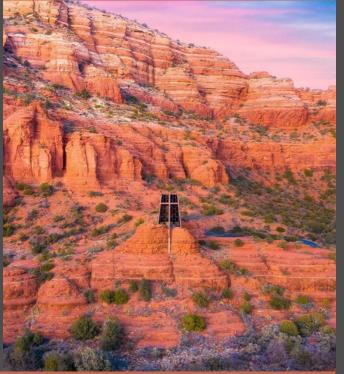








NEWSLETTER September/October 2023 VOL. 57 NO. 5



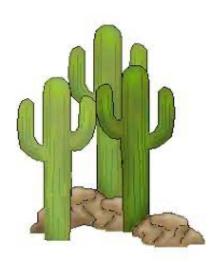


In This Issue



Great Mystery,
teach me how to trust my heart,
my mind, my intuition,
my inner knowning,
the senses of my body,
the blessings of my spirit.
Teach me to trust these things,
so that I may enter my Sacred Space
and love beyond my fear,
and Walk in Balance
with the passing of each glorious Sun.

Lakota Prayer



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Chairperson

CHRISTY HUWARD-STEELE CHAIRPERSON@FCMMAIL.ORG





Below are highlights from the regular July Circle meeting:

Membership Engagement Committee

The Circle of Directors formed a membership engagement committee in response to the concerns of many that FCM is considered a transactional agent to assist people in receiving their credentials and then moving on, only to be heard from during annual membership renewal. The committee is exploring ways to deepen members involvement in the community of FCM through continuing education offerings, micro volunteer opportunities, etc. Serving on this committee are Susan Loving, Sarah Lindsberg, Mark Bernecker, Bill Appleton, and Carolyn Horvath. If you have suggestions for the committee, please email president@fcmmail.org.

Digital Presence Committee

The Circle of Directors voted to create a committee to explore and make recommendations for our digital presence. Our digital presence includes everything related to how we appear online such as our website, social media, and possibly Realm. We are excited for the possibilities. Serving on this committee are **Chris Breen**, **Mark Bernecker**, and **Sarah Lindberg** (for social media). The committee is seeking to add one or two non-Circle members. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please email chairperson@fcmmail.org

Strategic Plan

The Circle voted to engage an outside consultant to facilitate the development of our next strategic plan. There are several areas for focus as we honor our history, recognize our present, and contemplate who we want to be as we move forward. Our hopes are to have something to present for the 2024 Assembly business meeting.





ATTENTION, ATTENTION:

Changes to the FCM Renewal Process!!!

Renewal of your FCM membership and faculties begins September 1st. This year, the Circle of Directors has voted to shorten the renewal period from 4 months to 2 months. This change is being made to avoid the rush to renew that occurs during the Holiday season when most of us want to spend time with family and friends. The LATE renewal period and associated higher fees will begin November 1st this year rather than January 1st. Below are the renewal rates and accompanying dates for each category of renewal. Late renewal rates go into effect beginning at 3:01am ET on November 1, 2023.

As always, if you do not believe you will have the money to renew by October 31st, please contact your Regional Vice President to request a waiver. Your Vice President will then inform the Administrator that you have been granted a waiver. If you need a waiver, please request it no later than October 15th.

Membership Type	Early Bird* September 1st – September 30th	Regular* October 1st - October 31st	Late** November 1st and after
General	\$50	\$ 60	\$ 65
Commissioned	\$145	\$ 175	\$ 275
Commissioned & Endorsed	\$235	\$ 290	\$ 390
Faith Community (50 members or less)	\$50	\$60	\$60
Faith Community (51 – 100 members)	\$95	\$110	\$110
Faith Community (over 100 members)	\$135	\$160	\$160

^{*}Dues waiver available

Please note: After October 31st, dues waivers will no longer be available.

Renewal encompasses both completing your annual report \underline{and} remitting the appropriate fee (or requesting a waiver).

Please be mindful that if you do not believe you will have the money to renew by October 31_{st}, it is more helpful to both FCM and you to contact your Regional Vice President to request a partial or full waiver of your dues. Renewing your membership well into 2024 perpetuates an unnecessary hardship. You will still need to complete your annual report within the established time frame to maintain your membership status. It is our policy and practice not to deny members renewal because of financial hardships.

Ministry Listing: When you renew, you are entitled to a free website listing of your ministry under three of the website's listed categories. Check up to three (3) categories. You will be listed by state, city, name, phone number, email address and personal website if you have one.

^{**}Dues waiver unavailable



ATTENTION, ATTENTION:

Changes to the FCM Renewal Process!!!



2024 RENEWAL CONTINUED

To renew your membership for January 1 to December 31, 2024: follow the convenient method listed below.

Commissioning and/or Endorsement faculties end December 31, 2023, if you do not renew.

RENEW from your REALM Profile Account

Go to www.onrealm.org

- * Log into your Realm profile using your email address and a password you created.
- • From your profile page, go to the Events page. Select the appropriate event (Early Bird Renewal if renewing before September 30th; Regular Renewal if renewing October 1 31st)

Once in the Membership Renewal Event

- Find and click on "2024 Early Bird or Regular Renewal"
- Click on the "Register By" 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".
- ** Choose a Registration type (General, Commissioned, Commissioned & Endorsed, Faith Community) from the drop-down menu and enter 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 and add payment information click **Next**Pay the registration fee (credit card, debit card, or electronic check) unless you have requested and received a waiver from your regional vice president.
- •❖❖ Click "Register"

Please note: The renewal process must be completed in one sitting as there is no "Save" feature within Realm events.





President

TOM CUSACK
PRESIDENT@FCMMAIL.ORG

FCM's Challenge of Witness

We live in difficult times in the USA. FCM is a small but national organization with a presentation to society of holding a set of values that are averse to many current, significant societal trends and ways of operating, held by significant groups and organizations. Our values, such as Belonging and Compassion, fly against strong mind-sets of important institutions (https://www.federationofchristianministries.org/index.html).

