



Federation of Christian Ministries

FCM Newsletter..May/June 2016...VOL. 50 NO. 3



Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 3 May/June - 2016



**Editor's
Notes**
by
John Polanski

**Jesus the Wisdom Teacher on Violence
Against Women**

During upcoming issues of the Newsletter, the FCM Justice and Peace Committee will be offering an ongoing series of news articles and reflections, introduced by chair Carolyn Horvath. Great Lakes member **Anne Keller** offers the following reflection with a focus on violence especially against women. Anne is part of the Justice and Peace Committee of FCM. May her article and its concluding prayer inspire us to action

A Home for Progressive Believers

Thanks to **Ed Knight**, FCM member from the Northeast region, for submitting this background and description of the UCEC, of which he is executive director. This is the latest in our current series of articles on our group members.

**Liaison's Deep Experience Enriches
FCM**

Thanks to **Christy Howard-Steele** for encouraging Vera to send in her story, part of a series introducing Specialized Ministries liaisons.

A Collaboration Worth Celebrating

A name very familiar to most any member of FCM, **Gerry Grudzen** has served our organization through decades in capacities too numerous to mention here. We appreciate this, his latest contribution, instructing us about an important aspect of our community of active ministerial pursuits around the world.

Cover Photo: Spring Garden at The Grand Hotel...Mackinac Island, Michigan
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IN THIS ISSUE

Deep Roots, Steady Growth
Tom Stricker, FCM Chairperson.....Page 2

**Easter, Resurrection, Community, FCM
Immediate Request to My Family**
Tom Cusack, FCM President.....Page 3 & 4

Regional News

Northeast ...Continually Co-Creating FCM
Dan Pellegrin, Northeast V.P.....Page 5

Great Lakes...Recent Events Encourage and Challenge
Amy Simpson Bennethum with Ron Davis, Great Lakes V.P.s.....Page 6

Mountains and Plains...A Reflection on Ministry
Richard E. James, Mountains and Plains V.P.....Pages 7 & 8

Southern...Many Ways To Be United
Sally Sherry, Southern V.P.....Page 9

New Treasurer Details...Concerns
Sue Ross, FCM Treasurer.....Page 10

Jesus the Wisdom Teacher on Violence Against Women
Anne Keller, Justice and Peace Committee Member.....Page 11

A Home For Progressive Believers
Edward Knight, FCM Group Member.....Page 12

Member's Deep Experience Enriches FCM
Vera Markovich, Pacific Region Specialized Ministry Liaison.....Page 13

New Coordinator Brings Ministerial Outlook
Susan Ferman, Prayer Support Coordinator by John Polanski.....Page 14

A Collaboration Worth Celebrating
Gerald Grudzen, Global Ministries University.....Page 15

Assembly Features Stellar Line-Up
Patricia Stricker, Planning Team.....Page 16

Assembly.....21
Quick Look.....22
Registration.....23
Speakers Bios.....24-27
Be a Sponsor.....28
Advertise in the Assembly Program.....29
Directory.....30

Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 3 May/June - 2016



CHAIRPERSON...Tom Stricker

Deep Roots, Steady Growth

Regional VPs Prepare To Take Office... It is with gratitude to **Tom Cusack** and his team of **Jerry and Marita Grudzen** (Pacific) and **Barbara Zeman** (Mountains and Plains) that I announce the results of the process of seeking candidates and conducting elections in those two regions

I begin by expressing my gratitude to **Donna Schrieber** who is completing the last year of the term of **Nick and Mary De Los Reyes** in the Pacific region. **Donna** has been a welcome part of our Circle. I know she will continue to contribute to FCM with her many talents. In that region, two persons were nominated and considered submitting their names for the ballot. Eventually, only one chose to do so, **Donnieau Snyder**, who as the sole candidate was elected by FCM secretary **Diane Daugherty** casting a single vote on behalf of the entire membership. Her impressive resume includes her credentials as a Roman Catholic deacon who will be ordained a priest this spring. We congratulate her and welcome her to the Circle where her term will begin after the August 2016 meeting.

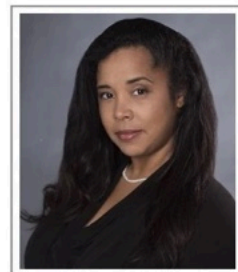
In the **Mountains and Plains Region**, **Richard James** was also the sole candidate. He is completing the last year of **Michael Keefe's** term who needed to step down due to illness. **Richard** accepted the responsibility with his characteristic humility and generosity and was also elected by FCM Secretary, **Diane Daugherty**, casting a single vote on behalf of the membership. His new term will begin after the August 2016 Assembly. I am pleased to have **Richard** continue on as a member of the Circle.

Regional Gatherings Continue to Highlight Mutual Support... I am pleased that we have completed our work in filling out all of the positions on the Circle. It is another indication of how we continue to grow as an organization, staying in contact with our origins and reaching out to new horizons. The small regional gatherings we are encouraging truly enrich the ministries of our membership.

Several of our regions have begun to set up regular area meetings where small groups meet, pray and enjoy each other's company for an afternoon or evening. If you would be interested in setting up a FCM meeting with members who live close to you, contact your Vice President for assistance. We want to encourage these small meetings throughout all of the regions.

Expanded Group Membership Signals Enrichment... Encouraging the support and development of faith communities is another exciting growth area within FCM. Some twenty years ago I was seeking a community in which I would be nurtured and fed. I am so grateful that I found the **Living Beatitudes Community**. We started out meeting in people's homes and have grown today to be a vibrant community. If you want to begin a community or would like to have the community in which you presently belong join FCM, contact **Becky Cartus**, FCM's Director, Group Member Affairs. I know you will find a welcome response.

