



Federation of Christian Ministries

FCM Newsletter..July/August 2016...VOL. 50 NO. 4





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Editor's Notes by John Polanski

On a Pilgrimage

In his Prologue to *The Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer points out how in a certain time of year, people find themselves facing a common need to look deeply at their earthly condition and a yearning for holy ground. He then introduces "a company/Of sundry folk whom chance had brought to fall/In fellowship, for pilgrims were they all."

The lengthy work goes on to describe this diverse group in detail, and proceeds to unfold the story each has to tell. These pilgrims it seems have much to offer one another, making their common journey easier to bear while creating a community of sorts as each spins out their respective tale along the way.

And so we who will be making the pilgrimage to the North Coast gather, bringing our stories and hoping to find a sacred space. We do so with dreamy-eyed Clevelanders still savoring a long-awaited championship and members of the GOP preparing for who-knows-what. We meet in the midst of a nation still fresh in the memory of yet another tragic shooting and a world in turmoil over national transition in Europe. Quite a journey!

As you peruse this issue of the FCM Newsletter you will find much of the story that is our world and our organization today. Like Chaucer's pilgrims, we are very much a part of a world that is broken and tragic. Look no further than **Susan Ferman's** description of an encounter in the sanctuary of her church for evidence of that reality. Many are aware she is coordinator of our Prayer Support Request team; her heartfelt tale will enable us all to know her a little better.

The same tragedy prompted **Jim Barrens**, member of the FCM Justice and Peace committee to send in a report on Pride Night at Tropicana Stadium in Florida less than a week after the Orlando shooting. Like Susan, he counts on the ongoing support of our membership in standing up to violence in whatever capacity we are able. Reach him at JamesBarrens@TheJusticeFactory.org

Our stories also illustrate the community we are creating that allows us to minister to sisters in such a world. Our current series on members in specialized ministries hears this issue from **Jim Geracci**, a CPE director in eastern Pennsylvania, and congratulates **Jeannie Hale** and **Linda Grant** on their accomplishments. From farther north, **Jim David** offers an informative description of the Ecumenical Catholic Diocese of New England which he serves as bishop. He and his wife Marie, a Roman Catholic Womanpriest direct Evensong Retreat and Spirituality Center and pastor St. Mary of Magdala Church in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. He may be reached at jim@evensongretreat.com

Sprinkled throughout this issue are reminders of our upcoming Assembly, notably in the column by President **Tom Cusack** who reminds us of the golden opportunity we have to support one another as well as learn from world-class presenters. Chair **Tom Stricker** formalizes the process of some significant modifications in our membership renewal process and our regional vice presidents take time from their busy schedules to report on member news and regional gatherings.

So you see this "company of sundry folk" has much to offer by way of comfort and sustenance on the pilgrim way, to one another and those we encounter. We find ourselves, after all "In fellowship, for pilgrims were they all."

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FCM Directory



Federation of Christian Ministries

Membership Coordinator...Tom Leonhardt



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MEMBERSHIP DUES INFORMATION

Renewal Times Will Change This Year: 9/01/16 – 10/31/16

The FCM Circle of Directors, listening to and hearing the concerns of members, Regional Vice Presidents, Treasurer, and Membership/Central Office Coordinators, decided at the February meeting to change the dates for our renewal process. **The new dates for our annual renewal process are September 1st to October 31st.** The former time frame for renewal was October 31st to December 31st. This time frame annually ran into Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year. This is not only a busy time but one during which finances are stretched for many members. The new time frame avoids these issues without changing the fiscal year observed by FCM.

Membership/Central Office will mail hard copies for renewal around August 25th. By that time electronic copies will be available on the FCM website for online renewal.

**Renewal fees remain the same as during the last three years.
There is no change in dues for 2017.**



MEMBER DUES are \$50. *after October 31, 2016 dues are \$60.*

COMMISSIONED MEMBER DUES are \$145. *after October 31, 2016 dues are \$160.*

ENDORSED MEMBER DUES are \$235. *after October 31, 2016 dues are \$270.*

GROUP MEMBER DUES

Groups of 50 or fewer members \$50. *after October 31, 2016 dues are \$60.*

Groups of 51-100 members \$90. *after October 31, 2016 dues are \$110.*

Groups having more than 100 members \$135. *after October 31, 2016 dues are \$150.*

Your current Card and Certificate expiration date is December 31st, 2016. Your 2017 Card and Certificate expiration date will be December 31st, 2017.