Here are some of the challenges: First, the rejection, if not criminalization, of the rights and values of the LGBTQ+ community by states and churches impacts FCM members and the broader LGBTQ+ community. The dignity of this community and its right to live in peace is often rejected. How does FCM witness our values in the face of this rejection? FCM accepts and blesses these folks as our own. They are us. We respond from the FCM value of Belonging.

At our southern border and in many areas of the global south we see the growing pressures of desperate people attempting to move to safety. They flee danger and famine. The Judeo-Christian tradition claims to offer welcome to the stranger and the migrant. We do not see these values espoused in a meaningful way across broad swaths of our society that claim the name Christian. Rather, we see calls to *send them away* despite their need and our wealthy society's ability will to help them. For one, I say organize help and reach out to the desperate. Bring them in to help our own society grow, as immigrants have for hundreds of years. Respond from the FCM value of Compassion.

Daily we read of the mass shootings that characterize American culture as violent as no other nation or culture is characterized. Fear of sudden death is a reasonable daily fear in our society. How can FCM help turn the tide toward a peaceful society that is not dependent on the violence of the gun? We are so small. However, a wise man said, "to appreciate the power of small things, consider the atom" (Sri Chinmoy) We have voices and we can communicate our stance for peace to those in leadership in our society. We can express our values clearly and persuasively. Our American society deserves this from us, the members of FCM. For one, I take these actions. We follow the Prince of Peace.

Facing these challenges, we are blessed with new leaders in FCM. Our Chairperson, Christy Howard-Steele, has described them in her article. They are FCM members stepping forward to lead. Each of these vibrations of goodness can have its effect. When the Spirit wills, these vibrations will go viral to change society. We can change. So:

Thank you to our newest Regional Vice Presidents, **Peter Wolf** (*Heartland*) and **Jo Brenneman-Fullwood** (*Lakes and Plains*). Thanks to **Mike Corso** for standing ready to support **Carl Yusavitz** (*Northeast*). Thanks to **Michelle Joachim** for taking on the responsibility of *Secretary of the Circle*. Thanks to **Tony Ercolano** for taking on the *Chair of Commissioning* position. And there are others.

We can be a witness and we can grow. Please continue your spiritual life above all. And stop by the **FCM Prayer Gathering** once a quarter. There, share your spirituality with your FCM colleagues. Thank you for being on this path with FCM.



Chairperson

CHRISTY HUWARD-STEELE CHAIRPERSON@FCMMAIL.ORG

September Flowers Asters

Considered the 'star' of the show, aster flowers were named after the Greek word for 'star' because of their shape.



In this newsletter edition, I would like to acknowledge and celebrate someone in FCM in a more public way. As stated in the previous newsletters, 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 edition. 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:



William (Bill) Manseau

Bill Manseau is the founding member of the Committee on Specialized Ministries and its first endorsing agent to name only one of his several contributions to FCM. FCM's Endorsement process is one of Bill's legacies. Bill, a pastoral counselor, developed relationships with other endorsers through membership in the Association of Religious Endorsing Bodies (AREB) and the COMISS Network and forged a path for FCM to be accepted by the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC), ACPE, and CPSP. Many of us are members today because Bill had a vision for inclusive ministry that empowers us to fulfill our vocation. Kudos, Bill!! We applaud you with much gratitude and love.

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

Circular Movement

Comings....

WELCOME! WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU.



SECRETARY

Michelle Joachim joins the Circle, appointed as Secretary as we say good-bye to **Sarah Lindberg** whose term ended. Michelle is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Region, a veteran with a 30-year Navy career who is continuing her life of service in chaplaincy. Michelle has been a member of FCM since 2020. Michelle indicated her willingness to serve as secretary in her annual report.

Michelle's contact information is: Email: secretary@fcmmail.org



VICE PRESIDENT, HEARTLAND REGION

Peter Wolf was elected Vice President of the Heartland region in January. Peter has been a member of FCM since 2008. Peter's main ministries are weddings, spiritual direction, and spiritual counseling. Peter is looking forward to this opportunity to serve and companion his region. He looks "forward to learning from you and your ministry."

Peter's contact information is: Email: heartlandvp@fcmmail.org



VICE PRESIDENT, LAKES & PLAINS

FCM's Executive Committee appointed **Jo Brenneman-Fullwood**, Vice President of Lakes & Plains region succeeding Mary Vidas who needed to step down. Jo has been a member of FCM since 2020. Jo currently works as an ACPE Certified Educator at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Jo hopes to "continue the work begun in the region, provide support, and provide support as we continue forward in the mission."

Jo's contact information is: Email: lakesplains@fcmmail.org





Circular Movement

Goings....

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SERVICE



SARAH LINDBERG - SECRETARY

Sarah joined FCM in 2013 and became a member of the Circle in 2020 when she was appointed secretary. As a younger member in FCM and the Circle, she made invaluable contributions to the Circle through her support and using her voice to give insight by sharing her perspectives. Thank you, Sarah, for your faithful service. You will be missed.



SHANNON QUEENAN VICE PRESIDENT, HEARTLAND REGION

Shannon, an FCM member since 2012, joined the Circle in 2020 as Vice President of what was then called the Great Lakes Region. During her time on the Circle. Shannon served on the Grant Committee and was one of the Circle members on the Endowment Committee. Shannon could always be a voice of reason. Shannon, thank you for your dedicated service. You too will be missed.



MARY VIDAS VICE PRESIDENT, LAKES & PLAINS REGION

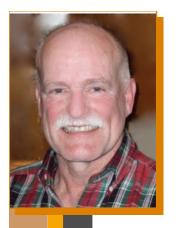
Mary became a member of FCM in 2017 and stepped up to serve as Vice President of the formerly Mountains & Plains Region in 2020 when her predecessor had to step down. Mary served with vigor and generously shared her knowledge with us. Fortunately, for Mary she received an offer she could not refuse and had to step down from her position as vice president. Thank you, Mary, for your generous service. We appreciate all you shared and did with us and among us. You also will be missed.