Assembly Nearing... If you have not registered for the 2016 FCM National Assembly "With Open Arms" August 5-7 in Cleveland, there is still time to do so. Registration forms are available at www.federationofchristianministries.org. You will not want to miss our Friday evening speaker **Marianne Duddy Burke**, Executive Director of Dignity USA, Scripture scholar **Bishop John Shelby Spong**, who will be speaking twice on Saturday and **Rev. John Dorhauer** on the unfinished business of the Civil Rights Movement as well as other exciting workshop presenters. From personal experience I can tell you it is wonderful being with other FCM members, renewing old friendships and making new connections and friends. I look forward to seeing you there!



Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 3 May/June- 2016



PRESIDENT...Tom Cusack

Easter, Resurrection, Community, FCM

We have just begun to move through the celebration of Easter and the Sundays that follow. The Scriptures bring to our attention year after year that something very special and unusual happened after the execution of Jesus. We are told that he was seen by and interacted with his students, his disciples. That he touched them physically, made breakfast for them and brought his friend Peter to a new level of awareness by his triple questioning. That he brought his community of friends and students to a new awareness by his being with them. That he was with them despite his death. They began to act differently, with courage and conviction.

Many preachers move to an implication that we are to live a "resurrected life," now that we are Christians. Many listeners do not know what that means in their life; they are just words. But a different view arises when we read a parallel resurrection description. Paramahansa Yogananda wrote **Autobiography of a Yogi** (Self Realization Fellowship, 1946) and described the resurrection of his guru Sri Yukteswar (Chapter 43). The description gives rise in me to a recognition of the feelings of the 12 when visited by Christ. Here is what I take from this: resurrection, the spiritual life and the afterlife are not limited to Jesus only. Jesus' declaration that we will "...do greater [works] than these..." indicates an expectation of our long term spiritual growth. Only by significant growth could we be expected to perform works greater than those of Jesus.

How to best realize this growth, difficult as it is? We have a course laid out for us in the Scriptures. We are to follow Jesus in his works of compassion and love, in his prayer life, and in community life. Our community for the purposes of this Newsletter and this article, is FCM. We are embarked on a multi-year effort to make this geographically-separated group of individual members and faith communities come to a position of recognizing and acting in community with one another. This means time together, prayer together, an ongoing awareness of how other members of our community are doing. FCM is not simply a ministerial association. By our own decision it is a community trying to grow its connections into a strong and viable web of relationships.

As our membership renewal proceeded at the end of 2015, the deaths of several members came to my attention. Only the death of **Joseph Grenier** became known to me when it occurred and I was able to go to the wake in Cresco, PA and to meet his widow, Cait. She will be writing about Joe and FCM for us. His obituary is found at <http://lanterman-allen.tributes.com/dignitymemorial/obituary/Joseph-Adelard-Grenier-103221379>

Maureen Andrew also passed away. Her widow, Nancy Stephens, will be writing about Maureen for the Newsletter. A Roman Catholic Woman Priest, Maureen's obituary is found at <http://www.obitsforlife.com/obituary/1165684/Andrew-Rev-Maureen-Y.php>

Robert Keller passed away after a very short sojourn with FCM and we had only a brief time in which to share in his ministry. I have been in contact with his widow, Sandy to let her know of our thoughts and prayers. His obituary is at <http://www.ahpeters.com/obituary/Robert-Joseph-Keller/Clinton-Township-MI/1581252>

Finally, we lost **Joseph Crisafulli**. Like Robert, his time with FCM was not long and I will share our best wishes with his widow, Josephine. His obituary is at <http://obits.syracuse.com/obituaries/syracuse/obituary.aspx?pid=174960469>

These fellow members are in new life with Christ as promised by his resurrection and our warm thoughts go out to all those they have left behind, especially Cait, Nancy, Sandy and Josephine.

(Continued on next page 4)

Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 3 May/June- 2016

PRESIDENT...Tom Cusack

Easter, Resurrection, Community, FCM

With the slight exception of **Joe Grenier's** passing about which I learned through non-FCM channels the day before the wake, the FCM community did not know about their passing to new life. In any close community, it is important that we know of the lives and the deaths of those bonded to us. With this in mind I would invite us all to participate in what I believe to be a very worthwhile activity.

Below you will find an **"IMMEDIATE REQUEST TO MY FAMILY"** form. It is aimed at helping FCM to receive notice when one of us passes away. Please complete the form and place it with information that would be reviewed upon your passing. In this way your dear ones can be prompted to reach us, and nearby FCM members can be informed in time to participate in the wake, funeral and other ceremonies. All FCM members can also respond in prayer and respect for our spiritual brother/sister. This is a **small but important step you can take to build the FCM community**. This form can also be downloaded from the Newsletter Quick Look list just below the listing of the President's article.

And as we attempt to grow spiritually so that we can "... do works greater than these....," please make it your business as a member of the FCM community to spend **2 x 2 4 FCM** on a daily basis. [2 minutes each of prayer and meditation for FCM]

I hope to discuss these matters with you at the Assembly. Blessings and Easter peace to you all.



IMMEDIATE REQUEST TO MY FAMILY

Dear Family,
Upon my passing, please notify as soon as possible the Federation of Christian Ministries (FCM) Central Office at centraloffice@FCMmail.org or by phone (800) 538-8923.