The Circle of Directors is confident that the new period for annual renewal will address the issue of holiday busyness as well as financial challenges expressed by many FCM members.

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PRESIDENT...Tom Cusack

Our Assembly, *With Open Arms*

This year's Assembly in Cleveland will be an exciting and deeply transformative event. If you have not already done so I strongly encourage each of you to register immediately. Each speaker and workshop will cause you to think deeply, reflect on your ministry and improve your spiritual life. The Assembly begins Friday, August 5 and concludes on Sunday, August 7. This is a perfect time to meet and dialogue with your FCM colleagues from across the country. Registration is a snap, just follow this link: <http://federationofchristianministries.org/index.php/events2>

The Assembly will address many situations in which all of us find ourselves. The mainline Christian denominations are in decline in numbers and influence. It is reasonable that their theology and moral teachings are being critiqued and questioned. This is a source of concern for those of us who attempt to explicitly follow Jesus Christ.

The changing landscape requires us to develop new expressions of faith and spirituality. **John Shelby Spong** will help us do this. A retired Episcopalian bishop, he has formulated a theology which is in keeping with our scientific, post-Darwinian view of the world. In his book *A New Christianity for a New World*, he lists Twelve Points for Reform of Christianity including the following: "The view of the cross as the sacrifice for the sins of the world is a barbarian idea based on primitive concepts of God and must be dismissed." He expresses a need to change a central, traditional view of Christ's execution as a "sacrifice" that in today's world offers a concept of God which is simply unbelievable and irrelevant. He has developed new interpretations of the life and death of Jesus that make sense now, in 2016, taking on questions such as, "Who was Jesus? What was the role of the Divine in his life and ours?" We will have many opportunities to respond to his ideas, develop our own thoughts and form new approaches to ministry.

The topic of **Marianne Duddy-Burke's** keynote is Welcoming All: Ministers and Ministry that Respond to Human Needs and Can Save the Church. This is a broad and complex topic. One might well ask, what does Marianne bring to this address? She is Executive Director of DignityUSA, which "...works for respect and justice for people of all sexual orientations, genders, and gender identities—especially gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons—in the Catholic Church and the world through education, advocacy and support" (taken from DignityUSA's Mission Statement). I know Marianne and she is clear, concise and articulate in presenting the challenges found in our current Christian communities that are unique to the LGBT community. She will give us many ideas by which we can incorporate elements of her vision into our ministries. I'm excited that this most visible of social justice issues is begin addressed in our Assembly.

John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, will speak on the topic of The Unfinished Business of Civil Rights in America. He addresses racism, violence, justice and peace, and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender. God's inclusive love and God's justice are basic themes of his work. John's passion for social justice will inspire us to follow his example to continue the vast work of building the Kingdom. His presentation is extremely relevant in the presidential election season. Our society needs his mindset, and our attendance will allow us to soak it in.

The roster of workshop presenters is impressive. Each person brings a wealth of expertise and experience to their topics: mental health, community ministry, Hispanic ministry, prayer, Native American spirituality, and FCM's history. Please visit the workshop descriptions, using the link above.

The Cleveland Sheraton Airport Hotel is the ideal place for the Assembly. We held our 2014 Assembly there with excellent reviews and have been holding our twice-a-year Circle of Directors meetings there for several years. You will enjoy the facility and its services. Reserve your room at: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1602040383&key=35795EA3>

I look forward to seeing you at the Assembly. Please introduce yourself to me in the halls and meetings. I will be happy to meet you.





CHAIRPERSON...Tom Stricker

Assembly, Renewal Changes Call for Attention

Assembly Around the Corner... As you read this we are only weeks away from our National Assembly, aptly titled *With Open Arms*. In advance of that event I thank the 2016 Assembly Committee: **Patty Stricker, Antoinette Marold, Michaelita Quinn, Tom Leonhardt, Carolyn Horvath, John Polanski and Bea Broder** who have all worked hard preparing for an excellent gathering. I look forward to seeing you in Cleveland and encourage you to register if you have not already done so. We have a wonderful list of FCM member presenters and nationally known keynote speakers who will be addressing important issues of our time. In these days we see so much division and FCM welcoming ALL people with open arms can be a prophetic sign to the world. I wish you all safe travels.

Regional Gatherings Strengthen FCM... Last year every region held regional gatherings. **Tom Cusack** and I were able to attend each of these except the Southern Region's event. All were very well received and members were enthusiastic about the time to share and get to know each other better. I am pleased to note all of the presenters were FCM members. It is humbling to me to see the wealth of talent in our membership. Now is the time to begin planning for next year's gatherings. Your vice presidents are already looking toward those events and need your assistance so contact them as soon as possible to lend a hand.

