

Federation of Christian Ministries

2016 Assembly - August 5-7, 2016

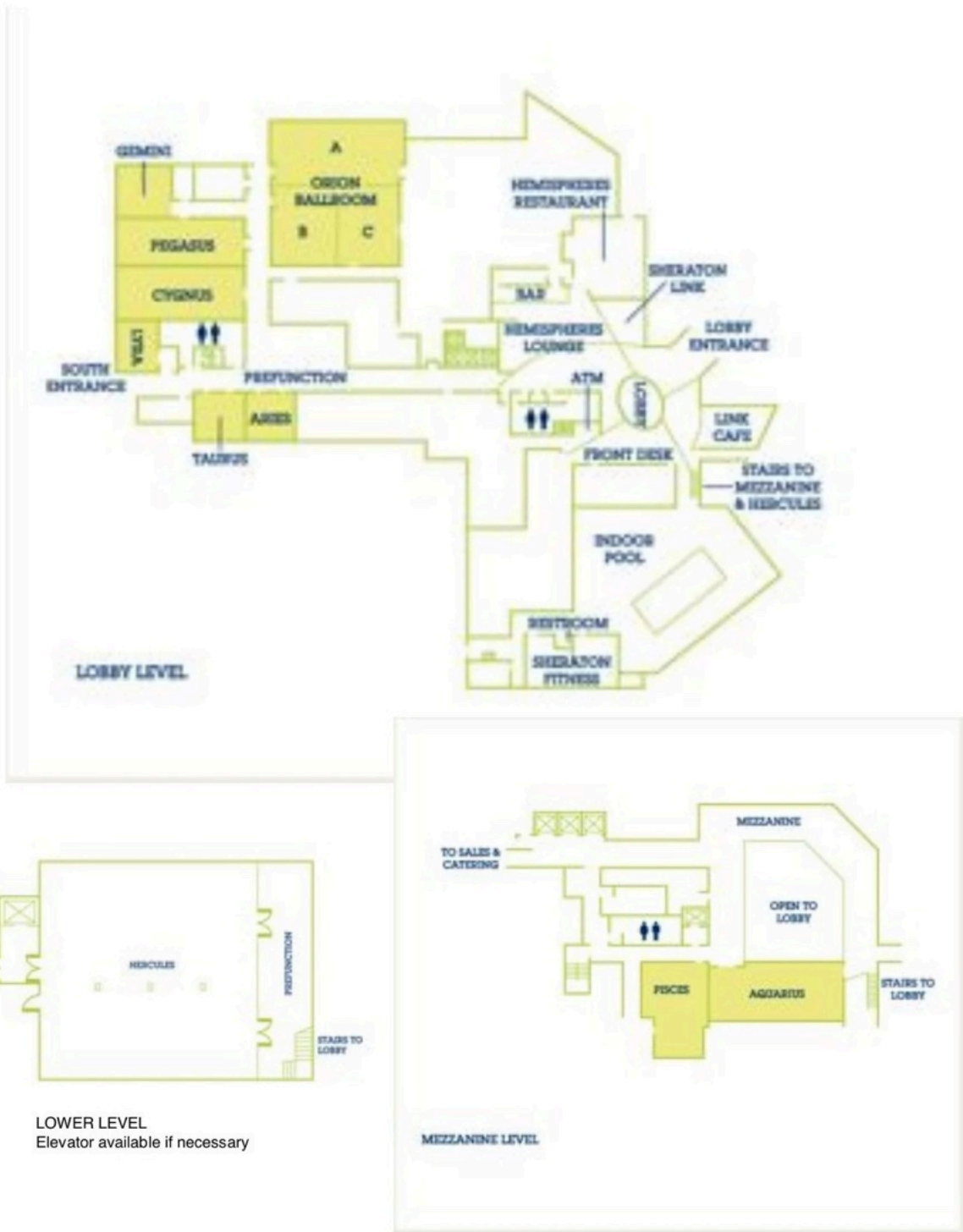


With Open Arms

Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel...Cleveland, Ohio

www.federationofchristianministries.org

Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel Layout





With Open Arms

FCM 2016 ASSEMBLY

AUGUST 5-7, 2016

Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel...Cleveland, Ohio

NAMASTE!

The Federation of Christian Ministries welcomes you *"With Open Arms"*. We are excited that you have come with open hearts and minds to learn, to pray, to be challenged, and to greet old friends and make new ones.

Our National Assembly Committee, and numerous volunteers, have worked hard to create this weekend experience. We would like to thank them for their endless work and planning. In addition, we'd like to thank each of you for attending the Assembly, bringing your own giftedness to our gathering.

The speakers for this Assembly have been invited because of their admirable work and spirituality. In addition, they are witnesses to the work of justice. They offer the vision, the knowledge and the experience to help FCM pave our way into the future. However, you, our FCM members and friends are truly the greatest asset today and tomorrow and we could not accomplish our ministries without your support and leadership. Thank You!

Our Assembly, *"With Open Arms"*, is an excellent opportunity for you to meet FCM members and friends from all over the country and create opportunities for networking, collaboration and building relationships.

It's our pleasure to welcome you to Cleveland and to the 2016 National FCM Assembly. If there is anything we can do to help you over these next two days, please just ask!

Peace!



Patty and Tom Stricker
Co-Chairs of the 2016 Assembly

Tom Stricker
FCM National Chairperson





August 5 – 7, 2016

Dear Friends:

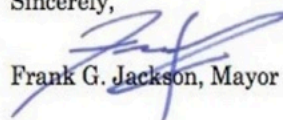
I would like to welcome you to our great city and thank you for attending the Federation of Christian Ministries National Assembly, which has the theme “WITH OPEN ARMS.”

