

Federation of Christian Ministries



Newsletter

July/August 2017

VOL. 51 - Number 4

Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter - July/August 2017 VOL. 51 NO. 4



"Freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed - else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die."
Dwight D. Eisenhower

"In the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved."
Franklin D. Roosevelt

"There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America."
Bill Clinton

"Where liberty is, there is my country."
Benjamin Franklin

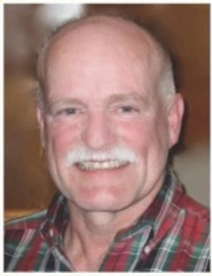
"Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freeness of speech."
Benjamin Franklin

"Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves."
Abraham Lincoln

"Liberty has never come from the government. Liberty has always come from the subjects of it. The history of liberty is a history of resistance."
Woodrow Wilson

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TOM STRICKER

CHAIRPERSON

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The Meaning of Mission

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

[Mission Statement, FCM Website Home Page](#)

At a recent gathering the question was raised, "What does the FCM Mission Statement say about taking positions on political issues and policies?" In this issue I want to offer my response to this important concern.

Our mission statement begins by pointing out we are "Called by God's spirit and grounded in personal spiritual practice..." I believe such a practice does not isolate us, but instead brings an awareness of how connected we are with all people. It is the foundation of our ministry. The statement goes on to describe how we go about "supporting the growth in faith and ministry of (its) individuals and collective members." This is what it means to be "Christ-inspired," central to the calling to live the Good News. As Luke tells the story, Jesus begins his own ministry quoting Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, anointing me to proclaim the Good News to the poor, to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set the oppressed free."

This all suggests to me that within FCM we are called to proclaim the dignity of all people regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or status in life. We are called to proclaim that God loves all people and is in all people, or to paraphrase John Shelby Spong, God is the Source of Love, the Source of Life, and the Ground of Being. My faith tells me that is what I have experienced in the person of Jesus. I believe the only way to adore the Source of Life is by living life fully. The only way to adore the Source of Love is by loving wastefully. The only way to adore the Ground of Being is by having the courage to be all that I can be. It is not possible to seek these gifts for myself and then deny them to others.

When the policies of our country deny these truths I must speak out as a FCM member. Such a response stems from the Gospel message embedded in our Mission Statement rather than any political stance. This is my task as a disciple of Jesus and a member of FCM. I further believe it is the responsibility of FCM as an organization who commissions and endorses members according to this mission. It is very simple: God was in Jesus and it is that same Jesus who challenges me to see God in every person I encounter.

The paragraph at the top of the page calls us to engage the world much as the prophets of old did and speak out for values and issues that support this belief. We must be a voice within this great country where these values are proclaimed but not always lived. Not speaking out would be to ignore our call and our mission. Not speaking out undermines the authority we claim to have to "endorse and commission those who have discerned a call to ministry." We must speak out if we are to claim to be "Christ-inspired." We must engage in the political process as witnesses to the Gospel and as prophets of our day. It is our mission.



TOM CUSACK

PRESIDENT

July/August 2017

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Dynamic Peace by Spirituality

In June I had the benefit of attending a retreat in Ruma, Illinois. I attended it with my friend, Tom Smith. Some of you will remember the workshop he and his wife, Fran, offered at the FCM Assembly in Cleveland last year on the twin subjects of mental health and suicide (<https://karlasmithfoundation.org/>). The Ruma retreat group included about 15 members of the Southern Illinois Association of Priests (SIAP). Terry Rynne of Marquette University (<http://www.marquette.edu/peacemaking/scholars.php>) structured the retreat around the theme of active nonviolence as inspired and lived by Jesus of Nazareth. He discussed the social setting of Jesus' ministry and the implications of the Sermon on the Mount. (Mt 5: 1-12ff). The Roman occupation of Judea and the collaboration with them of the wealthy Judeans under Herod created the social context of Jesus' ministry. In this situation radical instructions such as "turn the other cheek" were actions of nonviolent resistance (e.g., Mt 5: 39). Nonviolence grounded in the gospel is **dynamic and transformative**; refer to Gandhi and MLK.

We continue to be confronted with a rapid evolution of our own society. It is moving clearly toward oligarchy as wealth concentrates in the wealthiest 1% of our population. With the movement in Congress toward a radical reduction in availability of healthcare to the American poor and ill as structured by such legislation as the American Health Care Act (H.R. 1628), we see an overt abandonment of concern for "...these least brothers of mine..." (Mt 25:40). These developments in society present ongoing challenges to those of us who explicitly follow Jesus in FCM, "Our Christ – inspired organization...." We have our jobs and daily duties that occupy our time and energy. What manner of action can we take to create Christ – inspired change is an appropriate question for each of us. The answer for you to that question rests within. The realization of that answer is dependent upon involvement with personal spirituality.