Important Changes in Renewal Process... Over the years we have experienced increasing difficulty with late renewals. One of the consistent problems mentioned was that November and December have so many financial burdens it was difficult to pay renewal fees at that time. Hearing members' concerns, the Circle of Directors decided at the February meeting to change the dates for membership renewal. The new dates are **September 1st to October 31st**. Our Central Office will send renewal information by mail around August 25th at which time renewal can also be done on the FCM website. Please note these two important factors: renewal fees remain our main source of income and have remained the same since 2012.

As you make plans to renew, please be aware that **the length of membership has not changed**. In other words, the fees you paid last year cover January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. The fees you will pay this fall with the new renewal dates will still cover the calendar year, January 1 through December 31, 2017.

I hope this modification makes it easier for you to **renew your membership this fall** as soon as you receive the notice. This will alleviate work for your regional vice president, our treasurer, the membership office and Circle in general. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.





Regional News

Northeast Region Vice President...Dan Pellegrin

New, Returning Members Strengthen Region

Carl Yusavitz got us off to a great start on May 1 by hosting a local gathering at his home in Philadelphia. There's a mix of new and old members at our local meetings that benefits all. We will continue to work on local meetings in all areas come the fall. It's a priority for me, especially in those areas that haven't had a recent local meeting.

In Young Sohn and **Comfort Fordjour** were commissioned in February, and are progressing to endorsement, hopefully this August. **Mary Theresa Streck** hosted an Albany area meeting with a special purpose on May 16 – she was commissioned that day by her Upper Room congregation. Special congratulations to her!

We welcome back as returning commissioned members **Sarah Rossiter** of Weston, MA, and **Michael McCormack** of Woodbury, CT. **Catherine Knowles**, **Sharon Dickinson**, and **Maria Gullo** are working on their commissioning program, and we have every expectation they will be duly commissioned by the Circle in August. We grow our ranks in strength and commitment.

Although you've already marked your calendar for our National Assembly on August 5-7, 2016, here are some dates that are new to you: our biannual regional meeting is set for May 5-7, 2017. This retreat will be at the Eddy Farm on the Delaware River. A major reason for returning is its location, within driving distance for all members including those in western New York, Long Island, and northern New England.

May I again encourage our members coming to the National Assembly to join as a region while enjoying this special event. There will be no less than **seven** times to do so, and almost limitless opportunities to meet with members from across the country and beyond! So let's share a table and a great time in Cleveland (which may well still be celebrating the Cavaliers' transcendent basketball win!), and let's take care of each other and ourselves.





Regional News

Great Lakes Region

Co-Vice Presidents
Ron Davis & Amy Simpson Bennethum

Regional Meetings 2016 & 2017

Our national Assembly will take place from Friday, August 5th until Sunday, August 7th in Cleveland, Ohio. We are thrilled that our region will be hosting you once again. This will be a tremendous time for members from across the country to reconnect with one another while taking in rich spiritual food for our souls. As exciting as it will be, there will be many times our membership will gather in groups large and small over the next several months and into next year. Let me share with you some of what is being planned in our region.

For starters, there will be an opportunity for our chaplains to come together on Friday, September 30 for a one-day seminar at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Medical Center as they host their annual Grief Conference. Targeted at pastoral care givers, as are many of us in FCM, the topic is "Millennials: Helping Young Adults Deal with Grief." It will be presented by Heather Sevanty Seibert, PhD. FCM members can sit together during the lunch break and/or choose to go out together after the event to fellowship with one another. Contact Jan.Borgman@cchmc.org to register.

Throughout the summer, members in Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky are scheduling dates to gather. A thank you goes out to **John and Karen Schultz** for hosting a Michigan group in June. Details of that gathering and other events will appear in our September/October newsletter. If there are seminars that you are considering attending because of quality and relevance to your ministry and you would like others from FCM to join you, feel free to share that news with us at greatlakesvp@fcmail.org so we can include that information in the listing of events for the upcoming year.

Finally, we have secured a date to meet at Maria Stein Conference Center for next year's fall retreat, September 29 – October 1, 2017. After the Assembly we will put a team together to plan what has become a well-attended event in the region, so please let us know if you are interested in serving. We are excited about our many opportunities to come together to strengthen community in the Great Lakes Region. All are welcomed to participate in one or all events.





