

Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 2 March/April - 2016



Editors Notes by John Polanski

North Carolina Member Brings Enthusiasm and Commitment Pg. 7

Thanks to Jeanne Hale for sending along this sketch of her life and ministry! We welcome Jeanne's involvement and are grateful for her willingness to serve FCM. Watch for future articles from regional liaisons to the Specialized Ministries Committee.

Building Peace Through Justice Pg. 6

The introduction comes to us from Carolyn Horvath and provides some background to the article below. Many thanks to Carolyn, Chairperson of the <u>Justice and Peace</u>
<u>Committee</u> – please note the name change – and **Jim Barrens**, commissioned member from St. Petersburg, FL.

Atlanta February Event Celebrates United Efforts...Page 10

Much appreciation to Diane, Southern Region member and FCM secretary, for this vivid description of a public witness on behalf of justice and for her participation in this important ministry.

Interfaith Cooperation: Working Toward Understanding and Peace..Pg.11

The latest in a series from the Mountains and Plains region titled "Reflections on Ministry" comes from Malcolm Nazareth. A member of FCM for over two decades, he is a married Catholic priest of Indian origin, and a former Jesuit. Malcolm taught at St. Cloud State University (2002–14) and was part-time pastor of St. Mary Community Church, Harding, MN for over a decade. Some of his interfaith work has been documented at the websites of CIE (http://www.norhashimah.com/uniite/cie.html) and UNIITE (http://www.norhashimah.com/uniite/).

IN THIS ISSUE

Chairperson Election ResultsPage 2
Leadership Marks Changes, Continuity Tom Stricker, FCM Chairperson
Winter Circle Meeting: A Breath of Fresh Air Tom Cusack, FCM PresidentPage 4
Updates for Newly Commissioned and Endorsed Members Anthony S. Ercolano, Commissioning ChairPage 5
Building Peace Through Justice James Barrens, Justice and Peace Committee MemberPage 6
North Carolina Member Brings Enthusiasm and Commitment Jeanne Hale, Specialized Ministries Committee MemberPage 7
2016 Assembly Challenge Patricia Stricker, Co-Chair Assembly CommitteePage 8
Putting The Pieces Together Becky Cartus, Group Member Affairs DirectorPage 9
Atlanta February Event Celebrates United Efforts Diane Dougherty, FCM SecretaryPage 10
Interfaith Cooperation: Working Toward Understanding and Peace Malcolm Nazareth, Mountains and Plains MemberPage 11
Are You and Your Ministries Listed On The FCM Website? Antoinette Marold, FCM CommunicationsPage 12
Regional News
PacificNew Members Welcomed Donna Schrieber, Pacific V.P
Mountains and PlainsCelebrates Eight Newly Commissioned Members Richard E. James, Mountains and Plains V.PPages 14-17
Great LakesLocal Gatherings And Commissioning Warm Hearts Amy Simpson Bennethum with Ron Davis, Great Lakes V.P.sPage 18
NortheastLocal Area Get-Togethers Planned and Other News Dan Pellegrin, Northeast V.P19
SouthernAssembly, New Members Highlight Spring Sally Sherry, Southern V.P20
Assembly. 21 Quick Look. 22 Registration. 23 Speakers Bios. 24-27 Be a Sponsor. 28 Advertise in the Assembly Program. 29

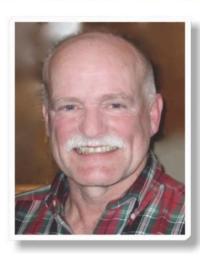


Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 2 March/April - 2016

Chairperson Election Results







Congratulations...Tom Stricker

On February 25, 2016, FCM Secretary Diane Dougherty cast a single vote on behalf of the FCM membership electing Tom Stricker as FCM Chairperson for the 2016-2019 term.

All of the nominations received were for Tom, therefore a ballot to the membership was not necessary.

We are happy to report that Tom accepted the nomination for a second term. Thank you, Tom.

Tom's new term as FCM Chairperson will begin after the 2016 Assembly and continue through the 2019 Assembly.

We wish him many blessings as he serves in this important leadership position in FCM.

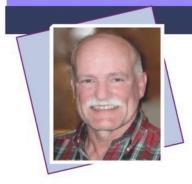
Ken Knapp

Chair, 2016 Chairperson Election Committee

Joe Mitcho and Antoinette Marold Election Committee Members

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Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 2 March/April - 2016

CHAIRPERSON...Tom Stricker

Leadership Marks Changes, Continuity

The recent Circle meeting was a wonderful event. As always, the days were packed full, Thursday evening through Saturday night. This particular gathering was a bit unusual in that there were six individuals who were attending their first Circle meeting and several others who were new since the August 2015 Circle meeting.

With so many new members we invited **Ginny Cusack**, a professional board trainer, to join us Thursday evening and Friday morning. Ginny engaged us in a process to allow us to get to know each other in a deeper way and to challenge us focus on our purpose and responsibilities at the meeting. I believe the whole Circle would agree we had a very efficient and productive meeting with much of the credit going to Ginny for her leadership and guidance during those initial hours. I am deeply grateful for her gifts.

Everyone on the Circle is a volunteer with individuals appointed to serve FCM in various positions. This gathering saw appointments of a number of Circle and non-Circle members to three-year terms. Commissioning Chair Tony Ercolano and Specialized Ministries Co-Chairs Christy Howard-Steele and Carl Yusatitz renewed their commitment. Sue Ross who is completing Ken Knapp's term of office was appointed to her first term as Treasurer and member of the Executive Committee. I wish to thank two individuals who accepted non-Circle Member appointments: John Polanski Editor of the Newsletter, Carl Yusavitz FCM's representative to GMU both renewed their appointments. Judy McBride was appointed to serve her first term on the Ethics Committee. To all of these FCM members serving the Circle I am grateful. Please support them by keeping them in your prayers.

Jeanne Barnes has served as the chair of the FCM Prayer Support team. I wish to thank Jeanne for her many years of prayer support service to FCM as she will be stepping down from that position in July. We have all benefitted from the Jeanne's leadership and the prayer support team's service. We are in search of a replacement. If the spirit moves you to nominate someone – or yourself – please contact me.

As you know all Baptisms performed by FCM members are to be recorded in our registry. Marriages may be registered as well. All registrations are made by contact with our registrar and sending the information by way of the FCM web site. Paul Reithmeier has fulfilled this duty faithfully for many years and will be stepping down as registrar. He has truly been a dedicated member, serving also as a Chairperson of FCM, and we are most grateful for his generosity. Contact me if you are interested in taking on this responsibility or would like to suggest someone for the task.

Finally please visit the FCM Facebook page. There are daily Lenten reflections by members of the Circle. This is one more way we can connect with each other and support each other in our ministries.

