



Federation of Christian Ministries

FCM Newsletter..September/October 2015...VOL. 49 NO. 5



Federation of Christian Ministries

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A WORD FROM THE CHAIRPERSON...Tom Stricker



In the last issue I expressed gratitude to the FCM regional Vice Presidents who had completed their six-year terms. This time around I wish to do the same for the new members of the Circle who have been elected or appointed to those positions. I welcome **Dan Pellegrin** (Northeast Region), **Sally Sherry** (Southern Region), **Richard James** (Mountains and Plains Region) and **Donna Schreiber** (Pacific Region). It is exciting to have these gifted FCM members on the Circle and to see their enthusiasm to serve. Welcome!

Our treasurer **Ken Knapp**, whose appointed term ends July 2016, has resigned early due to the illness of his wife. Please keep them both in your prayers. I wish to thank Ken personally for his service not only as Treasurer of FCM for the past two years, but also as a past Vice President of the Southern Region and Secretary of the Circle. He has been a blessing to so many and I am grateful for the way he has touched my life. Given the seriousness Ken's situation, we needed to act quickly and are fortunate to be able to announce that **Susan Ross** has been appointed as Treasurer to complete Ken's term. Please see the article included in the Newsletter providing more details.

One of the major agenda items at the July 2015 Circle Meeting was our Strategic Plan. President **Tom Cusack** led that discussion in setting the priorities for the next year, drawing upon the strategic goals and objectives. Priorities by the Circle included;

- Recruiting and establishing faith groups, as defined in the bylaws as a church, a faith group, a service group. This has the possibility of including Catholic parishes that have been closed or filling the needs for a community of faith in a locality.
- Social Justice initiatives
- Support of those in professional ministry and membership as a whole, which generated discussion around the possibility of a chaplaincy faith group.

These priorities led to conversation regarding new paradigms of ministry such as internet-based groups. Members of the Circle also shared their reflections on emerging definitions of church in the post-denominational/new reformation age.

In the light of these priorities the Circle has established two new positions. The first is a regional position, the Area Representative. Given the size of our regions it can be difficult for the Vice Presidents to reach out to all members of the region. The Area Representative will assist the Vice President in building community and enabling connection between members in the local areas of each region.

The second is new within the Circle: Director, Group Member Affairs, who will serve as a liaison connecting groups within FCM, providing assistance to communities who wish to develop a faith group, for example a community whose church has been closed. In August, the Circle appointed **Becky Cartus** to assume this new role. We are in the process of assembling a team to work with Becky in the development of this part of the Strategic Plan. Those individuals include **Joe Ruane**, **Tom Quinn**, **Marie Sweeney** and **Eileen DiFranco**. More information will follow.

Finally we are extremely happy to announce that due to the generous donations members have made this past year, **we will NOT raise membership renewal fees this year**. This makes the third year that increased donations have made increased fees unnecessary. I am deeply grateful for the many people whose kindness has allowed us to keep renewal fees at their current level. You are a gift to many in the FCM community who find it difficult to cover the cost of membership. If you would like to join in extending the work of FCM please make a donation on line or give a gift that keeps on giving by including FCM in your will.

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT...Tom Cusack

Inreach

Inreach is the most difficult of the three actions of "Reach, Outreach, and Inreach." My last two Newsletter articles discussed **Reach** and **Outreach**. This article deals with the critical action of **Inreach**. And... what is **Inreach**?

We in FCM make up a religious body and most of us describe ourselves as Christians. This label brings with it some expectations of knowledge of and relationship with Jesus, and recognition that there is a spiritual realm that is significant, in which we dwell. **Inreach** is the *systematic effort to come into conscious contact with that spiritual realm*. It is a very challenging effort to undertake. But it is critical that we as baptized Christians make that effort... especially since many of us are Christian leaders.

I'll share my experiences here, so I don't get into preaching to the choir. A significant experience in my spiritual evolution occurred in 1986 when my wife and I publicly announced to the congregation the shape of our conflict with the Catholic pastor of the parish at which we had been providing music for five years. This public announcement, as we thought, resulted in our being fired from our music ministry. About three weeks later we came into contact with the Indian spiritual master **Sri Chinmoy**. We both followed this initial contact by becoming his meditation students, and we have been students since about 1988. During these 27 years I have learned about the discipline of meditation. And it is discipline which comprises a large part of the **Inreach** challenge. Here I'll lay out a simple way to approach meditation. Even if you are experienced with meditation, another look at this difficult discipline is often helpful.