A deeper connection with Jesus does not happen by accident. It is pursued by focus, dedication, and effort. While those efforts can include theological study, immersion in the Scriptures, systematically doing charitable and good deeds, and the like, my experience is that meditation is the most effective path by which I deepen my own spirituality. From that experience I continue to urge you to review and increase your time spent and dedication to the spiritual life. To gain specific benefits for FCM I ask you to accomplish **2 x 2 4 FCM**, [daily 2 minutes of prayer and 2 minutes of meditation for the benefit of FCM]. In addition, stepping up the effort, please schedule **Tuesday 10 4 FCM** [spend 10 minutes of devotional time dedicated to the shaping of FCM as an effective vehicle for the realization of Christ's message on earth].

Your dedication to the spiritual life will change you and thus will change FCM and our general impact in our society.

Finally, here are a couple simple practical actions you can take to build FCM. First, our membership growth is driven by **referrals** to FCM by existing members. I am interested in hearing from members who have successfully referred friends and acquaintances to FCM. I'm also interested in hearing from members who joined FCM on the basis of a referral from a friend, who was already a member. So, **please refer folks to FCM**. Second, please **wear your FCM pin** in all appropriate occasions. It is striking and it elicits questions about the pin. That gives an opening for your Pauline-sales-magic to advance the cause of FCM. [Don't have your FCM pin? Ask for one from Central Office.] Wear it above your heart and prepare your elevator speech about FCM to respond to the inevitable questions.

We are each lucky to be members of FCM, a dedicated group who try to build the Kingdom (Mk 1:15) among us. I thank God for you every day.



CHAVA
REDONNET

FCM FAITH COMMUNITY

July/August 2017
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Building a Church, Finding a Home

(Editor's note: Great thanks to Chava, FCM Northeast Region member and to her community <http://www.oscarromerochurch.org> for submitting this latest segment of our ongoing series on FCM's group members.)



This week we will begin our seventh summer of Masses in our little Migrant Church, *Iglesia de San Romero*. Technically, that's a mission of Oscar Romero Inclusive Catholic Church; increasingly, it is the church. One gives one's "Yes" to God, and doors open, others close. The English- speaking part of our church is less and less, and the Spanish more and more.



In the past six years we have worshipped outside, with the sun setting and birds calling, grateful for summer breezes; and inside, in living rooms and borrowed space. For two summers we had a building to use. In 2012 there was an I-9 audit of the farm that employed our parishioners, and everybody lost their jobs. Some went home, some moved away; the few who stayed continued the church. The farm lost most of its workforce and had to switch to less labor-intensive crops.

The silver lining in the cloud was that now there were some empty migrant houses, and we asked the farmer if we could use one for church. It was great to have the use of a building! Right away, I set up a bookshelf so we could have a library. Folks would come to church, and pick out something to borrow. We had information on farm safety, "know your rights" pamphlets, books about faith, novels, children's books.

We celebrated birthdays there, and a graduation party when one of our guys got his GED. At Mass we were comfortable, with chairs for everybody instead of standing around outside, and a heater so we could worship into the autumn. We had a cupboard to keep candles and other Mass supplies, so for those two summers I didn't have to cart them around, using my car as a portable sacristy.

Our third summer, though, I came in to set up for the first Mass of the year, and found a bed in the middle of the church. Our chairs had been pushed to the side, and there was unfamiliar food in the fridge: someone was living there! In a typical example of God's great care, the man who was living there drove up just as I was figuring it out. He said someone had told him the house was empty and he could live there. I contacted the farmer, who was apologetic. He would be homeless if he didn't stay there, she said. His need outweighed ours, so we went back to being an itinerant church. It was possibly the first time in history that a homeless person threw out a church, instead of the other way around. Justice!

That was a year ago. Since then we have worshipped outside (but with folding chairs – hooray!), then in someone's living room. We are trying to buy a building to use for the church – a place where we can have that library again, and community suppers, and English classes. A place where people who are often strangers in this country can find a welcome, be known by name, be in community. A place to know and be known. A place to belong. May it be so!





CARL
YUSAVITZ
VICE-CHAIR

Specialized Ministries

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"No, I actually have three names..."

