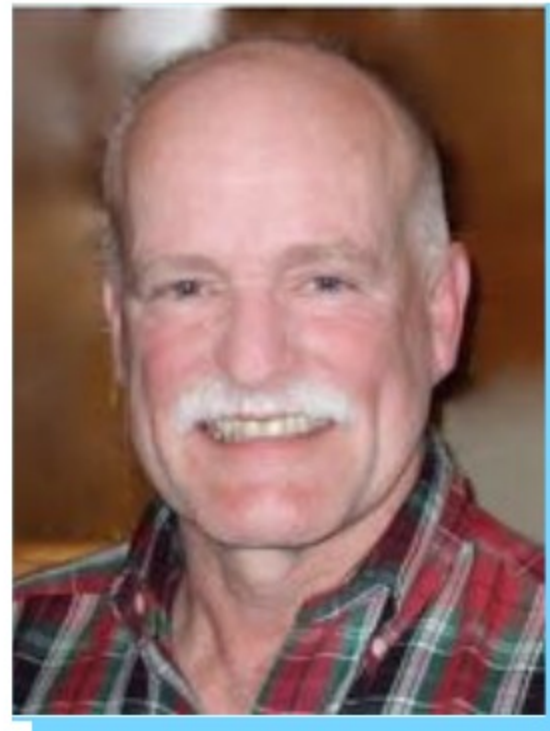
In this way the new member will have a structured internal relationship for a year. The Host will contribute to the growth and development of FCM and its internal relationships. These relationships might then mirror the relationships we all have with the Creator/Mommy-Daddy, with the Teacher Jesus, and with one another. All in a deepening way.

PLEASE REACH OUT TO YOUR REGIONAL VP TO VOLUNTEER AS AN FCM HOST, now, prior to the formal start of the program. We have to get this running as soon as we can.

Finally, as usual....do 2 x 2 4 FCM. This formula is two minutes of prayer and two minutes of meditation for the benefit of FCM each and every day. You can be sure Jesus will like to see this effort. He loves FCM. If you are so inspired, do Tuesday 10 for FCM... push it out to 10 minutes. That will really generate the internal dynamo of FCM.

Thanks for reading this. Say thanks to the folks on the Circle. Let 'em know you're grateful. They are all volunteers. You should become one too: an FCM Host.





FCM ENDOWMENT

TOM STRICKER
ENDOWMENT CHAIRPERSON



WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN MAKING A MAJOR CHALLENGE DONATION?

The FCM Permanent Endowment Fund has had 4 anonymous FCM members make donations as matching grant opportunities in our first 5 years. The challenge donations ranged from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00. A major reason for the success of the FCM Permanent Endowment Fund is the result of the 4 challenge donations made by these individuals and the wonderful way our membership responded to the challenge.

According to research for non-profits, 84% of donors are more likely to donate once they know a match is offered. According to that same research, 1 in 3 donors say they give a larger gift if a match will be applied to their donation. It benefits for all sides, the large donor working with smaller donors. Working together both sides see their donation doubled. Challenge Matching donations also bring in new donors often because they see their donations doubled. This is the essence of teamwork.

Is there someone who would like to make the next challenge donation? You may say, "Where can I find that kind of money?" Previous challenge donations have come from the benefits of a Will. One donor used the "RMD". As you know once you reach the age of 72 years, Uncle Sam requires taxpayers to draw down their retirement account savings through annual Required Minimum Distributions (RMD). A donation from your distribution can be tax free if it is given to a non-profit. You might consider the Endowment be included in your Will, so your Will can be a gift to the future of inclusive ministry.

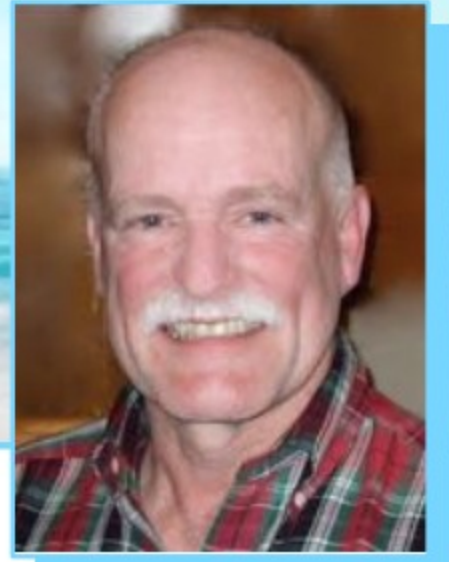
If you are able, consider becoming the next Challenge donor! Your generosity will be doubled! (contact Tom Stricker, FCM Permanent Endowment Chairperson)





FCM ENDOWMENT REPORT

TOM STRICKER
ENDOWMENT CHAIRPERSON



Thank You!

VALUE AS OF 6/20/2023
\$126,127.00

Donate to the FCM Endowment Fund
NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL!

Regular Donation

Go to the FCM website www.federationofchristianministries.org or go to your personal account on Realm www.onrealm.org and make your donation.

1. Sign in to Realm or, if in the FCM Website, use the "Donation" button to get there.
2. Click on "Giving" (left hand column) and this will take you to donation page
3. Click on the "+ Give" button
4. You will see a pull down (FCM General Account); click on the pulldown arrow
5. Click on the "FCM Endowment Fund" button

Tribute Gift

Is there a friend, family member, teacher, or mentor you would like to honor on their special day or send an expression of sympathy?

Consider a small donation to the **FCM Endowment Fund**.

A notice of your gift will be sent to the honoree or a member of their family. You will also know that your gift will help ensure that FCM will be able to support future generations of ministers and congregations.