Non-Circle Changes:

Please welcome the following persons to their new role in FCM:

- Samantha Larson as co-editor of the newsletter.
- Dorie Griggs and Julia Styles as co-chairs for the 2024 Assembly
- Alicia Ware as Archivist/Historian





Endowment

TOM STRICKER
ENDOWMENT CHAIRPERSON





Endowment Committee announces the first distribution of the Endowment Fund.

The Endowment Committee is delighted to announce that we are able to provide the first distribution of the Endowment Fund. We will be providing The Circle of Directors with a distribution of \$3,519 to use in furthering mission and work of FCM. In the 5-year period of time since its inception, the Endowment Fund has matured to the level where we can proceed with this distribution. A major THANK YOU to all who have contributed to the Endowment Fund to support it to this point.

Please consider a donation or becoming a sustaining monthly member.

It is good that we celebrate what we began not long ago and achieve through the first distribution from our Endowment Fund the support of our future work.

It has often been said that people tend to live in the past and/or in the future, but rarely in the present. The Federation's Endowment Fund invites us to value our ministerial past while planning for the future by contributing in the present.

The familiar gospel story from Mark and Luke about the widow and her two coins is often used to talk about the importance of giving. However, the gospel story is not about equal giving but about equal sacrifice. It is not the size of our gifts of gratitude that matter but the degree of our sacrifice: "She in all of her poverty has put in all that she has to live on."

Generosity is not just about stewarding our money. It is more about the inner attitude of how we treat one another. Everyone was passing by the woman as they walked into the temple. Jesus, on the other hand, actually "sees" the widow. What Jesus teaches us is not about what others see and think but about what God sees.

The Endowment Committee invites you to celebrate our rich history of ministry with an eye toward continuing its purpose and impact by giving today and creating a personal legacy of spreading the Good News tomorrow. Consider a one-time gift, a monthly gift, or even a legacy gift through your estate distribution. Every gift matters. No gift is too small. Donations can be made by visiting the FCM website www.federationofchristianministries.org. Click on the DONATION button, select Endowment from the dropdown and make your donation. Thank you in advancefor your generous donation.

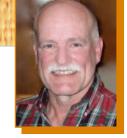
Please keep **Tracy Peterson**, past FCM Vice President and a member of the Endowment Committee, in your prayers. She is in her 5th. battle with cancer. Thankfully there is a drug she is now taking that has great promise. Keep sending positive energy and prayers her way.





Endowment Report

TOM STRICKER
ENDOWMENT CHAIRPERSON



Thank You!

VALUE AS OF 8/20/2023 \$129,151.00

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

- Sign in to Realm or, if in the FCM Website, use the "Donation" button to get there.
- Click on "Giving" (left hand column) and this will take you to donation page
- 3. Click on the "+ Give" button
- 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 Faith Communities

FAITHCOMMUNITY@FCMMAIL.ORG

Three New Webinars this Fall All Webinars Starting at 8:00 p.m. ET

The FCM Communities Committee has planned webinars for this coming fall. These three webinars will focus on important mental health issues. FCM members and members of FCM communities are encouraged to register for these very informative events by going to http://registration.fcmfc.org.



September 25: Is anyone there?

The Surgeon General has called loneliness and isolation an epidemic. What does this actually mean? How can we recognize the symptoms? How can we respond? Meg Park-Landis of the Lakes & Plains region will help us will help us find answers through mental health information, discussion, and case study. Meg is currently a BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF CHAPLAIN at LAURIE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, CHICAGO, IL. She has also taught pastoral care and counseling as an ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR at MCCORMICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, CHICAGO, IL.



October 30: Who am I?

Online influencers can have a dramatic effect on our self image and esteem even, at times, without us realizing it. Often influencers seek to create a fake personal relationship but are really interested in convincing you to strive for an "ideal" image, usually, in order to sell products. J. S. Park of the Southeast region will use his experience as a different kind of online influencer to help us navigate the world of online influence through example and discussion. J. S. is a Chaplain at TAMPA GENERAL HOSPITAL in Tampa FL.



November 27: Not just happy or sad.

What is bipolar disorder? Many think they understand what life is like for those who are diagnosed with this condition. Although there are certain characteristics of bipolar disorder, the way it is experienced varies widely. Mark Bernecker of the Northeast region will provide the facts about the characteristics and use his experience living with bipolar disorder as an example. Mark was diagnosed with bipolar disorder over thirty years ago. He has served as pastor for several Lutheran churches and is current pastor of LIGHT OF LIGHT FELLOWSHIP OF FAITH and NEW LIFE NETWORK



It has been a blessing and joy to serve as the Chair of FCM Communities for the last year. With your and the Circle of Directors support, the Communities Committee has been able to serve our communities and their members in meaningful ways. However, because of my increasing health challenges, I have decided it is best that I resign from this position.



The Executive Committee has appointed **Judy Lorenz**. Judy has been an active member of the FCM Communities Committee and will be an excellent leader for the Communities Ministry of FCM. Please read her message that follows.



FCM Faith Communities

Judy Lorenz, Faith Communities Chair



Dear FCM Friends,

I am honored to serve FCM as the new Communities Chair. I was commissioned in 2016 in the hopes of working as a wedding officiant as well as establishing a small faith community. I am a wife of 41 years, a mom of four with four fabulous spouses, a grandma of five, a former school teacher, children's liturgy coordinator, Senior Center program director and now an active member of that local senior center.

I had founded the Emmaus Community of Bowie, Maryland in 2008 which was a wonderful supplemental alternative for a group of people who were not fully satisfied with their weekly worship tradition. It was a wonderful experience for us and we grew in faith and friendship. However, over time, as my theology was changing, it became clear to me that I could not force my friends to be on the same page as me. So, we mutually agreed to stop the gatherings. It was a difficult decision and a feeling of emptiness ensued.