I am pleased to welcome the Assembly as well as its keynote speakers: Bishop John Shelby Spong; Marianne Duddy-Burke, Executive Director of DignityUSA; and Reverend John C. Dorhauer, the General Minister and President of United Church of Christ.

The faith-based community in Cleveland is an important part of our city and our communities. I would like to thank you for choosing Cleveland as the host city for your event taking place August 5 – 7, 2016 at the Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel.

Cleveland is a vibrant city filled with a wide range of opportunities and friendly people ready to welcome you. I hope you enjoy your time here and return to visit us again soon.

Sincerely,



Frank G. Jackson, Mayor

Thank you to our 2016 Assembly Sponsors

Platinum - \$3,000
Anonymous Donor

Bronze - \$25.00 - \$100.00

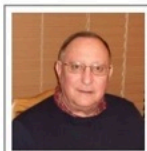
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Carolyn Horvath and Tom Leonhardt
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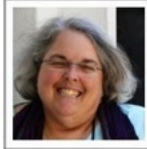
THANK YOU

With sincere thanks to the following
FCM members who served on the
Circle of Directors with terms ending

July 2015



2012-2013
Secretary
2013-2015
Treasurer
Kenneth C Knapp



2013-2015
Secretary
Beatrice Broder-Oldach

Regional Vice-Presidents



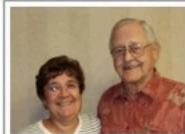
2008-2015
Pacific Region
Mary & Nick De Los Reyes



2007-2015
Mountains & Plains Region
Michael Keefe



2009-2015
Southern Region
Virginia & Robert Graf



2009-2015
Northeast Region
Patricia & Paul Stubernbort

FCM Presidents

1969 - 1971
Eugene Bianchi

1971 - 1973
Bernard McGoldrick
Deceased

1973 - 1976
William Manseau

1976 - 1980
Gerald and Marita Grudzen

1980 - 1984
Paul and Susana Schlesinger
Paul Deceased

1984 - 1988
Mary Jane Schutzius

1988 - 1992
Joseph Ruane

1992 - 1996
William Leahy
Deceased

1996 - 1998
Tom Leonhardt and
Carolyn Horvath

1998 - 2004
Bridget Mary Meehan

2004 - 2008
Clem DeWall and Eileen Mackin

2008 - 2014
Thomas and Michaelita Quinn

2014 -
Thomas Cusack



The Federation of Christian Ministries

2016 Assembly - August 5-7, 2016

Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel...Cleveland, Ohio

With Open Arms

2016 Assembly Program Quick Look



Friday, August 5, 2016 Hotel Lobby... Registration 12:00 Noon. until 7:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Workshops.

Room: Cygnus	Ministering to the Hispanic Community
Pegasus	Sacred Waves: Riding the Tide of Ministry - A Community Ministry Workshop
Pisces	Prayer in the 21st. Century

Dinner 5:30p.m. - Room: Hercules (prepaid reservations only)

Orion Ballroom

Friday Evening: 7:00 p.m. - Assembly Welcome

7:15 p.m. Keynote: Marianne Duddy-Burke...Executive Director, DignityUSA

Welcoming All: Ministers and Ministry that Respond to Human Needs and Can Save the Church

8:30 p.m. hors d'oeuvres with Cash Bar....

Saturday, August 6, 2015 Hotel Lobby...Registration 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - Room: Gemini

8:00 a.m. Breakfast - Orion Ballroom

9:00 a.m. Keynote:

Recovering the Jewishness of the Christian Gospel..... Bishop John Shelby Spong

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Workshops

Room: Pisces	When Mental Illness and Suicide Hit Home
Pegasus	Unwelcome at the Table...A Blessing in Disguise
Cygnus	Take the Journey to Earth-based Spiritual Practices

Orion Ballroom

12:00 noon -1:00 p.m. Lunch

Keynotes:

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Hearing Authentic Christianity with 21st Century Ears
Bishop John Shelby Spong

3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Unfinished Business of Civil Rights in America
Rev. John C. Dorhauer

5:30 p.m. Room: Pegasus Global Ministries University Graduation

5:30 p.m. Cash Bar...6:15p.m. Dinner *** Presentation of Soto Award

7:30 p.m. Prayer Service - Commissioning & Endorsement Ceremonies

8:30 p.m. - Celebration Reception

Sunday, August 7, 2016 - Orion Ballroom

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m. Breakfast

FCM Members Biennial Meeting - Sit with your Region

11:00 a.m. Assembly Ends



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Federation Of Christian Ministries 2016 Assembly

PROGRAM UPDATE

Thank you to our 2016 Assembly Sponsors

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Tom Cusack

Silver - \$100.00 or more

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Joseph Mitcho

Nicodemus Giannelli

Bronze - \$25.00 - \$100.00

The Emmaus Institute, Inc.

Carolyn Horvath and Tom Leonhardt

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WORKSHOP CHANGE

Friday August 5, 2016 - 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.

Room: Pegasus

Sacred Waves Riding the Tide of Ministry...A Community Ministry Workshop

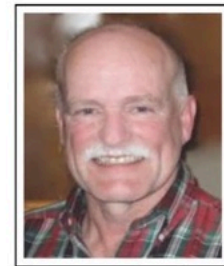
Now

Faith Communities...Growing Together

Presenters: Tom Quinn, FCM Past President and Tom Stricker, FCM Chairperson



An open discussion grappling with the question: how can FCM connect with your Faith Communities, and how can Faith Communities connect with each other? Sharing our strengths and building a network of communities throughout the United States. Sharing ideas of how we might better build and grow our faith communities.