For more information go to the FCM web site under FCM Endowment Fund for the online **Tribute Gift Form** or endowment@fcmmail.org



Measuring Our Success



FCM GRANT

GRANT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SHANNON QUEENAN - HEIDI TIERNEY - MARY VIDAS



FCM GRANT AWARD FINALISTS CHOSEN!

The Federation of Christian Ministries Circle Members and FCM's Grant Committee is pleased to announce the finalists for the 2023 Community Grant Award Program. With a total of \$5,000 to distribute to recipients, three (3) finalists have been chosen to receive funding during the 2023 grant cycle.

2023 COMMUNITY GRANT AWARD FINALISTS:

- ❖ **LOVE ONE ANOTHER MINISTRIES' (LOAM) UNITY LAB PROGRAM**
PROJECT: THE UNITY LAB FOR RACIAL HEALING
An Anti-racism educational and community-based program serving public and private school K-12 students in St. Louis, MO area aimed at bringing about transformational and sustainable change at the local level.
Project Administrator: Reverend Lauren Littrell, FCM
Awarded \$2,000.00

- ❖ **CRAFTING COMMUNITY - HEALING-CENTERED ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL ACTIVISM THROUGH TEXTILES PROJECT: BETWEEN MY ART AND ME: CREATING SACRED SPACE THROUGH FIBER ARTS A POST-PILOT PROJECT SERVING URBAN YOUTH IN LARGE METROPOLITAN AREAS DESIGNED TO TEACH AND ENCOURAGE SELF-CARE AND SELF-REGULATION THROUGH CREATIVITY AND THE ARTS.**
Program Administrator: Reverend Roberta Jones, FCM
Awarded \$2,000.00

- ❖ **THE COMMUNITY OF ST. HILDEGARD**
PROJECT: HILDEGARD HAUS "MEMORIAL" GARDEN
The second phase of the larger project (Hildegard Meditation Garden) focused on the development of a dedicated memorial garden reflecting the design and intentional life celebration of parishioners, members, and the community at large.
The Community of St. Hildegard is an FCM Faith Community.
Project Administrator: Reverend Dr. Shanon Steringer, Pastor
Awarded \$1,000.00

Committee Notes: All projects listed meet the stated grant criteria and align with FCM's mission, vision, and values. Each project has been "committee verified" via post-application interviews and addresses specific needs in their respective communities. Each project is represented by an FCM Member and/or FCM Faith Community and will submit a mid-year progress report and final report on their respective projects.

As we celebrate with our finalists, we also wish to acknowledge and thank the FCM members and FCM Faith Communities who expressed an interest in, and/or applied to this year's grant program. Continued blessings to all!

Submitted by

FCM Grant Committee: Shannon Queenan, Heidi Tierney, Mary Vidas grant@FCMmail.org

FCM ANNIVERSARIES

THE PEOPLE LISTED BELOW HAVE WORKED LONG AND FAITHFULLY TO BUILD FCM TO ITS PLACE TODAY. IF YOU WISH TO CONGRATULATE THEM, SEARCH THEM ONLINE IN REALM (WWW.ONREALM.ORG) OR ON THE REALM APP. NOT SIGNED IN TO REALM? ASK YOUR REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OR CONNECT@FCMMAIL.ORG FOR AUTHORIZATION.

CAROLYN HORVATH

JULY-AUGUST 2023

35 YEARS

Linda Marcin	8/29/1988	Heartland Region
Phil Marcin	8/29/1988	Heartland Region

30 YEARS

Robert Graf	7/26/1993	Mid-Atlantic Region
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25 YEARS

Peter McGuinness	8/26/1998	Northeast Region
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15 YEARS

Patricia LaRosa	8/08/2008	Northeast Region
Donna Schreiber	7/10/2008	Northeast Region
Peter Wolf	8/15/2008	Heartland Region

10 YEARS

Richard James	7/29/2013	Lakes & Plains Region
Rick Ortolano	7/21/2013	Southwest Region
Heidi Tierney	7/30/2013	Northeast Region

5 YEARS

Elrica Adams-Finney	8/21/2018	Northeast Region
Cynthia Driedger-Bauer	7/27/2018	Lakes & Plains Region
Ronald Cyktor Jr.	7/11/2018	Lakes & Plains Region
Cecilia Hurley	7/27/2018	Southeast Region
Linda Mayers	8/28/2018	Lakes & Plains Region
Anitta Milloro	8/20/2018	Lakes & Plains Region
Eugene Search	8/28/2018	Northeast Region
Chi H. Yun	7/19/2018	Northwest Region



FCM FAITH COMMUNITY

MARK BERNECKER, CHAIR
FAITHCOMMUNITY@FCMMAIL.ORG



FCM SHINES THE SPOTLIGHT ON EMMAUS COMMUNITY IN SONOMA COUNTY, CA BY JUDY LORENZ



During the month of May I shifted my focus west to learn about the **Emmaus Community in Sonoma County near Santa Rosa, California**. I spoke to **Victoria MacDonald** and **Nancy McFarland**, who are both long time members of this community.

The group was founded by **Beth Jordan** and **Cindy Vrooman**. Beth had been inspired by the Community of **Spiritus Christi in Rochester, NY** led by **Fr. Jim Callan** and **Mary Romerman**, an ordained priest. Beth and Mary held a retreat for folks in the area posing the possibility of forming a small faith community. After prayer, discernment and logistical considerations, Emmaus was formed in the summer of 2008. Others in the community who felt called to leadership were welcomed and co-presided over liturgies. Cindy and Beth are both deceased now but their faith, determination and example have left a lasting legacy in Emmaus.

Emmaus is a nonprofit organization with a Board of Directors. The Board and all members serve and provide leadership as volunteers. Tithing is offered and each member discerns the amount they give. The website lists organizations that are helped by the donations from the Emmaus community. In the fifteen years Emmaus has donated \$75,000 to various organizations!