Finding a spiritual home, a place of "belonging" is important and it also can be daunting. This is why I agreed to be on the Communities Committee three years ago when I was approached by **Ginny Cusack**, co-chairperson at that time.

I was excited to see what the committee could do to increase small communities whether faith, support, or spiritual for FCM, and minister to them as well. We have provided some awesome webinars in which all FCM members and communities had an opportunity to participate.

I wrote a few newsletter articles sharing what our committee are doing as well as articles on two FCM communities that I learned about by conducting interviews with some of their members. I loved learning about each one. In fact, I joined one! So, after being spiritually homeless since 2017, I finally found a new place a few months ago, where my faith is nourished and my responsibility as a follower of Jesus is challenged. There has also been a number of new online support communities for chaplains established in this past year.

While I cannot guarantee that type of result for every FCM member, I will try my best to shine a light on the importance of small communities, encourage people to start one, and support them however I can.





FCM Administrator

CONNECT@FCMMAIL.ORG

"Our dilemma is that we hate change and love it at the same time: what we really want is for things to remain the same but get better." Sydney J. Harris

As we are approaching the end of Summer, I hope that you have taken some time to experience some rest and relaxation.

At the July Circle meeting when we had an opportunity to check in with each other, I shared that I recently had to face the reality that more members of my family have passed on then are still living. This coupled with some other of life changes have prompted much reflection.

I have also reflected on the many ways FCM has/continues to grow in my time as a member (a little over a decade). We currently have approximately 600 members, probably almost double from just over a decade ago. Of course, with any growth comes change and with that change, inevitably, some growing pains.

When I became certified as a Change Acceleration Coach about 15 years ago there was a little quiz at the very beginning of the course. One of the questions was, "What percent of companies on the 1955 Fortune 100 list are still around today?". The answer- "less than 35%". It is hard to believe in the span of about 55 years (the approximate age of FCM), more than 65% of the Fortune 500 companies had vanished. As we all are aware, there are many reasons those companies vanished, but one of the reasons that some of them did not make it was their refusal to keep up with the evolving needs/demands of their customers and the organizational best practices of the time.

While FCM and other non-profit and faith-based organizations do not operate in the same way as for-profit companies, we are still faced with the need to continue to evolve and incorporate organizational best practices.

FCM has already experienced many changes just in my time as a member and that will remain to be the case. If we are to continue to be relevant and meet the needs of our members and those we minister to, I believe we are called to continuous improvement and new ways of being.

As we all have experienced, there are times when implementing change that there are false starts or even mistakes. FCM as a whole, and I individually, have not been immune to that. As we have witnessed with the COVID pandemic, as time passes, we continue to acquire additional and/or more accurate information which can often lead to a shift in our thinking and behaviors.

I believe that 15 years from now, or even 50 years from now, that FCM will continue to be around and continue to be relevant. I also believe this will only occur if we continue to do our part in challenging ourselves, each other, and the organization as whole, to be open to the changes that might be necessary for that to occur.

In Service, Bill





FCM Administrator cont'd

BILL APPLETON CONNECT@FCMMAIL.ORG

2024 Renewal

If I can be of assistance to you regarding the completion of your online 2024 renewal, please do not hesitate to reach out to me by email or phone.

Updated Information

Please make sure that you update any relevant information in your Realm profile. You can do so by logging in and at the top right-hand corner click on the drop-down arrow next to your name and then click on "My Profile" and "Edit Profile". After making any changes be sure to "Save".

Realm Passwords

We are unable to reset member passwords on our end. If you forget your password please go to the log in screen and click on the "Forgot your password?" and follow the steps to create a new password. The new password will go to the email address that is your existing account email in Realm. If you are uncertain which email is your account email, please reach out to me.

Browser Compatibility/ Operating System Updates

In order to experience full functionality in Realm it is important to maintain updated versions of your operating system and browsers. Not all browsers have the same capabilities and it is well documented that websites can work differently depending on the browser you are using. Not sure you're using the latest browser? Go to whatsmybrowser.org/to find out. This will also tell you what operating system (i.e. Windows 10, etc.) you are using.

Unsubscribe

Sometimes, members in their efforts to cut down on the emails they receive inadvertently unsubscribe or mark emails as abusive. At times, FCM members have unsubscribed from Realm (either unintentionally or intentionally). Please give careful thought if you have been considering unsubscribing as you run the risk of not receiving important information from FCM. Our Constant Contact distribution list is periodically updated from our Realm database. Any person who unintentionally unsubscribed, please contact me directly to initiate a resubscription as Realm requires us to get your permission to initiate a resubscription.





FCM Administrator

CONNECT@FCMMAIL.ORG



Beginning August 7, 2023 there is a new, more streamlined, process for the FCM Sacramental Registry which is used for Baptisms and Weddings. The Sacramental Registry will now be accessed through the "News" tab in Realm (Connect).

This new form also offers an Immersive Reader function to assist those with disabilities. We believe and hope you will find this new process a little more user-friendly.

Steps to access the Sacramental Registry can be found below.

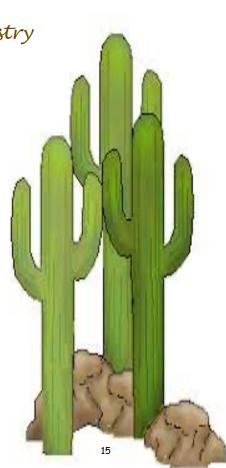
Members will still complete a separate entry for each Baptism or Wedding.

As a reminder- All FCM members presiding at Baptisms must register the Baptism with FCM. We further 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
- The initial screen you should see is "News"
- Look for the "Baptismal Registry" or "Marriage Registry" and click on the provided link.
- Complete a separate registry for each baptism or wedding.
 Do not forget to click "Submit" when finished.
- After you submit your entry, you are offered an option to print or save your response if you choose. You may also submit additional entries simply by clicking on "Submit another response".

