

FCM Newsletter



FCM

Volume 58 - Issue 5
September - October, 2024

In This Issue

Christy Howard-Steele, Chair Circle of Directors

It's Time to Renew_____3

September Flowers_____4

Circular Movement_____5

Tom Cusack, President

Strategic Plan Decisions...Big Decisions_____7

Tom Stricker, Endowment Chair

FCM Endowment Fund's First Disbursement_____9

Sustaining and Empowering Our Mission_____10

FCM's Permanent Endowment Fund Announcement__11

Judy Lorenz, Faith Communities Chair

FCM Communities_____13

Carolyn Horvath, FCM Central Office Coordinator

FCM Anniversaries_____15

REGIONS

Mike Corso, VP Northeast

Northeast Region_____17

Jennifer Friedman VP Southeast

Thank You_____18

Christopher Breen, VP South Central

Embracing the Season of Change and Thanksgiving__19

Peter Wolf VP Heartland

The Heartland News_____20

Jo Brenneman-Fullwood, VP Lakes & Plains

Lakes & Plains_____21

Zachary Wheat VP Northwest

Northwest News_____22

FCM Directory_____24



Christy Howard-Steele Chair Circle of Directors

chairperson@FCMmail.org

It's Time to Renew

Christy Howard-Steele

Several significant changes are being made this year to the renewal process and fees. These changes were outlined in the February Town Hall Meeting with President Tom Cusack and in a separate email. Here are the major changes to the 2025 dues:

- Dues are increasing this year for all types of membership except faith communities.
 - ◊ FCM dues remained unchanged for many years. This year the dues are being increased to hire critical staff positions such as an executive director to tend to regular operations. We have realized that as we have grown a purely volunteer organization is no longer feasible.
- FCM's renewal season for 2025 begins September 1st and will end October 31st. All renewals after October 31st are late.
 - ◊ The early bird discount is being eliminated.
 - ◊ Beginning November 1st, though you will still be able to renew, an unwaivable late fee of \$150 will apply.

Membership Type	September 1st - October 31st *	After November 1st **
General	\$75	\$225
Commissioned	\$190	\$340
Commissioned/Endorsed	\$350	\$500
Communities		
0-50 members	\$50	\$50
51-100 members	\$95	\$95
100+ members	\$135	\$135

*Dues waiver available

****Dues waiver unavailable**

As always, FCM aids members who wish to renew during the regular renewal period who are experiencing financial difficulties. Renewal encompasses both completing your annual report and remitting the appropriate fee. While your current 2024 membership does not end until December 31, 2024, the renewal season runs September 1 through October 31, 2024, to avoid yearend busyness.

If you do not believe you will have the money to renew by October 31st, 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 2025 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.

To renew your membership for January 1 to December 31, 2025: follow the convenient method listed below.

Commissioning and/or Endorsement faculties end December 31, 2024, if you do not renew.

***Please note** in order to renew, you need to sign into your profile on Realm. If you have previously signed in and created your unique password, you can just follow the steps below. **If you have not yet done this step, email connect@fcmmail.org or the Vice President of your region, and they will be happy to send you an email link to get you started.**

If you forgot your password, follow the "Forgot your password?" prompt at the login page as we are not able to do password resets.

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 Community Page, click "Events"
- click on 2025 Membership Renewal
- type your name in the "Add Registrant" box
- select the type of membership you are renewing (general, commissioned, commissioned and endorsed, faith community)
- answer all the questions that follow and click Next
- pay the registration fee (credit card, debit card, or electronic check)
- Click "Register"

*Please note: The renewal process must be completed in one sitting as there is no "Save" feature within Realm events. All questions marked with an asterisk must be answered or you will not be able to advance to the payment page.

Thank you and blessings for your commitment to ministry and to FCM.



September Flowers

Rev. Christy Howard-Steele, Chairperson

I would like to thank Barbara Zeman and Jennifer Carpenter-Friedman for their contributions to FCM. Jen and Barbara are co-vice presidents of the Southeast Region and highly participatory members of the National Assembly Committee. Though new to their roles as VP, they complement each other well. Both jumped in with both feet from the time they were appointed VP's. Their creativity and support of the National Assembly chairs was unwavering even as they continued their support of their regional members. Thank you, Barbara! Thank you, Jen! Your hard work is seen and appreciated!

As stated in the previous newsletters, I continue 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 "Give me flowers while I can smell them."

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.

CIRCULAR MOVEMENT

COMINGS ...

WELCOME! WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING
WITH YOU.



MICHELLE GRAHAM - VICE PRESIDENT, MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Michelle has been an FCM member since 2022. Michelle has 30 year of ministry experience. She relocated to North Carolina from Illinois to pursue a career in chaplaincy. We look forward to the vision and leadership of Michelle in the Mid-Atlantic Region and on the Circle of Directors.