Emmaus met in St. Patrick's Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall until very recently. Like many communities, they continued to worship virtually throughout the pandemic. This past year the community decided to meet in a more centralized location in Santa Rosa. Some members still have to travel an hour in order to meet in person because of the size of Sonoma County!



In the beginning the group consisted of mostly disgruntled Catholic church goers who were not being spiritually fed in their respective parishes. There was a thirst for inclusiveness, respect and spiritual growth.

Emmaus considers itself an inclusive Christian Community and is open to all who want to share in their spiritual journey. Nancy quoted the Community's invitation to their communion table: "We say, This is the table of Jesus. Come you who have faith; you who have none; and you who don't know if you do or you don't. Come, you are welcome here."



Every year the community holds a retreat which includes an evaluation meeting to answer questions posed by the Board and their Education Committee to focus on their own personal growth as well as the community's. Nancy said it has been so interesting to see how the group has evolved over the years. Last year Emmaus began meeting in person again. However, they voted to livestream their liturgy virtually in order to accommodate those who could no longer travel allowing these folks to participate and feel included in the community.

EMMAUS COMMUNITY IN SONOMA COUNTY, CA



What makes Emmaus click, from what I gleaned through my conversation is the combination of meaningful liturgies, participation in social justice activities, and the intimacy that develops within the community.

Victoria serves on the liturgy committee and was an integral part of the formation team of Emmaus at its inception. She, along with other liturgy team members provide creative liturgies enhanced by the technical genius of Board President, David Carlson. While Emmaus follows the Catholic liturgical calendar, they independently prepare for liturgies and may use poetry or other inspired readings or video clips in lieu of or along with scriptures of the day. Men and women co-preside to bring Word, Song and Eucharist to all. For Mother's Day this year, the theme was: Who are the Bent over Women you see in our world today? A twist on the usual reflections for that day, focusing on women who are oppressed and how Emmaus can respond as a community and as individuals. Nancy reflected on how these liturgies help the group to thrive and become alive in a way that could never be experienced in a church.

The community is comprised of activists. They sponsor a main meal each month for the local homeless shelter, invite speakers to engage with the greater community to educate on issues of the day, support the LGBT community, work on restorative justice and the list goes on. Living the Gospel is the reality of the Emmaus Community in Sonoma County.

Finally, Victoria and Nancy shared their love of the community itself. For one reason or another a certain number of individuals were inspired to form or join a community of people searching for a deeper spiritual connection to God and to each other. They have found that in Emmaus. Over the years relationships have deepened. Nancy says that what she enjoys most about the community is the presence of each person and the degree of intimacy in the group. When I asked if they are reaching out for new members, she told me it is not the objective at this time, though all are welcome. Nancy feels that they are accompanying each other home. One might find sadness in that statement, but I felt comfort. As the song says: We are Companions on a Journey.

BELIEFS FROM THE EMMAUS WEBSITE:

Vision: Emmaus is an inclusive community of faith inspired by a shared Eucharist and a passionate commitment to peace and social justice.

Mission: We formed for the specific purpose of transforming ourselves into better, more caring and compassionate people by practicing with each other, sharing our prayer lives and the gift of the shared Eucharistic meal.

Fall Webinars

The Faith Communities Committee will be providing three new webinars this fall. Watch your email for topics, dates and times. This information and the opportunity to register for the webinars will be available at <http://registration.fcmfc.org> by August 1.





COMMUNICATION

ANTOINETTE MAROLD
COMMUNICATION@FCMMAIL.ORG



THANK YOU SANDY TRACY



AUGUST FLOWERS GLADIOLUS

Typically symbolize honor, strength of character, faithfulness, sincerity, and integrity

Following the suggestion of FCM Chairperson, Christy Howard-Steele, and based on the saying of "Give me flowers while I can smell them", I would metaphorically like to give flowers to express our appreciation, gratitude, and love to **Sandy Tracy**.

Sandy has been serving as co-editor of the FCM Newsletter and this will be her last issue of the newsletter. We appreciate the giving of her talents and her dedication as co-editor.

We will miss you Sandy! We wish you Many Blessings as you continue on your journey.

Sandy can be reached at email: sandy@radiantgatherings.com

WELCOME

Welcome to FCM member, Samantha Larson, who has accepted the new position of Newsletter Co-Editor.



COMMUNICATION

ANTOINETTE MAROLD
COMMUNICATION@FCMMAIL.ORG



REMEMBERING FCM MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED TO A NEW LIFE

FCM Mourns the loss of Wayne Bryant, FCM - Lakes & Plains Region

Wayne T. Bryant Obituary

Baptized into the hope of Christ's Resurrection on Saturday, April 29, 2023. Beloved son of the late Wayne C. and Anne P. (nee Meehan) Bryant; beloved father of Laura Ann Polach (and former son-in-law Radomir Polach) and Christine Marie (Clint) Raglin; dearest 'PoPo' of Gabriella and Sophia Polach, Nicholas and Sean Raglin; our dear cousin, friend and mentor.

Wayne retired after many years of service as a Manager at Boeing. He was a Catholic Deacon and Minister (FCM, ICCC.), teacher's assistant and crisis intervention for Southview School of the Special School District.

FCM Mourns the loss of CeCe Miller, FCM - Heartland Region



It is with deepest sympathy and great sadness, that we announce the passing of CeCe Miller on May 11, 2023, a long time FCM member of the Heartland (Great Lakes) Region.

CeCe was a commissioned member of FCM and the leader/founder of the Spirit of Life Performing Arts.