Regional News

Southern Region by Vice President....Sally T. Sherry

Regional Plans Call for Member Participation

The 2016 FCM Assembly in Cleveland, Ohio is coming in a few weeks. I look forward to seeing whoever is able to attend from our region. Perhaps we can gather for a meal or two and get to know each other. And speaking of getting together, now is the time to start planning for the **2017 Southern Region FCM gathering**. We need to choose a location that will work well for the as many of us as possible and pick a date for the gathering to happen. Please contact me if you are interested in being on the planning team. Perhaps that can be the topic of one of our meals at the assembly. If anyone has anyone has any ideas for conference facilities please contact me as soon as possible so we can schedule and reserve a date.

I would like to set up some times for us to have monthly conference calls so we can connect better as a region. I need help with the technology so if you have any expertise in that area, I would appreciate the assistance.

Since our region stretches such a long distance we would like to continue to seek FCM members who would be willing to be **Southern Area Representatives**. The valuable service to FCM provided by these volunteers is to help make the connection between members in specific areas within a region. Please let me know if you would be interested in filling this position wherever you are located.

I would also like to call everyone's attention to the **change in FCM renewal dates**. The time for renewal has been moved up to ease the financial burden for our members. Many people have said the financial stress of Christmas makes it difficult to pay membership renewals. With the early renewal dates we hope that this will ease the financial burden on our membership. Please use this time to your advantage.

As a final comment, FCM has not raised the renewal costs in the past three years. Donations have become a significant part of our budget. Please consider making a donation and consider placing FCM in your will, as I have done. This will be a gift that will continue to serve as you have served others.



Gratitude for FCM's Open Arms

by Jack Geracci, Specialized Ministries

Hello from Bucks County, Pennsylvania. My name is Jack Geracci and I am an ACPE Supervisor and Director of the St. Mary CPE Program at St. Mary Medical Center, in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. Founded by William Penn, Bucks County significance in the Revolutionary War as

General George Washington and his troops camped in here as they prepared to cross the Delaware River to take Trenton, New Jersey by surprise on the morning of December 26, 1776. Their successful attack on Britain's Hessian forces was a turning point in the war. Visionaries such as Penn and Washington were fortified for their missions by religious and philosophical beliefs: for Penn a commitment to protecting religious freedom and for Washington, a belief in Divine Providence.

As I reflect on my own sacred story, I am reminded of how religious freedom and trust in God's providence have been spiritual anchors for me. On my journey as a Registered Nurse, member of a Religious Congregation, laicized Roman Catholic Priest and now CPE Supervisor I have been blessed to have accompanied people as they experienced the cycle of death and rebirth in their own sacred narratives. In the challenges of daily living I join people as they lament, "Where is God?" With others I facilitate their exploration of whether or not religious doctrine assists them in coping or actually hinders their ability to find healing in the midst of their illness or dilemma. Sitting with CPE students of various religious and philosophical beliefs has given me new perspectives on the meaning of ecumenism and interfaith dialogue.

Never before had I experienced the imminence of Divine Providence as when students find common ground and genuine respect for one another amidst their differences in the CPE process. My love for my ministry as an ACPE Supervisor continues to grow deeper as I become more convinced that the good work of CPE contributes to global respect for difference. Sending students out into the worlds of congregational ministry, prisons, hospitals and inner city programs with greater sensitivity to cultural, ethnic and religious difference gives me an immense sense of fulfillment and purpose.

FCM has made all of this possible as I made vocational decisions that changed the course of my life. FCM was a beacon of hope that said, "Come, new opportunities await you." I recall the relief I felt when back in 2004 I had my first phone conversation with **Bill Manseau** about becoming a member. Bill normalized for me the feelings of being marginalized as a former religious and priest. In the process of coming to know members like **Carl and Mary Yusavitz** and **Paul and Pat Stubenbort**, I found a home, a place of acceptance where I was validated and supported as a child of God, called to ministry in whatever shape it was taking form. FCM allowed me to risk trusting in Divine Providence and to find compelling truth in the diverse religious and philosophical beliefs of people who continue to join me on my journey from all walks of life.

Thank you to all the founding mothers and fathers of FCM. Like the smallest of seeds that was planted and gave birth to the largest of plants, the mustard tree, may FCM's branches continue to grow and welcome members of rich diversity and commitment to building a more compassionate world reflective of God's love for all people. (Mt.13: 31-32)



Jeannie Hale

At a recent Association of Clinical Pastoral Education conference in Denver, Colorado, two of our own received their certification as ACPE Supervisors. Pictured with ACPE president Rev. Carlos Bell are **Jeannie Hale** who ministers at Wake Medical Center in Raleigh, North Carolina and **Linda Grant** who ministers at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Congratulations and best wishes from your sisters and brothers in FCM!