Email: southeastvp@fcmmail.org



MICHAEL CORSO – VICE PRESIDENT, NORTHEAST REGION

Mike has been an FCM member since 2009. Mike is the pastor of Sophia Inclusive Community and a retired Director of Financial Aid. Though Mike has observed the past few Circle meetings as he prepared to officially become the Northeast region vice president, July was his first meeting participating. We look forward to the contributions and impact Mike will have in the Northeast region and on the Circle of Directors.



TAMMY DAVIDSON - TREASURER

Tammy was appointed treasurer during the July Circle meeting. Tammy worked 32 years in the field of accounting of which 28 years was spent in an accounting practice of her own after which she transitioned to the ministry of chaplaincy. We are grateful for Tammy's willingness to serve FCM as treasurer and look forward to her ministry with us.

Email: treasurer@fcmmail.org



GOINGS...

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE FOR YOUR FAITHFUL
SERVICE

CARL YUSAVITZ – VICE PRESIDENT, NORTHEAST REGION

Carl has been a member of FCM since 2005. He served FCM for 6 years as Northeast Vice President after serving 8 years as co-chair of the Committee on Specialized Ministries. Thank you, Carl, for sharing your gifts and wisdom with FCM. May your retirement be full of loving moments with family and friends.

HEIDI TIERNEY, TREASURER

Heidi has been a member of FCM since 2013. She served FCM well as treasurer for 7 years. Thank you, Heidi, for sharing your time and talents with FCM. May your now “unencumbered” weekend time be filled with the love and joy of family and friends.

ANTOINETTE MAROLD, COMMUNICATION

Antoinette has been a member of FCM since 2001. Though not formally a member of the Circle, we offer Antoinette our deep gratitude for her service as Communication Director. Prior to serving as FCM’s Communication Director, Antoinette served as Chairperson of the Circle. Thank you, Antoinette, for your time, talents, and contributions to FCM. May your retirement be all that you hope and need it to be.

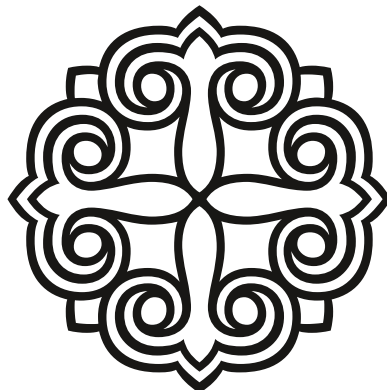
Also retiring from their roles in FCM

Joe Ruane, Ethics Committee Chair

Carole DuBois, Newsletter Co-Editor

Samantha Larson, Newsletter Co-Editor

We are grateful for your service, Joe, Carole, and Samantha. May it be well with you and your families.





Tom Cusack President

president@FCMmail.org

Strategic Plan Decisions...Big decisions

By Tom Cusack, President

At the July Circle of Directors meeting, the Circle made several decisions in line with the results of our Strategic Planning process. These decisions are in response to FCM's continued growth. This growth has put pressure on our volunteer leadership structure, which was developed at a time when FCM had a much smaller number of members. Today our 600 strong individual membership does not allow for leadership made up solely of volunteers.

Organizational Goal...move from volunteer to paid staff

First, the Circle voted to acquire the services of an Executive Director, part-time. This is a major change from our past. The leadership role, held now by the President (within the Executive Committee), has become a part-time job. With FCM's demographic of members already holding jobs, adding a volunteer part-time job on top of a member's full-time job no longer works. A committee is being formed to develop the position description and find the best candidate for this new position.

In addition, the need to hire the services of a bookkeeper to record FCM's financial transactions has also been accomplished.

The Circle has also made the decision to change the leadership selection process for the positions of chairperson and president. The chairperson, currently nationally elected, will now be appointed by the Circle, from within the Circle. The same process will appoint the new president, if the Circle decides to retain a president after FCM obtains an Executive Director. A Bylaws Committee is now working to implement this major change to remove the need to solicit candidates for these offices.

Regional structure

Bringing on more volunteers to serve the regions by working with the current VPs was a key objective here. This goal needs more structural work and more willing FCM volunteers. Please reach out to your VP.

Connections

The Circle is working towards having more virtual and in-person gatherings to foster community. We need experienced members to come forward to be part of the National committee planning gatherings. Consider helping this way.

Website

We have implemented a new website with the dedicated work of the South Central Regional Vice President Chris Breen. Thank you, Chris, for this great development. Please check out the new website. <https://fedcm.org/>

Name

The Circle has completed discussion and analysis of the name of FCM. The Circle has affirmed our formal name as The Federation of Christian Ministries and our marketing name will be FCM. This is like Federal Express, being known as Fed Ex. Thus, we preserve our formal name, responding to widespread membership support, and we preserve the wide recognition of our name, FCM. Thank you all for participating in the discussion of our name. The Circle has also decided on a guide for the logo of FCM that we offer, so we present a unified image in our marketing. You can see it in action on our website at: <https://fedcm.org/>

Continue on the next page

Social Media

The Circle will begin outreach to develop a committee of skilled members to oversee our social media outreach. They will develop online methods of outreach to make FCM better known. Please reach out to me (president@fcmmail.org) or your regional vice president to inquire and volunteer.