PRESIDENT....Tom Cusack

Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 2 March/April - 2016



Winter Circle Meeting... A Breath of Fresh Air

The words "good news" are sprinkled throughout the New Testament. Jesus preaches the good news; his disciples and those sent out announce the good news. The good news is part of the core message of God walking with us. Of course, news will affect the shape of our future and the way we express our message. Here is some FCM good news.

We completed our Circle meeting in Cleveland, where new decisions and initiatives began to take shape. It started with the Circle itself where 6 of the 15 who walked into the meeting room were new members. We took some time at the beginning to get to know one another and then began to feel the energy and insights that our newly constituted group was generating.

We have formalized several outreach initiatives aimed at communities of faith and service. Becky Cartus, Director, Group Member Affairs, presented a comprehensive plan whereby FCM can do systematic outreach to communities of faith to raise their awareness of the benefits to them of FCM group membership. This initiative and plan over several years supports our strategic goal, "Support the establishment of local faith communities." The Circle's action in approving Becky's proposed plan is the first funding that FCM has put toward the acquisition of group members. This is new, and it will be enjoyable to see how this initiative plays out. It is at the core of FCM's mission.

As chair of the Roman Catholic Faith Community Council (RCFCC), a part of the <u>Denominational Concerns Committee</u>, Eileen DiFranco gave a summary of her year of discernment about FCM's involvement in reform activities aimed at the Roman Catholic Church. The Circle is following her recommendation that we continue to market FCM at the large Catholic progressive convention held by Call to Action. This involvement continues to introduce FCM to a national audience. FCM will also continue its membership in a communication organization of Catholic reform groups, which is called COR (Catholic Organizations for Reform).

At the same time Eileen recommended that FCM withdraw its membership in an international organization aimed at Catholic Church reform. It is the IFRCM (International Federation for the Renewal of Catholic Ministry). The Circle agreed that this organization did not closely enough support the strategic goals of FCM while our involvement imposed significant travel costs on us. Finally, the Circle approved funding for and outreach by FCM to Roman Catholic parishes that are closing, often due to a shortage of priests. Eileen continues to work on resources for this effort and when the FCM infrastructure is in place for it, FCM will offer help to some of these parishes that are being disbanded through no fault of their own. This is a new and striking initiative for FCM as we move to bring our strength of dedicated ministers to the aid of suffering and endangered faith communities.

Our <u>Specialized Ministries Committee</u>, led by <u>Christy Howard-Steele and Carl Yusavitz</u>, offered a plan of action for the year to the Circle. It was approved and will strengthen our support for those feeling the call to activity in the field of specialized ministries as chaplains and in other positions which require endorsement. This is one of the highest level services FCM offers to its members. We continue to break new ground here and offer leadership in this arena.

Finally in the area of FCM's official Prayer Ministry, long-time leader Jeanne Barnes is stepping back from her leadership role. As the formal prayer ministry changes, I hope we all increase our informal efforts in the area of prayer and meditation. Please pick up on 2 x 2 4 FCM to bring 2 minutes of prayer and meditation daily on behalf of FCM and its ministry.

If we can create a more intense FCM community—by attending the National Assembly—provide outreach to faith communities and inreach to our own spiritual development, we will be the Good News and the Breath of Fresh Air.



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Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 2 March/April - 2016

Updates for Newly Commissioned and Endorsed Members

by Anthony Ercolano, Commissioning Chair

An Opportunity to Celebrate Commitment... Many of our candidates have developed their own personal ceremonies to mark their affirmation as a commissioned member of FCM. These ceremonies often take place close to the candidate's home or ministry and are often presided over by the regional Vice President or the candidate's community of faith.

In addition, at each biennial Assembly, we have an opportunity to acknowledge, with a larger community, the commissioning/ordination of our members.

If you are able to attend this summer's Assembly – and we hope that you are – please consider renewing your commitment, or accepting your commission for the first time, in the midst of your brothers and sisters in ministry. We look forward to seeing you in August.

New Procedure for Background Checks... As many of you are aware, we have initiated a new process for conducting background checks for our candidates. It is imperative that we maintain the highest level of integrity as an organization, and this is just one of the many ways that we ensure that.

In the past, applicants would complete a form with their personal, confidential information, which would be transmitted to the Commissioning Chair or Specialized Ministries Chair for submission to the secure web site of the private security agency that completes the background check. While this process was effective, it did compel confidential information to go through many hands before it was submitted.

The new process is more direct. The candidate will be instructed through their personal email account to sign in to the agency's web site directly and to enter their personal information into the secure site. After the application is complete, the Commissioning Chair or Specialized Ministries Chair will perform a review to make sure the required information is entered and then submit the application.

The members of the Circle have tested this process by completing their own background checks and have expressed their approval. We trust that this method will better meet our candidates' needs.

FCM Commissioning

FOR INFORMATION ON FCM COMMISSIONING .. CONTACT THE VICE PRESIDENT OF YOUR REGION

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Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 2 March/April - 2016



Justice and Peace

Chairperson....Carolyn Horvath

At the recently-completed winter Circle meeting, we discussed how there cannot be peace without justice and wanted to convey that message which led to our new name. It may be a little challenging to remember at first, but let's keep reminding each other and eventually it will be easy.

Given that it has been a practice to invite committee members to submit articles to the Newsletter, we have asked Jim Barrens to fulfill the task this time around. We wanted folks to get to know what The Justice Factory is all about and invite them to get in touch with Jim for further information.

We will be contacting by email current committee members as well as the new people who indicated their desire to participate. In March we will have a teleconference to share thoughts and ideas about committee activity. In the meantime, please enjoy the article. Blessings and peace, Carolyn, Justice and Peace Committee Chair.

Back in 2007, here in St. Petersburg, The Justice Factory (www.thejusticefactory.org) was created to promote justice, peace and interfaith reconciliation using the tools of grassroots community organizing.

As it says on our front page: "Power comes from only two things; organized money and organized people. We don't have any

money- that's why we need organized people."

At TJF we focus on three specific areas related to our mission:

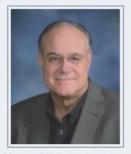
- Heroes of Social Justice- Profiles of Inspirational People
- Catholic-Jewish Reconciliation- In the Spirit of the Second Vatican Council
- 3. Community Organizing- Creating Power and Leadership to Effect Change

We believe that these areas provide us with inspiration for our souls and tools for our bodies as we work to create a better world.

The following statement appears on our web site:

"The Justice Factory, a non-profit enterprise, was established in 2007 in St. Petersburg, Florida. We at The Justice Factory believe in the basic goodness of humanity. We believe that all people have an instinctive urge to be united and free. And we have an optimistic faith that the basic human yearnings for goodness, unity, righteousness, and freedom will ultimately prevail.

But we also recognize humanity's capacity for hatred, alienation, and destruction. We see the results of hatred, greed, and division all around us, throughout history, and to the present day. And we recognize, with great sorrow, the painful madness that sometimes consumes us, often in the name of religion.