First, set up a place for your spiritual discipline. You may have a table or desk in the corner of the room. I suggest that when you do your spiritual activities at home, that you do them there. This structure gives you feedback that now it is time to concentrate on your spirituality. This setting should have a lighted candle, a picture of Jesus, and the Bible. Now, choose an amount of time. Let's say it's nine minutes. Divide this time into three parts. In the first three minutes read Scripture or the writings of a saint. This puts your mind into the context of spiritual activity. For the second three minutes, pray. We know how to pray; that's our long suit. Jesus really likes us to pray, although he pretty well knows what we're going to say. During these three minutes of prayer, you can get in your two minutes for FCM. Those are the first two minutes of my formula **2 X 2 4 FCM**. That leaves you a minute of free-form prayer.

Next we do three minutes of meditation to complete the nine minutes. Here are three simple ways to meditate with Jesus. First, look at his picture with your eyes half open and half shut. This posture gives physical feedback that it is a special time. While looking at his picture have your right hand on your knee and be aware of your right hand "holding the hand of Jesus." Form the intention to have your mind be silent and in sync with him. When your mind wanders, as it definitely will, realize that it has wandered and simply come back to the awareness of your hand holding his hand. Three minutes and done. Repeat every day for the rest of your life, with variations.

Second approach: be aware of your breathing, four breaths in and four breaths out...uniting your breath with the breath of the Holy Spirit so that you can become more like Jesus. If your mind wanders, bring it back to your breathing. Keep counting your breath slowly, until the three minutes are up. Done.

Third approach: give your mind a simple activity when you focus your attention on Jesus. Slowly repeat a meaningful phrase over and over very slowly. This gives your restless mind something to do while your inner attention is focused on a quiet unity with Christ. When your attention wanders, simply come back to the slow repetition of the meaningful phrase. Examples? Jesus be with me. Jesus let me walk with you. Jesus help me grow. Mary be my guide. Mary show me the way. Mary help me live and love.

After while you'll discover that nine minutes doesn't give you enough time. Then keep working at it and expand your time of meditation. I invite you to let me know how you're doing; let me know if you have some experiences you can share with me. I know that some of you are acting on **2 X 2 4 FCM**. In addition I think it would help us all is if we had a nice structured prayer that was two minutes long for FCM. Perhaps some of you could write two-minute prayers for FCM and send them into me or the editor, and we'll put them out as a resource for the rest. Progress in the spiritual life is very difficult, and so if you have an inspiration that might help others, please share it.

So that gives you an example of the action of **Inreach**. If you ask Jesus to come and remold your spirit, your heart and your mind, you will find that over a course of years you'll be able to see changes within. They will be good changes. Blessings to you and FCM.

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Northeast Region

Vice President...Dan Pellegrin

How can I help you? That is the main idea of this article, but I confess that giving back is a primary motivation behind my decision to accept the Northeast Regional Vice-Presidency. I joined FCM five years ago, looking for a spiritual home and like-minded ministers and pilgrims. I have found both in FCM, and so I look forward very much to meeting and serving more of my Northeast colleagues.

A short note about me, perhaps helpful in your figuring how I can be of service. I'm a lawyer ("What's black and brown and looks good on a lawyer? A Doberman pinscher"). My ministry is visiting psych wards to insure the rights and humanity of the patients are respected. Other ministries have included working with the homeless, juvenile delinquents, and with neglected/abandoned children. I'm a deacon in the New York archdiocese, married for 43 years to Donna Piazza Pellegrin, and father of six adult children.

Can we grow together? **Tom Cusack** recently wrote about the importance of connecting with each other. "Networking among FCM members is a foundational aspect We have to feel internal community.... As a religious body we have a responsibility to form internal community." This desire is strong in me, and is found in our member applications time and again. How can I help you? I hope it will be by facilitating local area get-togethers and liturgies and meeting you.