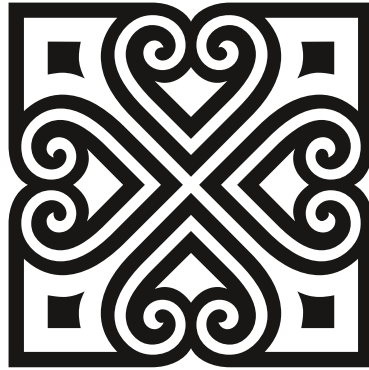
Newsletter

Right now, we also need two members to take on the task of editing the Newsletter as its articles come in. Our two volunteer editors have stepped down from their roles after providing great service to FCM, and we are asking members with editing skills to come forward to support FCM in preparing the Newsletter.

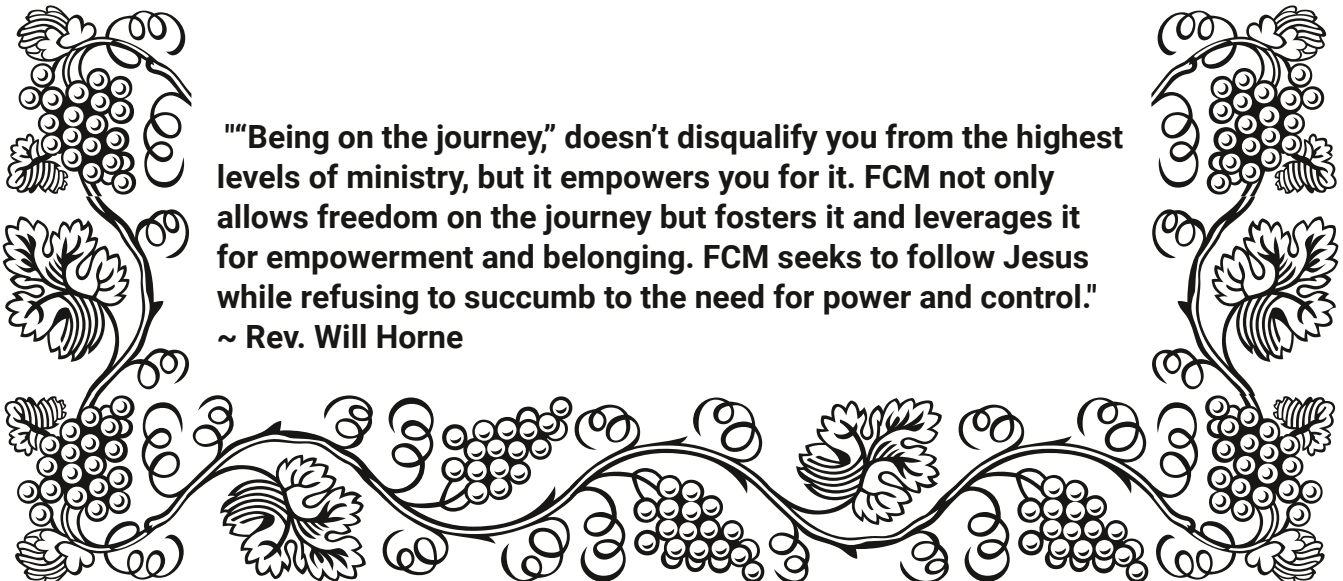
Summary

You see the broad range of change that is happening. It requires a lot of work. Remember, Jesus looked at Matthew at his customs table, and said Follow Me. Matthew got up and he volunteered. So, I ask you, please follow FCM and volunteer.

The future is before us.



**"“Being on the journey,” doesn’t disqualify you from the highest levels of ministry, but it empowers you for it. FCM not only allows freedom on the journey but fosters it and leverages it for empowerment and belonging. FCM seeks to follow Jesus while refusing to succumb to the need for power and control.”
~ Rev. Will Horne**





Tom Stricker Endowment Chair

tomstricker2009@gmail.com

FCM Endowment Fund's First Disbursement

FCM Endowment Fund's first disbursement was used to provide grants to those who needed some financial assistance to attend the National Assembly. Below are comments from two grant recipients who were able to attend the National Assembly followed by comments from donors on why they give to the Endowment Fund.

At the National FCM Assembly in Atlanta we asked grant recipients what receiving a grant meant to them. Here is what they said:

The Grant from the Endowment for the National Assembly is truly a blessing for me. I have been a member of FCM for about six months and as a new member I felt it was important for me to come to the National Assembly to meet other members and get connected. Yet, I have had a great number of transitions and was worried about finances. This Grant helps me by providing some relief of cost. So, thank you.

The grant from the Endowment I received for the National Assembly was the deciding factor that helped me solidify my plans to attend the conference. I really appreciated the hospitality from the committee to extend the offer and allow me to put in an application. The grant helped reduce the cost of my trip allowing me to put more money toward travel expenses and lodging. I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and say thank you to the Endowment Committee.