New Process for FCM Sacramental Registry

A new process for the FCM Sacramental Registry which is used for Baptisms and Weddings. The Sacramental Registry will now be accessed through Realm. Steps to access the Sacramental Registry can be found below.

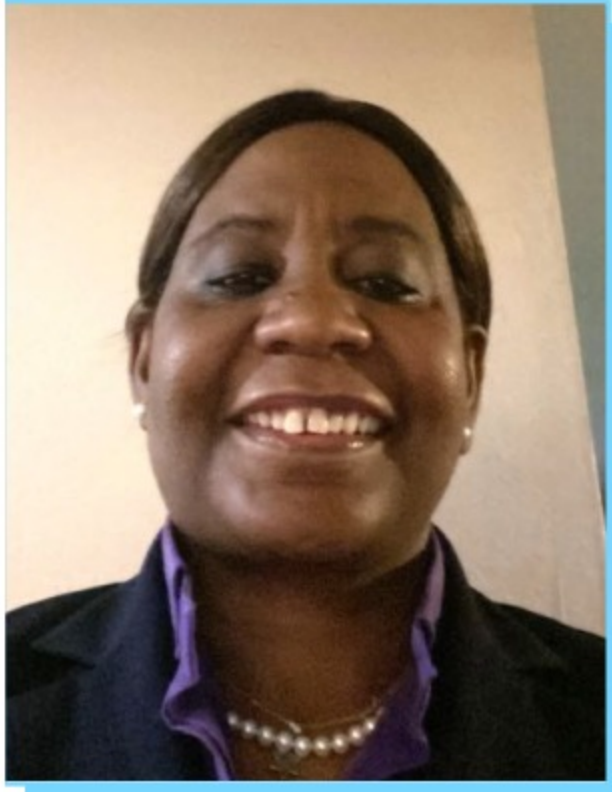
Members will complete a separate entry for each Baptism or Wedding.

As a reminder- All FCM members presiding at Baptisms must register the Baptism with FCM. We encourage you to register Weddings through the FCM registry in addition to following any state and local process required for your area.

Accessing the Sacramental Registry

- Go to www.onrealm.org
- Log into your Realm profile using your email address and password you created
- Find and click on the "Events" tab on the left-hand side
- Find and click on the "FCM Baptismal Registry (2023)" or the "FCM Marriage Registry (2023)" event
- Click on the "Register By (Date)" button
- On the right hand side you will see a note that shows "Who is attending this event?". Ensure your name is checked and click "Next"
- Complete as much information as possible ensuring to enter information for all required fields indicated with a red *
- Scroll back up to top right hand and click "Next"
- Review your information for accuracy
- Click on "Register" button
- Repeat process if you have other sacraments to register

Should you have any questions about accessing/using the FCM Sacramental Registry in Realm, feel free to contact **Bill Appleton**, FCM Administrator at connect@fcmmail.org or 216-210-0855. Other questions related to the FCM Sacramental Registry can be directed to **Maryann Crilly**, Sacramental Registrar at registry@fcmmail.org or 908-625-9072.



DIVERSITY

DENISE M. WOODS, FCM



The world is large to hold every one of us
And this is why we should not fret and fuss
As human beings, we need to fully live our lives
We must tap into our God given potentials
We must never give up on winning the prize.

Look around
Try to understand the world you live in
Visit libraries
Stay in school
Enroll in college
Acquire vast knowledge
For when this is done, you will see
That you will be able to appreciate and even enjoy
Our nation's diversity.

The nation we live in is so diverse
Just look at the many different faces
Just look at the many shades of color
It is difficult to avoid some form of strife
But it is easier to look in another direction
if you intend to rise.

Look around
Try to understand the world you live in
Visit libraries
Stay in school
Enroll in college
Acquire vast knowledge
For when this is done, you will see
That you will be able to appreciate and even enjoy
Our nation's diversity.

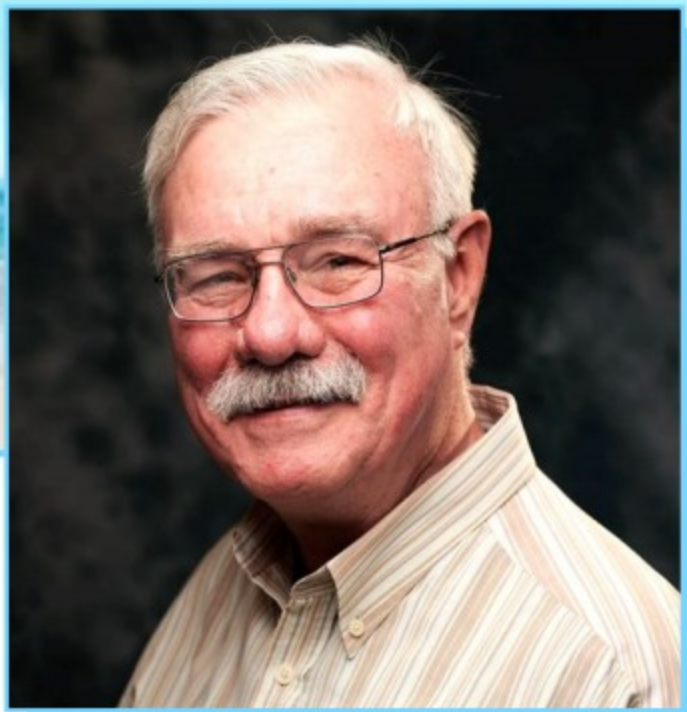
Words are powerful
We all should know this
Their connotation can be extremely damaging
And cannot easily be taken away
So use words that portray respect.

Look around
Try to understand the world you live in
Visit libraries
Stay in school
Enroll in college
Acquire vast knowledge
For when this is done, you will see
That you will be able to appreciate and even enjoy
Our nation's diversity.