Should you have any questions about accessing/using the FCM Sacramental Registry in Realm, feel free to contact **Bill Appleton**, FCM Administrator at **contact@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.





Personal Reflection

CLAUDIA LEE DORSCH, FCM

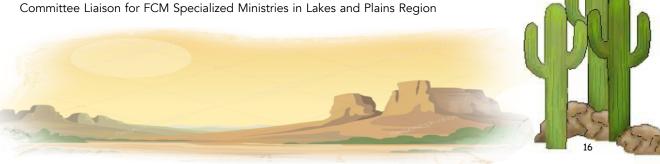
Personal Reflection on the Journey of Becoming a Board-Certification Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains

While going through the BCC preparation and during the interview, I remembered my FCM Endorsement process and how much the experience prepared me to meet with my committee, whom I had never known. I want to share what I have learned from this journey.

- 1. I explained my results from integrating multiple belief systems to encompass a broad audience with practical examples, including people who don't identify with any religion (the none). I accounted Eastern philosophies, shamanic Taoism, Zen Buddhism, and different Christian denominations that informed my practice of spiritual care. My personal history tells the story of my identity formation and taking ownership of my bias. There is a fertile ground for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) work, primarily when people refer to the golden rule.
- 2. Where is the evidence that I transformed the liability to assets by working with my trauma history? In my materials, I acknowledged my limitation, recognized the resources, and named my lifelines in my ministry context. I was sharing my perspectives on self-care and listing modalities that I practice consistently, including but not limited to psychotherapy, spiritual direction, and regular meetings with my FCM ministerial colleague.
- 3. Share how my beliefs and moral values connect with organizational and medical ethics and how they guide me in resolving conflicts. The written examples of clinical encounters should demonstrate the integration of various ethical disciplines.
- 4. Be proactive, even if you think you have a long way to go before getting certified. The Committee of Specialized Ministry of FCM supports our candidates through phone calls and email communications. Follow the directions to assemble the required materials and plan your application schedule with your realistic expectation.
- 5. APC/BCCI has a YouTube video on essay writing, especially the limitation of pages for each essay. (https://youtu.be/gQ4OOmpboPQ). This practice will be crucial to develop clinical documentation proficiency, particularly in electronic medical records. Please familiarize yourself with those 18 identifiers according to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the 21st Century Cures Act that regulates the patients or their proxies have the right to access the medical records, including notes written by the chaplains.
- 6. Find a board-certified chaplain as a mentor to journey with you through the BCCI process. They could be someone new to you to have "fresh eyes" on your materials.
- 7. When I prepared for FCM endorsement, I invited colleagues and mentors to form a local interview committee. The interview committee of BCCI came from my **future** colleagues, who learned about me through my written materials and the interview. Their questions prove they care about me grounded in their vulnerability.

I look forward to more endorsed members becoming certified chaplains through professional organizations that share our mission to heal our minds, body, and spirit.

Claudia Lee Dorsch, BCC, Committee Liaison for FCM Specialized Ministries in Lakes and Plains Region





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

September/October 2023

5 YEARS

Irene Senn 9/11/18 Lakes & Plains Suzanne Ujvagi 9/12/18 Heartland Will Grinstead 10/12/18 Heartland

10 YEARS

Julie Prey 9/18/13 Northeast Ann Greenwood 10/9/13 Heartland Adrian Blissfield 10/14/13 Southwest

15 YEARS

Bea Broder-Oldach 9/19/08 Heartland Jeanne Hale 9/19/08 Mid-Atlantic

20 YEARS

Peggy Holthaus 10/15/03 Heartland





Communications

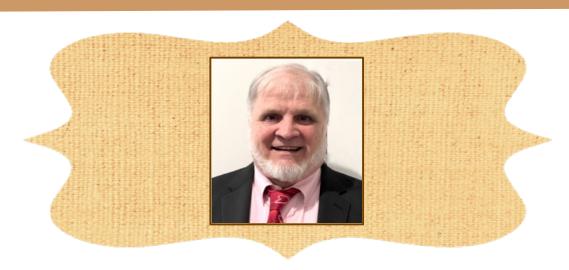
ANTOINETTE MAROLD



Welcome

Samantha Larson has joined the newsletter team as co-editor. Samantha is a Commissioned FCM member from the Mid-Atlantic Region. We are excited to have her on the team.

She can be reached at newsletter@FCMmail.org



It is with deepest sympathy and great sadness, we announce the passing of long time FCM member Daniel Pellegrin on July 7, 2023.

From Dan's Obituary

Dan was a commissioned member for many years of an ecumenical liberal religious organization, the Federation of Christian Ministries (FCM), and became its Northeast Regional Vice President. He was FCM's representative at numerous Roman Catholic Women Priests' ordinations. He assisted President Thomas Cusack in establishing the FCM Permanent Endowment Fund, to ensure the good works of FCM will endure.

Dan was a friend to many. Dan continued to support the Endowment as a Sustaining Contributor since 2017. Over the years he contributed a significant amount.

In honor of Dan, who celebrated his 75th birthday before he died, we would like to challenge all FCM members to raise \$7,500.00 for the Endowment Fund in Dan's memory.

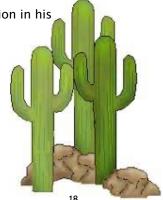
Together I am sure we can raise this amount. Let's honor this great man with a donation in his name. You may want to become a Sustaining Contributor as well.