At the National FCM Assembly in Atlanta we asked donors why they donated to the FCM Permanent Endowment. Here is what they said.

"In honor of mom who passed away ..."

"The FCM Endowment on Giving Tuesday was a good place to give."

"It is a Privilege to share the vision with those in the future ... to help those in need who join FCM."

"I Initially gave toward the legacy and longevity of FCM so other people after us have this community after us."

"I donated in memory of VP Dan Pellegrin with a one-time donation in his name."

"I give monthly because it's easy."

"I give once a year because it comes from my retirement."

"You can get relatives involved too ... Tom Cusack's brother has given to the endowment \$10,000 to create a named donation."

"I buy stock and invest in things I believe in and I believe in FCM."

"I started giving monthly when I learned about the purpose of the endowment ... to help create a better community for all of FCM. I believe that the endowment will continue to help those who join FCM in the future and provide hope for our communities and chaplains who want to further the vision of FCM."

We, the Committee, encourage all members of FCM to become a donor to the FCM Permanent Endowment. Your donation will promote the empower Inclusive ministry long into the future.



Sustaining and empowering our Mission

The Federation of Christian Ministries (FCM) Endowment Fund stands as a cornerstone of our organization's long-term sustainability and impact.

Established to provide ongoing financial support for our ministerial efforts, this fund is crucial in ensuring that our work continues to thrive and evolve in the face of changing societal needs.

At its core, the FCM Endowment Fund serves as a permanent funding source, carefully managed to generate income while preserving the principal. This approach allows us to maintain a stable financial foundation, enabling us to focus on our primary mission of spreading the Gospel now and in the future, remain vibrant and relevant, and serve our communities in need.

The value of using these funds to further our ministerial efforts cannot be overstated. By drawing from the Endowment, we can:

1. Launch new initiatives and programs that address emerging spiritual and social challenges
2. Provide ongoing support for existing ministries that have proven their effectiveness
3. Invest in the development and training of future Christian leaders
4. Respond swiftly to crises and urgent needs within our communities
5. Support small Faith Communities for their physical facilities and related needs.
6. Provides crucial financial assistance to our members.

We celebrate the Endowment's first disbursement of \$3,519. which provided financial support for several members who would otherwise have been unable to attend our upcoming Conference. This ongoing financial support to our dedicated ministers who might otherwise not be able to participate in this vital event, and provides spiritual growth, networking, and professional development. By enabling broader participation, we strengthen our community and enrich the collective experience for all attendees. Our second disbursement of \$6,650.00 was announced at the FCM National Assembly in Atlanta.

However, the continued success and growth of the FCM Endowment Fund rely heavily on the generous contributions of our supporters. By donating to the Fund, you are not just giving for today but investing in the future of Christian ministry. Your contributions, whether large or small, combine with those of others to create a powerful force for good that will endure well beyond our lifetimes.



FCM's Permanent Endowment Fund Announcement

The Fund has been blessed with four Memorial Named Funds, a tribute to the ministry and impact of FCM's Endowment fund.

Memorial Named Fund:

This fund can be established to memorialize an individual, a couple or an organization. The Fund which bears the name(s) of the designated individual(s) or organization, can be created with single or multiple gifts over time totaling \$10,000 or more. Memorial Named Funds shall be separately identified by name and the amount contributed to said Funds in all reports indicating the Endowment Funds assets. The financial assets in these Funds are unrestricted and are an indivisible part of the main FCM Endowment Fund. The four funds were established as indicated below:

- 1. The Donor wishes to remain Anonymous.**
- 2. "In memory of Virginia Lynch Graf, Teacher, Apostle, Wife, Mother, Activist for Justice, Member of FCM". Robert Graf**
- 3. "In loving memory of Nadine Cusack's lifetime career of teaching." William P. Cusack.**
- 4. "The Stricker Family Memorial gift for all those who serve" Tom and Patty Stricker.**

If you are interested or considering donating to a Memorial Named Fund, please contact Tom Stricker at endowment@fcmmail.org.