WORKSHOPS ROOM CHANGE FROM TAURUS TO PISCES

4:00 - 5:15 p.m. Friday August 5, 2016 - Prayer in the 21st. Century

10:30 - 11:45 a.m. Saturday August 6, 2016 - When Mental Illness and Suicide Hit Home



With Open Arms

FCM 2016 Assembly - Friday August 5, 2016

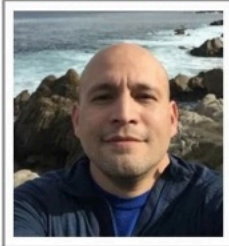
Registration - Hotel Lobby - 12:00 noon - 7:00 p.m.

Workshops 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.

Ministering to the Hispanic Community

Room: Cygnus

Presenter: Salvador Leavitt-Alcantara, FCM Chaplain



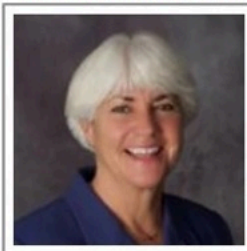
This presentation will give an overall assessment of the spiritual and religious resources and needs of Hispanic communities. It will analyze the ways in which religious and spiritual practices among Latinos/as are informed by their Latin American and US socio-cultural contexts.

It is my hope that at the end of this presentation you will have a better understanding, appreciation and competence in supporting and identifying Latinos/as' religious and spiritual needs and resources.

Sacred Waves: Riding the Tide of Ministry ... A Community Ministry Workshop

Room: Pegasus

Presenter: Rebecca Cartus, FCM Director of Group Affairs



Life swirls around us with a dynamism both grand and minute at once. Witness the smear of galactic stars, scattered across the cosmos in glittery curls. Notice the whorls of delicate touch imprinted on our fingertips. Take in the ocean's poetry in motion - tides rolling in and out, waves orchestrating the waters into crashing crescendos - What a wonder to behold. The spirals of life's energy surround us with forces, concentric and centripetal at once. Makes for a spirited life.

Makes for a lively ministry, too. The swell of circumstances, the wind of the Spirit, the call to community, the ups and downs of leadership. All move in a rising tide of rotating forces. And all beckon us to join the ride.

Sacred Waves: Riding the Tide of Ministry is a community ministry workshop with a focus on FCM group ministries. The interactive session includes a presentation of the current ministry groups, a discussion of the role of FCM in group affairs, and a commitment of one to the other as we ride the tide of ministry together.

Prayer in the 21st. Century

Room: Taurus

Presenter: John Polanski, FCM Newsletter Editor



For most Christian believers, prayer remains grounded in notions of humanity and the world that date back millennia. This workshop will begin by considering the divine presence as we might imagine it today in light of what we have come to know about ourselves and our universe. We will then discuss how private and public prayer might reflect that imagination and compose our own verses for some typical occasions.

Available for the entire Assembly: **MEDITATION ROOM, Lyra**



With Open Arms

FCM 2016 Assembly - Friday August 5, 2016

5:30 p.m. Dinner - Room: Hercules (Attendees must have pre-paid reservations)



With Open Arms

7:00 p.m. Assembly Welcome
Orion Ballroom

7:15 p.m. Welcoming All

Ministers and Ministry that Respond to Human Needs and Can Save the Church

Keynote Speaker
Marianne Duddy-Burke
Executive Director, Dignity USA

Looking at how human-centered ministry that begins from the need that is presented, and honors all God-Given vocations, regardless of life status, is mandated by the gospel, offers hope to Catholics, and should be celebrated by Church officials as a gift that will eventually help reverse their over-identification with secular power structures and restore our Church's moral authority. Pie in the sky? Yes! We are claiming our place at the heavenly banquet!



Marianne Duddy-Burke is the Executive Director of DignityUSA, the nation's foremost and most progressive organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Catholics and our allies. She has also served as DignityUSA's President, and was the first woman ever elected to that post. She has a Masters in Theology from Weston School of Theology (now integrated into Boston College), and a Bachelor's Degree with Honors from Wellesley College. Marianne has more than 30 years experience in leadership positions in both non-profit and corporate organizations. She is a frequent speaker at national and regional conferences, and has represented Dignity in over 2,000 media stories, covering print, radio, television and on-line media. She is featured in the video *DignityUSA: A Conversation with Marianne Duddy*, and is profiled in *Redemption Stories: Unwasted Pain*, as well as in the forthcoming *Catholic Women Confront Their Church: Stories of Anger and Hope*, expected Spring 2016. Marianne has been recognized for her longtime leadership on LGBT justice issues by many organizations including the Greater Boston Business Council and the progressive Catholic group Call To Action. Marianne lives in Boston with her spouse, Becky, and their two adopted daughters, Emily and Infinity.

8:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres.....Cash Bar

Available for the entire Assembly: MEDITATION ROOM, Lyra



With Open Arms

FCM 2016 Assembly - Saturday, August 6, 2016

Registration - Hotel Lobby - 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - Room: Gemini

Orion Ballroom

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Theme: "Biblical Literalism: A Gentile Heresy"
Recovering the Jewishness of the Christian Gospel

Keynote Speaker Bishop John Shelby Spong

Exploring the original meaning of the familiar gospel stories and then translating the original meaning into the accents of our 21 century words. Based on Bishop Spong's newest book.

Probably America's best-known spokesperson for an open, scholarly and inclusive Christianity, Bishop Spong has achieved an almost legendary reputation. A deeply committed Christian, he insists that he must also speak as an informed citizen of 21st century. He has equipped himself for his task by studying at major centers of Christian scholarship: Union Theological Seminary in New York, Yale Divinity School, Harvard Divinity School and the storied universities of Cambridge, Oxford and Edinburgh.