Linda Grant



Justice and Peace

Reaching Out in Pride for Justice and Peace
by James Barrrens

On the night of Friday, June 17 I joined 40,000 of my closest friends in expressing our solidarity with other victims of the Orlando Pulse shooting, both those who died and those who loved them. The occasion was Pride Night, an annual part of the Tampa Bay Rays Major League baseball schedule at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, FL.

While Pride Night was already on the Rays special events calendar for 2016, this year's celebration took on added significance after the incident at the Pulse Nightclub on June 12 in which Omar Mateen has been accused in a shooting where 49 people were killed and 53 others injured. Shortly after the tragedy, the Rays organization announced that all remaining seats for Pride Night would be sold for \$5, and that the proceeds would be donated to the Orlando Pulse Victims Fund. At the end of the day \$300,000 dollars was collected for the fund.

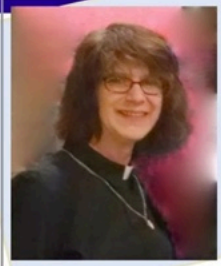
The Trop normally seats 31,402 for baseball. Friday's game attracted 40,135, the largest crowd for a regular-season game since 2006. Participants included Commissioner of Baseball Rob Manfred (via video), Major League Baseball Ambassador of Inclusion Billy Bean. "Una Voce," the Florida Men's Chorale sang the National Anthem and God Bless America.

As a member of our St. Petersburg community, I feel a responsibility to play a role in confronting hatred and violence whenever it occurs in our community. As a commissioned member of FCM, a Christian minister, I feel a special responsibility in circumstances such as these, to carry the message of love, justice, and inclusion wherever I go. I am proud of our community, just 90 miles from Orlando, for boldly demonstrating our commitment to tolerance.

This weekend St. Petersburg will celebrate our annual Pride Weekend, the largest such celebration in the South. Similar celebrations take place across America, and this year they take on a special significance. I urge you to play a public role in your community's Pride celebration this year.

And I pray for all of the victims of hatred and oppression, wherever they may be.





More Than a Request for Prayer

Susan Ferman...Prayer Support Coordinator

Although we have not had any formal prayer requests on the day I write this, I would like once more to call on prayers for the victims of the Orlando shooting, including their families and friends. I also request prayers that Americans take a stand against the prevalent social attitude of hatred of LGBT individuals by extremists of all stripes that has created the atmosphere where such horrific crimes can occur. After a great deal of prayer and consideration, I have decided to share with you my own recent experience around this sad event.

A woman who was filling in for our church musical director was circulating a petition in support of Initiative 1515, a so-called anti-transgender bathroom petition. She indicated that the petition is to prevent Washington State laws from "being changed" to allow transgender people to use the restrooms (and locker rooms, etc.) corresponding to their gender identity.

The lady was genuinely shocked when I told her that has already been the law since 2006, and that not a single crime has been committed by a transgender person in a public restroom. She was even more shocked to hear that my partner is transsexual—and an active, involved member of the church – and has been the victim of anti-transgender hate and discrimination that has been stirred up by this sort of legislation. And it is virtually guaranteed to get worse.

When I told a board member what was going on she said she agreed with me but told me that I "had to understand where [the lady with the petition] was coming from," i.e. that her first husband had left her for a man. It was as if her hurt feelings and generalized animosity toward the LGBT community made it understandable, even excusable. I felt very strongly that her action was motivated by hate, not fear or religious objections.

All this took place in the sanctuary before services began. When the pastor appeared I told her what the woman was doing and was told not to say a word! Yes, the pastor is a strong ally. Yes, her sermon was tied directly to what happened in Orlando. But not one word was said to the woman with the petition. Not once was the word "transgender" uttered. It seemed evident that "not making a scene" was more important than doing what is right, that once again the good of the church was put before the good of the people in it.

So I cried. I started crying five minutes into the service and could not stop. Not just because of the petition and the hate and fear behind it; not just because of what happened in Orlando. But because of all of it, and most of all because the pastor, who is a close personal friend and considers herself a strong ally of LGBT people would not even tell the woman with the petition that both her timing and actions were totally inappropriate.

This is why I am requesting prayers for compassion, for justice, for peace. And for the good, caring, compassionate people of the world to realize that evil truly is allowed to flourish when good people do nothing and to take a stand against hate, in all its forms.