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

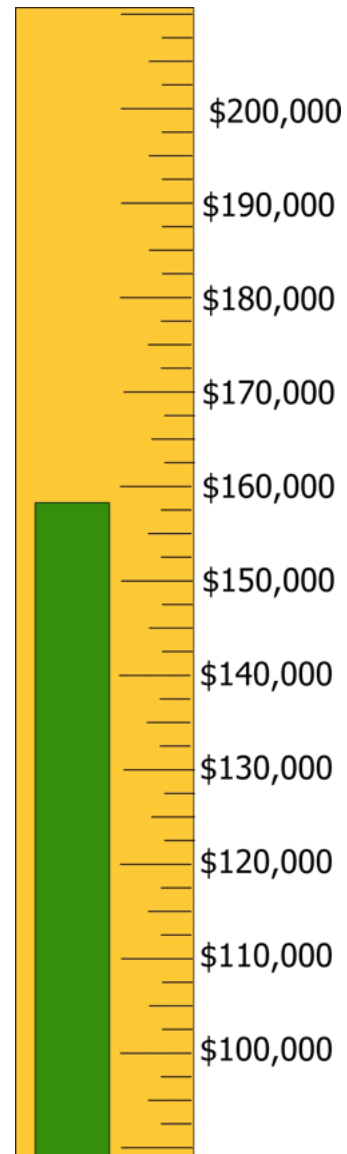
Tribute Gift

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 orendowment@fcmmail.org

The Fund has grown to \$158,800





Judy Lorenz Faith Communities Chair

faithcommunity@FCMmail.org

FCM Communities

By Judy Lorenz

September-October

I would like to welcome our newest FCM Faith Community,

The Congregation of St. Andrew the Apostle (CSA)

based in Flushing NY.

Led by Anthony Ercolano, long time FCM member describes the vision of his community this way:

It is formed to welcome all those, religious and lay, single and married, who are committed to bringing the Church into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

St. Andrew, the first Apostle, brought his brother Simon to Jesus. It is our commitment to continually bring "Simon" to Jesus by persistently reminding the leadership of our Church communities of the fundamental Gospel values - Inclusion, Forgiveness, Service, Communion, Meal Fellowship, Sacrifice, ...

We will engage in daily prayer and in fellowship, when possible, to support each other in our collective mission. When we are not in electronic or proximate unity, we will do this from wherever we are.

We will try to be a prophetic, invitational voice in our faith communities. The Church is called to constant reformation in light of the continuing, deepening understanding of the Gospel in our times. Ecclesia semper reformanda. This will be the mission of CSA. This will be our challenge.

Contact: Anthony Ercolano

Phone: 917-207-6677

Email: asedmin@att.net

FYI - We have had an amazing response to our free screening offer to view the documentary: God & Country!

So far, we have 51 people registered. This is your reminder to sign up now!

Continue on the next page



**FCM Faith Communities Committee
presents a free screening of**

GOD & COUNTRY

**View on-demand
September 18 - October 5**

**Jesus shows us the way of
love, peace, justice, and inclusion.
Christian Nationalism follows the way of
discrimination, hate, and violence.**

**Also attend our discussion on
Christian Nationalism on September 30.**

Order tickets at <https://kinema.com/events/god-and-country-a4gwvg>
Tickets are limited and only available to members of FCM and FCM Communities.
Please order only one ticket no matter how

many people will be watching with you.

How on-demand screening works:

Once you have a ticket you will have from Wed, Sep 18, 10:00 AM EDT until Sat, Oct 5, 10:00 AM EDT to begin watching the film. Once you start you'll have 48 hours to finish watching the film.

You use a web browser to watch the film. You can watch on a larger screen by connecting your phone, tablet or computer with AirPlay, Chromecast, or HDMI cable. For help viewing on a larger screen go to <https://support.kinema.com/en/articles/8533578-watch-on-your-tv>.

American Christianity is in crisis. Vast numbers of American Christians have singled out a certain political identity as “endorsed by God” and cast those who don’t ascribe to the same political belief as being at odds with the Church. This merging of Christian faith with a political identity is often referred to as “Christian Nationalism,” but the name doesn’t capture the complexity of it or the danger it represents. That danger is often discussed as a “threat to our democracy,” but what is rarely discussed is the threat it represents to the Church.

To be clear, Christianity is not the problem, and having one’s faith inform one’s political beliefs is not the problem. The problem is the intertwining of a Christian identity with a political identity such that it can be hard to tell where one ends and the other begins. “Christian Nationalism” is not a religious or even an exclusively political movement. It shapes our culture, civic life, and religious practices more than we realize and has put the country on a dangerous anti-democratic path that threatens the country’s and the Church’s future.

GOD & COUNTRY draws attention to this dangerous moment in a way that respects the millions of Americans who are inadvertently subscribing to some subtle forms of Christian Nationalist belief. GOD & COUNTRY is a window into the pervasive problem driving conflict and division in today’s political and religious institutions. Ironically, Christian principles may offer the best way out.

Excerpts from the DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT by DAN PARTLAND



FCM Anniversaries

Carolyn Horvath

5 years

Garrett Brown 9/7/2019 Heartland
Trish Dick 10/16/2019 Northwest
Scott Heller 9/10/2019 Heartland
Will Porter 10/05/2019 South Central
Claudia Smith 9/16/2019 Northeast

10 years

Katelynn Dalton 10/17/2014 Northeast
Patricia Jones. 9/16/2014 MidAtlantic
Kathleen Schuck 9/06/2014 Northeast