Please provide them with my funeral arrangements. I am a member of FCM and would like them to inform My Regional Vice President and the membership.

NAME _____

REGION _____

Please keep this card with your Will and Living Will.

Please consider including FCM in your Will and "in lieu of flowers."



Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 3 May/June - 2016



Regional News

Northeast Region Vice President....Dan Pellegrin

It was a very special thought **Patty Stricker** gave us in the last Newsletter when she invited us to "come together as continual co-creators of FCM." My appreciation and affection for FCM and you members continues to grow during this first year of my service as regional VP. Your journeys, your vision, and your self-sacrifice provide inspiration and meaning. We are privileged indeed to have this opportunity to be continual co-creators of FCM (and each other!).

This co-creation has been ongoing in our local area gatherings. New York metro area members gathered in White Plains on April 8 for sharing, connecting, inspiration and liturgy (co-creation!). **Jean Marchant** and **Ron Hindelang** hosted a joyous Massachusetts area gathering on April 17 in Wellesley, followed by a powerful, intimate liturgy at their church. **Carl Yusavitz** will be hosting a Philadelphia gathering on May 1, sure to be most satisfying and fulfilling. **Eda Lorello** has generously offered to host a Long Island meeting, as has **Tom Cusack** for southern New Jersey. **Mary Theresa Streck** will be hosting an area get-together for the Albany, New York region members on May 16. Other New England and upstate New York members are meeting in smaller groups – I hope to publicize these in future emails to our members.

On April 16, FCM was present to support the ordination of **Kim Marie Panaro** and **Jim Marsh** as priests in the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests. ARCWP noted Jim made history as being the first man ordained a priest by ARCWP. FCM was honored to welcome them into our family with gift memberships. The presiding bishop was **Bridget Mary Meehan**, FCM past president and a member for many years. We were similarly honored to be present and supportive of the ordinations of Sharon Dickinson, Clare Gareau, and Jacqueline Clarys into Roman Catholic Womenpriests in Morristown, New Jersey on April 23 with Bishop **Andrea Johnson** presiding.

Our participation in FCM as co-creators and our mutual inspiration will get full opportunity to bloom at our national meeting in Cleveland in August. There will be no less than seven opportunities(!) for us to meet with local members during that event: Friday evening (hors d'oeuvres with cash bar), Saturday breakfast, Saturday lunch, Saturday evening cash bar and dinner, Saturday night reception, and Sunday breakfast and our Biennial Meeting. I look forward to this with much anticipation and the chance to meet some members for the first time.

I see this theme of co-creation throughout the national meeting program. On Friday evening Marianne Duddy-Burke will speak on "Ministers and Ministry that Respond to Human Needs and Can Save the Church." That's us! Bishop John Shelby Spong will surely challenge our growth in two keynote presentations on Saturday. Rev. John Dorhauer, our third keynote speaker, will offer a presentation on our call to know and share "God's extravagant love for us" – what a beautiful phrase! – in the context of civil rights in America.

I hope all workshops will be taped – it's an impossible choice to choose among them. And if taping isn't available, we can surely arrange among ourselves to attend them all and report back their content at the next meal. I will surely attend the workshop on mental illness and families as it bears directly on my work. The program notes say the co-presenter is an avid sports fan, "with most of his loyalty going to St. Louis teams." As your Northeast VP I will be sure to remind him that the St. Louis Cardinals have won the most World Series (11) in history ... except for the New York Yankees, who have won 27!

Let's share a table and a great time in Cleveland, and take care of each other and ourselves.

Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 3 May/June- 2016



Regional News

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

Recent Events Encourage and Challenge

Greetings FCM Family....This winter, we implemented our strategy to have gatherings in various cities across the Great Lakes Region. We found good success in having meetings in Cleveland, Louisville, and Cincinnati. The exciting thing about our Cincinnati meeting is that members came from Indianapolis, Dayton and Cincinnati. Attendance was strong in all of these locations. Because of this, we will continue to have gatherings in these locations this spring.

As winter turns to spring, we have made plans for our spring gatherings. Two of these gatherings will have taken place prior to the delivery of this newsletter. The Louisville group met on April 9th and the Cleveland group met on April 17. These two groups have made the commitment to meet quarterly and have found the meetings to provide much needed support. There are two upcoming local meetings. The Cincinnati/Indianapolis/Dayton/Columbus area will meet together on June 4th at the home of **Tom and Patty Stricker** in Dayton, Ohio. Being that Dayton is a fifty mile drive from Columbus, members from Columbus are invited to join us for this gathering. We are pleased to announce that plans are being finalized for a Michigan gathering which will take place on Sunday, June 26 at the home of **John Schultz**. More details will follow but we are excited for the opportunity to have our Michigan members gather together.

If you would like more information on our local groups please contact the regional representative in your area.

Louisville, KY: **Tony Heitzman and Shannon Queenan**

Cleveland, OH: **Antoinette Marold**

Cincinnati/Dayton/Indianapolis/Columbus:
Bea Broder-Oldach

Michigan: **Bob Funaro and John Schultz**



CDIC GROUP

LEFT TO RIGHT
SALVADOR LEAVITT-ALCANTARA
PATTY STRICKER
DEBRA MEYERS
RICK CRUSE
DEBBIE CRUSE
MARIA THORNTON MCCLAIN
TOM STRICKER
BEA BRODER-OLDACH
BILL LONNEMAN
AMY SIMPSON-BENNETHUM
NOT PICTURED
JUDY MCBRIDE
BILL BENNETHUM

Food for Thought...a personal reflection by Ron Davis

Finally, some food for thought. Is this not the weirdest national political campaign season in a long time? The debates have focused more on put-downs than policies. Candidates talk about putting up walls to keep out some of our neighbors, as though we are not a nation of immigrants.