*Prayer Support is available to everyone via the FCM website **PRAYER SUPPORT** button.....*





The Ecumenical Catholic Diocese of New England: Catholicism Moving Forward

by Jim David

My wife, **Marie**, and I are co-pastors of a small intentional community which has grown into a self-identified parish, St. Mary of Magdala Church. It is located on Cape Cod, Massachusetts and consequently gets many summer visitors. If they come when I am presiding at Mass it might at the outset seem like a small Roman Catholic Church. The first clue that something is different comes when we pray to God as Mother as well as Father; for the very observant it may be that we do not use the updated Roman Missal. When **Marie** is presiding the difference is noticed much sooner.

All this has led to numerous and interesting discussions over the years. Most people, especially Roman Catholics, are unaware that there are over 27 different types of Catholicism, and that the Roman is but one, albeit the largest, of these. There are older forms of Catholicism, and a plethora of independent Catholic churches and movements burgeoning around the country and the world in our own time.

St. Mary of Magdala Church is an Ecumenical Catholic Community, and part of the Ecumenical Catholic Diocese of New England. When people ask us what is different about this form of Catholicism we tell them that perhaps the most obvious difference is that we are inclusive and truly believe all are welcome at Jesus' table. While we cherish our Catholic heritage and Tradition, we see it as a living faith and living means learning, growing, and moving forward. We are part of the Ecumenical Catholic Diocese of New England, and a part of Catholicism moving forward.



Rev. Marie David, proclaiming the Gospel

A Labyrinth Retreat at Evensong Retreat Center, an ECDNE affiliate

Our Mission Statement

We are an independent Catholic Diocese, a communion of local Church communities and ministries. We are committed to foundational Catholic teachings and beliefs. We are moving forward with the work begun by the Spirit at Vatican II toward being an inclusive and just Church. We welcome Christians of all traditions and all people of good will to join us in our service to others and our worship.

The Ecumenical Catholic Diocese of New England (ECDNE) is an independent Catholic diocese. It differs from the traditional model of a diocese in that it is neither hierarchically structured nor juridically based, but exists rather as a communion of regional ministers, communities, and ministerial outreach programs operating on the basis of foundational Catholic beliefs and teaching. ECDNE offers its members a communal source of spiritual support and validation in the apostolic tradition for ministering the sacraments in the name of Jesus. Our ministers and communities are committed to inclusivity in their pastoral outreach and worship. Some of our ordained members are also FCM members, like **Rev. Carl Yusavitz** who, in addition to his ministry in counseling and CPE supervision, also helps pastor a house church: Sanctuary of Peace, in Philadelphia.

History and Background of ECDNE

The Ecumenical Catholic Diocese of New England has its roots in the Ecumenical Catholic Diocese of America (ECDA). ECDA was founded on March 25, 1982. It was established to maintain, propagate, practice and perpetuate Catholic religious worship, Catholic Sacraments, teaching and human services of the Christian Gospel and Ministry. The incorporation documents for ECDA further read, "...and for carrying out this purpose to maintain a religious organization; said corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations."





The Ecumenical Catholic Diocese of New England: Catholicism Moving Forward

by Jim David - History and Background continued ...

In November and December of 2012, Bishops from the Ecumenical Catholic Diocese of America met to discuss the best placement of its Bishops in light of their specific calls and charisms. This was precipitated by the imminent retirement of its Prime Bishop, the **Most Rev. Peter Brennan**, who had served as leader of the diocese for over thirty years. After considerable discussion and consultation with other members of the diocese, it was mutually agreed that the **Most Rev. James David**, coadjutor Bishop of ECDA, would be released from his responsibilities in order to found an independent New England Diocese. He would be assisted in this effort by those members of ECDA whose ministries (or historical affiliations) were in New England, and who desired to focus their energies more on regional than national outreach.