He was named the Quatercentenary Scholar at Cambridge University in 1992 and the William Belden Noble Lecturer at Harvard University in 2000. He has also taught at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley California, the Pacific School of Religion also in Berkeley, Harvard Divinity School, the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California and the Theological School of Drew University in New Jersey. He has lectured at conference centers across the United States and Canada.

Since 2001 **Bishop Spong** has been a weekly columnist on the Internet, published first by Everyday Health Today, then by Waterfront Media and for the past decade by Progressive Christianity.Org. This column, sometimes opened as often as 100,000 times a week, is entitled "A New Christianity for a New World" and reaches around the world. He served as a priest of the Episcopal Church for twenty-one years in Durham, North Carolina (St. Joseph's), Tarboro, North Carolina (Calvary Parish), Lynchburg, Virginia (St. John's) and Richmond, Virginia (St. Paul's). While in Tarboro and Lynchburg he was the play-by-play radio announcer for high school football and basketball games. He was elected by the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Newark (Northern New Jersey) to the office of Bishop in 1976, where he served for 23 years prior to his retirement in 2000.

His twenty-six books have together sold between one million and one and a half million copies.

Available for the entire Assembly: MEDITATION ROOM, Lyra



With Open Arms

FCM 2016 Assembly - Saturday, August 6, 2016

Workshops 10:30 -11:45 a.m.

When Mental Illness and Suicide Hit Home

Room: Taurus

Presenters: Tom and Fran Smith



Karla Smith was 19 when the first signs of bipolar disorder appeared and she died by suicide in 2003 when she was 26. Her parents, Tom and Fran Smith, will share their experience with Karla, and how and why they, along with Karla's twin brother, Kevin, formed the *Karla Smith Foundation* whose mission is to support the families of anyone affected by mental illness or suicide.

This session will explore nine strategies for coping with the mental illness of a loved one and identify emotions and complications that generally accompany the unique grief of suicide. Throughout this presentation and discussion, the Smiths will suggest ways in which faith communities can support families trying to cope with these challenging experiences.

Unwelcome at the Table...A Blessing in Disguise

Room: Pegasus

Presenters: Jean and Mike Conley



Jean and Mike share their story of both being very active, visible, well-known members of their faith community and then abruptly being 'unwelcome.' Mike left the active priesthood to marry Jean and Jean 'married a priest.' Though a traumatic experience at the time, it turned out to be the best decision of their lives. Alienated from their close community, stripped of their status, they ended up being invited to a table that was inclusive, just as Jesus had done, and experienced his compassion, acceptance and honor of the divinity in everyone. This will be an interactive workshop where attendees will have the opportunity to share their experience of being welcome, as well as unwelcome.

Take the Journey to Earth-based Spiritual Practices: It's the Beauty that Gets You

Room: Cygnus

Presenters: Diane Trese Pinchot and Christopher Reynolds



Often personal vulnerability and death are times of transformation and new birth. This is helpful to remember in 2016 when, after 2500 years, patriarchy, too, is vulnerable and dying. We are the co-creating witnesses to the birth of a sustainable worldview.

In this workshop, we will share the stories of our journeys and the Earth-based spiritual practices which continue to heal and open spaces of expansion within and around us. Our intent is to deepen our understanding of what it means to be in relationship with all life. We will experience together beautiful ways to pray with our bodies through songs, stories, dialogue and dance. Together we will walk the Medicine Wheel and pray with the Sacred Pipe.



Available for the entire Assembly: **MEDITATION ROOM, Lyra**



With Open Arms

FCM 2016 Assembly - Saturday, August 6, 2016

Orion Ballroom - Lunch 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

1:30 -3:00p.m. Orion Ballroom

Keynote Speaker
Bishop John Shelby Spong



Theme: "Biblical Literalism: A Gentile Heresy"

Hearing Authentic Christianity with 21st Century Ears

3:30 -5:30p.m. Orion Ballroom

Unfinished Business of Civil Rights in America

Keynote Speaker
Rev. John C. Dorhauer
United Church of Christ
General Minister and President



With a Doctoral Degree in White Privilege Studies, the Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer brings a deep field of research, writing, and experience to the discussion of Civil Rights in America. His presentation today will focus on the failures of white, liberal leaders to effect lasting, deep, and meaningful racial equity in America. He will talk about how ongoing commitments to White Privilege in particular, a phenomenon that some refer to as an 'Ongoing Investment in Whiteness,' have limited to the extent to which even liberal whites in America want to see lasting racial equity. Two principle foundations for his presentation will focus on Whiteness as the Norm, and Whiteness as Cash Value. He will also talk about what it means to be a white ally, and will examine what actions white allies can undertake less to solve the problem of racial inequity than to work to remove the ongoing impediment to racial equity that white America continues to be.

Rev. Dorhauer is Head of Communion for the One Million Member Denomination headquartered in Cleveland OH.

- Oversees a workforce of about 120 National Staff members
- Casts the vision for one of the country's most progressive religious bodies
- Contributor to the Huffington Post
- Weekly Podcast, *Into the Mystic*
- President of the United Church of Christ Board
- Working to revitalize a Denomination seeking a missional core in a vastly changing environment

5:30p.m. Room: Pegasus- Global Ministries University Graduation

Available for the entire Assembly: MEDITATION ROOM, Lyra



With Open Arms

FCM 2016 Assembly - Saturday, August 6, 2016

Orion Ballroom

5:30p.m. Cash Bar

6:30p.m. Dinner ✧✧✧ Presentation of Soto Award

Anthony Soto Award

Anthony Soto was a friar and pastor, scholar and field worker, dreamer and organizer, idealist and activist, husband and father, and a longtime member of FCM. Anthony founded an innovative job training program and was a leading figure in the struggle of Mexican-Americans for justice in the workplace.