You may say
This sounds like a lesson in reasoning
But if you should lack basic understanding
The road ahead of you, will stagnate your growth
And you will have no one to turn to
When you find yourself, down on your luck and impoverished.

Look around
Try to understand the world you live in
Visit libraries
Stay in school
Enroll in college
Acquire vast knowledge
For when this is done, you will see
That you will be able to appreciate and even enjoy
Our nation's diversity.





FCM MEMBERS SERVING

NORMAN J. SIMMONS, FCM



FCM MEMBERS SERVING DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA

A Jewish woman at a December holiday party asked me, "Do you think that people are over their bias against LGBTQ people?" I paused and then said, "Some people are not over the Civil War." She agreed with that.

While Jesus taught, "Judge not, and you will not be judged," (Luke 6:37) a significant number of Christians in the US do judge people if they are different—African American, Jewish, or LGBTQ. This fuels the current backlash which includes banning library books telling their stories, a variety of other forms of discrimination, and even engaging in acts of violence. In the past year, some 490 anti-LGBTQ rights bills have been introduced in state legislatures.

The 19th century Anglican theologian, F. D. Maurice, wrote, "We tend to deny what is outside our experience." But FCM members affirm all human experiences. They model the way that Jesus listened to, understood, and accepted others.

Many FCM members have served *Dignity Philadelphia*, an association of LGBTQ Catholics and their allies. **Barbara Gindhart** ministered as a chaplain for many years before moving to Boston. **Joseph McOscar**, accompanied by his wife Barbara, started to preach and preside for the Dignity Sunday evening service in 1997. In turn, he invited **Paul Stubenbort** to celebrate the Eucharist. His wife **Pat** also joined him in affirming the community. Paul invited **Carl Yusavitz** to celebrate the Liturgy. Both **Eileen DiFranco** and **Kathleen Schuck** preside and preach for the community. In recent years, as I began celebrating on Sundays, Paul introduced me to the FCM and the opportunity to provide religious services for marriages.

Dignity Philadelphia, along with 36 other Dignity chapters throughout the US, witnesses to God's love for every person. For more than 50 years, Dignity has been conveying the message that God created people with different sexual orientations and identities, all of God's creation is good, and God blesses marriages for all people, not just heterosexual couples.

The Philadelphia Chapter of Dignity provides a safe place along with spiritual and social support. Some, like **Anne Butchart**, have met their lifelong partners and spouses here. After Anne served as the first lesbian president of Dignity, she and her wife became lawyers. Then in 2005, Anne became the first openly LGBTQ person to be elected in Pennsylvania. Judge Anne Butchart opened a door. By 2023, about two dozen LGBTQ people have been elected to office in Pennsylvania.

People of faith continue to affirm God's desire for diversity for all creatures, from those inhabiting the land, sea, or air, to the multitude of humans living on our earthly home.

For more on the Dignity jubilee celebration and history, see www.dignityphila.org/anniversary





THE SOUND OF SILENCE

BARBARA ZEMAN, FCM

Meditation is on the minds and in the hearts of many these days because going within seems to be the only place to discover silence. As chaplains, priests and caregivers many of us are feeling the stress of discovering how to live in the brave new world, post pandemic. Stress is real. Depression is on the rise and we are on the front lines, once again. But there can be calm in the face of stress.

Living with the stress of constant change requires courage. That's why meditation is so important. I have been directing meditation for over 15 years. Let your soul speak. Give your Spirit a lift.

As you are able, take a minute to relax.

Close your eyes and listen to the breath within.

Breathe deeply.

Feel your muscle and tendons begin to de-stress.

Relax ... you owe it to yourself.

Silence speaks louder than words.

No answer IS an answer.

Pray always... when in doubt use words.

Have you noticed how precious silence is and how noise deafens?

Quiet the mind by focusing on the sound within you.

Listen for the sounds of silence. Wait for it. Be still.

Breathe in and out ... in and out ... in and out.

Your heartbeat begins to resonate with the breath as you discover that only you can hear the silence.

Only you can live this life.

Only you can de-stress your own body with the life-giving air that the breath draws in and expels.

Notice how this focus allows a calm to appear.

Muscles and tendons start to relax as tension eases.

Let go of the tedious chatter that the mind creates.

See a light filling the space behind closed eyes.

Watch, as the light lifts the anxiety and dissolves it into thin air.

Let go and feel your body floating in that light, being reborn with newfound life and energy.

There... you just might have found it ...

The silence that is.

And it is worth its weight in gold.



PASTOR SEARCH

COMMUNITY OF SAINT PETER
CLEVELAND, OHIO



FULL-TIME PASTOR SOUGHT

The Community of Saint Peter, an intentional Eucharistic community in the Catholic tradition in Cleveland, Ohio, is seeking a full-time Pastor due to the retirement of our pastor. We are progressive, independent and financially strong. The Community was established in 2010 by its members following the closing of our parish church by the Cleveland Catholic Diocese.

We seek a pastor who will serve as our spiritual leader, deliver thoughtful and well-prepared homilies, take leadership in our liturgy, and embrace our mission and history. Above all, we want a pastor whose ministry is informed by a commitment to personal spiritual growth.

The ideal candidate will hold a master's or other advanced degree in ministry or a related field and show a commitment to professional development. He or she will possess proven experience in ministerial and administrative leadership; demonstrate exceptional skills as a homilist and liturgist; and demonstrate commitment to social justice and a strong aptitude for pastoral care. We expect our pastor to possess excellent communications, listening, and organizational skills and to work collaboratively with staff, volunteers, and all others.

The Community offers competitive salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Benefits include health insurance, retirement, professional development and paid vacation.