There has been talk about treating some different because they are Muslim. Throughout caucuses and elections the message of many voters is that they are through with Washington insiders. The system is broke and they are angry.

Can I suggest that the spiritual community should be aware of what is happening in America? The same people who are dissatisfied with America's politics seem also dissatisfied with where we are spiritually. Just as the federal government has been a disappointment for many throughout this land, so also has the traditional church been a disappointment to many of our people. Is there a similar sense of brokenness in America's spiritual institutions? Are we, America's spiritual leaders losing our salt?

We don't want to see the people of God scatter and turn away from faith because of disappointments. Rather, we want to build spiritual communities where people can meet God and love neighbor. We want to have an empathetic ear toward one another and figure out how to do things better together—even the tough things - despite our differences.

Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 3 May/June - 2016

Regional News



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



It's eight o'clock on a Monday morning. I have met with the evening chaplain and have received a handful of referrals. Already on my mind are several critical issues to attend to involving the care of souls— patients, families, medical staff, and associates. As I walk to the first of two interdisciplinary care meetings I pray, knowing that the day is sure to include a myriad of challenging spiritual care circumstances, just as colorful as the sun is shining through a stained-glass window, creating a collage of multicolored tones.

I am senior staff chaplain at Advocate Christ Medical Center, less than 20 miles southwest of Chicago. There I collaborate with a part-time staff chaplain and a clinical pastoral education resident to provide spiritual care to patients, families, medical staff and associates within the Trauma Clinical Service Areas. This part of the hospital includes a level-one trauma center emergency department, a surgical ICU, a neuro CCU, and three other step-down units.

Any given day holds many encounters with patients, families, staff and associates. There are also about a half-dozen serious pastoral/spiritual care circumstances, two of which I would like to share with you.

The first took place during an interdisciplinary team meeting. Our discussion included an African-American teenager whom I will call Fred who had suffered a gunshot wound. Not only was Fred's injury severe and medically-complicated; additional factors made it a tough case. Because of his size, he was in one of the adult intensive-care units: a young boy in a man's body, presenting an array of psycho-social issues. Fred and his parents, relatives and friends were non-compliant to say the least regarding restrictions on food, drink and rest. By this time he had undergone several surgical procedures, and his stay had grown to two months with no foreseeable discharge date.

As the interdisciplinary team reflected on what could be done, one of the team members was asked for an opinion. Pointing out the limited success of the interventions extended to Fred along with the dysfunctional dynamics of his family and friends and their lack of compliance regarding the care goals set for the patient, the team member concluded by saying, "The kid is (expletive that rhymes with) JACKED-UP! The mother is JACKED-UP! The father is JACKED-UP! The family is JACKED-UP! — and if you ask me the diagnosis should be 'JACKED-UP!!!'" A rumble of laughter filled the room.

I must confess that while I did not laugh out loud, I wanted to, and keeping my composure did not make me feel any better about myself. Something was nudging my conscience. That statement and my conviction bothered me. I couldn't get it out of my head the rest of the day, not even the rest of the week until I wrote this piece. What bothered me was not just what I heard, but that I felt the same way. Time and again, I had extended my gifts, skills and expertise with benevolent intent, only to have those efforts thwarted.

Beyond my disdain for those words was the fact that I inwardly agreed with the assessment. It was an attitude of contempt that led to a dead-end evaluation that this human being created in God's image, was incapable – or worse, unworthy – of another attempt to get his attention for his own sake. My internal laughter was a witness against my judgment.

Then a word came to me from the better side of me, the side that is open to the voice of the Holy Spirit: "Sometimes God uses 'JACKED-UP' people to heal JACKED-UP people." In other words, "Nobody in this room of healthcare professionals is perfect." Critical, liberating questions arose in me: Will my attitude about Fred prevail and be acted out the next time I saw him and his family? Would I carry this attitude into my next challenging spiritual care effort? Would my sense of call and mission prevail over my attitude?



The second incident came by way of a referral from a care manager to visit a woman that I will call Cynthia, who had lost her baby during birth the night before. Of her eighteen pregnancies, two infants had died previously. She was known to have a history of cocaine and heroin use.

Right away I needed to fight against the urge that says this woman is JACKED-UP, incapable of being helped, cured, or healed. I managed to suspend that feeling as I went visit her that afternoon. I introduced myself and explained my role as a chaplain. She looked at me without dismissal, so I asked if I could sit and visit with her for a while. She said sure.

I watched as she embraced her head in anguish and said, "I'm so (expletive that rhymes with) JACKED-UP!" She apologized for her language and I said, "No need to apologize. Just be real, and speak the way you feel." After about three minutes of silence I asked her, "Do you feel like talking about your burdens?" She declined and I asked if I could tell her a short story. When she consented I began.