Anthony Soto started a retreat movement emphasizing a leadership that grows out of community. He and his wife Phyllis were among the founders of the *Comunidad* in San Jose, California, a small but dynamic Christian community.

The Anthony Soto Award is given each year to an FCM member who exemplifies his spirit and vision. The recipient is chosen by a committee of FCM members.

7:30p.m. Prayer Service
Commissioning & Endorsement Ceremonies

8:30p.m. *Celebration Reception*

FCM 2016 Assembly - Sunday, August 7, 2016

Orion Ballroom

8:00a.m. *Morning Prayer...*

8:30 a.m. Breakfast

FCM Members Biennial Meeting

Sit with your Region

11:00a.m. Assembly Ends...

2018 Assembly: FCM Celebrating 50 Years!

Available for the entire Assembly: MEDITATION ROOM, Lyra



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*In Memory of
Francis Bernau*

Mother of Ginny Cusack



Perhaps they are not
stars in the sky, but
rather openings where
our loved ones shine
down to let us know they
are happy.

Patty and Tom Stricker

*By the Power
vested in me..*



A Guide for Wedding Celebrants/Officials

ANTOINETTE MAROLD

By the Power vested in me....

A Guide for Wedding Celebrants/Officials

Whether you are officiating your first wedding, or you have been officiating weddings for many years, you will find this a helpful Guide.

Important information forms, agreements, bridal party logistics, and step by step instructions, from the first meeting with the couple to the filing of the official documents with the court. Wedding etiquette, traditions, and personal experiences of the author are also included.

Available at the 2016 Assembly
and on Amazon at...

<http://amzn.com/1495368769>

Sister Joan Chittiser wrote this in "A Seeker's Path."
I think she was writing about us in FCM.

- An FCM Member

We do not all hear the same tones
at the same volume,
or see the same visions
in the same colors,
or seek the same goods of life
in the same way.

The search for God depends, then,
on choosing the spiritual path
most suited to our own
spiritual temper and character.

For some seekers,
it is in withdrawal from society
or by immersion in nature
that God is most present.

For others, the face of God
shows most clearly
in the face of the poor,
or is felt most keenly
through the support of those
with whom they share
a common spiritual regimen.

(continued)

Sister Joan Chittiser

For many, it is a bit of both
a balance of community,
contemplation,
and commitment
to the people of God.
It is the search to belong
to a group of fellow travelers
who will hold us up
when we fall,
and urge us on to greater heights
when we are afraid to strain for more.

These are the seekers
who are looking for others
who seek what they seek,
who care about what they care about,
and who set out with them
to make life richer
and the world better
than they know they could ever do alone.






In Memory Of
Mary Ann Schoettly, RCPD

Beloved friend, foundress and co-pastor of
Sophia Inclusive Catholic Community

We miss her every single day, as we continue
to move forward inspired by her determined
spirit...with love and peace...


Maryann Crilly

Christopher Reynolds



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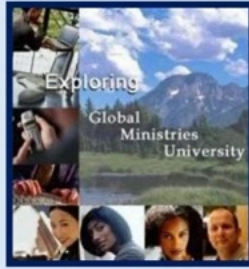
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Remembering FCM Members who are with us in Spirit....

Maureen Andrew
Therese Brehm
Heman Briggerman
George Buck
John Caulied
Marie Caulfield
William Cleary
Don Cordero
Joseph Crisafulli
Lawrence DiPaul
Louise Dee
Romeo DiBenedetto
James Dooley
Gregory Dues
Joseph Eisenberg
Thomas Fangman
Donald Fromm
Louis Gioia
Juan Gonzalest
Joseph Grenier
Charles Grunkemeyer
Joseph Halpin
James Harris
William Hickey
David Jacquet
Edward Kalmanek
Robert Keller
Raymond Kelly
Barbara Bent Kenna
Jack Lang

Bill Lally
William Leahy
George Lenski
Leo Lynch
James Martin
Bruno Massotti
James McCusker
James McEntee
Bernie McGoldrick
Michael McFadden
Thomas Murphy
Gregory Nadeau
Basil Nichols
Margaret O'Neil
Shoshanna Porter
Joseph Pugliese
William Quick
Chris Reilly
Jerald Ritzel
Roberto Rovere
Paul Schlesinger
Paul Schoenenberger
Mary Ann Schoettly
Richard Sinner
Anthony Soto
Peter Tintes
Timothy Welsh
Jack Wilcox
Frank Woolever
Patrick Young
MaryLou Zehfuss



The Federation of Christian Ministries - 2016 Assembly - August 5 - 7, 2016
Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel...Cleveland, Ohio
With Open Arms - 2016 Assembly Presenters



Keynote...Friday, August 5, 2016 -

Marianne Duddy-Burke - Executive Director, DignityUSA

Welcoming All: Ministers and Ministry that Respond to Human Needs and Can Save the Church



Marianne, Executive Director of DignityUSA, the nation's foremost and most progressive organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Catholics and our allies. She has also served as DignityUSA's President, and was the first woman ever elected to that post. She has a Masters in Theology from Weston School of Theology (now integrated into Boston College), and a Bachelor's Degree with Honors from Wellesley College. Marianne has more than 30 years experience in leadership positions in both non-profit and corporate organizations. She is a frequent speaker at national and regional conferences, and has represented Dignity in over 2,000 media stories, covering print, radio, television and on-line media.

She is featured in the video *DignityUSA: A Conversation with Marianne Duddy*, and is profiled in *Redemption Stories: Unwasted Pain*, as well as in the forthcoming *Catholic Women Confront Their Church: Stories of Anger and Hope*, expected Spring 2016. Marianne has been recognized for her longtime leadership on LGBT justice issues by many organizations including the Greater Boston Business Council and the progressive Catholic group Call To Action.