More information about the Community at: <https://www.communityofstpeter.org/>

More information about the position at: <https://www.communityofstpeter.org/pastor-search>

FCM member to contact for more information: Eileen Pappalardo at 216-347-0629 and at pappalosa@aol.com



FCM REGIONS



FCM New Regions went into effect January 1, 2023



South Central
Christopher Breen, VP
southcentralvp@fcmmail.org

- Colorado
- Kansas
- New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- Arkansas
- Texas
- Louisiana

Lakes & Plains
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- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Nebraska
- Minnesota
- Iowa
- Missouri
- Wisconsin
- Illinois

Northwest
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- Alaska
- Washington
- Oregon
- Idaho
- Montana
- Wyoming

Southwest
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- California
- Nevada
- Utah
- Arizona
- Hawaii

Northeast
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- New Jersey
- Rhode Island
- New York
- Connecticut
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- Vermont
- Maine

Heartland
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- Indiana
- Ohio
- Kentucky

Mid-Atlantic
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- West Virginia
- Virginia
- Delaware
- Maryland
- Washington DC
- North Carolina
- South Carolina

Southeast
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southeastvp@fcmmail.org

- Tennessee
- Mississippi
- Alabama
- Georgia
- Florida



NORTHEAST REGION

CARYL YUSAVITZ
NORTHEASTVP@FCMMAIL.ORG



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Welcome to FCM's Northeast Region our newest members: **Theresa May, Joseph Johnson Jr., and Susan Sciarratta.** Please keep all our new members in your prayers.

We had a heartwarming gathering at **Donna Schreiber's** home just outside of Philadelphia on May 6th. Pictured below are most of the participants.

MICHAELITA QUINN
DONNA SCHREIBER
PAT STUBENBORT
SUSAN ILIFF
TOM CUSACK
CARL YUSAVITZ
SEATED:
GINNY CUSACK
JOE RUANE

BELOW:
MUMMERS MUSEUM
CARL YUSAVITZ
MARY TANNEY
EILEEN DIFRANCO



The Philadelphia Chapter of Dignity USA celebrated its 50th anniversary on May 20th. A number of FCM members were present for the event, which was held at the Philadelphia Mummer's Museum.

FCM members have been presiding at Dignity liturgies for a number of years, supporting the mission and core values of Dignity. Pictured are some of those FCM members.

On a personal note, please keep me in your prayers as I deal with some troubling medical issues in my life. Thank you.





MID-ATLANTIC REGION

SUSAN LOVING

MIDATLANTICVP@FCMMAIL.ORG



HELLO FROM THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION!

Our region is growing, and we have welcomed four new members in two months! We are meeting the first Monday of each month via Zoom and have enjoyed getting to know one another.

This past month I had the honor of presiding over the Ordination ceremony of **Michelle Graham** in Wake Forest. It was lovely to witness the love and support that Michelle experienced with her family and friends. Please remember Michelle in your prayers as she moves forward to endorsement and board certification as a Chaplain.

And...

Congratulations to **Francisco Morales**, who received his commission in May. Francisco graduates from CPE this month. His call is to serve as a Chaplain for our Veterans. Your prayers for Francisco and his family, as he considers the next steps, are greatly appreciated.

A few days ago, I was on the open ocean mesmerized by a yearling Humpback Whale diving, lunging, and breaching the waters as he enjoyed his day. That gorgeous leviathan rose above the water like a feather on the breeze. A mile further and three older whales were swimming together, arching and fluking their tails in a beautiful synchronized water ballet.

I still am in awe of that day's majesty and good fortune. So, too, may you experience the majesty that God provides each day.

Be well.

Susan





SOUTHEAST REGION

BETH KNIGHT

SOUTHEASTVP@FCMMAIL.ORG



Warm Greetings friends!

I was reminded recently of a short prayer by Howard Thurman, which I am passing on to us all:

“Oh, Holy One, help me abandon all that I think I am, all I hope to be, and all I believe I possess. Guide me to let go of the past, withdraw my grasping hand from the future, and gently and alertly rest my soul in the great silence of this moment.”

As we each find our unique ways to lean into the humility of such a prayer, we also continue, in our region, to support one another vocationally. We've been doing this via nurturing bonds across the miles. On that front, we held another Southeast Region Zoom gathering and Lectio Divina time on Wed. May 24. Then in person, we held two Florida area gatherings. One of those in person gatherings was Thursday May 25 in Winter Garden, FL and a new member gathering was held in St. Leo, Florida at Holy Name Monastery on June 11. Additionally, we are planning a Tennessee gathering for early fall so that the northern part of our region can share in person fellowship time as well.

We are growing! with new members, new commissions and endorsements continuing to expand our region's presence in ecumenical ministry. For that expanded ministry we say “thanks be to God!”

CONGRATULATIONS! to “HL” (Hilliard) McConnell of Tampa, FL for his commission/ordination approval by the Circle of Directors on May 20.

We will be celebrating an ordination service later in August for HL.



HL works as a staff chaplain with Tampa Bay General Hospital in Tampa, FL. Prior to that position HL worked 19 years in Church Planting, Worship Arts Leadership, Congregational Care and Pastoral Leadership (most recently he spent 14 years at First Presbyterian Church, Lakeland, FL) and prior to that he spent 5 years in Raleigh-Charlotte, NC at LifePointe Christian Church. HL was also previously ordained and served two years with Ann Arundel Southern Baptist Church where he served that denomination as a Church Planter at Crossroads Church in Crofton, MD.

When not working as a chaplain, or doing papers to complete his seminary program, HL loves to appreciate piano bar music with his wife.