This is an exciting time to be a member of FCM. **Tom Cusack** points out that FCM is no longer simply a ministerial association, but "a religious body of a Christian nature." We are "a convention of churches." I am personally searching for a local small faith community. **Tom** tells me and us: "Since we have a membership that includes many trained ministers, please consider beginning small faith communities yourself that might meet once a month under your guidance. These little churches could meet in a home and they may grow. Those who consider themselves 'spiritual but not religious' may be greatly benefited by these small faith communities that you start. FCM is uniquely positioned to minister to those people. We need your creative thoughts of how to do this." Can I help you with this? FCM has resources for this purpose. May I share them with you? Other Resources as well are planned for the website that I know you will find invaluable.

What's going on in the NE region? **Pat and Paul Stubenbort** said it so well: "Most importantly, all FCM members ministering: in hospitals, in prisons, in churches, hospices, counseling, teaching, in half-way houses, in soup kitchens, at military complexes, and wherever else the Gospel of our Lord lures us to make our ministering presence felt."

Let me here thank **Pat and Paul** profusely for their unstinting and invaluable help to me in assuming the VP duties. They are exemplars: their service to FCM hasn't stopped. They will be attending the ordination of Women Priests in New Jersey, and gifting the new priests with membership in FCM through which they will be able to effectively minister where God calls them. We have other new members now joining and seeking commissioning thanks to the fertile work of **Pat and Paul**.

Actions You May Consider. I offer six:

1. Please call me (914-592-4275 work, 914-328-9732 home) or email me (NortheastVP@FCMmail.org) to discuss how I may help and how we may get to know each other.
2. Continue to do **2 x 2 4 FCM** (two minutes of prayer and two minutes of meditation for FCM) daily.
3. Consider being an Area Representative, wherein you help yourself and those FCM members in your local area. Please call or write me for more information.
4. Commit to only two hours' monthly service to seek out local small faith communities.
5. Join the FCM group on LinkedIn. Join and a part of the online dialogue of your FCM sisters and brothers. You need only request to join the group. Our Communications chair Antoinette Marold will respond to you and you're in.
6. This last one is good. Consider contributing to FCM. This way we can all give back.

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Great Lakes Region Co-Vice Presidents
Ron Davis & Amy Simpson Bennethum



The Great Lakes region would like to welcome two newly commissioned members and one new endorsed member. The two members commissioned at our July Circle meeting are:

Cindy Jones

Cindy just completed her chaplain residency at Cincinnati Children's Hospital but has worked in church ministry for most of her professional life. Cindy has a B.S. in elementary education from Georgetown College, a Master of Education from Northern Kentucky University and a M.Div. from Lexington Theological Seminary. She has served as an ordained deacon, worship planner and leader, lay preacher, youth leader and adult formation leader in the Baptist church. Cindy is beginning a 2nd year residency at Cincinnati Children's Hospital where she will work in their psychiatric facility.

Lee Tyson

Lee has served in professional ministry for the last 20 years. Lee has an extensive educational background which includes a B.A., M.Div., D.Min., M.S. in nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice and Post-Masters Certificate. His ministry includes youth pastoring, pastor of students and, currently, an associate pastor in the United Methodist Church. He also works as a psychiatric hospitalist at a mental health facility.

Newly endorsed at the July Circle meeting:

Salvador Leavitt-Alcantara

Since 15, Salvador has worked in a ministerial capacity in one way or another. He has been a youth group leader, one of the founders of a Youth House in San Salvador, El Salvador, a theology and religious studies at three different US universities. He has preached in various churches both in the US as well as Latin America. Since 2000 he has ministered as a chaplain resident at the Veteran's Hospital in Dayton, Ohio as well as Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Salvador received a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School in 2002 and a Ph. D. in Systematic and Philosophical Theology from Graduate Theological Union in 2009. He has just completed a second year residency in pediatric psychiatry and has been hired by Cincinnati Children's Hospital as a Supervisory Education Student.

We look forward to a continued ministry partnership with Cindy, Lee and Salvador and pray that God will continue to bless them in their ministries.



In July, Amy was privileged to conduct a commissioning service for Adam Ruiz and Kerry Wentworth who were commissioned at the February Circle meeting. The service took place in the chapel at Norton Women's and Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville, KY. FCM member Shannon Queenan assisted in the service which was attended by Adam and Kerry's family, friends and coworkers.



We are excited about the upcoming Great Lakes regional retreat which will take place the weekend of October 2-4. Please see the registration form for more information and sign up today. Contact Amy or Ron for more information.