Throughout history, however, courageous people have labored, suffered, and died fighting for peace, reconciliation, and freedom. At The Justice Factory we hold these people up as examples for us all. We acknowledge their sacrifices, we strive to be more like them, and we vow to never forget them. These heroes inspire us to follow the better angels of our nature.

In the past 50 years, enormous progress has been made all over the world on the road toward freedom, reconciliation, and equality. Two tangible examples of this progress are the American Civil Rights Movement and Catholic-Jewish reconciliation.

The basic strategies of these two movements are consciousness-raising, relationship-building, and challenging power structures. These strategies are the fundamental tools of community organizing.

We believe that people across the world can use the proven strategies and tools of community organizing, as courageous people have done and are still doing in civil rights and Jewish-Catholic relations, to confront and overcome any religious, social, cultural, and political problems they might face.

At <u>The Justice Factory</u>, we strive to make some small contribution to these efforts."

For further information contact <u>JamesBarrens@TheJusticeFactory.org</u>

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Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 2 March/April - 2016



Specialized Ministries

Jeanne Hale, North Carolina Member Brings Enthusiasm and Commitment

Hello! My name is Jeanne Hale, and I am the <u>Southern Region Liaison for the Committee on Specialized Ministries</u>. I grew up in Charlotte, NC, and attended Appalachian State University in Boone, NC where I received a BS in Communications, and then NC State University in Raleigh, NC where I graduated with a BS in Electrical Engineering. I moved back to Charlotte and worked as an electrical engineer with a local utility company and later as a project manager for a software company.

After a decade in the corporate world I felt called to a more intentional focus on ministry and service, believing the training would allow me to grow in my relationships with God and God's people, deepen my reflections on life experiences, and provide opportunity to learn more about myself. I was not disappointed.

In 2003, I moved to Chicago, IL, to attend McCormick Theological Seminary. Situated in an urban setting it offered me an opportunity to study, live and learn with a diverse group of students and faculty. It was also where I met my amazing partner, Zaida. We have been in a committed relationship for over 12 years now, and each day I love her more and grow in gratitude for her presence, support and love in my life.

During seminary I completed a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at a retirement community. I experienced CPE to be eye-opening, challenging, frustrating, affirming, scary and transformative-- all at the same time. The experience convinced me spiritual care ministry was where I belonged.

Following graduation from McCormick with a Master of Divinity degree, I participated in a year-long CPE residency at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. Because CPE was such a transformative experience in my life, I wanted to help create that same transformative experience for others. After my residency year I accepted an offer to begin training as a CPE supervisor.

The CPE supervisory education process was a long, challenging, often painful journey for me. Along the way I questioned myself and wanted to quit more times than I can count. Thankfully, there were many experiences of joy, growth and affirmation along the way as well. I also had incredibly supportive people in my life, including family and friends, co-workers, students, supervisors, peers and colleagues in the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, along with the leadership and members of FCM. On November 15, 2015 I became officially certified as an ACPE Supervisor.

Currently I live in Raleigh, NC, where I'm a CPE Supervisor at a Level I Trauma Center hospital. I love my work, and learn something new every day from my colleagues, the hospital patients and staff, and the CPE students with whom I have the honor of journeying.

I am also deeply honored to represent FCM in my ministry. I became a member in 2008, and was commissioned and endorsed in 2009. FCM is a great fit for me, and I especially appreciate their focus on issues of justice and inclusion, and their integrity with regard to the commissioning and endorsement process. FCM members and leaders took time to get to know me and supported me both through the endorsement process and through the CPE Supervisory certification process. Now I'm grateful for the opportunity to walk with others in their endorsement process with FCM.

I'll be reaching out to folks in the Southern Region over the next several months to inquire about support or needs you may have with regard to your ministry, endorsement and FCM. Please feel free to contact me and say hello: jeannehale18@gmail.com. I'd enjoy hearing from you, and I hope to see you at the National Assembly in Cleveland in August.

Editor's note: Thanks to Jeanne Hale for sending along this sketch of her life and ministry! We welcome Jeanne's involvement and are grateful for her willingness to serve FCM. Watch for future articles from regional liaisons to the Specialized Ministries Committee.





2016 Assembly Challenge

by Patty Stricker

For those needing a reason to shake off the winter blahs – especially we who are in the colder parts of the county – I have it on good authority that Spring is on its way, arriving March 20. And here's even more good news: after almost two years of working and planning, the 2016 FCM Assembly is coming to fruition this August 5-7 in Cleveland, Ohio. This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity for FCM members and friends to share in the wisdom and knowledge of their fellow members and Rev. John Shelby Spong, Rev. John Dorhauer and Marianne Duddy-Burke. This will be a rich and life-giving experience.

I CHALLENGE ALL FCM MEMBERS TO MAKE THIS ASSEMBLY YOURS! Come together as continual cocreators of FCM as it moves forward in growth. Visit the FCM web site for complete registration details as well as information on how to be a donor or sponsor for the Assembly. Get your registration in early and make your discounted room reservations. See you all this August in Cleveland!





Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 2 March/April - 2016

Director of Group Affairs

Rebecca Cartus

Putting the Pieces Together

Puzzles fascinate me. All those individual pieces, dumped out on the table. A part of the scene . . . a section of the picture . a close-up of an intricate but vital element that we can't do without. All just waiting to be put together.

And puzzlers claim my respect as well . . . the usually quiet folk for whom faithfulness plays out more like a skill than a virtue and who refuse to let the tedium and the complexity of the task deter them from pulling up a chair and starting in.

And, then, the finished project - just dazzling. Intricate and detailed, the pieces interlock to paint an entire picture, one that carries with it the individuality of each part as well the notion of connectedness. Simply beautiful.

And tempting. Sure, I can do that. All it takes is an especially roomy table and an incredibly strong light, right? And the patience of Job, I might add.

And so, the latest allure sits in a five hundred (500) piece heap on my spanking new card table. And it's a doozy. A mandala puzzle, all circles and squares and triangles but no color. Nope. Every piece is black and white. The coloring comes later . . . in my case, much later . . . when the puzzle sits complete.

Holy Tessellation, Batman! No color cues to lump together in piles with the hopes that something in there fits together. Only shapes and suggestions of shapes to line up with the hopes that they fit together. Slow going, I can tell you.

How like the task before me as the Director of Group Affairs for the Federation of Christian Ministries. Such a varied and diverse group membership blesses FCM - each community shapes itself to the discernible needs before it. And we get to boast gatherings that eat together, pray together, perform together. We list services that cross denominational, religious, and even cultural lines. We partner with organizations that devote their energies to called leaders (clergy and lay), to underserved neighborhoods, to upset parishioners. They all do the good work of the Gospel.

And yet, they find themselves sitting in a heap - unconnected to the groups around them, unsure of the parameters of the organization.