During our term of voluntary service with the Mennonite Central Committee in North Africa in the mid-80's, I became close friends with a village elder whose name was Amos Wani. Amos was of the Kakwa tribe, which borders Northern Uganda and South Sudan. Kakwa are Kakwa first, then either South Sudanese or Ugandan.

I thought I knew Amos very well, having visited with his family and worked closely with him for nearly two years. However, one day I discovered that his name was not really Amos. While on a 90-mile, 12-hour road trip to the South Sudan/Uganda border, I noticed that Amos' friends did not call him Amos. When I asked him about this, he told me that Amos was his "Christian" name, the name he was given by the Christian missionaries when he was still a baby. His tribal name, the name his "people" called him Jukeria. "So," I happily said, figuring I just made some gigantic cross-cultural leap, "your real name is Jukeria - not Amos, right?"

"No," Amos told me, "my name is Amos and my name is Jukeria."

"So, you have two names," I exclaimed.

"No, I actually have three names," Amos said.

"Well, what is your third name, then?"

"I can't tell you. It's a secret. That name is a special name, given to me by my parents. Only they could use that name. But now that they are both dead, no one calls me by that name."

Remembering this story made me think of John 10: 3: "My sheep hear my voice and I know them by name." I thought of the importance of names and how we are known and called by our God. I wonder if we too, like Amos/Jukeria, have a "mystical" name, one given to us by a loving God who knows us intimately. If you're a lot like me, though, we often are deaf and full of preoccupations, worries, and anxieties to hear God's intimate voice - a voice that calls out to us repeatedly.

May we all respond as fully as Mary Magdalene did in the garden on that first Easter morning, when Jesus said simply: "Mary."



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



ANTOINETTE MAROLD

Communications

July/August 2017
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Answering Members Inquiries

Newsletter

The FCM Newsletter's format was changed on the Jan/Feb. 2016 issue.

There were several reasons for the change. It updated the look in a magazine format and it allowed us to add additional pages and photos to our newsletter.

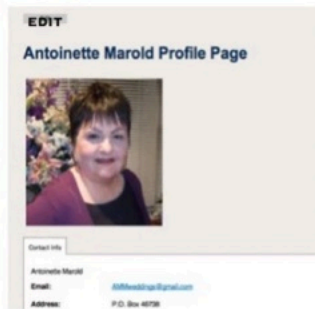
I have had some inquiries as to how to easily print and download the Newsletter.



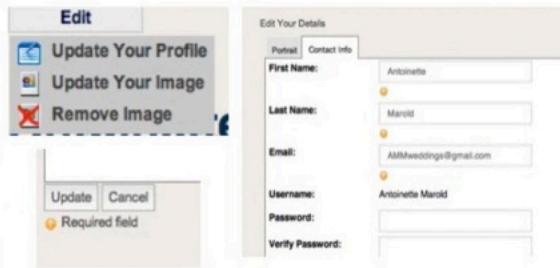
If you would like to download the Newsletter into your device, go to the Member Login area of the FCM website. The latest issue will be posted in the Member Login area in a pdf format, a few days after you receive it by Constant Contact. The Newsletter is also posted on the FCM Blog.

Members Only Login Area - Change your password....

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHANGING PASSWORD IN THE FCM MEMBER LOGIN AREA.
GO TO YOUR LISTING.... I AM USING MINE AS AN EXAMPLE
CLICK UP ABOVE YOUR NAME WHERE IT SAYS EDIT.



WHEN YOU PUT YOUR CURSER OVER EDIT THE FOLLOWING LIST WILL DROP DOWN. CLICK ON UPDATE YOUR PROFILE.



CHANGE YOUR PASSWORD - VERIFY YOUR NEW PASSWORD.
ON THE BOTTOM LEFT CLICK ON THE UPDATE.

It is important to keep your member information up to date in the Members Only Login area.

The instructions posted are for changing your password but you can also update your profile under the EDIT drop down.

If you have never registered in this Members Only area, please contact me for instructions at: communication@FCMmail.org

If you are officiating at weddings and baptisms, it is import for you to access this site to register your weddings and baptisms.

Registering baptisms with FCM is mandatory. Wedding registration is a service provided to members of FCM.



PLEASE LIKE FCM ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/Federation-of-Christian-Ministries-179262215432851/>



BY MARYANN CRILLY, FCM

A Moving Experience: Marching in the People's Climate Movement

(Editor's note: Thanks to Northeast Region commissioned member Maryann for submitting this description of her experience on behalf of the environment, the latest installment in our series on FCM and actions for peace with justice.)