SPOTLIGHT! Our region spotlight of one of our own continues and is a chance for us to acknowledge one of our ministers, lift up their passion and calling, as well as savor the diversity of God's gifts and graces among us. It is with much pleasure that I share with you this month's spotlight member: **Rev. Susan (Sue) Levy, MDIV**, a commissioned FCM member and Chaplain with Cornerstone Hospice of central Florida. Susan is married to a Jewish gentleman which informs her Christian ministry in valuable and unique ways. Prior to her chaplain vocation, Sue has also worked in homeless ministries and taught numerous bible studies. She has worshipped ecumenically in the Nazarene, Presbyterian and Methodist churches. Sue holds a private pilot license, enjoys flying with her husband who is a pilot and they serve with Honor Flights. Sue brings a beautifully articulate manner and spirit of hospitality, along with wisdom and compassion, to all her engagements with those needing a minister of presence. Join me please in being grateful for the life and ministry of Rev. Susan Levy.



SPECIAL LISTEN to a PODCAST with our own Dorie Griggs “What did 2020 do to you? Change & Transition into Chaplaincy During the Pandemic” see link here:
<https://www.2020didittome.com/2165059/12566278>





LAKES & PLAINS REGION

MARY VIDAS

LAKESPLAINSVP@FCMMAIL.ORG



"May you respond to the call of your gift and find the courage to follow its path." The Blessing by John O'Donohue



Vice President Update

As summer rolls into full swing, my family and I have enjoyed spending time at the lake, in our backyard, or at one of our many beautiful parks. Following Covid's grip on our activities, we have been much more intentional about getting together with friends and loved ones catching up on the latest happenings in our lives.

To that end, I also have news to share. I recently stepped into the CEO and Executive/Director role of a new public engagement initiative in the Mpls/St. Paul, MN area. The initiative will focus on training, facilitating, and evaluating collaborative models and providing foundational support to those engaging in the public square. Given this new opportunity, I notified the Circle and Staff that as of June 30th, 2023, I will need to resign as Vice President of the Lakes and Plains Region, and, as a member of FCM's Grant Committee.

Know that it has been my joy to have served as Interim Vice President and then elected Vice President for the Mountains & Plains and the new Lakes and Plains region. Getting to know individual FCM members, sharing our stories, and celebrating our call was a gift! I am also honored to have assisted in launching FCM's Community Grant Program.

My heart is filled with gratitude for your friendship and support throughout. I will take all this and more with me as I continue to grow my soul and serve the world as an FCM minister, member, and colleague. May we keep the light burning bright!

Abundant blessings and then some, Mary

RECENT COMMISSIONINGS



Reverend Christopher Breen, FCM – Elgin, TX

is a Pastoral/Clinical Counselor and Spiritual Director with Journey Pastoral Care in Central Texas. Chris is also the IT Strategic Service Delivery Manager at Akamai Technologies, Austin, TX. Congratulations, Reverend Christopher!



Reverend Dr. Tanden Brekke – Minneapolis, MN

is a Professor of Justice & Peace Studies and a distinguished faculty member of the Dougherty College at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN. Congratulations, Reverend Dr. Tanden!





RECENT COMMISSIONINGS



Reverend Jo Brenneman-Fullwood, – Elk Grove, IL
is a CPE Educator/Supervisor and Staff Chaplain at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago IL. Jo has a background in Music Therapy and Christian Education. Congratulations, Reverend Jo!



Reverend Trish Dick – Helena, MT (former Mts. & Plains)
is a Staff Chaplain and Spiritual Counselor at Shodair's Children's, St. Peter's Hospital as well as Enhabit Home Hospice, Helena, MT. Trish was also a Former Pastor and Director of Vocations. Congratulations, Reverend Trish!



Reverend Flora Fearon – Buda, TX (former Mts. & Plains)
Is a Resident Chaplain at Ascension Seton HealthCare, Austin, TX. Flora also worked as a Staff Attorney with the Policy & Rules Unit at Texas Health & Human Services and as a State Attorney with the Office of the Attorney General, Austin, TX. Congratulations, Reverend Flora!



Reverend Daniel Galvin – Elgin, IL
is a staff chaplain at Ascension Alexian Brothers and St. Alexis Critical Care Medical Center, Chicago, IL. Daniel has worked in Level II Trauma Centers and recently graduated with a Master of Arts in Divinity and Chaplaincy. Congratulations, Reverend Daniel!

Lakes & Plains Area Representatives

A special thank you to the following FCM members who have offered to step into the role of Area Representative for the Lakes & Plains Region. We appreciate your welcoming spirit! Look for notices (emails) about local meetings, gatherings, and events as sent from your Area Representative. New to FCM? Feel free to reach out to your Area Representative as well!

LAKES & PLAINS AREA REPRESENTATIVES		
State(s)	Area Rep	Contact Information
Iowa/Nebraska	Claudia Dorsch	claudia.dorsch@garrett.edu <i>Claudia is also a member of FCM's Specialized Ministries (Endorsement) Committee.</i>
Illinois	Annetta Lansdown	annettalansdown@hotmail.com
MN/Dakotas	Stephanie Johnson	johnson.stephanie.lynne@gmail.com
Missouri	Coordinator: MaryBeth McBryan Secretary: Paul Vincent Reithmaier	mbmcbpriest@yahoo.com p.reithmaier@att.net
Wisconsin	Ian Butts	ian.butts92@gmail.com



SOUTHWEST REGION

DANIEL WINDHAM
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COMMUNITY IS KEY

Grace and Peace Southwest Region!

Summer is upon us and, for the folks in Arizona, that means “the hundreds” are back. What are the hundreds? The hundreds are a colloquial reference to the temperature in Phoenix and the surrounding areas from June until October. This is the time of year when the weather report is very simple: It’s going to be hot today; Bring water.