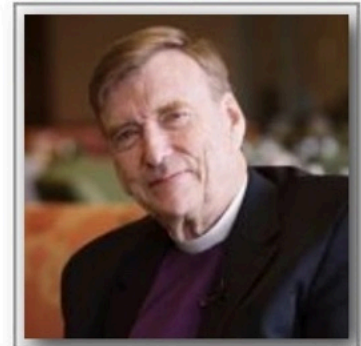
Marianne lives in Boston with her spouse, Becky, and their two adopted daughters, Emily and Infinity.

Keynotes...Saturday, August 6, 2016

Bishop John Shelby Spong

morning: **Recovering the Jewishness of the Christian Gospel**

afternoon: **Hearing Authentic Christianity with 21st Century Ears**



Probably America's best-known spokesperson for an open, scholarly and inclusive Christianity, Bishop Spong has achieved an almost legendary reputation. A deeply committed Christian, he insists that he must also speak as an informed citizen of the 21st century. He has equipped himself for his task by studying at major centers of Christian scholarship: Union Theological Seminary in New York, Yale Divinity School, Harvard Divinity School and the storied universities of Cambridge, Oxford and Edinburgh.

He was named the Quatercentenary Scholar at Cambridge University in 1992 and the William Belden Noble Lecturer at Harvard University in 2000. He has also taught at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley California, the Pacific School of Religion also in Berkeley, Harvard Divinity School, the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California and the Theological School of Drew University in New Jersey. He has lectured at conference centers across the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia.

Bishop Spong has received numerous honors, including being named "Humanist of the Year" in New York in 1999 and "National Person of the Year" by the Americans United for the Separation of Church and State in 2015. He is a Fellow of the Jesus Seminar and of the Gladstone Library in Wales. The Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary in Virginia, St. Paul's College and Lehigh University have each conferred on him the Doctor of Divinity degree, while Muhlenberg College, The Holmes Institute of Consciousness Studies, the University of North Carolina, and Drew University have each conferred on him the Doctor of Humane Letters degree. He was inducted to the Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers and Collegium Scholars at Morehouse College, Atlanta, Ga. in 2004. In 2010 his portrait was commissioned to hang in the "Hall of Honor" at the Martin Luther King Chapel in Atlanta, alongside other noted civil rights leaders. It hangs today just below the portrait of Justice Thurgood Marshall of the Supreme Court.

Well-known in radio and television circles, he has appeared on such diverse programs as *Politically Incorrect*, *The O'Reilly Factor*, *Good Morning America*, *Oprah* and *Phil Donahue*. He has also been featured on CBS's *Sixty Minutes*. His twenty-six books have together sold between one million and one and a half million copies. They have also been translated into French, German, Spanish, Italian, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Finnish, Korean, Arabic, Japanese and are anticipated to come out in Chinese in 2017. His published articles have been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *London Times*, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Vancouver Sun*, the *Toronto Star*, the *Globe and Mail* and countless other newspapers, across the world. He has been the subject of stories in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Playboy*, *People's Magazine* and the *New Jersey Monthly*. Since 2001 he has been a weekly columnist on the Internet, published first by *Everyday Health Today*, then by *Waterfront Media* and for the past decade by *Progressive Christianity.Org*. This column, sometimes opened as often as 100,000 times a week, is entitled "*A New Christianity for a New World*" and reaches around the world. It is also available in Spain and in Latin America in Spanish.

With Open Arms - 2016 Assembly Presenters

Keynote...Saturday, August 6, 2016 - Afternoon

Rev. John C. Dorhauer - United Church of Christ..General Minister and President

Unfinished Business of Civil Rights in America

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer (John) goes where he feels a sense of call. This has sometimes taken him down paths he didn't choose. Rev. Dorhauer says he believes that the sacred moves among us and when his openness to her is genuine, he feels God's pleasure. Rev. Dorhauer feels that the best days of the United Church of Christ are ahead of us. That being said, Rev. Dorhauer also feels that the United Church of Christ's "future mission must remain consistent with our historic commitments to maintain the unity of the body in the spirit of peace and our current call to offer God's extravagant love to all." As a result of his passion for the vitality of our shared mission, and his conviction that adaptive abilities are essential to our ongoing health, John's new book *Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World*, addresses what we can be doing to prepare well for a time a great change.



Rev. Dorhauer is passionate about justice. Two statements that shape his theology are: God is love. God is just. His passion for love and justice drives him. His entire ministry has been a response to the call to help recreate the church in the image of a God who shows no partiality.

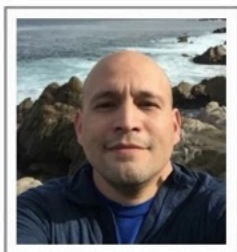
On the day that Arizona became a marriage equality state, Rev. Dorhauer was positioned on the steps of the county court house with a sign, "We stand ready to marry you," and therefore Rev. Dorhauer became the first person to perform a legal same sex wedding in the state of Arizona when he joined David Laurence and Kevin Patterson in holy matrimony.

Rev. Dorhauer focused his doctoral studies on White Privilege. He intends to lead the church's Sacred Conversations on Race by calling the Church into a similar broad and ongoing conversation on the role and impact of White Privilege on our denomination. Rev. Dorhauer invites the United Church of Christ into a deep, nuanced, and honest examination of and meaningful dialogue about what George Lipsitz calls 'our possessive investment in whiteness.'

Rev. Dorhauer married the first woman he ever kissed and has been in love with her ever since, a span of time soon to hit 31 years of marriage. They have three children: a composer, an artist, and a poet. Rev. Dorhauer's favorite hymn is "Be Thou My Vision."