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Mountains & Plains Region by Vice President...Richard James

When I applied for FCM endorsement, I introduced myself and how I seek to serve humanity inspired by divine benevolent intent. As new Mountains and Plains Regional Vice President, I come to you in anticipation of getting to know each member of the region and their gifts and skills for ministry, discovering how together we can further the FCM cause.

In that effort I am happy to announce our 2015 regional gathering, scheduled for **October 10-11 (noon Saturday-noon Sunday) at Lake Williamson Christian Conference Center in Carlinville, Illinois** <http://www.lakewilliamson.org/>. Members, friends and guests are invited for a time of renewal, learning and rejuvenation. Presenters who will be sharing their gifts for ministry with us include David Edwin Ward (Careful Creation: Eco-Spirituality and Invitation to Permaculture and Hugelkultur), Beth Reece (Life Maps) and Barbara Zeman (Women's Ordination: Opportunities for God's People). I hope to see you there.

I am also pleased to report the Commissioning and Endorsement Service of **Rev. Krista Messam**, held on Sunday, August 16, 2015, in J. Hall Taylor Memorial Chapel at Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL. The ceremony was well-attended, and included many testimonies of Rev. Messam's gifts and skills for Christian ministry expressed by various pastors, mentors, instructors, and parishioners from two faith communities. Just before the benediction Krista recognized and thanked her parents and mentors who nurtured and evoked her learning and growth as a minister, as well as FCM.



Right to Left: Rev. Daniel Hoard, Rev. Tina Ward, Rev. Richard James, FCM Regional V.P., Rev. Krista Messam, Rev. Dr. William Walthall (Krista's father), Rev. Christy Howard-Steele FCM Endorsing Agent, and Rev. JoAnn O'Reilly, FCM, CPE Supervisor at Rush University Medical Center

over a newborn baby, celebrate a successful surgery, offer prayer and a listening ear when the treatment was not successful or grieve with a family over the loss of a loved one. I have the privilege and honor of bearing witness to the most sacred and holy moments of life."

As you might understand, the event was truly an experience of standing on Holy Ground!

Then she offered a personal testimony to her relationship with the Divine and service to humanity as a chaplain. In the process she thanked her husband for the sacrifices he made during her ministry preparation and recalled how she met him on a dance floor as they learned to dance the tango. Describing her ministry as a chaplain she explained, "Tango literally means reserved ground or closed space. What is shared between the two dance partners cannot be known or seen by the outside world. It is an experience that only the two dancers bear witness to, finding themselves in the vulnerability of an embrace attempting to navigate their way through a crowded dance floor to music that each of them most likely interprets differently.

As a chaplain and a minister of God, I believe I am called to facilitate or help to create reserved ground in which to encounter the Holy and closed space in which to experience that which is most sacred. As a chaplain, I have the opportunity to be invited to share in the work of God in people's lives. Whether it is to speak a blessing

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Southern Region by Vice President....Sally Sherry



Greetings to the Southern Region of FCM members. I am Sally Sherry the new VP for the Southern Region of FCM. I can never fill the shoes of Ginny and Robert Graf, but I promise to support you all and am looking forward to talking with all of you. My home phone where I can be reached is: 561-799-7906 so feel free to call me and introduce yourself. If I do not have an answer for your questions, I will call back after finding the answer with the appropriate persons. I have been in FCM for about 15 years and started in Cleveland where we had lots of active members living in the vicinity. In the South we are much more spread out so we will have to make an extra effort to connect.

I hope everyone had a great time on the retreat cruise and I will be happy to hear about it—pictures included. I had a family funeral/reunion in Ashville, N.C. and am so sorry that I could not be with you.

The Circle meeting was chock full of working meetings and information. I never saw the outside of the hotel until we were leaving. Much got done, and again, I was so impressed with the group and their talents, friendliness, willingness to help. I think my bonding to FCM first occurred during one of the conventions and I hope you can come next August. I also found Tom Leonhardt and Carolyn Horvath's church groups in Cleveland stimulating and meaningful.

Please sign on to the the FCM website if you have not done so yet. Also, when it's time to renew please get the information into Central Office ASAP as doing that early will save me headache time!

I would sincerely be happy to hear your suggestions and comments and also would love to know what you are doing for your soul work with FCM. You can e-mail me through the FCM website or my personal e-mail at Stsherry@comcast.net or SallySherry@post.harvard.edu or southernvp@FCMmail.org and I will get back to you.