On January 1, 2013 the Ecumenical Diocese of New England was founded. In addition to our bishop our clergy members include seven ordained priests and one permanent deacon. Affiliated with ECDNE are three Intentional worship communities, a Sacramental and Retreat Ministry, A Retreat and Spirituality Center, and an outreach ministry. All of our clergy are also able to serve as officiants in the Sacrament of Matrimony. ECDNE is incorporated as a not for profit corporation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



Rev. Charlie & Cheryl Cavalcante, EDNE priest, officiate at a wedding



Spirit of Life Community in Weston, MA, pastored by Revs. Jean Marchant & Ron Hindelang, FCM and ECDNE members



Rev. Carol Bolstad (with her wife, Julie Lytle, right) celebrates liturgy at Clear Mind Center for Recovery & Spiritual Enrichment, an ECDNE affiliate

ECDNE: Beliefs

The Ecumenical Catholic Diocese of New England, is part of a growing movement of independent Catholic communities arising in a variety of developing forms. The movement is comprised of numerous small local faith communities and other ministries. Many of these communities, like ourselves, have included the word "ecumenical" to indicate our commitment to Christian unity. These communities often began with groups of Roman Catholics who sought a more inclusive worshipping community; they frequently include people from many different Christian traditions. A prevalent characteristic of these communities is that they welcome all people. ECDNE identifies itself as Catholic and lives out its Catholic heritage. It is not, however, affiliated with any Roman Catholic diocese and its authority does not come from the Vatican.

As with all who have formed Church in the name of Christ, our authority comes from Jesus. The Gospel of Jesus is our call to mission and our mandate for service. All of us within ECDNE, lay and ordained, are empowered by the Gospel in freedom to follow God's call. Our bishops, priests and deacons are people called forth for service by the community and are ordained within the apostolic lineage. We see ourselves as in communion with all Christian Traditions. While we adhere to the foundational teachings of the Church (Creedal Statements), we disagree with the current hierarchy of the Church of Rome regarding some of its (less than foundational) teachings.

From the point of view of the hierarchy, we are not in communion with them – nor they with us. Nevertheless we believe disagreement on non-foundational teachings is an opportunity for learning and growth – not a reason for disunity.

We look forward to the day when the Church of Rome and all Christian Traditions work together to discern and follow God's Spirit at work in our world. We believe all seven sacraments are gifts from Christ to the Church and meant to be open to all people regardless of gender or sexual orientation.



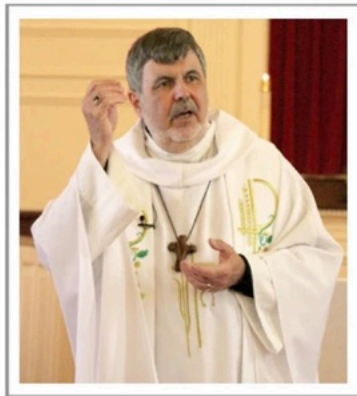
The Ecumenical Catholic Diocese of New England: Catholicism Moving Forward

by Jim David - ECDNE: Beliefs continued ...

Our leaders, lay and ordained, are called forth for service by the community. We believe Jesus intends for the Church to be ordered. But he repeatedly and consistently instructed that such order should be based on service and mission and not on power (Mk.9:35-36; Jn.13:11-17). Our diocese and affiliated organizations are structured such that in some format the entire body is involved in major decision making. Our leaders, lay and ordained, serve the community in the mission which Jesus gave it. The table around which we celebrate the Eucharist is Jesus' table and all are welcome to it. From our point of view, the Eucharist is far too precious a gift to be used as a punitive tool. We believe it was Jesus' intention and practice that it be celebrated to nurture unity and understanding, not to highlight differences. Hence we follow Jesus' example and welcome all at His table. (Jn 17:21)

ECDNE: Ministries

ECDNE's clergy engage in ministry both in their occupational fields which include chaplaincies, therapy, social work, and education; and in sacramental and pastoral ministry in traditional community settings as well as in outreach settings. These include three intentional faith communities, several wedding officiant ministries, an open-door ministry, spiritual direction, retreat work and a retreat and spirituality center. Within the structure of these ministries are numerous outreach efforts to work toward justice and to serve marginalized and underserved populations.



Bishop Jim David, preaching



ECDE Deacon Ann O'Callaghan distributing communion.

ECDNE is one small instance of many attempts to engage the world from a Catholic experience and thereby change both the world and the Catholic experience for the better. That is, after all, what Jesus did. He engaged the world and changed it for the better, and in the process changed himself and his perspective. The human experience was meant for growth and forward movement. If the beginning of the Catholic faith rests in the incarnation of God herself then we, as Catholics, must engage the very humanity which is God's gift to us in ourselves and others.

To do that means to change, to grow - to move forward in the evolution of God's kingdom ECDNE is one small portion of Catholicism moving forward.

Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 4 July/August - 2016



News Alert! News Alert! Important Notice!!!

by Patty Stricker, Assembly Chairperson

You, our FCM Members, have an opportunity to make a difference to bring healing to our world where there is so much pain and division.