In the summer of 2015, my husband and two of our friends went on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Alaska. We spent one week on land, visiting the Denali National Park and another week on a cruise from Seward to Vancouver, BC. Although there were many wonderful and scenic times on that trip, there were two I won't forget. In Seward, we took a boat tour of Resurrection Bay and Kenai Fjords. The captain brought us to a glacier that calved at least 3 times in the hour we spent there. The captain remarked that he does not frequently see calving at that spot, and to see it 3 times was amazing. Then the boat motored across the bay to a spot where humpback whales were bubble feeding to capture fish and eat lunch. The captain indicated that this sighting was rare, but it was becoming more frequent. The whales needed to go farther north to get to colder waters where there was more food. Both of these events were due to climate change caused by humanity.

In the fall of 2016, I was extremely fortunate to visit the Grand Canyon. It was AMAZING! I could not believe the beauty and the vastness of this national treasure. In its 2001 report *Rethinking the National Parks for the 21st Century*, the National Park System Advisory Board states, "The creation of a national park is an expression of faith in the future. It is a pact between generations, a promise from the past to the future. In 1916, Congress established the National Park Service to conserve the parks unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

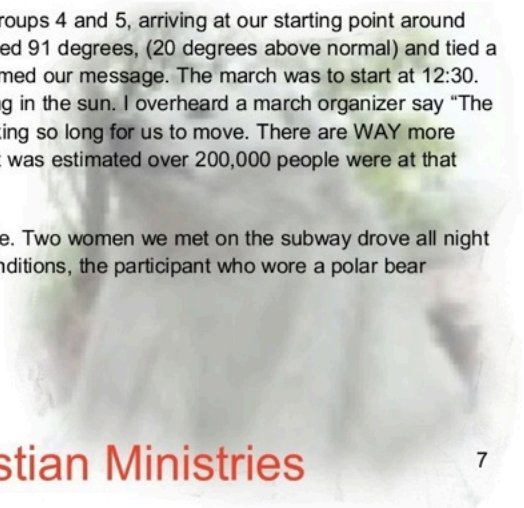
This certainly applies to the Grand Canyon, and I hope my grandchildren will be able to experience these places. However, I fear there may not be any glaciers in 50 years. And the Grand Canyon may be destroyed by colossal tourist developments, unlimited helicopter tours, uranium mining and water pollution.

When I heard of the People's Climate March (<https://peoplesclimate.org/>) I knew I had to go. Although I have never marched for any cause before, this movement spoke to me. The earth is our only home. If we destroy the earth, we destroy humanity. So on April 29, 2017 my husband and I waited at the Silver Springs, MD metro station to board the train that would take us with lots of other folks to the starting point of the People's Climate Movement march in Washington, DC. We were instructed via e-mail to go to 3rd and Jefferson, and then find the group we were interested in walking with. There were 8 groups:

- * **PROTECTORS OF JUSTICE** - Indigenous, Frontline Environmental and Climate Justice Communities
- * **CREATORS OF SANCTUARY** - Immigrants, LGBTQI, Women, Latinos, Waterkeepers, Food Sovereignty and Land Rights
- * **BUILDERS OF DEMOCRACY** - Labor, Government Workers, Voting Rights and Democracy organizations
- * **GUARDIANS OF THE FUTURE** - Kids, Parents, Elders, Youth, Students and Peace Activists
- * **DEFENDERS OF TRUTH** - Scientists, Educators, Technologists and Health Community
- * **KEEPERS OF FAITH** - Religious and Interfaith groups
- * **RESHAPERS OF POWER** - Anti-Corporate, Anti-Nuclear, Fossil Fuel Resistance, Renewable Energy and Transportation
- * **MANY STRUGGLES, ONE HOME** - Environmentalists, Climate Activists and more

We walked for several blocks and stopped between groups 4 and 5, arriving at our starting point around 11:00. It was **extremely** warm: the temperature reached 91 degrees, (20 degrees above normal) and tied a heat record for April 29 set in 1974 — which only affirmed our message. The march was to start at 12:30. At 1:00, we were still standing in the same spot, baking in the sun. I overheard a march organizer say "The front of the march started on time. We're sorry it is taking so long for us to move. There are WAY more people here than we expected!" In fact, the next day it was estimated over 200,000 people were at that march.