And that's where I come in. To puzzle out the marvelous diversity and dynamic personality of each group and to fit them together into a viable portrait of Christian ministries. To that end, I plan to begin by calling interested persons to serve on the Committee of Group Affairs, by continuing to reach out to individual groups with a listening ear and a couple of questions, and by working to connect the dots (and the webcams) of FCM faith communities scattered across the country on a regular basis.

And, if the creek doesn't rise and the computer doesn't crash, we will gather as a group for the community ministry workshop - Sacred Waves: Riding the Tide of Ministry at the 2016 FCM Assembly in Cleveland, OH August 5-7 - and start to put some color in the cheeks of our blossoming organization.

Fascinating work, isn't it?



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Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 2 March/April - 2016



Atlanta February/Events Celebrates United Efforts

by Diane Dougherty...FCM Secretary

From November, 2015 to Feb. 14, 2016, I have been part of a most amazing group of women intent on ending violence and being the change they want to see, creating a society that works for women and men. Each woman and man who has participated in this effort has a story about the longings of their heart, and what changes they are working to bring about, changes that act as ripples of hope for those who will follow us. This was our 4th celebration and the inter-cultural and interfaith spirit was visible. You can find out more by going to www.onebillionrisingatlanta.net

From our Jan. 30-31 workshop with about 70 volunteers who worked on the Posts for Peace and Justice, we completed art pieces that are ready to travel and speak to issues around ending the campus rape culture, homelessness, the UN's 17 goals for world sustainability, ending domestic violence, protecting our Mother Earth and re-inventing masculinity within a community of equals.

With more than 250 in attendance, the Artistic Uprising, featuring Eve Ensler of <u>The Vagina Monologues</u>, brought out youth of passion and mission, each of them calling us to pay attention and do what we have the power to do.

We were fortunate to connect with women in the healing arts, whose goals are to offer free healing workshops for those bruised and abused. The Joyous Heart Network will be the fundraiser and creator of workshops designed to offer healing services within loving communities to all who ask. Colin Tipping's Radical Forgiveness Workshop brought many of the 80 attendants to tears and wholeness.

One of the greatest surprises were the 300 + that came to the Plaza theater to listen to the documentary **The Mask You Live In**. Surprisingly, most were millennials and came from distances to see, hear and discuss the content.

Many signed up for ongoing actions with the **Hu-MAN-Up** group, as they plan further events.

At the beginning of the strategizing, I had the vision that we keep in mind that all events would add up to a "tsunami event," one that captures the heart and pulse of this movement, and that happened on Sunday, Feb. 14th as we gathered at the skatepark for the flashmob and danced to the song "Break the Chain."

There were peace poles at the top of the sculpture honoring all religions, with the poles newly made into a circle on the field. Participants decorated red umbrellas, representing the Red Tent experience where our sisters were sent during their menses. Under each "red tent" we proclaimed freedom from all that holds us back and freedom to choose who we are empowered to become.

(Editor's note: Please check the FCM Blog for an amazing video of this event. FCMblog.org)

A wonderful group of the drummers, one in a wheel chair, drummed a heartbeat. Lisa Parsons, the Co-creator of the Posts, shared her vision while Jan read Eve's piece on why this movement will continue until every last structure of patriarchy ends.

The drummers kept up a beat and all of the dancers moved in and out of the posts and when it ended, people stood with one hand on a post and one on their heart. I ended with a prayer to the divine feminine and masculine energies that we continue to be a tsunami of love and passion, agents of a change that continues to rise to end violence and bring peace to all corners of our world

As leaders practiced the dance with the crowd, I found two most precious girls to begin the movement for our flashmob, carrying a banner to the Ponce City Market. About 300 of us danced, with bystanders moving and dancing right there with us.

I am still basking in this kind of priesthood that becomes one with people – as leader, supporter and spirit guide. For me, this is a new kind of Pentecost.





Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 2 March/April - 2016

Working Toward Understanding and Peace

INTERFAITH COOPERATION....by Malcolm Nazareth

Our state of Minnesota and our city of St. Cloud have witnessed a significant spurt in the population of Latinos/as and Asian Americans since the year 2000. But the number of Somali immigrants has jumped in mindboggling ways so that Minnesota today is considered by some the "Somali capital of the USA." St. Cloud (population 80,000+) boasts a 10% Somali population. Consider that Somalis are 99.9% Muslim and that they are Africans. Remember also the movie "Black Hawk Down," and you get the picture of our local citizenry's extreme allergic reaction to their influx.

St. Cloud has been known as "White Cloud" for many generations. It has been a hotbed for the KKK and its affiliates. It has been cold, even hostile, to diversity, multiculturalism, and attempts to bring integration among the religious, racial, and ethnic communities. Periodically there have been outbreaks of hate crimes and racial tensions. A small minority of concerned White citizens, however, has consistently and tirelessly tried to show hospitality to non-Whites. Change has been coming about painfully slowly. Our intense interfaith and intercultural work here since 2000. through CIE (Center for Interfaith Encounter, founded 2000) and its nonprofit wing UNIITE (Understanding the Need for Interfaith/Intercultural Togetherness and Education, 2002-08) has been like "watering a dry stick." This was exactly the title of a workshop I offered many years ago at an FCM national conference.

Over the past year, there was a spate of events of hate and counter-hate in St. Cloud concerning White supremacists and Somalis. Mariani and I decided to get involved seven years after the closing of UNIITE. In November 2015, we went to a Niagara Foundation screening in Minneapolis of "Love is a Verb." Later, we connected with leaders of Muslim-Christian dialogue groups and, on three separate afternoons, invited some Muslim friends and acquaintances to our home to visit with us over a cup of tea. They were Arab, Bangla Deshi, White American, and Turkish. We later decided that screening this movie in St. Cloud might be a good way to start. It would signal to our community that we, too, were joining in the fray together with and alongside other organizations and religious groups which are working for understanding and peace.

The "Love is a Verb" movie is based on the life and work of Mr. Fethullah Gulen, a Turkish American moderate Sunni Muslim. It is suitable to offset the negative image of Islam. Gulen is a renowned Sufi and public intellectual with millions of followers worldwide. Yet, in the USA, the name Gulen draws a blank in non-Muslim communities. Why might this be so?

Terrorism and its Islamist perpetrators are relatively few and far between, but the mass media of communications have made them seem much larger than life. On the other hand, outstanding role models go a-begging.

FCM was one of the co-sponsors of our screening along with Niagara Foundation, CIE, and Spirit of Life Unitarian Universalist Church, St. Cloud. The eve of Valentine's Day was selected for screening as the movie deals with "love" as a "doing-word" or verb.

February 13th was a brutally cold Saturday (well below freezing). Despite the hostile weather, thirteen of us gathered at the Great River Regional Library in the Mississippi Room. Two were from a woman-priest led Catholic community, four were from a Pakistani Sunni Muslim family, one was from Unitarian Universalist Church, and one was Presbyterian. Of the organizers, two were Turkish Americans and two South Asian Indian Americans. We first saw a 10-minute documentary on the Niagara Foundation and its branches in the upper Midwest. After the 55-minute featured movie, Mariani Nazareth asked each person to speak one word that captured their thoughts or feelings. Then she distributed pieces of paper for feedback. She also asked people to state whether they might be interested in participating or supporting a late spring Interfaith Friendship Dinner to be sponsored by the Niagara Foundation with assistance from CIE and others.