You can make your donation by going to the following site: https://onrealm.org/fcm/-/form/give/DanPellegrinMemorial

Thank you in advance for your donation. Donated to date: \$2,882.00

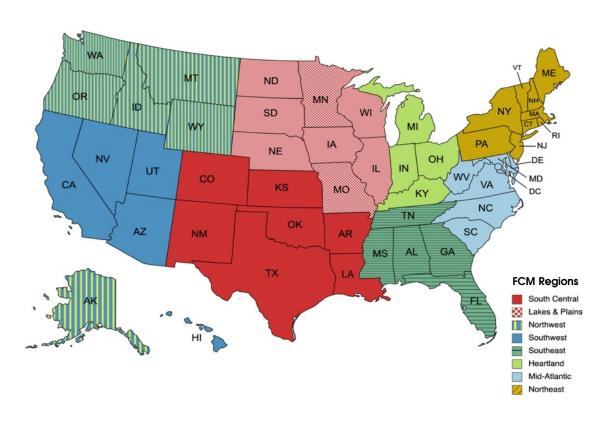
Expressions of Sympathy can be emailed to FCM member, Donna Pellegrin

at: lordbemerciful@gmail.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

Jo Brenneman-Fullwood, VP lakesplainsvp@fcmmail.org

North Dakota South Dakota Nebraska Minnesota Iowa Missouri Wisconsin Illinois

Northwest

Zachary Wheat, VP northwestvp@fcmmail.org

Alaska Washington Oregon Idaho Montana Wyoming

Southwest

Daniel Windham, VP southwestvp@fcmmail.org

California Nevada Utah Arizona Hawaii

Northeast

Carl Yusavitz, VP northeastvp@fcmmail.org

Pennsylvania New Jersey Rhode Island New York Connecticut Massachusetts New Hampshire Vermont Maine

Heartland

Peter Wolf, VP heartlandvp@fcmmail.org

Michigan Indiana Ohio Kentucky

Mid-Atlantic

Susan Loving, VP midatlanticvp@fcmmail.org

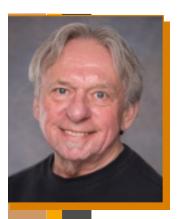
West Virginia Virginia Delaware Maryland Washington DC North Carolina South Carolina

Southeast

Beth Knight, VP southeastvp@fcmmail.org

Tennessee Mississippi Alabama Georgia Florida





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Northeast Region CARL YUSAVITZ NORTHEASTYP@FCMMAIL.ORG



Congratulations to Susan Sciarratta

who was granted FCM Commissioning on July 14th. Susan has enjoyed a wide variety of career experiences in her professional life. She worked as an environmental engineer for 20 years before entering into ministry.

At that time, Susan returned to school for a master's degree in Christian counseling; since then, Susan has been in part-time practice as a counselor. Susan obtained her professional counseling license in 2020, just a couple of weeks before the pandemic changed our world.

Along the way, Susan learned about chaplaincy and worked as a chaplain in various settings: hospitals, hospices, retirement communities, and a private company. It was through her connections with other chaplains that Susan learned about FCM and subsequently decided to pursue commissioning through FCM.

Currently, Susan is serving as a Pastor at the Living Branches retirement community, a Mennonite community, which has three campuses served by a team of women pastors. Susan continues her counseling practice part-time and enjoys helping individuals, couples, and teens thrive in the healing power of Christ. She also serves at a local non-profit, Hands Holding Hearts, which provides support to children and adults grieving a loss. She is regularly called upon to guest preach at local churches and officiate funerals, both of which offer great opportunities for Susan to share a message of hope. We are so joyful Susan has joined us!

Thank you to FCM Commissioned member Alicia Ware, who graciously volunteered to help preserve FCM's important story. Alicia is an archivist at the United States Military Academy (West Point).



FCM Northeast Region Bi-annual Retreat November 3 – 5, 2023

We will be meeting at the **Eddy Farm Retreat Center** in Sparrow Bush, NY. Registration details and lodging costs for the retreat were sent to all FCM NE members. Our theme this year will be God's creation and our role as stewards of that creation. Please plan on joining us for this important time to connect with other FCM colleagues and nourish your pandemic-weary soul. For more information, visit https://fcmnortheast.blogspot.com.

Ministry renewal for 2024 has begun. Please take advantage of the early renewal discount. If you are experiencing hardship in paying for your 2024 renewal, please contact me as soon as possible. There are deadlines for renewal ahead.

Monthly FCM NE Region Zoom gatherings have been well-attended and heartwarming. Although we could not meet in August, our next FCM NE Region Zoom gathering will be **September 9th at 9 AM.** A Zoom invitation will be sent to all regional members.





Southeast Region

SOUTHEASTYP@FCMMAIL.ORG

Greetings friends! Our region has been blessed recently with five newly commissioned ministers. Please join me in sharing congratulations with:



Brianna Finney, DMin

Brianna is a chaplain with Baycare Hospital in Wesley Chapel, Florida, and is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor. Brianna says she is, "Blessed to know assuredly that she is called to two careers – chaplaincy and mental health counseling and feels these compliment and empower her to engage in a regular ministry (for Christ) as she encounters people across their lifespan."



Janyth Bryant, MDiv

Jan is a resident chaplain with BayCare Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater, Flordia. Jan says, "I feel set free now to serve the Lord through FCM, an organization that believes in and supports my call as a woman. I feel the commissioning by FCM will further equip me to serve as I feel called among all people, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, or personal beliefs."



Jeni Rolon, MDiv

Jeni has most recently blessed the Tampa area as a chaplain resident at Tampa General Hospital. She says, "I feel FCM affirms my calling as a woman minister and will be a legitimate spiritual covering. FCM will also allow continuation of a posture towards an eclectic ministry that will include contemplative Celtic tradition, interfaith chaplaincy, affinity with early Church theology, and accountability among community."



Joon Park, MDiv

Joon has found the Tampa General Hospital to be his church for 8 years, as well as a non-profit shelter community service that he has been deeply involved with for five years. Joon is also a well-respected social media influencer who daily speaks to a vast audience on diversity, inclusivity, and the life of a chaplain navigating grief. Joon says, "I have been aware since 2016 of the places of inclusive belonging that FCM might be and continued to prayerfully consider if it was for me. I work among several other FCM ministers and have been inspired by the history of FCM. All these influences "whispered," to me that belonging with FCM is right."