In truth and Light
Sally T. Sherry Southern VP

**I wish I could show you
The astonishing light
Of your own being. Hafiz**

Robert and Virginia Graf, ended their terms as Vice Presidents of FCM Southern Region with a big splash. Planning a regional retreat and cruise from August 10 to 14 on The Royal Caribbean's "Enchantment of the Seas," 13 members enjoyed fun, relaxation, and spiritual enrichment. Tom McLeod, Richard and Nancy Penaskovic, Marge and Tom Wilt, Virginia, Robert and Rosanna Graf presented prayer and other reflection exercises. Bernie Callahan brought his guitar and musical talent. Marge Wilt organized a tour of Nassau. The overall experience was one we would recommend. It was a successful community building event.



FCM Sailors (l to r) Back Row: Tom Wilt, Thom McLeod, Marge Wilt, Robert Graf, Donna Kowalczyk, Cynthia Turnes, Rosie Graf, Elizabeth Carreras, Front Row: Virginia Graf, Nancy Penaskovic, Richard Penaskovic, Betty Genter, Bernie Callahan.

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FCM Communications

by Antoinette Marold ...Email: communication@FCMmail.org

FCM membership brings with it many opportunities for spiritual growth and a connection with colleagues.

Along with this article you will find a chart with information on how FCM connects with members and the outside world.

In this article, I would like to draw your attention to the Member Login Area of the FCM website...
www.federationofchristianministries.org

When you LOGIN you will see a Members Only tab on the top right of the screen.

1. First on the list is a Ministry Listing Form. If you would like your ministry listed on the FCM website, complete the form. This is a benefit of membership. You can select 3 ministries to be listed under at no cost to you. You will be expected to update this request in February of each calendar year. You can complete the form online or download the pdf and send it in to the FCM Central Office.
2. Second on the list is the Baptism Registry Form. If you preside at a baptism you **MUST** register the baptism with FCM. Complete and submit the form.
3. Third on the list is the Marriage Registry Form. This is not mandatory but suggested.
4. Fourth on the list is the Holy Union Registry Form. This is not mandatory but suggested.
5. FCM Newsletters - The most recent newsletter along with an archive of several years of newsletters are available. If you have the time, it is helpful to read some of the past newsletters to get to know us,
6. An online membership list. This is not a complete list of members and their ministries, only those who have registered in the login area.
7. FCM membership list. This is a listing of the members and group members . It is updated every 3 months and can be downloaded by members. Please do not share this list.

If you are not registered to LOGIN to the MEMBERS ONLY area of the FCM website, please email me at communication@FCMmail.org for instructions to access.

Please like us on the FCM Facebook page.

FCM COMMUNICATING



THE FCM FACEBOOK PAGE IS THE WORLD LOOKING AT US. OUR COMMENTS ARE PRAYERFUL AND WE ARE CONNECTING WITH ANYONE WHO IS ON THE INTERNET WHO IS INTERESTED IN READING OUR PAGE. TO HELP FCM GET NOTICED PLEASE GO TO THE FCM WEBSITE AND CLICK THE **FACEBOOK BUTTON** AND THEN THE **LIKE** BUTTON WHEN YOU ARE ON THE FCM FACEBOOK PAGE.



NEW...THE FCM BLOG! FIND IT ON THE FCM WEBSITE OR FCMBLOG.ORG. THE BLOG IS AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE ON THE INTERNET TO READ AND MAKE COMMENTS. BLOGS ARE POSTED BY FCM AND WRITTEN BY FCM MEMBERS. THE CONTENTS ARE THE SENTIMENTS OF THE AUTHOR OF THE POST AND NOT NECESSARILY THE FCM COMMUNITY. **CHECK IT OUT!**



FCM HAS A GROUP ON LINKEDIN. THE GROUP IS FOR **FCM MEMBERS ONLY**. IT IS A PLACE FOR FCM MEMBERS TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER. IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF LINKEDIN GO TO THE GROUP AREA, FIND FCM AND REQUEST MEMBERSHIP TO THE FCM GROUP. IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF LINKEDIN...JOIN MEMBERSHIP IS FREE....