Before the audience departed, a Pakistani woman offered to help out with the forthcoming Interfaith Friendship Dinner. My veteran friend offered to get his Presbyterian Church to offer their hall for the same dinner. Dr. Tolga Misirli, executive director of Niagara Foundation, had a wonderful, positive attitude overall. When I said that a movie of this quality needed to have an audience of 500 people, he replied that he had learned from his teacher Mr. Gulen that, even if two people are present for a Niagara program, that's a considerable number. "One standing next to one makes eleven." That thought was no small consolation for those of us who were somewhat disappointed that people had put themselves to such expense on this frigid day in St. Cloud to join us for the movie. According to Gulenian mathematics, who said we were only thirteen attendees? Hey, we were a trillion strong.

On Monday, February 22nd, at 2 pm, six sisters from the St. Benedict Monastery will visit CIE to consult with Mariani and myself about their efforts to reach out to seven new Somali families in St. Joseph, MN. On Friday, March 2nd, at 2 p.m. Mr. Misirli will revisit St. Cloud. We have set up an appointment in the Chancery with St. Cloud diocese's Catholic Bishop Don Kettler precisely to discuss future possibilities of interfaith cooperation with Turkish-American Muslims and other local Muslims.





Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 2 March/April - 2016

by Antoinette Marold, FCM Communications

Are You and Your Ministries Listed on the FCM Website?

One of the benefits of your FCM membership, is a listing of you and your ministerial services on the FCM website under the "FIND A MINISTER" dropdown.

You can be listed under three (3) categories, and the listings are FREE.

If you would like to make yourself available to provide ministerial services, the website is a great way to reach people looking for your services.

Some frequently asked questions and answers....

Question: I am a FCM member in good standing and have been for years, why am I not listed on the website?

Answer: To be listed on the FCM website under Find a Minister, you must submit a request each year.

Question: I was listed on the website the last calendar year. Do I have to submit a new form each year?

Answer: Yes, a new form must be submitted each year.

Question: Where do I find the form to submit a listing for the website?

Answer: Forms were sent out to FCM members the week of February 19 - 25, 2016. They were due by March 1, 2016. If you missed the due date you can still register:

Login on to the Members Only Login section of the FCM website.

Select the tab: Ministry Listing

Complete the form and submit. All submissions are due by March 10, 2016.

FCM members have a great deal to offer the general public in ministerial services. I hope you will take this opportunity to help people who need your services.

If you have questions or need help with the LOGIN, please email me. My email address is: communication@FCMmail.org

.Email: communication@FCMmail.org



Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 2 March/April - 2016

Regiona

Pacific Region by Vice President....Donna Schrieber

New Members Welcomed

Rev. Krista Messam is a commissioned and endorsed FCM member as of July 2015. She and her husband, Addis Messam, recently relocated from Chicago, Illinois to Redlands, California making her part of the Pacific Region. She is a graduate of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary with an M.Div. and completed her CPE Residency at Rush University Medical Center. She has been volunteering at St. Bernadine Medical Center in San Bernadino as a chaplain 8 hours a week as she looked for fulltime employment. In March 2016, Rev. Messam will be joining Kaiser Permanente in Riverside, CA as their full time staff chaplain. Congratulations Krista!

Welcome also to newly-commissioned member Anya Spielberg! Anya has a BA in Psychology from the University of Virginia, a MOH in Health Program Management from the University of Hawaii and an MA in Pastoral Counseling from Liberty Baptist Theological School. She is also bilingual, speaking English and Spanish. Having completed 4 Units of CPE and 1200 hours of Chaplain Internship, Anya is eligible for board certification as chaplain. She has been working as a chaplain since June of 2015 and has 15 years experience as a volunteer program manager, hospice volunteer and bereavement counselor. We thank you for your ministry and rejoice in your commissioning.



Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 2 March/April - 2016

Regional News

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

New Members Reflect FCM Diversity

I am happy to introduce you to these newly-commissioned colleagues and invite you to go online to the membership list and send them a welcoming note. Also please keep them in your prayers. Once again congratulations to our newly commissioned FCM ministers. We welcome you to the FCM community of faith as we continually seek to do something great in the will of the Divine.



David L. Moss is currently a Chaplain Resident at Fairview Southdale Hospital, Edina, MN. David is a member of an interdisciplinary Palliative Care Team, and provides spiritual care and support for six to twelve palliative patients daily, primarily in an oncology / medical unit. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy, with honors from the University of Illinois, Medical Center, Chicago, IL., a Certificate of Spiritual Formation, and a Master of Divinity from Bethel Seminary, St. Paul, MN with an emphasis in Spiritual Formation. David's notable history includes a background in Orthopedic Physical Therapy Services and experience as an Advance Care Planning Certified Facilitator. His ministry history includes serving as a Youth Ministry Team Leader at Prairie Community Church, in Eden Prairie, MN. He has provided mentoring services to former prisoners after their release, and has served as a volunteer host for homeless youth, associated with the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches Community Justice Project.

David describes his sense of call and mission as he states "I have been called to the ministry of hospital chaplaincy in response to God's persevering presence, grace, and love ...notoriously active in ordinary moments." Regarding his reasoning for seeking FCM commissioning David expressed, "...I take my call seriously to hospital chaplaincy. I seek to have that call affirmed by the FCM community. ... Commissioning is a necessary step in my journey to become endorsed by FCM, with the ultimate goal of becoming a board-certified chaplain." David anticipates maintaining his relationship with FCM by attending local, regional, and national gatherings.



Dustin Crawford is a lead chaplain at Bethesda Hospital, HealthEast Care System, St. Paul, MN., a long-term acute care hospital. He holds a Bachelor's of Science in Sociology from Oklahoma State University and a Master of Divinity from Oklahoma Christian University. Dustin has served our country as a Battalion Chaplain in the Army National Guard from June 2008 to June 2014. During his deployment to Kuwait, he was a Camp Buehring Post Deputy Chaplain, a leadership role that required him to coordinate worship services among chaplains, units, and civilian contractors on post. He is a part of the Upper Room Minneapolis, a non-denominational Christian community. The leadership of his faith community affirms his calling to chaplaincy, but it does not possess the means to endorse individuals for professional certification.

Dustin has sought FCM commissioning, (and later FCM endorsement) so he can advance his vocation through professional certification with the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education. Dustin claims his strengths and calling to be that of "guiding, advising, and equipping..." persons for ministry, and believes that "CPE Supervision combined with hospital chaplaincy is the vocation for which God has called" him to practice.