"Once upon a time there was a woman on a safari. She was tracking an animal for a good while. As she approached a thick line of trees, she looked up and saw the silhouette of an uneasy rhinoceros in the bush. She knew immediately that the rhinoceros could kill her in the timespan of the snap of a finger. Then she saw not far away a baby rhinoceros, explaining the uneasiness of the rhinoceros. Two thoughts occurred to her. First, "How the hell did I get here?" Second, "What am I going to do about it?" (Beck, M. N. (2011). Finding Your Way In A Wild New World. New York, Free Press)

There was a long moment of silence. Then she began to cry as she unfolded the struggles, pain, and sufferings of her life. She also claimed responsibility for her actions, sparking the beginnings of a new plan to seek ongoing help to practice responsible action. Cynthia has a long road ahead of her. But at least she's at the threshold of a new journey, perhaps in part because she had the accompaniment of a non-judgmental spiritual caregiver at a crucial moment in her journey. She could be vulnerable and truthful with herself, speaking out loud and making sense of past actions and future hopes for a life worth living.

From time to time as ministers we become so frustrated that we are tempted to be held in check as if we cannot advance in the will of the Divine. Perhaps we need to meet our rhinoceros that we might know something vital is at stake, that we might ask ourselves liberating questions: "How the hell did I get here? And what am I going to do about it?"

I think that I'm ready to meet Fred and his family again. Are you ready to serve the Freds and Cynthias in your ministry?

May the blessings of health, faith, hope, and love be yours.

(Editor's note: Richard has encouraged the members of his region to submit reflections on their ministries and has sent in his own for this issue.)

Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 3 May/June - 2016



Regional News

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

Many Ways To Be United

Greetings to all in FCM and especially to my fellow members of the Southern Region!

A happy spring to all of you. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Assembly this August. If you call for reservations now, you will still get a discount. The Assembly is where I became really invested in FCM as the members are so talented, friendly and dedicated to their ministry. Cleveland is a fine place to bring family as there is so much to do on the shores of Lake Erie!

We also are hoping for a volunteer in each southern state to help as an **AREA REPRESENTATIVE** because we are so spread out. I would love to hear from you as a volunteer.

What do you think of the idea of having a conference call once a month? Maybe the call could be on a Sunday evening where many of us have a little free time. Also, I will try to call you soon. I would like to hear more about your ministry and your life. And you are also free to call me anytime.

Blessings to you all and I am hoping to talk soon.

FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES



*New Paradigms Of Ministry
Serving the People Of God*

SNAP

Thank you for your prophetic work
and ministry with survivors....

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SNAP - SURVIVORS NETWORK OF THOSE ABUSED BY PRIESTS

REMINDER

**ALL BAPTISMS
OFFICIATED/CELEBRATED BY
FCM MEMBERS...
MUST BE REGISTERED
WITH FCM**

TO REGISTER...
LOGIN TO THE MEMBERS ONLY
AREA OF THE FCM WEBSITE,
GO TO THE MEMBERS ONLY
DROP DOWN...CLICK ON
BAPTISM REGISTRY FORM

IF YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED IN THE
MEMBERS ONLY AREA OF THE FCM
WEBSITE, EMAIL
COMMUNICATION@FCMMAIL.ORG
FOR INSTRUCTIONS

Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 3 May/June - 2016



TREASURER...Sue Ross

New Treasurer Details...Concerns

Greetings to all! I am the new treasurer, replacing **Ken Knapp** on October 1, 2015. I am so thankful for Ken's help in my transition. I have a first-hand witness of the wonderful work that he did. As I learn more and more about the tasks of the treasurer, I am thankful for all of the work that has been done before me and the shoulders that I stand upon that give me a wonderful platform to be a treasurer for all of you.

At the Circle of Directors meeting in February, there was rich and uplifting discussion about the financial needs for our organization. The majority of our income is from membership applications and renewals. However, our projected income falls short of our 2016 budget of \$80,375. We discussed the many opportunities to "be church" and to "be love" to others; throughout all of the regions and these hopes and opportunities will not be fully funded with membership income alone.

So what can you and I do to help?

1. Encourage others to become members
2. Consider how you might make an extra donation – either a one-time gift or a recurring donation
3. Remember FCM in your estate and end-of-life planning

Donations can be made through PayPal on the website. www.federationofchristianministries.org
click on the Blue **DONATION BUTTON**

A check made out to The Federation of Christian Ministries and mailed to me
Susan Ross
Federation of Christian Ministries
2433 Inishmore Court
Indianapolis, IN 46212

or sent directly from your bank to ours.

Contact me for details at treasurer@fcmmail.org.

I look forward to working with you!



New Paradigms Of Ministry Serving The People Of God



Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 3 May/June - 2016

Justice and Peace

Jesus the Wisdom Teacher on Violence Against Women...by Anne Keller

The story of the woman caught in adultery (John 8:2-11) speaks silent volumes about the thinking of Jesus on the subject of violence against women. The usual interpretation of this Gospel story focuses on Jesus' admonition to the Pharisees to refrain from judging a sinner unless they themselves were free from sin, which of course, they were not. In fact, the phrase, "Let one cast the first stone" is used even today as an admonition to refrain from judging. But there is more to the story.

Jesus had just saved this woman's life, even though Torah provided for a death sentence for a woman caught in adultery. He did not condemn her, but rather told her to go and don't do it again. This is truly radical, for adultery was a *graviora delicta* (more serious crime) of 1st century Judaism, even more serious than murder. To understand why this was so, it is necessary to know how adultery was viewed in Jewish society.

In the world of 1st century Palestine, a man's wealth was not measured by the amount of gold or jewels he owned, or by the lavishness of his house, or by the size of his flocks or his fields. A man's wealth was measured by the number of sons he had.

The average life span was about 40 years. Given the prevalence of disease, children often did not live to adulthood, so it was important to have many, especially sons as they were the only ones who could inherit. Those who lived into adulthood were expected to provide care for their aging parents.