CONSTANT CONTACT IS THE MEDIA THAT FCM USES TO COMMUNICATE WITH FCM MEMBERS. ALL OF THE FCM COMMUNICATION SENT TO THE MEMBERSHIP IS SENT VIA CONSTANT CONTACT. THIS INCLUDES THE FCM NEWSLETTER, ASSEMBLY INFORMATION, GENERAL NEWS OF INTEREST AND ANNOUNCEMENTS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE CENTRAL OFFICE HAVE YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS.

**FCM
WEBSITE**

WWW.FEDERATIONOFCHRISTIANMINISTRIES.ORG - THE FCM WEBSITE IS A SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND THOSE WHO ARE EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT FCM IT CAN PROBABLY BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE. CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, FCM HISTORY, EVENTS AND MANY OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST ARE ON THE WEBSITE.

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New Officers Bring Talent, Commitment

by John Polanski, Newsletter Editor

By now, anyone reading this is aware of the changes that have taken place of late at FCM. Amidst a flurry of activity the leadership of our organization is in new hands and a figurative glance around the Circle reveals plenty of new faces. Elsewhere in this issue regional vice-presidents are introducing themselves as is the newly-created coordinator of group affairs. Rounding out the group of incoming officers are our secretary and treasurer, positions that are now filled by members from the Southern and Great Lakes regions respectively.



Filling the capable shoes of **Bea Broder-Oldach** is **Diane Dougherty**, an ordained Roman Catholic Woman Priest serving in Atlanta. A self-described feminist, liberation theologian and human rights activist, she states that her ministry is centered in serving the cause of justice for women through the light of the Gospel. "Because Women Priests proclaim a theology that strengthens the recognition of human rights, I work to create communal frameworks focused on equality, remaining inside the structures of our present institution."

Diane has worked for First Metropolitan Community Church in support of the LGBTQ community as well as advocated in the legislature with Georgia Equality to quash the Religious Liberty Bill for 2015. An ecumenical leader, she is an active member of the Education Committee of Concerned Black Clergy, joining in an effort to support education and build coalitions throughout the state to inform voters about pending legislation that may weaken public schools. In addition to performing baptisms, weddings, burying the homeless and conducting healing services, she served along with 70 women from twenty nations as a Human Rights Defender in a workshop held at the Carter Center.

"My Church has become the Church of the Visitation," she explains, "wherein I go to meet those on the margins and gather around them those who can fulfill their needs. My ministry is mobile-embedded with numerous conversations about what an egalitarian church would look like within a discipleship of equals."



Susan Ross, who makes her home in Indianapolis, steps into the unexpired term of **Ken Knapp** bringing a varied set of skills. After college she taught high school and coached collegiate softball and volleyball before moving into the business field. Working as CEO of a small financial services office in Fort Wayne, she enrolled at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Indiana, obtaining her MA in Theology in 2008.

Five years ago came a significant change in employment - and climate! - when Susan found herself in Palm Harbor, Florida in a chaplain residency program. As an inpatient chaplain she saw first-hand the spiritual needs of patients, families and staff. Eventually moving into a weekend and PRN position, she furthered her education and experience with her presence at deaths and making bereavement calls.

In January of 2013 she returned to her Hoosier roots and has worked at St. Vincent Hospice in Indianapolis, providing support services to staff, patients and families alike. Her efforts there focused on areas as diverse as memorial services, assessing the spiritual needs of patients and representing the facility in the community. This past March Susan was designated Associate Certified Chaplain and anticipates completing the requirements for full board certification within six months.

Even as we commend these two for their willingness to serve, it is important to recognize the diversity in life experience and ministerial dedication they represent. Each in her own way, Susan and Diane stand for the breadth of background that one finds throughout our membership. So as we applaud their generosity might we also salute ourselves and recognize how our presence wherever we are celebrates and reveals the divine in our midst. Here's to you, FCM!

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\$6,913.00

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NOTE: For those members interested in making a recurring donation you can do this either (1) by using your bank's bill pay function to send out a monthly check to: Federation of Christian Ministries, 3522 Jean Street, Fairfax, VA 22030-2318 or (2) by using PayPal.