Workshops..Friday, August 5, 2016

Ministering to the Hispanic Community.....Presenter: Salvador Leavitt-Alcantara, FCM - Chaplain



Salvador a second year resident specializing in Adolescent Residential Psychiatry at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. providing spiritual care to children, adolescents, adults and hospital staff emotional and spiritual challenges associated with medical crises in different settings: Emergency Department, Adolescent and Child Psychiatry, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and general hospitalization units, among others.

Salvador has a Doctoral Degree in Theology and Religious Studies from The Theological Union. Masters Degree in Theological Studies, Harvard University, Bachelor Degree in Theology and Religious Studies, University of San Francisco and was a Chaplain Intern at VA Medical Center, Dayton. He is bilingual: English and Spanish. Salvador can be found in the following publications:

Salvador Leavitt-Alcántara. "Salvadorans." In *Encyclopedia of Hispanic American Religious Cultures*, edited by Miguel De la Torre: ABC-CLIO Publishers, Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2009.

_____. "Institutional Violence." In *Encyclopedia of Hispanic American Religious Cultures*, edited by Miguel De la Torre: ABC-CLIO, 2009.

_____. "Latin American Theologies." In *Global Dictionary of Theology*, edited by William A. Dyrness and Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2008.

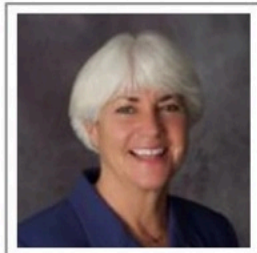
___ Lois Lorentzen and Salvador Leavitt-Alcántara. "Religion and Environmental Struggles in Latin America." In the *Oxford Handbook of Religion and Ecology*, edited by Roger S. Gottlieb. London, New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

With Open Arms - 2016 Assembly Presenters

Workshops..Friday, August 5, 2016

Sacred Waves: Riding the Tide of Ministry ... A Community Ministry Workshop

Presenter: Rebecca Cartus, FCM Director of Group Affairs



The Reverend Rebecca M. Cartus is a clergy woman ordained through the Federation of Christian Ministries. She currently serves as minister to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Smithton, 251 Second Street, Smithton, PA 15479. <https://sites.google.com/site/uucsofsmithton/>

Her ministries include *The Eighth Day Feast*, a community dinner program, and *Drinks on the Deck*, a neighborhood fellowship group. Rev. Cartus holds the position of Director of Group Affairs with the Federation of Christian Ministries.

A professionally certified teacher, Rev. Becky teaches English as a Second Language for Global Language Training, a language service located in Flint, Michigan. She is a member of the Austrian American Cultural Society, completing her first year as a member of the board of directors.

Becky lives with her husband, John, in Sewickley, PA. They have two daughters - Abigail, a graduate student at the University of Texas in Austin, TX and Rachel, a student enrolled in the clinical pharmacy program at the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.



Prayer in the 21st. Century... Presenter: John Polanski, FCM

As a mediator and program coordinator, John Polanski has had over twenty-five years of experience in court-affiliated dispute resolution in northeast Ohio. With the establishment of the program in Mahoning County in 1989 he was among the first in the state to develop mediation in a domestic relations court. In 1997 John was part of an effort to implement a multi-court dispute resolution program in Ashtabula County. He began a comprehensive program at Family Court in Trumbull County in 2006 where his responsibilities included mediation of a variety of cases including divorce and juvenile-parent disputes as well as program development. John retired from full-time employment in 2011 and continues to provide mediation and other services for courts throughout northeast Ohio.

Apart from conflict management and dispute resolution, John's education and training have grown from his interest in healthier family relationships. He received a master's degree in counseling from Youngstown State University and has done graduate work at Kent State University, all with a focus on couples and family therapy. He maintains involvement in local community organizations and has resumed his previous ministerial activities in various capacities in and around his home in northeast Ohio where he resides with his wife, Margaret Minghetti.

Workshops..Saturday, August 6, 2016

When Mental Illness and Suicide Hit Home.....Tom and Fran Smith

Fran is a former teacher, counselor, and principal. After forty years in education she retired in June of 2004 and now devotes much of her time and energy to the *Karla Smith Foundation* particularly by facilitating support groups for the families of anyone with a mental illness and another group for suicide survivors. She meets often with individuals in our home to work through issues related to mental illness and suicide grief, and she tutors in the Adult Literacy Program. She enjoys traveling, playing bridge, two grandsons, and reading.

Fran's degrees and certifications include a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Masters in Teaching Religious Studies. She was also a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor.



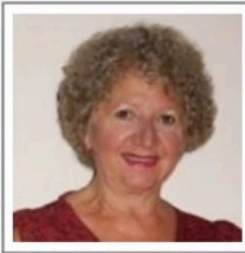
Tom was the director of Pastoral Services for the Diocese of Belleville, IL until he retired and is now President of the *Karla Smith Foundation* where he oversees the many programs of the Foundation. He is the author of eight books, three of them related to mental illness and suicide, and he serves on multiple committees for various church ministries and civic organizations. He is an avid, life-long sports fan, with most of his loyalty going to St. Louis teams, especially the Cardinals.

His degrees include a Bachelor in Theology, a Licentiate in Theology and a Masters in Teaching Religious Studies. He is a former priest who was laicized in 1973.

With Open Arms - 2016 Assembly Presenters

Workshops..Saturday, August 6, 2016

Unwelcome at the Table... A Blessing in Disguise....Jean and Mike Conley



Jean Conley, M.Th., holds a bachelor degree in human behavior and speech communication and an M.Th. in contemporary Christianity from Global Ministries University. Jean has studied the historical Jesus extensively through the contemporary research of scholars affiliated with the Jesus Seminar. Jean has written a downloadable e-booklet, *A Look at the New Testament through Contemporary Eyes*, and teaches a course based on this material, as well as several other contemporary Christianity courses, at Global Ministries University. She is Founder and Director of the Celebrant Training Program, which trains individuals to become celebrants or provides professional training to those already functioning as celebrants. Jean is the Vice President for Operations and Development at GMU.