When the father died, all the material wealth went to the oldest surviving son. This usually included land, which was of prime importance to the family. To ensure that the land remained in the father's family, it was important that the bloodline not be adulterated by another man. But as is usual in patriarchal cultures, it was the woman's responsibility to ensure that she did not cause her husband's bloodline to be adulterated. If she were unfaithful to her husband, she faced execution by stoning.

Jesus of course knew the Law. He knew this woman faced an excruciating death because she was caught in the act. Although Jesus knew she was guilty, he did not condemn her. And he called the bluff of the Pharisees who had been so eager to do just that. Instead he showed love and compassion. Stoning is not acceptable in most countries today. But another kind of violence against women, intimate partner violence, is epidemic in contemporary Western society. In today's world a woman does not have to commit adultery to be beaten. In fact, a woman doesn't have to do anything to be a victim of domestic violence. One of the inherent problems in patriarchal cultures is that many men see it as a God-given right to have control over their wives.

The Church has reinforced that over centuries of teaching atonement theology. After all, one of the most infamously misused verses of Scripture, Ephesians 5:21, says that wives must submit to their husbands. The part about mutuality in love – verses 22-25 – is seldom quoted or preached.

The women who endure abuse from men who are supposed to love them are today's unseen, unsung heroines, as are the victims of trafficking, sexual assault, slavery, and poverty. The clients that I counsel are some of the bravest women I have ever known. Jesus, the compassion of Sofia made human, suffers with these brave women as they struggle to survive the violence perpetrated upon them by men. Jesus, the Wisdom of God, would take them in, tend to their bruises, help them to get away from the violence to safety, and empower them to move ahead in their lives. But, most importantly, Jesus would not judge them or blame them. Jesus would love and accept them as they are while helping them to become stronger.

I walk that same path that Jesus showed us, the path of compassion, love, acceptance and empowerment, as do many counselors who work in the domestic violence field. I help my clients secure protection from abuse orders, safe housing if they need to relocate, financial help for food and shelter, job training, child custody issues and a host of other social services meant to empower them to take back their lives from their abusers. But the most important thing that I do for my clients is to listen to them without judging, without blaming, and with empathy and compassion. And I believe in them.

That last statement is so important. The look of relief on the face of an abuse survivor when she realizes that I believe her story is indescribable. Before she comes to see me, she has been marginalized in every way imaginable. To find someone who believes her and accepts her without judgment is the first step in her recovery.

O, Sofia, Wisdom of God, we thank you that you came to us in the person of our Brother, Jesus. He showed us your compassion, your understanding and your love for us. He taught us there is a way to live without resorting to the violence that destroys our humanity. We ask that you watch over your people, especially women and children who are so often the objects of male violence. Grant us the grace to refrain from judging others, and the courage to treat victims of violence with compassion, dignity and love.

Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 3 May/June - 2016



A Home For Progressive Believers by Edward Knight



The FCM/UCEC logo was designed by a past member, showing our Christian and Unitarian roots, in kindred spirit of cooperation between our faith groups.

The Unitarian Christian Emerging Church is a contemporary, progressive and inspirational Christian- Unitarian denomination that is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, USA as the Unitarian Christian Emerging Church & Ministries. The membership advocate church building, home group alliances, ministry, and global faith partnerships.

We are a church serving marginalized & disenfranchised Christian Unitarians & other faith based progressives. The Church is a group member church of a conclave of churches within the Federation of Christian Ministries and the International Council of Community Churches. Our roots are steeped in classical Christian & Unitarian thought, but with a modern perspective toward worship. We believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God, and that the Christ Jesus is the pathway for our journey throughout life. Unitarian-Christianity offers the awe and mystery, which allows one to interpret for him or herself the correct path to travel.

The Unitarian Christian Emerging Church (UCEC) is the modern manifestation of historical Unitarian Christianity. It is the emerging and natural development of enlightened Unitarianism of Europe and America of recent centuries. Rather than being bound by any historical teaching or belief, we look ahead to mutually supportive spiritual growth that is meaningful for the new era utilizing the following concepts:

1. God is the Divine unity that encompasses all of reality. We do not define God otherwise, because we perceive any definition of God as arrogant and self-limiting.
2. We accept the core ethics and teachings, particularly those of Jesus, as found in the Bible and in other Christian gospels. We also acknowledge that inspiration and guidance for living may be found in the sacred scriptures of other faiths as well as in secular works, such as those of science, history, philosophy and literature.

3. We believe that each person is called to make a significant contribution to society and that in particular, each Unitarian Christian has a ministry. As Unitarian Christians, we are called to live according to the highest possible standards of ethical behavior and respect for our fellow human beings. We believe that every person has the same rights as every other person without regard to sexuality, ethnicity, race, or any other negatively discriminatory categorization, and that love is the core of meaningful Christianity.

4. We believe that each person should be intellectually autonomous and should have the absolute right to determine for him or herself any meaningful and responsible religious beliefs and practice. We do not attempt to impose our beliefs on others. We humbly embrace our own beliefs and live according to them in harmony with others as much as possible. We do not stand in judgment of other faith systems.

5. We believe in reason and truth as we pursue a relationship with the Divine. We cherish scientific inquiry. We are open to new discoveries. We reject dogma, viewing it as demeaning to the essence of what it means to be human, and as contradictory to what it means to share in divinity.

6. We believe that prayer is a way in which one may communicate to the Divine and exhibit love, compassion, sensitivity, commitment, moderation and mindfulness.