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Director, Group Member Affairs

Rebecca Cartus

Taking Calls

A call center . . . sometimes I feel as if I live inside a blinking, winking call center. Taking on incoming communiqués. Receiving important messages. Following up with timely responses. Even with all the i-touching that goes on these days, it seems to me that I live, right smack in the middle of a bustling core of activity - buzzing with ideas to explore and opportunities to expand, humming with ways to live more fully and to serve more effectively.

Actually, life at the hub of such an active operation rings true as a habitat of my own humanity. Always has been. As a primary school child, the call to teach tickled my ears from an early age, prompting me to hang a black board in my room in place of a Beatles poster and to instruct a bed filled with imaginary students what I learned that day.

A teaching certificate and career later and after I left the classroom to tend to a nursery full of my own children (Abby Cartus was born in 1988 and Rachel Cartus followed in 1993), the *Good Vibrations* to carry my teaching expertise into the church resulted in a second career as a Christian educator - first with the Presbyterians and then with the United Methodists.

And then the lights lit up a direction to seminary and a desire to ordained ministry. The call was genuine . . . the yearning was real . . . but the path to becoming clergy was anything but ordinary. Rebuffed by the Presbyterians, discouraged by the Episcopalians, disinterested by the Methodists, befuddled by the Roman Catholic Woman Priests, I stood, amazed, when the message board flashed with the solitary yet strong light of The Federation of Christian Ministries. A member since 2012, a minister commissioned to ministry in 2013, I now serve as installed minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Smithton in Smithton, PA.

And, yet again, the center of my life blazes to life with the chance to answer the new call set before me. The FCM Circle of Directors appointed me as the Director of Group Affairs, a brand new position within the organization to focus on and foster the faith communities already in existence or still on paper. To provide a sacred space for the disinherited and a holy place for the marginalized. And, above all, to share the good news of the greater One and Many, with all of its holy mystery and with all of its divine glory. And, I believe, that in doing so, we, at FCM, will expand the presence and the purpose of our denomination, across the country and out, into the world.

Thank you for the chance to lead such an awesome charge.
Gotta go . . . I hear the phone ringing.



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FCM Group Member.. Good Shepherd Companions

by William J. Manseau

In terms of its mission, the Good Shepherd Companions community succeeds the Ecumenical Catholic Diocese of the Americas as an international Ecumenical Catholic Ordinariate. It gives expanded expression to the Diocese's St. Barnabas Mission to radiate Christ in the world by building bridges of faith, hope and love. The mission of the Companions is to be leaven in the dough primarily in four areas of Christian life: marriage and family; a mercy and justice based ordained ministry; gender and sexual equality; and the evangelical renewal and restoration of unity among the churches for the life of the world as envisioned by Vatican Council II.

The Companions envision a Church which is focused on preparing its members to live their marital and family lives in accord with Gospel values of mutuality, equity and charity. They envision a Church where the members are free to serve in the Church in accord with their charism and spiritual gifts whether they are male or female, married or single. They envision a Church where one's sexuality justly exercised is honored and respected as a gift from God. They envision a universal church in which the particular churches live in harmonious collaboration with one another as they seek to bind up the wounds of the world, preserve the earth, and seek a just future for all creatures on the planet.

We currently number 19 households in our community which spans the United States (Metropolitan Boston, Metropolitan Hartford, Metropolitan New York, Rochester, NY, Metropolitan Philadelphia, Metropolitan Cleveland, Metropolitan Washington, DC, Metropolitan Mobile, and High Point, NC as well as Central America, Great Britain, Austria (Pettenbach and Vienna), southern India and South Sudan.

The Good Shepherd Companions is a member community of the Federation of Christian Ministries and the International Federation for a Renewed Catholic Ministry. We are an international Ordinariate within the Married Priests Now! USA Catholic Prelature of Sts. Peter and Paul. Our Community is served by a Board of Directors consisting at the moment of William J. Manseau, President; Christine Mayr-Lumetzberger, Vice President; Peter Paul Brennan, Treasurer; Robert Graf, Secretary; Virginia Graf, Director; Richard Kowalczyk, Chancellor; Gail M. Weisman, Director. Interested persons may contact Robert Graf, Secretary who also serves as Director of Communications. Robert may be reached at Robertgraf@aol.com or 304-728-2829.