*NOTE: AS SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW, I (RICHARD JAMES) WAS APPOINTED AS THE FCM REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF THE MOUNTAIN AND PLAINS REGION IN JULY OF 2015. DUE TO AN OVERSIGHT THAT OCCURRED DURING THAT TRANSITIONING, WE MISSED THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE FCM COMMISSIONING PROCESSES REGARDING DUSTIN CRAWFORD. I REQUESTED THE FCM CIRCLE OF DIRECTORS TO MAKE A TEAM EFFORT TO CATCH UP TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO AFFIRM HIS GIFTS AND SKILLS FOR MINISTRY. THE FCM CIRCLE OF DIRECTORS ALSO AGREED THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANTED SPECIAL ATTENTION AND POLL. THEREFORE, THE CIRCLE OF DIRECTORS CONSIDERED DUSTIN CRAWFORD'S APPLICATION FOR COMMISSIONING OUTSIDE OF THEIR REGULAR MEETING, AND HE WAS APPROVED FOR FCM COMMISSIONING.



Mountains & Plains Region

Page...2



Eileen O'Farrell Smith has been a member of the FCM since July 2014. Currently, she is an "Interfaith Minister: providing agency to couples who are inter-dating and inter- married; providing ritual support in matters of marriage and funeral rites; and providing services to blended families looking for creative and authentic means in which to celebrate their new family members whether through birth or adoption." Eileen holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Pre-Med from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA., and a Master of Public Health degree, from the University of Illinois, Chicago, IL, and a Masters in Theology from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, IL. She also directed a research grant that dovetailed into a book for families raising children in an interfaith context entitled, Making our Way to Shore.

Eileen has also served as a Chaplain Intern at Loyola University Medical Center, a Chaplain Resident at Advocate Lutheran Medical Center, and has provided service to the Peace Corps and VISTA. One of the most striking aspects of Eileen's faith and vocational journey is the impact of her husband's unfortunate frontal lobe malignant brain tumor diagnosis. She states that it led to nearly a fifteen-year journey; "supporting, caring for and loving him through brain surgeries, chemotherapies, radiation and gamma knife (procedures), until tumors took his life...". She cites, "In reality, I had become a Palliative Care Chaplain." Eileen hopes to secure FCM endorsement, which will give her desired ecclesiastical validation as she seeks to embrace a vocation as a chaplain.



Franklin D. Reagan Jr. recognized his call to ministry at the young age of ten, has built an extensive history in ministry, and has become a seasoned and professional minister without losing his connection to the Holy Spirit. Franklin is a licensed, ordained, and is ecclesiastically endorsed by the Assemblies of God. He has served the church for twenty-two years with congregations the size of 125 to 3000 in the capacities of Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, Music Minister, Singles and College and Career Pastor, and Program Director. Franklin holds a B.S. from Christian International College, Santa Rosa Beach, FL, a B.A. from Southwestern Assemblies of God University, Waxahachie, TX, and an M.Div., from Assembly of God Theological Seminary, Springfield, MO. Franklin is an APC board-certified chaplain, and a clinical member of ACPE. He has served as chaplain at Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland,

Oxford Healthcare and Hospice Springfield, MO, and Cox Medical Center Springfield, MO. Currently, Franklin is a staff chaplain at Hospice Compassus, in Springfield, MO. I came to know Franklin as he reached out to me and sought my consultation as he reflected on his possible affiliation with FCM. I experienced Franklin as a reflective person of faith and integrity, and deeply in touch with his relationship with God, and call to ministry. Franklin is seeking FCM commissioning in hopes of establishing "a relationship with a ministerial organization that offers greater diversity...". Franklin says, "It has become increasingly apparent to me as a professional chaplain serving patients, their families, the healthcare staff and the community at large that people in our pluralistic society distinguish the difference between one's religion and their spirituality. As a result, religious denominationalism may present as a more 'narrow' interpretation of God's love." Franklin articulates his sense of call, mission, and ecclesiastical relationship in the following manner. "As a follower of Christ, I make it my mission and calling in life to love God and to love others. I view each person as created in God's image with worth and value regardless of their religious or social identifiers. To this end, I believe my association with the FCM distinguishes itself not as a specific denominational alignment, but as a broader and more inclusive spirituality that builds bridges to the other while maintaining an ecumenical accountability."



Shawna Tuttle is currently a CPE Chaplain Resident at Rush University Medical Center, in Chicago, IL. She is also a member of the Lawndale Christian Reform Church, Chicago, IL. Shawna holds a Master of Divinity from McComick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL., and a Master of Public Administration. Shawna's faith journey has called her into seminary preparation and a ministry of service which has matured many gifts and skills as a fundraiser and a pastoral caregiver. As a fundraiser for various ministries, she has used expertise and abilities in management, leadership, writing and communications to serve people dealing with economic injustices, poverty, and homelessness while enjoying personal and spiritual motivation through her connection to the mission of those ministries. As a pastoral caregiver, she has demonstrated that she can provide pastoral/spiritual care for a diverse population of patients, families, and staff within the hospital setting.

Shawna's pastor, CPE supervisor, and colleagues praise her spirit of humility, self-awareness, openness to learning, ethical character, ability to move past conflict and towards collaboration, and her ability to provide pastoral/spiritual care. Shawna has discerned and recognizes her call to be a professional chaplain in the hospital or hospice setting. As a member of FCM, Shawna sought FCM commissioning in the hope of later achieving FCM endorsement so that she can enhance her ministry by becoming an APC Board-certified chaplain.



Mountains & Plains Region

Page...3



Tara Parrish is currently a resident chaplain at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Tara holds an Associate in Arts Degree, from Minneapolis Community College, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English, from Metropolitan State University, St. Paul, Minnesota. She also holds a Master of Divinity, and a Master of Arts in Theology in the Arts both from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, New Barrington, Minnesota. Tara serves the Kwanzaa Community Church, in Minneapolis, Minnesota as a Clergy Team Member and Deacon. Tara is an active minister to her faith community, serving a ministerial role by leading weekly worship services, administering sacraments, creating rituals, preaching, and encouraging evangelism and discipleship in an urban church. She provides spiritual direction, leadership, and counseling to the congregation.

She uses her theological training and denominational knowledge to write curriculum and teach a Wednesday night Bible study to congregants. Tara founded and leads art ministry (Art + Soul) using the arts as a form of spiritual practice and biblical understanding. She fulfills her deacon responsibilities through hospital visits, serving communion to shut-ins, funeral planning with families, and contributes to leading end-of-life services. Tara also leads a 12-member family group in the development of spiritual life and spiritual gifting. Tara sought FCM commissioning as one step in her journey to become a board-certified chaplain. Tara says that she "would be blessed to have that happen through the Federation of Christian Ministries." Tara's embraced her calling as a chaplain as it became evident to her during her current CPE residency. Tara has expressed her sense of call, mission, and gifts in the following manner. "One of the most basic understandings of pastoral care is the simple idea of just being with someone. In times of emotional and soul distress, comfort can arise by just being in the presence of a loving and caring human being. A loving and caring human being who is willing to be in their space, who is interested in listening to what they have to say, one who does not pass judgment. My gifts for ministry have been knitted within me by the Holy Spirit. I have natural gifts for listening, for empathy, for prayer, and for encouragement. As a minister, I become my best self: loving, selfless, warm, intuitive, and am firmly grounded in the Spirit and my walk with Christ. I have never been as certain of this as I am now."