Nicole Wrobel, MDiv

"Nico" is a current resident chaplain at Tampa General Hospital. She says, "As a Native American woman, my ministry derives from the indigenous image of sitting by the fire. Elders and warriors would often meet around a fire after a significant event, listen, and share what took place. This was known as 'sharing the burden,' and was an invitation to the community to share in emotions that others were holding. I see this 'sharing the burden,' not only as therapeutic but spiritual. It is inherent in my history and part of my becoming a chaplain and how I view my ministry. As such, I feel the Creator gifted me with a passion to engage with others uniquely and that I am designed to sit with the bereaved, lost, and crushed in spirit."



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Our Region has been busy as we celebrated Two Ordination Services in July!



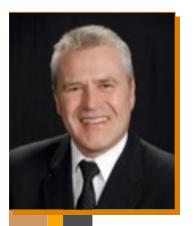
Rev. Jeni Rolon – ordination blessing was held on **Sunday**, **July 23** at O'Toole's Irish Pub in Brandon, Florida via an intimate celebration with local friends. **Congratulations! Rev. Jeni Rolon**. Note: Jeni is relocating to Virginia Beach, VA and we will miss her. As she leaves Florida, our region passes the torch to the Mid-Atlantic region where Jeni will join new FCM friends and embrace her ministry there as a Hospice Chaplain.



A July 30 service of ordination for five chaplains was held at Tampa General Hospital (TGH) in their chapel; thanks to the hospitality of the spiritual care department at TGH.

The following chaplains were blessed by placement of their stoles, laying on of hands, and anointing with oil. Congratulations to Rev. HL McConnell, Rev. Brianna Finney, Rev. Janyth Bryant, Rev. Joon Park, and Rev. Nicole Wrobel!

FCM ministers attending and assisting were **Beth Knight**, **VP**, **Rev. Barbara Zeman**, **& Rev. Wain Wesberry**.



Heartland Region PETER WOLF HEARTLAND VP @ FEMMAIL. ORG



Greetings from the Heartland Region

This is my first contribution to the newsletter and I'm late in getting this to the printer. I ask that you forgive my limited amount of reflection in getting this out before the deadline.

Armouncement: We are excited about the upcoming Maria Stein Retreat on October 27-29. It is taking shape with the organization and meeting of the minds and hearts of several members. We are putting together a gathering that will be, "Harnessing the Power of Love," in our prayer, discussion, reflection, and relaxation.

This gathering reflects the Scripture passage from Matthew's Gospel 18:19-20 "...for where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." This is a gathering of two or three or more colleagues and new members. With that many people of faith and multiple Christian and non-Christian members gathering, I can not imagine the holiness we will experience. Be sure to consider coming and signing up soon as summer is nearly completed.

Another reason to join us will be to celebrate the Commissioning of two of our members, **Trent Elders**, and **Micah Smith**. The participation of the group in prayer over these two will send them into their ministries supported by our companionship.

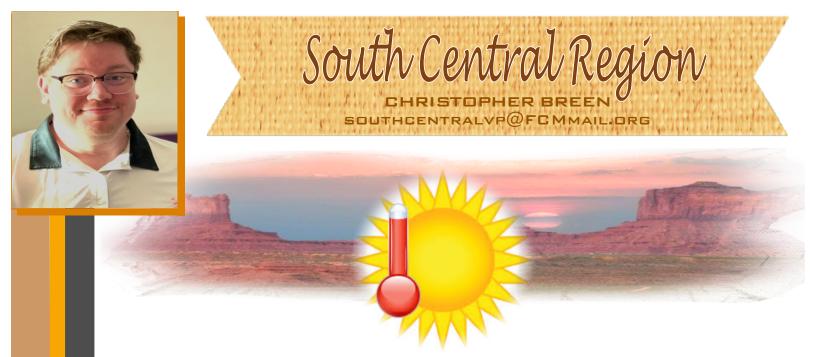
As a new VP, I have learned much from the previous VP Shannon Queenan on the complexity of the role as well as the blessings of the membership bringing us to holiness. We recognize Shannon's gifts of love and faith. Her dedication is outstanding and we pray that she continues to be an instrument of compassion, a teacher of kindness, and a preacher of faith in word and action. Thank you, Shannon.

Meeting with the leadership Circle of VPs taught me the dedicated wisdom and fun of being with these people. As you get to know the ministerial power of our organization consider being a part of the leadership and bring your power of love to the leadership Circle of FCM.

Our future is paved with opportunities. And in our future, we encounter challenges to which I would like to share a reflection. Teju Cole is a Harvard University professor and author of a book entitled **Black Paper**. His essays describe how we can sustain our humanity and witness the humanity of others in a time of darkness, teaching us that, "Darkness is not empty...." Our faith communicates a message that touches us all like a mother with a child. Our dedication invites hurting people to a place of belonging. Our heart's light fills us with our humanity in times of darkness. The letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians sends us forth, "... may the eyes of your hearts be



enlightened...," and may we be with each other as the resurrected Christ is with us.



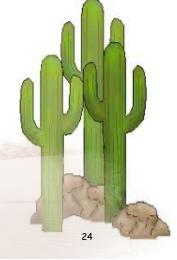
With temperatures between 90 and 125 degrees for the past few months across the majority of the South Central region, many of us are praying for the arrival of Fall and the cooling of the air. The extreme temperatures have also meant that many of our members working in healthcare chaplaincy have been called for more service as hospitals and community health centers respond to those in distress from the heat.

In other news, the Circle met in Chicago in July, and we had the pleasure and honor to discern the future of FCM and make many decisions that will help ensure that the FCM community is empowered to continue to do the amazing ministries they are called to in the world. It was my first in-person Circle meeting, and it was amazing to see and share space with the amazing leadership team I have only gotten to know virtually.