Federation of Christian Ministries

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Specialized Ministries Newly-Endorsed Members Recognized

by Judith McBride, Great Lakes Regional Liaison for the Committee on Specialized Ministries

It is a joy and privilege for The Committee on Specialized Ministries (CSM) to congratulate our 8 newly endorsed members! Each of these members faithfully completed the candidacy process through submitting extensive application materials, meeting with a local/regional interview committee, being recommended by the CSM, and receiving final approval from the FCM Circle of Directors at the July meeting. Each of these newly-endorsed individuals brings a richness and diversity of personal backgrounds and professional experiences to our membership. We look forward to getting to know them as endorsed FCM colleagues and enjoying the fruits of the spiritual gifts they bring to our community.

Melinda Bassett Andrew: Pacific Region. Melinda has a B.A. from UCLA, a Master of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary, and four units of CPE from California Pacific Medical Center. Over the past 8 years, Melinda has worked as a chaplain in hospice and hospital settings and is pursuing board certification with APC.

Salvador Leavitt-Alcántara: Great Lakes. Salvador recently completed a Second-Year CPE Residency specializing in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. He completed his 7th unit of CPE and will begin his journey as a CPE Supervisory Education Student at Cincinnati Children's in the fall. Salvador has a Master's in Theological Studies from Harvard University and a Doctorate in Theology and Religious Studies from Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA.

Galen Surlak-Ramsey: Southern Region. Galen is currently employed full-time as a Chaplain and Spiritual Counselor with TideWell Hospice in Northport, Florida. He has a Master of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary and a B.A. from the University of Central Florida. He has completed four units of CPE, all at Florida Hospital.

Heidi A. Tierney: Northeast Region. Heidi holds a B.S. in Accounting from Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, VA, an M.Div. from Drew University in Madison, NJ, and training in Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). Currently, Heidi ministers as a "support" chaplain at St. Luke's University Hospital Network in Bethlehem, PA.

Adam James: Mountains and Plains. Adam completed his undergraduate degree in biblical and theological studies at Bethel University in St. Paul, MN, and earned a Master's in Theology and Ethics at University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He is currently completing a three-unit CPE residency at UMMC-- Fairview in Minneapolis, MN, and will be seeking board certification with APC.

Karen R. Beck: Mountains and Plains. Karen's current ministry is as a Chaplain at Christus St. Michael Health in Texarkana, TX, and is pursuing board certification with APC. She received an undergraduate degree in Social Work from Abilene Christian, and her M.Div. from Brite Theological School.



Krista Marie Messam (left) Krista earned an undergraduate degree in Intercultural Studies at Biola University in California, and recently completed her Master of Divinity degree at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. She has served in youth ministry, including praise ministry leadership, has ministered as a hospice volunteer as well as coordinating volunteers for Hospice Advantage, and currently is serving as a hospital chaplain in her CPE Residency at Rush Medical Center. Krista currently in the Mountain & Plains Region will be moving to the Pacific Region at the end of August.

Tina M. Ward: Mountains and Plains (right). Tina holds a BA in Theology from Chicago Baptist Institute, and an M.Div. from McCormick Theological Seminary. She has completed 4 units of CPE and will be seeking board certification with APC. She currently works as a registry chaplain at Rush Medical Center in Chicago. Prior to CPE, Tina served in ministry for over 20 years and most recently served as Senior Pastor of a "Worshippers' Ministry (Church without Walls)" that served the homeless community.



FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

MARK YOUR CALENDARS....

SAVE THE DATES



AUGUST 5-7, 2016

FCM 2016 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

*With Open
Arms*

Keynote Speaker

Bishop John Shelby Spong

Friday Keynote Speaker

Maryann Duddy-Burke

Executive Director, Dignity USA

Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel...Cleveland, Ohio

ATTENTION FCM MEMBERS

The Assembly Committee is REQUESTING suggestions for workshop presenters

for the Pre-Assembly Workshops on Friday, August 5th.

and for Assembly Workshops on Saturday, August 6th.

Please send your suggestions to Patty Stricker

Email: xavier9660@gmail.com

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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 Website
www.federationofchristianministries.org



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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 twice yearly. Endorsement application materials are available for downloading on the FCM website at: www.federationofchristianministries.org Inquiries may be made at: specmin@FCMmail.org

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GLOBAL MINISTRIES UNIVERSITY

GMU offers degree completion programs 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: GMU5053@aol.com Phone: 866 419 8020 toll-free

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 15th of each month (February, April, June, August, October and December).