Tresca L. Allsman holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, and a Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary Twin Cities, New Brighton, MN. She has completed four units of Clinical Pastoral Education including a one-unit internship at the University of Minnesota Medical Center in Minneapolis, MN, and a three-unit residency, at Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina, MN. Currently, Tresca is a chaplain for the Police Department of Hopkins, MN., a city where the police department views its mandate as one of service and accomplishing safety through community building. Tresca has expressed her sense of calling and mission in the following manner. "My experience of \dots calling is felt alternately as a pull, an expectation, a longing, a shove, and a challenge to my very being. I have always seen it as playing out in the world in the company of others away from a parish setting. The multiplicity of people and their variety of spiritual experiences energizes me as living examples of the many ways God seeks to touch us. I seek to encourage and support openness and creativity of spirit, heart, and mind in my community through a ministry of spiritual and physical presence, compassion, and truth-seeking across the boundaries that people seem endlessly able to invent". Tresca began her work with the police department as a volunteer position in 2008.

She participates in ride-alongs with officers, performs weddings, and shares the on-call emergency rotation with other chaplains. Since September 2015, she has averaged two days per week, increasingly taking part in community initiatives such as a Multicultural Advisory Committee. She coordinates with police department entities and additional chaplains to reshape and enhance the chaplain program to best serve a diverse community. Now that Tresca has achieved FCM commissioning, she plans to secure FCM endorsement so she can advance her vocational call through professional certification with the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education.



Mountains & Plains Region

Page...4



Zbigniew Adam Wsul is currently a priest and pastor at Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church, in Chicago, IL. He finished four units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program at Northwestern Medicine in Chicago, IL. Zbigniew attended Diocesan Theological Seminary in Kielce, Poland, where he studied Theology, Philosophy, and Psychology. Zbigniew holds a Master's Degree in Theology from Catholic University in Lublin, Poland. He has done post-graduate Ph.D. program work at Papal Theological Academy, Cracow, Poland, although it was interrupted by his immigration to the United States. Zbigniew's faith journey has called him into, and from, the ministry as a parish priest in Poland, into matrimony with his wife, and led them to the United States to raise a family, and to have the opportunity to continue to practice his sense of call and mission in ministry as a priest. Zbigniew's colleagues and CPE supervisors praise his ethical character, dedication, work habits, openness to learning, and passion for ministry.

Zbigniew has discerned that he feels a much stronger calling to be a professional chaplain vs. a parish priest. Therefore, he is making that transition by becoming a member of FCM. He is likewise seeking commissioning (and later endorsement) through FCM so he can advance his vocation through professional certification with the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education. Zbigniew is on the verge of completing the APC requirements regarding CPE and clinical experience to apply for APC Board Certified Chaplain Status.







Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 2 March/April- 2016

Regional News

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

Local Gatherings And Commissioning Warm Hearts

Staying Connected in the Region...

It may be winter in the Great Lakes region but that hasn't kept us from connecting with each other. Local gatherings have been taking place throughout the region, providing more opportunities to learn from and support each other in our ministries.

The FCM Louisville group met together on January 9 for a time of connection, reflection and brunch. The FCM Cleveland group, hosted by Antoinette and Dennis Marold, met on January 17. Ron Davis hosted the first Columbusarea group meeting on February 13. The Cincinnati/ Dayton/ Indianapolis group will meet for the first time on March 5th at Amy Simpson's home. We are making plans for our Michigan and Pittsburgh area members so stay tuned.

The goal of these local meetings is to connect with each other 3-4 times each year to grow in community as we support each other in our ministries. We encourage each regional member to attend one of the groups at least once a year. Please contact me Amy.Simpson@cchmc.org with any suggestions about regional gatherings. If you have any questions about upcoming events, please contact the area representatives who are listed below and mark your calendars:

> Cincinnati/Dayton/Indianapolis: Bea Broder-Oldach (513.673.2153) March 5 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Simpson Bennethum House 1654 Marlowe Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45224

Louisville: Shannon Queenan (502.568.2174) and Tony Heitzman April 9 from 9:30 a.m. - noon contact Shannon or Tony for more details

Cleveland: Antoinette Marold (440.232.6212) April 17 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. contact Antoinette for more information

Columbus: Ron Davis (513.262.2210) TBA – stay tuned! Ron will be planning another gathering soon. Michigan and Pittsburgh: TBA - stay tuned!

Welcome to a Newly-Commissioned Member...

We are also very excited to introduce our latest commissioned member, Rick Cruse. Rick is currently in a 2nd year CPE residency focused on trauma ministry at IU Health in Indianapolis, IN. He has spent his adult life serving in nondenominational contexts.



Rick graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz, with a BA in Religious Studies in 1971, then served for two years as an intern at Peninsula Bible Church in the Bay Area and from there as a youth minister and interim pastor at the First Congregational Church. He then went back to school and received a Master of Theology in OT and Semitic Languages.

After participating in a mission trip to India, he and his wife joined a nondenominational mission organization (One Challenge) and were appointed as missionaries to Kenya where he spent the next 12 years working in pastoral training and leadership development. Rick's work on the International Leadership team for the organization led him to Europe where he served for 11 years as the Europe Area Director.

In 2007 Rick and his wife left OC International and moved to Canada where he served as pastor of Fall River Chapel, a local nondenominational church in Nova Scotia. He returned to the US in 2010 to Illinois where Rick's wife received her own professional training. They recently moved to Indianapolis to be near two of their sons and their families. This is where Rick began exploring chaplaincy through a CPE residency. He is pursuing his goal to become a Board Certified hospital chaplain and was led to FCM as he was looking at an ecclesiastical endorsement.

Rick feels that FCM embodies his expanded theological views and has already met with local FCM members. We will be having a commissioning service for Rick at our March local meeting in Cincinnati. We wish Rick all the best and look forward to continued partnership in ministry.





Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 2 March/April - 2016

Regional News

Northeast Region

Vice President....Dan Pellegrin

Local Area Get-Togethers Planned...

Regional members will be glad to know we have locations lined up for the following areas: Framingham, MA; Albany and White Plains, NY; Philadelphia, PA and southern New Jersey. Local members please note: if you haven't yet received details as to place and time for gatherings in your area, please email me at northeastvp@fcmmail.org and I'll be sure to send it to you.

If you have an idea for where to host an area gettogether, please write or call me (evenings and weekends at 914-328-9732) as I am committed to planning local gatherings in every area of our region.