15 years

Michael Corso 10/30/2009 Northeast
Barbara Zeman 10/14/2009 Southeast

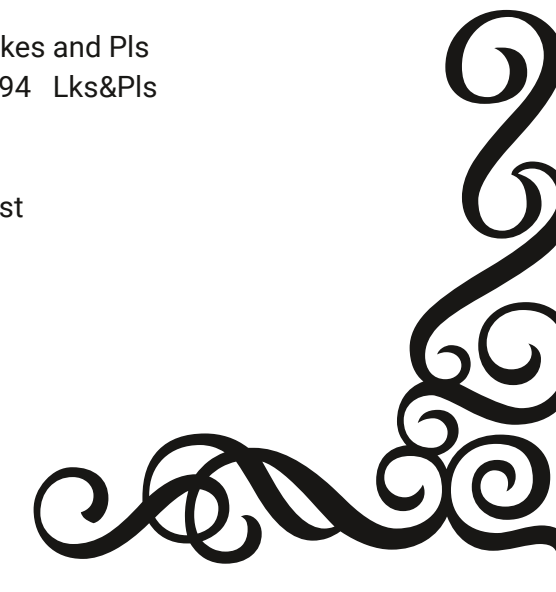

20 and 25 years

30 years

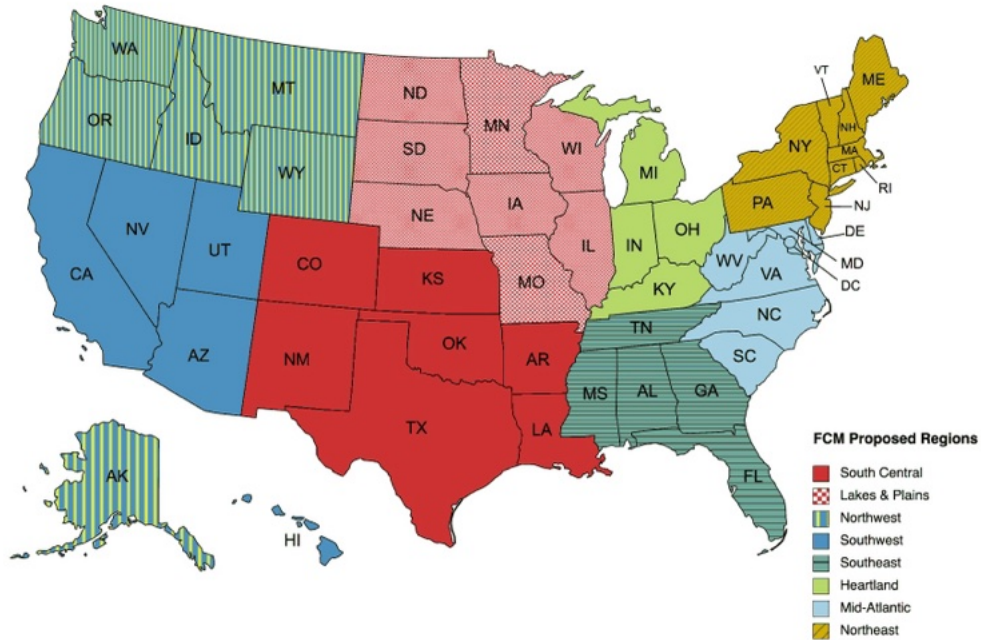
Janice Reithmaier 9/11/1994 Lakes and Pls
Paul Vincent Reithmaier 9/11/1994 Lks&Pls

35 years

Lance Beizer 9/01/1989 Northeast



FCM Regions



Created with mapchart.net

Northeast

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

Mid-Atlantic

West Virginia
Virginia
Delaware
Maryland
Washington DC
North Carolina
South Carolina

Southeast

Tennessee
Mississippi
Alabama
Georgia
Florida

South Central

Colorado
Kansas
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Arkansas
Texas
Louisiana

Heartland

Michigan
Indiana
Kentucky
Ohio

Lakes & Plains

North Dakota
South Dakota
Nebraska
Minnesota
Iowa
Missouri
Wisconsin
Illinois

Southwest

California
Nevada
Utah
Arizona
Hawaii

Northwest

Alaska
Washington
Oregon
Idaho
Montana
Wyoming



Mike Corso VP Northeast

northeastvp@FCMmail.org

Northeast Region

Mike Corso, Vice President

northeastvp@FCMmail.org

Hello!

What exciting times! Congratulations to Federation of Christian Ministries Commissioned member Madeline Baas who was granted Endorsement at our July Circle of Directors meeting in Atlanta.

We congratulate FCM members Osita Ehiabhi and Jessica Jasitt who were granted FCM Commissioning at the FCM Circle of Directors meeting in Atlanta.



Osita states, "One other reasons why I want to be commission is because I have very young independent ministry which I through the commissioning it will help me grow and to impact my community."

Jessica states, "I appreciate FCM's mission of inclusivity among Christian leaders, as well as the diversity of beliefs and theology found among FCM members."