Over the past number of years we have experienced nationally and globally an effort to see division as the answer to our problems. Our Assembly **"With Open Arms"** challenges this belief. As FCM ministers your response is critical. In August 2016, FCM Assembly and its dynamic speakers provides you a new opportunity to respond.

There is still time to register. If you have not done so already please review our keynote speakers and workshop leaders. Now more than ever don't let this opportunity go by.

Speakers Bios: <http://federationofchristianministries.org/pdfs/2016-Assembly-Bios.pdf>



FCM 2016 ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY DATES.....AUGUST 5-7, 2016
With Open Arms
Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel...Cleveland, Ohio
REGISTER at..www.federationofchristianministries.org
HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT THE SPECIAL RATE MUST BE MADE BY JULY 18, 2016



FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

2016 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

AUGUST 5-7, 2016



*With Open
Arms*

Keynote Speaker

Saturday, Morning & Afternoon

Bishop John Shelby Spong



**Friday Keynote Speaker
Marianne Duddy-Burke**

Executive Director, DignityUSA



**Saturday Afternoon Keynote Speaker
Rev. John C. Dorhauer**

General Minister and President of UCC



Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel...Cleveland, Ohio

Reservations...www.federationofchristianministries.org



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

Registration 12:00 Noon. until 7:00 p.m.



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

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

Small Faith Communities... Presenter: Rebecca Cartus, FCM

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

Dinner 5:30p.m. (Optional) \$38.00 per person....prepaid reservations

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

7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

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

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

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

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

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

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 pm. - 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

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

Breakfast 8:30 a.m.

FCM Members Biennial Meeting - Sit with your Region

11:00 a.m. Assembly Ends



With Open Arms

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



Assembly Registration

Registration Deadline July 25, 2016

- **Registration Fee: \$280 - meals included except for Friday Dinner which is optional**

Friday dinner (optional) \$38.00 due by July 25, 2016

- **Friday Only - Workshops, Keynote, and hors d'oeuvres with Marianne Duddy-Burke**

Registration: \$85.00

- **Saturday Only (9:00 a.m - 5:00 p.m.) includes Lunch..Registration: \$170**

- **Friday & Saturday 9:00 a.m - 5:00 p.m. includes Lunch..Registration: \$250**

CANCELLATIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING BY JUNE 15....\$25. CANCELLATION FEE (QUINNEMS@AOL.COM)

Registration Fees are listed above: (Please PRINT and use a separate form for each person attending)

Name: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Registration for the Assembly August 5-7, 2016 includes meals (see amount by date above)..... \$ _____

Optional Friday Dinner - \$38.00..... \$ _____

Friday Only Workshops, Keynote, and hors d'oeuvres with Marianne Duddy-Burke.....\$ _____

Saturday Only (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) includes Lunch.....\$ _____

Friday & Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. includes Lunch\$ _____

Special Dietary Needs... **TOTAL DUE** \$ _____

Vegan _____ Gluten Free _____ Other _____

A list of participants with their email addresses will be distributed at the Assembly. If you do not want your information shared please check box.

Registrations can be made and paid for ONLINE at www.federationofchristianministries.org
 or download the form and send with a check made out to FCM to Michaelita Quinn - 93 Post Rd. - Danbury, CT 06810

Hotel Reservations

Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel - 5300 Riverside Drive - Cleveland OH 44135

- **Room Rate: \$95. plus tax per room per night...rate in effect 3 days prior and 3 days after Assembly**

Reservations must be made by **July 18, 2016** by calling the hotel directly **216-267-1500**

or online at www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1602040383&key=35795EA3

Free airport shuttle...free parking...free wireless high speed Internet...indoor pool...fitness center...



Continuing Education Credits applied for...

Additional Registration information: Quinnems@aol.com



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.

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

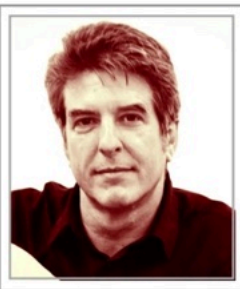
Presenters for community group that promotes living senior years in a positive, life-giving manner. Meets twice a month from January 2015 to present.....Presented workshop at FCM Assembly: TESTING THE WATERS, Our Lived Experience Is What Really Determines our Theology, 2014.....Presented workshop entitled 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.

Federation of Christian Ministries

FCM NEWSLETTER.....VOL. 50 NO. 4 July/August - 2016



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

FCM Central Office and Membership



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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.

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

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

FCM Circle of Directors

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FCM Communications: Antoinette Marold

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