Many exciting things are happening throughout the region as we close out the year. There are many members working towards their Commissioning and Endorsement journey, and we have the upcoming South Central gathering in Dallas, TX in October. For more information about these events and opportunities to get involved, please visit our group in Realm. Members interested in serving on the Gathering Committee to shape and form the program for our time in Dallas, please feel free to reach out to me via email (southcentralvp@fcmmail.org).

It is my sincere prayer that God continues to bless our community and provide strength and vitality to all of your individual and collective ministries. If there is any way that I can be of service to you, those in service of others, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Chris





Lakes & Plains Region

LAKESPLAINSVP@FCMMAIL.ORG

Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive. Howard Thurman.

Greetings Lakes & Plains!

We are in full swing of summer, and yet fall feels like it is on the way in my area with the change in temperature, smoke, and tornados occasionally touching down. I hope all are safe out there and doing well! As we enter this new phase of our journey together, I hope you are finding the support you need to respond to your call. If you need someone to journey with you, please feel free to reach out and connect.



Consider one of our region's area famous poets, Maya Angelou. Her poem calls for us to remember the significance of joining together as a community and area. Please see the following link: https://poets.org/poem/alone

Maya Angelou was born Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 4, 1928.

In the weeks to come you will be receiving an invitation to join a regional meeting either by zoom or in person. I look forward and hope to see you all!

Congratulations!

Newly Commissioned Reverend Kelsey Plummer_ k.ann.plummer@gmail.com



Newly Endorsed
Reverend Charlotte Hoffmann
resiliencehealthsolutions@gmail.com



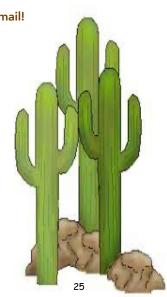
When you have a moment, please drop them a line of encouragement via email!

Final Thoughts from the VP

Many have reached out to connect with me, and I greatly appreciate it, as well as your patience with me. I am currently still learning and onboarding the different systems. I am optimistic about the process and seeing the applications for new members, those seeking to be commissioned or endorsed.

In the coming months, if you want to become commissioned or endorsed, you will need to submit your documents by October 13, 2023. For commissioning you'll need to speak with me at lakesplainsvp@fcmmail.org. If you're considering endorsement, your first step is to reach out to Jeanne Hale at specmin@fcmmail.org. Your area reps will also be a great resource in navigating the process.

For those who have journeyed with FCM for many seasons, thank you for your unwavering service! Until next time, have a couple of wonder-filled months!







Southwest Region

SOUTHWESTYP@FCMMAIL.ORG



Trama

By the time you read this, the death toll will certainly be higher. The cost to rebuild Lahaina is immeasurable, and as the work continues, churning through the scorched earth, looking for remains, Hawaiian natives wait for news they already know won't be good. It is an incredible circumstance as many performing the rescue efforts will recover their own family members.

The August fires in Maui burned over three thousand acres in three different locations. Lahaina was the largest, at 2100 acres, Olinda was 1081 acres, and Kula was 202 acres. The devastation Maui has suffered will take years to discern. This is a level 1 trauma red with implications yet to be determined.

Two FCM chaplains, **Jennifer Crouse** and **Timothy Greathouse**, are there to bear witness, and they are participating in support efforts as they are able. There is clearly a great need for chaplaincy care in this tragedy.

In a conversation last night, with a new member in California, we discussed trauma's impact on people. Various losses occur, including role loss, functional loss, and intrapsychic loss. To be bombarded in this way, with these multiple losses, can have a lasting impact and require extensive recovery work.

Maui is experiencing these and other losses. The circumstances are convoluted around the fires' potential causes and conditions that led to this devastation. There are intricate nuances in the ways this trauma impacts the people closest to the destruction, with ripple effects that carry all the way back to the mainland as some have transplanted family who have lived in Maui for many years.

In such a complex trauma, how can chaplains be supportive? Helping each other to give language to their experiences is a helpful tool in contending with loss and grief. Making time to connect with the chaplains in our region, in our local area, and in our own employment spaces can be healing and rejuvenating. Chaplaincy is hard work. Journeying through life-changing events with people demands that caregivers care for themselves effectively enough to continue doing this important work.

If you are interested in donating resources to the Maui recovery efforts, here are a few starting points to consider:

https://www.mauiaids.org/

https://mauiunitedway.org/disasterrelief

https://mauifoodbank.org





Northwest Region ZACHARY WHEAT NORTHWESTYP@FEMMAIL.ORG

Hello from the Northwest

Summer has been in full swing and I for one am not unhappy when looking ahead to cooler temps and possibly even a little bit of rain. Overall, things have not been extremely busy out here in the northwest; however, we did have one of our members finish up her endorsement process. We are also inquiring about a retreat so if you have not seen that email or survey and you are interested, please reach out to me.

One of the other things that I was excited to do during the last couple of months was bring the voices and experiences of our northwest members to the Circle. It is always special to be able to pass on things I am hearing from our members as the Circle meets and discusses our business. I have included a picture from our most recent circle meeting. I look forward to our next meetings and am always available via email to hear the voice of our members.



A FEW CIRCLE MEMBERS AT THE JULY MEETING.... LEFT TO RIGHT: CHRISTY-HOWARD STEELE, CHAIRPERSON ❖ SHANNON QUEENAN ❖ CHRISTOPHER BREEN ❖ ZACHARY WHEAT ❖ JEANNE HALE FRONT: JO BRENNERMAN-FULLWOOD ❖ SARAH LINDBERG ❖ HEIDI TIERNEY

I look forward to the next couple of months and what they hold. As always, it is a pleasure to be in connection with every one of you. Please let me know if there are ways that I can support any of you.







NEWSLETTER EDITORS Carole duBois

Samatha Larson

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 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, certifictes, 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: info@globalministriesuniversity.org

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