The Assembly was fantastic! Great spending time together from Burden to Belonging. We found rest in Jesus and discovered how those in the LGBTQIA+ community struggled to remain faithful even when church did not accept them



Jennifer Friedman & Barbara Zeman

VP s Southeast

southeastvp@FCMmail.org



Thank you

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the National Assembly in Atlanta, GA! Thank you especially to our co-chairs of the planning committee—Julia Styles and Dorie Griggs! We heard from incredible speakers, ate delicious food, and shared in a great time of fun with a packed southeast lunch! We are so grateful for your prayers, your donations, your attendance, and carrying the spirit of belonging with you post Assembly! As we have been resting up and recovering this summer, we just have a few celebrations and reminders to share:



Congratulations



Congratulations to our very own Diane Dougherty on receiving the Soto Award during our National Assembly! Congratulations also to Shannon Webb and Garth Battick for their commissioning! And congratulations to Theresa Nichols on her endorsement! We are so proud of each of you, and celebrate all you've already accomplished to make it to this moment. If you have questions about commissioning or endorsement, please don't hesitate to reach out!



Monthly Zoom

The southeast regional vice presidents will begin hosting a 30 minute zoom check-in for our Southeast members on the 4th Tuesday of every month. We want to set aside this time to connect, to share information, and share any concerns/celebrations! Mark your calendars for our first gathering on Tuesday, August 27th at 8:00pm EST. Look for our southeast update invite!

More Opportunities to Get Involved:

Here in the southeast we are looking for regional representatives to help us connect our membership across cities and states! If you'd like to help us plan regional gatherings, connect with new members, and support the southeast in general, please reply to this message or reach out at southeastvp@fcmmail.org

Suicide Prevention Awareness

As we are approaching the fall, September is suicide prevention awareness month. While it can be difficult to start conversations about suicide, it's never too difficult to be direct with our love. And in case you haven't heard it today: you matter, you are loved, and we're so glad you're here with us. There are many resources we could share, we wanted to share an article with the story of one of our own members, Butler Vin Cole. Please view their story here: <https://memphismagazine.com/the-darkest-place/>



Christopher Breen VP South Central

southcentralvp@FCMmail.org

FCM Newsletter September/October 2024

Embracing the Season of Change and Thanksgiving

Dear FCM family,

As the warmth of summer gives way to the crisp air of fall, September and October bring us into a season of change, reflection, and gratitude. This time of year, with its magnificent display of autumn colors, reminds us of the ever-changing nature of life and the constant presence of God's grace.

Autumn: A Time of Transformation and Reflection:

The changing leaves of autumn are a powerful symbol of transformation. They remind us that change is a natural and necessary part of life and faith. As we witness the world around us transition, let us also take a moment to reflect on our own spiritual journey. How have we grown? What changes are we being called to make?

Harvest: Celebrating God's Bounty:

Autumn is traditionally a time of harvest, a period to gather and give thanks for the abundance we have received. In our lives, this can be a metaphor for recognizing and appreciating the many blessings God has bestowed upon us - in our families, our communities, and our ministries.

Preparing for the Future:

As we harvest the fruits of this year's labor, we also begin to prepare for the coming seasons. This is a time to plan, to plant new seeds of hope and faith that will grow in the months to come. Let's consider how we can sow seeds of love, peace, and understanding in our communities.

Closing Thoughts:

In these months of September and October, let us embrace the beauty and lessons of autumn. May we find joy in the colors of change, comfort in the rhythm of the seasons, and gratitude in the harvest of our lives. Let's carry these reflections into our daily lives, sharing the warmth of God's love as the air grows cooler.

Wishing you a blessed and reflective autumn.

In Christian fellowship,

Rev. Christopher Breen

Vice President, South Central Region, FCM



Peter Wolf VP Heartland

heartlandvp@FCMmail.org

The Heartland News

Mark Your Calendars!!!

Place: The Heartland Region Retreat at Maria Stein, Ohio.

Date: October 24th – 26th, 2025 NOTE that's 2025

Are you interested? What kinds of topics? Do you want to volunteer?

For now we want to know if this is a priority for you and will you consider attending?



We had a great celebration of installing Rev. Jessica Tinkham as a chaplain for the Trinity Communities of Greater Dayton, Ohio. The service joined three churches, St. Luke UCC, St John UCC, and Memorial UCC, who came together to create a community for older adults in need of care and housing in the Dayton area.

Rev. Jessica was called and installed into her ministry of being a peace maker, urging her to help the weak, encourage the timid, and be patient with all. She was surrounded by the support of staff and members of the retirement community. She was exhorted to be compassionate for God's people and be joyful, pray at all times, and be thankful at all times.

The ceremony concluded with the laying on of hands which is the symbolic act of the church in every age recognizing God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer the gifts of preaching, healing, and forgiving.



Jo Brenneman-Fullwood VP Lakes & Plains

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Lakes & Plains

Greetings & Salutations,

Summer is here in all its glory! The bees are busy, and the flowers are in full bloom. If you are a gardener like me, I hope you are starting to see the fruits of your labor. This season continues to produce new blooms for Lakes & Plains. We have new members joining, bringing our total number to 91, newly endorsed members, talks of name changes now in effect, and new members on the Circle. One question asked at the assembly was, "Why FCM"? I asked one of our regional members who joined in the celebration and commissioning service to share his response. Please see Rev. Will Horne's response below.