The hundreds are also a common reason people claim they will never live in Arizona. It rains about 30 days a year in the Phoenix area, and the annual rainfall is around 8 inches. It’s not much, but it provides for an abundant ecosystem that is more than cacti and tumbleweeds. The desert is a bustling community with a wide variety of life forms.

The Hohokam people lived and thrived in and around the Salt River Basin in Phoenix until sometime around the thirteenth century. It is said that a significant drought was cause for the Hohokam people to migrate away from the area and, eventually to decline. The Hohokam are noted for the intricate irrigation canal network they constructed throughout the area. Metro Phoenix has utilized a portion of this canal system to provide water to the area.

The Hohokam, along with other tribal peoples in the southwest and northern Mexico, also were known to ingest various plants, fungi, and bufotoxins (toad venom) containing psychedelic compounds for medical and religious purposes. These indigenous people were intimately connected physically, mentally, and spiritually to creation and to the creator.

We don’t have to go around licking frogs or anything.

We do have to invest ourselves in our community and spend some time developing an edification network, perhaps similar to the irrigation canal network the Hohokam produced. Strengthening our collective bonds and lifting each other up can be achieved with in person visitations, small group gatherings, phone calls, FaceTime, Zoom, Teams, or whatever platform is available.

Let me know when you prefer to gather. Let’s have some conversation around getting our region to spend regular time together. It can be all of us, parts of us, different days, times, or whatever works. There are some small groups already meeting regularly. Let me know if you are currently gathering or looking to gather. I will do all I can to facilitate these gatherings.

Many blessings to you all on the journey. We have a wonderful community here in the FCM. There are many people doing great work. Let’s share our stories, ask questions, provide support, and thrive in our community.





NORTHWEST REGION

ZACHARY WHEAT

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NEWLY COMMISSIONED



Hello all from the gorgeous Northwest, we have officially settled into spring/early summer after a rainy and long winter followed by an intense heat wave. We have lots of exciting things going on that I want to highlight.

To begin I want to spotlight our newly commissioned members. They are **Janet Gaff**, **Adina Meyer**, **Mary Sykora-Haley**, and **Kathy Brainard**. **Janet** is a clinical chaplain finishing up her training and currently looking for her dream job north of Seattle. **Adina** is the leader of an inclusive catholic community in Seattle, which I was able to visit for her commissioning. See photos above. **Adina** is also beginning her chaplain training with a internship at Harborview Medical Center. **Mary** is the chaplain at an inpatient hospice facility in Vancouver, WA called Ray Hickey house. Their work is known across the region, and I believe that Mary is a huge part of the reason why. **Kathy** is just finishing up her chaplain training at the VA and also just got a job as a hospice chaplain here in Portland.

PORTLAND GATHERING



In addition to our newly commissioned members, we were also able to get together again in Portland for a gathering. We even had a few people join us that were not able to make the last meeting. We met at a local brewery and also shared some delicious Detroit style pizza. One of the things that came up during our conversation that I feel very proud and excited about was our members supporting each other.

One of our members **Sean** is creating community in some very unique and inspiring ways. While we were meeting, we learned that another member **Andrew** had visited his community in support. We got to learn more about Sean's work and Andrew's experience.

This spurred many different conversations around the table about how we all see, interact, and connect with the world around us. It is really beginning to feel like we are building upon the solid community and membership of FCM in the beautiful PNW. One of the updates that I hope to share in the next newsletter is a story of connection to one of our members in the more distant land of Alaska as our own VP of the Southeast has a trip scheduled up there.





NEWSLETTER EDITORS
Carole duBois
Sandy Tracy

Newsletter Email: newsletter@FCMmail.org

The FCM Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Federation of Christian Ministries, a non-profit religious body. As the informational publication of FCM, its mission is to keep members current with the organization and its activities, to provide ideas to further ministry and to promote community building among local FCM groups and the national organization. All current members receive a copy. Articles and feedback are welcomed and can be sent to: newsletter@FCMmail.org by the 4th of each month (February, April, June, August, October and December). FCM member-submitted articles should aim for 500 words and 2-3 selected photos in MS Word and JPG formats.

FCM Central Office



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FCM Blog: fcmblog.org

FCM CERTIFICATES

These lovely certificates are available from the FCM Central Office. Please specify your choice: Baptism, Marriage, Holy Union, and the number of certificates you need. Certificates are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Each certificate is printed on certificate weight paper in blue ink; they carry the FCM logo and seal.

FCM Membership & Realm

REALM ADMINISTRATOR & MEMBERSHIP
Emails: connect@FCMmail.org - membership@FCMmail.org

FCM Registry

FCM BAPTISM AND WEDDING REGISTRIES ARE NOW ON
www.onrealm.org
Sacramental Registry - Click **EVENTS AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS**
for additional help Email: registry@fcmmail.org or connect@fcmmail.org

Endorsement for Specialized Ministries

Qualified FCM members may apply for "Religious Body Endorsement" for the specialized ministries of Chaplaincy, Pastoral Counseling, and Clinical Pastoral Education. Such endorsement is required by professional certifying organizations and many institutional employers. The FCM Circle of Directors acts on endorsement applications three times yearly. Endorsement application materials are available for downloading on the FCM website at:

www.federationofchristianministries.org
Inquiries may be made by email at: specmin@FCMmail.org

GLOBAL MINISTRIES UNIVERSITY

GMU offers degree completion programs, certificates, a Celebrant Training Program, and individual courses online. FCM members are eligible for a 5% discount on degree programs. **For more information, visit the web site:**

www.globalministriesuniversity.org Email:
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Phone: 866 419 8020 toll-free

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