Newly Commissioned Members...

Our region boasts five newly-commissioned members. They embody the inspiration our members give each other and are a living testament to the way we value each other in FCM.

Maryann Crilly wrote: "I would like to assist others during important times of their lives, when they need someone to provide a personalized ceremony." Maryann is ministering as a celebrant of life events, such as birth, marriage and death. She has completed the Wedding Celebrant Program of Global Ministries University.

Comfort Fourjour is a chaplain and spiritual counselor from Easton, PA. A reference for Comfort wrote: "My son Peter died suddenly, and Comfort appeared at the funeral. I will never forget her warm and radiant face in that long line of people."

In Young Sohn is a chaplain in Queens whose reference wrote: "People are to her children of God who need love and caring. This is what she most enjoys sharing."

A reference for **Mary Theresa Streck** included: "Dr. Streck's impressive resume attests to her academic excellence, vast experiential learning, and commitment to a holistic venue of preparation for and service to persons of our human family regardless of status, color or creed."

Local Area Get-Togethers Planned Newly Commissioned Members Circle Meeting Highlights National Assembly Invitation

Our final commissioned member is from New Jersey and has provided the following information anonymously: "I minister to 60 patients and their families, and bring comfort by regular visits, by playing flute, organ, guitar, empathetic listening, peaceful presence, gentle touch, prayer, scripture reading, story reading, story listening, nature, community programs, memorial services, and individual availability to family." A reference attests: "Some of diminished mentality who can only sit in chairs have risen and begun to dance. Some have begun to speak. Some have begun to smile."

It bears repeating that FCM offers its members such a powerful experience of sisterhood and brotherhood. It is indeed a joy that we have the opportunity to share our ministries and our stories with each other.

Circle Meeting Highlights...

I was proud to represent the Northeast region at the February meeting. The Circle heard you loud and clear regarding membership renewals, so please make a note on your calendar: the cost of renewals will remain at the same level (i.e., no increase) for those who pay from September 1 through October 31. Higher rates will apply to those who pay later.

National Assembly Invitation...

I can't think of a better way to spend three days than to share a table with each other this August in Cleveland, Ohio. Please view the information about this great event elsewhere in this Newsletter. The presenters will be thought-provoking and growth-producing. I'll make sure we have a time to place to meet with our Northeast members for special sharing.



Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 2 March/April - 2016

Regional News

Southern Region

by Vice President....Sally T. Sherry

Assembly, New Members Highlight Spring

All the best to the entire membership of FCM from the sunny South, especially my fellow regional members! I wish you joy and meaning and may God's light shine on you and be gracious to you.

Things are progressing down here. By now I hope all of our members have renewed their membership, as I would be disappointed to lose even one! You are supported and appreciated. And speaking of support, our chairperson, Tom Stricker was vacationing in Florida recently and called me. He came over for an entire morning to help me with the FCM computer site. Thank you Tom for caring!

This reminds me that I want to be sure to mention that the assembly in August is always a very special encounter with other members, and is what sold me on FCM forever. So I encourage you to go on the website and sign up for the August assembly so we can meet other southern members and maintain relationships. Cleveland really is a great city and the hotel is at the airport so, if flying, you will not need a car. I look forward to meeting you there!

I am grateful our region had two candidates to present at the winter Circle meeting who are excellent in every way, and have stayed closely in touch with me during the process. Steven Michael Jurgens-Ling has an M.Div. from Duke University and has now finished his doctorate. "I am asking to be commissioned and eventually endorsed by the Federation of Christian Ministries as a stable, faithful, expression of my calling to serve Jesus Christ and his people in need."

Steven was ordained in the Methodist Church and finished level two of Clinical Pastoral Education in 2015. He has tenyears of parish based ministry as pastor in North Carolina in the United Methodist Church He spent one year as director of the food pantry in Broward County, Florida. Steven has spent one year as a hospice chaplain in Florida in a large inpatient unit serving over 600 families a year. Steven is an accomplished speaker who has been asked to preach at many Espicopal churches. I"I look forward to becoming more active in FCM"

I have enjoyed talking with Peter Y. Kim during this process. He has a Ph.D. in Ministry from Claremont School of Theology where his dissertation was on Christian Ethics and Human Rights. Peter was in the Marine Corps and served as a chaplain in Korea, coming to the U.S. as a child. He has over 30 years of Federal Service working with the Office of Inspector General and is also a social work and prevention specialist whose bi-lingual skills often come into play.

Peter is a married with three children, a member of Christ Central Presbyterian Church and is a coach for community group leaders. He has experience as a speaker, chaplain, hospice team member and administrator.

Even as a new member, Peter has volunteered to be an area representative. Given that our region is so large, why not follow his example? Contact me about this recently-developed position that provides assistance to the vice-presidents by enhancing relationships among members in a local geographic area.

Perhaps the earth can teach us as when everything seems to be dead in winter and later proves to be alive. Now I'll count to twelve and you keep quiet and I will go. Pablo Neruda

1

FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

2016 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AUGUST 5-7, 2016

With Open Arms

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



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 2lst. 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 2lst 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

6:15 p.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





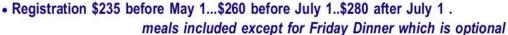
With Open Arms

The Federation of Christian Ministries 2016 Assembly... August 5-7, 2016

Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel.....Cleveland, Ohio

Assembly Registration

Registration Deadline July 25, 2016



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

- Friday Only Workshops, Keynote, and hors d'oeuvres with Marianne Duddy-Burke Registration: \$75.00 before July 1...\$85.00 after July 1, 2016
- Saturday Only (9:00 a.m 5:00 p.m.) includes Lunch..Registration: \$150 before July 1....\$170 after July 1, 2016
- Friday & Saturday 9:00 a.m 5:00 p.m. includes Lunch..Registration: \$225.00 before July 1...\$250. after July 1, 2016

 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.m5:00 p.m.) includes Lunch		\$	
Friday & Saturday 9:00 a.m 5:00 p.m. includes Lunch		\$	
Special Dietary Needs VeganGluten FreeOther		\$	

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.

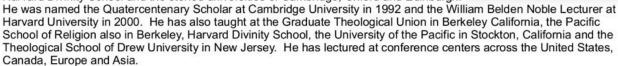
Marianne lives in Boston with her spouse, Becky, and their two adopted daughters, Emily and Infinity.

Keynotes...Saturday, August 6, 2016

Bishop John Shelby Spong

morning: Recovering the Jewishness of the Christian Gospel afternoon: Hearing Aughentic 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.



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'sHospital. 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.

____."Latin American Theologies." In Global Dictionary of Theology, edited by William A. Dyrness and Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen. Drowners Grove, IL: Intervasity 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, 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.



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FCM members and non-members have the opportunity to advertise in the 2016 Assembly Program.

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FCM NEWSLETTER......VOL. 50 NO. 2 March/April - 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 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

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