Why FCM?



I have been on a long journey of trying to follow Jesus. From "giving my life to the Lord," at age 7 to becoming 'unashamed' in the Christian Hip Hop movement of my teen years, to leaving the Southern Baptist Convention at 18 to go explore, to theology degrees, to community movements, to being pushed out of church spaces for being "too progressive," to navigating the world of hospital chaplaincy - it's all been a journey of trying to follow Jesus. A spirituality open to the work of the Divine requires a willingness to journey, a willingness to expand, to change.

But our religious and institutional spaces aren't too keen on "journeying," (despite "Journey" being a hip evangelical church name), we are too stuck on power and control, it consumes us. We want to guard boundaries, protect the truth, and watch out for "slippery slopes." For many, "journeying" disqualifies a person from ministry. And I found myself in this place, committed to "the gospel of Jesus the Christ," but wondering what my wandering meant for my ministry.

Somewhere on this journey, I was introduced to FCM. At first, I was hesitant. I loved the values - belonging, compassion, empowerment, equity, and mindful living. But I've navigated the church world enough to know values don't often match practice. Cool history, but I've seen "church splits," new startups, and community movements. Once you become legit - power, control, and fear will choke out values, vision, faith (Jesus said something like that). Just another group talking a good game, wanting to use me until the journey leads me to question the powers that be (I'm not a cynic I promise, maybe). I joined with hesitancy and slowly began to get to know FCM. A few prayer meetings, getting to know a few individuals, walking through the commissioning process, all while remaining cautious. And as I continued, I began to think this group is incredibly odd, hard to pin down, and kind of great.

And it wasn't until I came to the national assembly in Atlanta that it all began to come together. "Being on the journey," doesn't disqualify you from the highest levels of ministry, but it empowers you for it. FCM not only allows freedom on the journey but fosters it and leverages it for empowerment and belonging. FCM seeks to follow Jesus while refusing to succumb to the need for power and control. They entrust the Divine to guide the journey, to lead us to the right "slippery slopes," to protect the deepest truths of our shared humanity and the God who meets us in it. That's why I am with FCM - a home willing to be mobile, a people willing to trust that God will guide the journey, a group to empower the highest level of gospel ministry.

Continue on the next page

Like Rev. Will, I, too, was drawn to the values of FCM. I hope we will all find time to rest and enjoy this phase of life this season. Lakes & Plains, please join me by welcoming the new members this summer. When you have a moment, please drop an email to reach out to the following members. Let's welcome our member(s):

Name	Area	Email
Sarah Rowe Bergstrom	Minnesota	srberg72@gmail.com
Stephanie Walker	Illinois	stephanieawelsh@icloud.com
Rachelle Swanson	Wisconsin	biglake1460@gmail.com
Alicia Vela Anderson	Illinois	amvela@gmail.com
Tyler Krueger	Minnesota	tylerrkrueger@gmail.com
Shannon Ambroise	Illinois	s.ambroise@hotmail.com

Update on Volunteer positions:

- The National Assembly planning committee did an amazing job!!! Thank you, committee!!!
- FCM needs a Treasurer: We have found one!!!

Chat with the VP monthly zoom will be the first Monday of each month at 8:00PM CT. Through this recurring link. Just copy and paste the link in your browser or use the Meeting ID and Passcode below! Looking forward to meeting you soon! Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83666911344?pwd=9nGIHUILb240Rlu8Q2wHTxmlb1yLjm.1>

Meeting ID: 836 6691 1344 Passcode: 796312

Final Thoughts: I do hope that your summer season continues to produce fruit that several wonder-filled opportunities!

Peace Be with You All,
Rev. Jo





Zachary Wheat VP Northwest

northwestvp@FCMmail.org

Northwest News

As we move back into the fall and winter we are trying to relish every last bit of daylight and warmth. We were able to recently welcome one new commissioned member up in Alaska as we continue to build a strong contingent in the true upper left. While I wasn't able to attend assembly in July I have heard endless stories of the connection and relationships that were built in Atlanta. I also heard that I may have been described very generously by our dear president.

Overall things feel pretty stable here in the PNW. It is not uncommon for these summer months to pass by quickly and fully for most as we tend to live most of our social and outdoor lives in the several months the weather isn't totally inhospitable. We will be planning to gather more with each other this winter when we all seem to need a reason to get out of the house. As always please reach out if I can be of assistance.



the Circle at the Assembly

FCM Directory

FCM 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 Coordinator Carolyn Horvath

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FCM Website:

www.federationofchristianministries.org 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.

Realm & Membership Administrator

Emails: connect@FCMmail.org - membership@FCMmail.org

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:

info@globalministriesuniversity.org Phone: 866 419 8020 toll-free

FCM Circle of Directors

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Email: prayersupport@FCMmail.org