The Unitarian Christian Emerging Church has formed sister churches throughout the world. Canada, Kenya, Italy, France, Ireland, and the United Kingdom are just a few countries that have seen our church come to fruition. In the United States, we have formed faith groups in Tennessee, Massachusetts, Florida, and Connecticut. Services are scheduled on Cape Ann Massachusetts under the acronym of CAUCUS (Cape Ann Unitarian Christian United in Spirit).



Freedom, reason and tolerance in religion

The flaming chalice is the Unitarian symbol

The history of the flaming chalice is recent symbolism of Unitarianism. During WWII, in Poland, the Unitarian Christians put a chalice in their windows with a candle. They lit this candle when there was absence of Nazi activity or occupation. This made the community aware when they were free to move about.

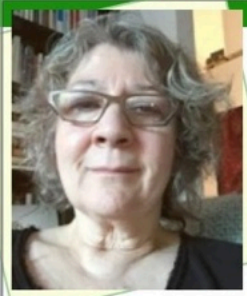
In the era of the Cold War (50's and 60's) this notion took hold and spread worldwide. In modernity, The "Flaming Chalice" symbolizes Freedom to Worship as one's conscience dictates. The best way to describe the Flaming chalice is a symbol of Unitarian worship, that when lit, opens the service to the ultimate awe and mystery of the Divine.



FCM Director of Group Affairs...Rebecca M. Cartus

Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 3 May/June - 2016



Member's Deep Experience Enriches FCM

by Vera Markovich, Pacific Region Specialized Ministries Liaison

Greetings! My name is **Vera Markovich**, and I am the **Pacific Region Liaison for the FCM National Committee on Specialized Ministries**. My commitment to Interfaith Ministry brought me to my connection with FCM.

I was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba and grew up in Hamilton, Ontario. When I was 23, I moved to Vancouver, British Columbia and lived there for 25 years. I was blessed to have an opportunity to leave the business world when I was 36 and begin an under-graduate degree at Simon Fraser University. This educational experience changed my life and the hopes I had for myself. When I graduated I began a counseling program at Pacifica Graduate School in Santa Barbara, California. During one of my classes I listened to Dr. Bernie Siegel talk about his work with such passion and love. He brought to my attention the lack of passion I had for the path I had chosen.

After much soul searching, I decided to finish the year and then apply to seminary. I was fortunate that Vancouver School of Theology welcomed people who felt like outsiders and were searching. It was a life-giving experience. I graduated with a Masters in Pastoral Studies and made a commitment to return to my roots and follow a Jewish spiritual path.

While at seminary, I studied at North Shore Counseling Center with the intention of becoming a pastoral counselor. I studied and used Bowen Family Systems theory in my pastoral counseling practice as well as my personal life. I continued my practice until moving to the United States. I had met Rob and decided to move to make a life with him in Seattle. We have been married since 2001.

When I was at seminary, I was required to do a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education. I valued what I learned from my supervisor and peers. Unfortunately, I had to withdraw from the program because I needed to have spinal surgery. Later, when I had moved to Seattle, I decided to pick up a unit of CPE with the intention of completing the unit and better preparing myself for Hospice Chaplaincy. I fell in love with CPE, the patients and families I served, the staff that I served and being in a hospital environment.

I went on to a residency during which my supervisor encouraged me to consider becoming a CPE supervisor. I took his recommendation seriously and stayed on to do supervisory training. I remember the first time I sat independently with a group of students and how much it felt like a homecoming. I have had the kind of passion for my work that I yearned for when I observed Siegel. I feel blessed to have found this work.

The hospital in Seattle was a multi-campus acute care health system. When I moved to Indiana and Pennsylvania, I worked in multi-campus Level I trauma systems. My most recent position was with a small acute care community hospital in California. I have supervised chaplain interns, chaplain residents, and supervisory students. I have particularly enjoyed being part of a Spiritual Care Department that has a number of staff chaplains who support the training of chaplains.

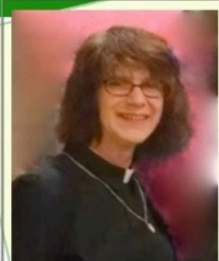
To become an ACPE Supervisor, ordination and endorsement was required. Due to my commitment to Interfaith Ministry, I decided to attend All Faiths Seminary in New York. The year culminated in my ordination as an Interfaith Minister. For the endorsement requirement, I was encouraged to explore FCM. I was delighted to discover a group of people who were committed to welcoming the stranger who appeared in their midst and offering support to follow their passion in ministry.

I remember the delightful conversations I had with my ministry partner who helped me discern whether having FCM as my endorsing body was a good fit for me. I also remember that I was facing some deadlines and how incredibly helpful the people involved in my endorsement process were in accommodating me. I felt like I was becoming known to this community and was grateful for their willingness to help me achieve my goal - to be endorsed by a body that was legitimate and caring. I also remember my first FCM conference and meeting so many people who were dedicated to their ministry.

My gratitude for my experience with FCM motivates me to be on the Special Ministries committee and to support those who are seeking endorsement for their ministry. I will be connecting with people who are in the Pacific Region and seeking endorsement over the next couple of months. My hope is that I can be a source of support as you pursue the endorsement process with FCM. Should you like to connect with me, I can be reached at veramarkovich@att.net or 206-679-9568.

Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 3 May/June - 2016



New Coordinator Brings Ministerial Outlook

by Newsletter Editor, John Polanski

Susan Ferman...Prayer Support Coordinator

Imagine stumbling across our website – something you as a member ought to do deliberately, by the way – and scanning the home page. Almost immediately you spot it: right there. It's a bright red, eye-catching navigation bar labeled "Request For Prayer Support." It shows up through all the pages as you click through them.

You can't miss it and there's a reason for that. Look, for instance at President **Tom Cusack's** welcoming letter. (His smiling face beams at you right there from the top of the "About FCM" page.) Throughout his description of who we are and his invitation to learn more about us, he explains that we are foremost an organization whose members' spirituality emphasizes the importance of community and that this connectedness begins and continues through our expressions of mutual concern.

We are constantly becoming community, he suggests, not only through our gatherings and shared ministry. Important those these are, it is as well through our awareness of one another's ministries, our deepening appreciation of those with whom we serve that we become community on a daily basis.

So when long-time Prayer Support Team coordinator **Jeanne Barnes** stepped down and a new volunteer offered to accept the responsibilities, it ought not go unmentioned. Even as the FCM community recognizes and appreciates the unsung effort that Jeanne was involved in for many years, our growth depends on the willingness of many others to volunteer, especially when it comes to prayer.

This is exemplified by the reality that although it may be a relatively simple matter of filling in the information boxes on the prayer request form, it is the thoughtful and attentive follow-up that connects the person making the request and those whom they wish to be remembered with those who will become united with them in spirit. And that's why we are grateful to have someone as coordinator who is so familiar with ministry.

Susan Ferman was formerly ordained by the Universal Life Church in 1993 and primarily performed weddings and funerals from 1993 until 2001, when she relocated from the Los Angeles area. After taking several years off from ministry to attend Washington State University and Emerson Theological Institute and be a full-time mom, Susan began performing memorial and celebration of life services on a regular basis again in 2012. Then in 2013, in celebration of Washington legalizing same-sex marriage, she began working as a wedding officiant.

Susan became a commissioned member of FCM in June 2015 and has been an active member of the Prayer Support Team since joining the organization. She is currently working towards FCM endorsement, with the ultimate goal of becoming a hospital or hospice chaplain. "I love celebrating weddings and baptisms, but I feel a deeper spiritual satisfaction when blessed with the opportunity to serve, support and pray with families and individuals in need."

The act of asking another to remember someone in prayer is so basic to the upbringing most of us have had that it is almost taken for granted. Thanks to dedicated members like Jeanne and Susan, FCM has an active reminder of how that simple gesture is an integral part of what makes community. It is, to paraphrase Shakespeare, the hoops of steel that grapple our souls together.

Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter...VOL. 50 NO. 3 May/June - 2016



Assembly Features Stellar Line-Up

by Patty Stricker, Planning Team

Isn't it incredible? I am amazed every time I think of the list of offerings and keynote speakers coming to this year's National Assembly, August 5-7 in Cleveland. Not only are we going to experience **Rev. John Shelby Spong**, **Marianne Duddy Burke**, **Sister Dianne Pinchot** and **Rev. John Dorhauer**, but also your fellow FCM members who will be sharing their knowledge and talents.

OUR Assembly. ..YOUR Assembly... will be an opportunity to grow in knowledge and friendship. Remember, FCM is only as strong as our members. My challenge to you? Invite and encourage others to participate. And don't forget to take advantage of the final substantial price break in the cost of registration!

See you in Cleveland!



FCM 2016 ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY DATES.....AUGUST 5-7, 2016

With Open Arms

Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel...Cleveland, Ohio

REGISTER at..www.federationofchristianministries.org

FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

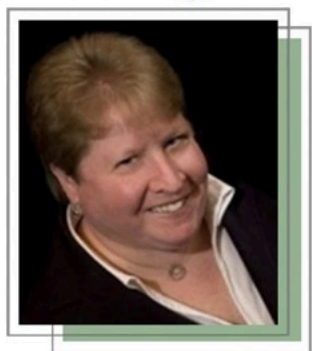
2016 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

AUGUST 5-7, 2016

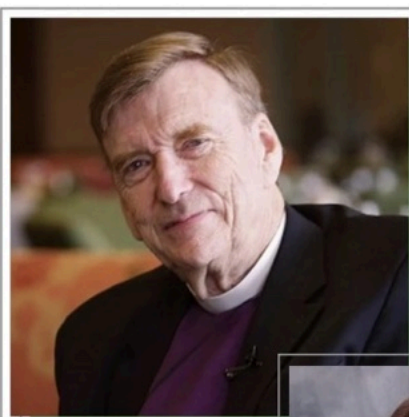


With Open Arms

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.

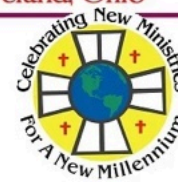
FCM Members Biennial Meeting - Sit with your Region

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 \$260 before July 1..\$280 after July 1 .**
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: \$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.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.



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.

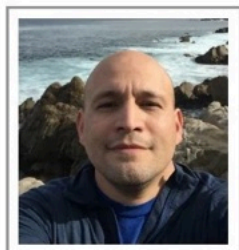
On the day that Arizona became a marriage equality state, Rev. Dorhauer was positioned on the steps of the county court house with a sign, "We stand ready to marry you," and therefore Rev. Dorhauer became the first person to perform a legal same sex wedding in the state of Arizona when he joined David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



With Open Arms The Federation of Christian Ministries Advertise in the 2016 Assembly Program

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Federation of Christian Ministries

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Newsletter Editor...John Polanski
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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).

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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.

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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
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