Michael Conley, D.Min., holds an MS in chemistry and an MSA in administration from the University of Notre Dame and a Doctor of Ministry with a concentration in evolutionary spirituality from Global Ministries University. He was a Roman Catholic priest for 21 years and left the active priesthood in 1986 to marry Jean. Mike, as well as Jean, has also studied contemporary Christianity and currently teaches several courses at Global Ministries University, including a course based on John Shelby Spong's book, *Liberating the Gospels*, entitled Jewish Midrash and the Gospels. Mike has been an educator for over 45 years and is the Provost of GMU.

The Conley's have been members of FCM since 1989 and have served on the Circle of Directors twice as Pacific Region VP's and have served as Development Directors.

PREVIOUS PRESENTATIONS

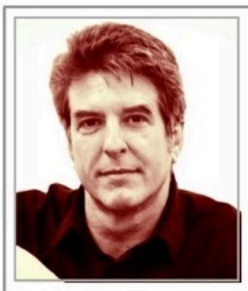
Presenters for community group that promotes living senior years in a positive, life-giving manner. Meets twice a month from January 2015 to present....Presented workshop at FCM Assembly: TESTING THE WATERS, Our Lived Experience Is What Really Determines our Theology, 2014....Presented workshop entitled Claim your Sacred Relationship, 2008....Presented workshop entitled Claim your Sacred Self, 2008....Presented a series of six workshops, entitled The Power Is Within You, 2007

Native American Spirituality...Sr. Diane Pinchot, OSU and Christopher Reynolds

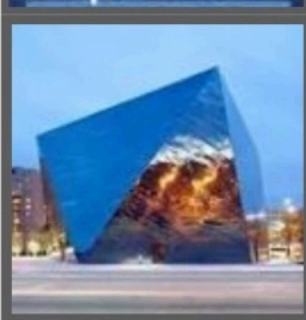


Diane Therese Pinchot, OSU, MFA, After completing several degrees, an MALS at Wesleyan University in Conn. concentrating in metals and a terminal degree, an MFA in Ceramic Sculpture in 1990 at Ohio University, the Diocesan Cleveland Mission Team in El Salvador asked Diane to help design and build an altar on the spot where the Churchwomen were found in a shallow grave. Over time the Central American martyrs, especially Dorothy Kazel, a member of her Ursuline community, inspired her to become more active in social justice, eventually leading to non-violent acts of civil disobedience and serving time in federal prison. Her artwork has also reflected this transformation, becoming more narrative, engaging the viewer to question the meaning behind the form. She has come to realize the sacred connection between being actively engaged in advocacy work and the arts especially when it is grounded in faith, love and nonviolence.

Diane is currently professor and chair of the Art Department at Ursuline College.



F.Christopher Reynolds, M.Ed. is a singer, teacher, adjunct professor in Creativity Studies, Religious Studies and Art. He taught high school French in Berea, Ohio, and earned a Master's degree in Rites of Passage in Post Modern Philosophy. A gifted musician and songwriter of over 15 CD's, Christopher's concerts, workshops, recordings and publications incorporate depth psychology, creativity, holistic education, cosmology, spirituality and stewardship of the Earth. He is a traditional healer trained in sweat lodge and sacred pipe. His focus is to assist in the cultural transformation now occurring. Christopher works to help individuals and communities connect to the Earth, Spirit and the Cosmos.



Hotel offers complimentary transportation, 5 mile radius,
accessible by RTA (Cleveland rail/bus system)
or to the car rental locations.

ATTRACTIONS (within the hotel's 5 mile radius)

Cleveland Metro Parks (Rocky River Reservoir) www.clevelandmetroparks.com
Great Northern Mall www.greatnorthernmall.com

ATTRACTIONS (by rail or bus system)

Downtown Area

Great Lakes Science Center www.glsc.org
Rock n Roll Hall of Fame & Museum www.rockhall.com
Greater Cleveland Aquarium www.greaterclevelandaquarium.com
USS Cod www.usscod.org
East 4th Street Entertainment District www.east4thstreet.com/dining
Westside Market www.westsidemarket.org
Progressive Field www.indians.com
Jack's Casino www.jackentertainment.co
Cleveland Theater District www.playhousesquare.org

University Circle Area (Eastside)

Metropolitan Museum of Art www.metmuseum.org
University Circle Cultural Area www.universitycircle.org
Severence Hall - Cleveland Orchestra www.clevelandorchestra.com
Case Western Reserve University www.case.edu
Cleveland Botanical Gardens www.cbgbgarden.org
Little Italy www.littleitalycleveland.com

ATTRACTIONS (by car)

Westside

Cleveland Metro Zoo www.clemetzoo.com
Crocker Park Mall www.crockerpark.com
Grand Pacific Junction www.grandpacificjunction.com

ATTRACTIONS (by car)

Eastside

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad www.cvsr.com
Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage www.maltzmuseum.org
Lakeview Cemetery www.lakeviewcemetery.com
President Garfield's Tomb

Federation of Christian Ministries



Mission Statement

Called by God's Spirit and grounded in personal spiritual practice, the Federation of Christian Ministries responds by worshiping God and supporting the growth in faith and ministry of its individual and collective members. Our Christ-inspired organization does this by welcoming people of all spiritual persuasions. We offer empowerment and commissioning to those who have discerned a call to ministry.

www.federationofchristianministries.org