It was inspiring to be part of so many dedicated people. Two women we met on the subway drove all night from Kansas City to get to the march. Given those conditions, the participant who wore a polar bear costume showed true commitment!



PEACE & JUSTICE

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I was very happy to see people from the Catholic Church, carrying the Pope's message. In my opinion, our religious traditions do not emphasize enough how we must care for our common home and the interconnectedness of all life

As we waited to move, the marshals called out "Show me what democracy looks like." We responded with "This is what democracy looks like!" It occurred to me that many people around the world were prohibited from demonstrating, marching and sharing views that are different from the governments they live in. How fortunate for us to be living in the US.

There were so many signs, mostly hand-made. Some of my favorites were: "Stop Climate Change. Stop Eating Meat," "There is No Planet B," "Save the Bees," "The Seas Are Rising and So Are We," "Recycle Your Signs," "Water is Life," "Keep it in the Ground" and "Science is not a Liberal Agenda." A child carrying a sign that read "What Future?" was very powerful.

We finally started moving at 1:15. It was a very energetic crowd. We walked north on 3rd Street with the US Capital Building on our right, and made a left to walk up Pennsylvania Avenue. At one point the crowd ahead of us was jeering and yelling. Since everyone was so orderly and peaceful prior to this, I began to get anxious. At one point the people we were walking with were yelling "Shame!" as I realized we were passing Trump International Hotel!



The Crilly's display their signs

At 2:00, the marshals requested everyone sit down and be quiet. After a few minutes, we started clapping in rhythm. Then we stood up and let out a ROAR! This symbolized our collective heartbeat beating as one, and rising up as one to protect our planet. For me, this was the highlight of the march.

As we got closer to the White House, where the President was in residence during his 100th day, our section of the march headed towards the Washington Monument. My body felt a chill and knew the heat was getting too much for me. We stopped to sit on the grass in the shade. As speakers from different movements were talking at the Washington Monument, we headed home.

I try to do my part and not further harm the earth. I drive a hybrid car, use my own cloth bags at the grocery store, use my water bottle instead of drinking water from packaged plastic bottles, don't keep the water running when I do dishes or brush my teeth and I reuse, donate and recycle before I put something in the trash. As the executor of my aunt's estate who was a hoarder, I emptied the entire house without using a dumpster. We just replaced our boiler, water heater and air conditioning units with energy efficient ones and insulated the attic. There are probably more things I could do, like composting, not eating meat, installing solar panels and writing to my government representatives. People say I am crazy, that one person can't make a difference. But, on April 29, I was with 200,000 people who want to make a difference.

I wrote this reflection the day the President of the US pulled out of the Paris Climate Agreement. Now more than ever, people need to think about their impact on the environment. Part of that awareness needs to include a spiritual response to our present ecological crisis, an understanding of the interdependence and living unity of the ecosystem (see <https://spiritualecology.org/> for further information). May we have the conscience and courage to respect and protect Planet Earth.



EUGENE BIANCHI - FIRST PRESIDENT OF FCM

Personal Spiritual Change

I would like to sketch aspects of my spiritual evolution. Sages say that all life is in motion, subject to change. They also tell us we are shaped by our immediate culture. My journey began in an Italian immigrant family and a typical 1930s parish in Oakland, CA. My early world was routinely Catholic, yet with exceptions. My father inherited low level anti-clericalism in WWI. He also resented priests in Lucca who came by for gratis handouts of the best products from hard-working tenant farmers. Like many Italian men, he left church-going to the women and children.

My grandmother was relatively pious. She took me to annual preached retreats in Italian with loud hymns that I still recall. The best part was picking edible mushrooms on the way home. She had a mind of her own when she read the paper to me, claiming to spot a crook by the look of his face. She resented FDR and "Eezenwhoar." Lucky she didn't speak much English. Big shot church leaders came in for their share. The Madonna got by okay. Uncle John, who lived across the street with *Nonno* and *Nonna*, was an extraordinary character, crazy in delightful ways, a man who suffered much inwardly and was the holiest of us all. He was always ready to enact a hanging event for priests who made him scrupulous.

This is what the good Sisters of the Holy Names had to work with until they got me to St. Ignatius High School in San Francisco. A naive teenager, I was impressed by my teachers and joined the Order in 1948, left in 1968. At 87 I look with gratitude to my religious and lay teachers. My views on religion expanded during studies in Louvain, later during doctoral work at Union Theological and Columbia. Again, my immediate culture counted: living as an assistant editor at *America* during Vatican II, NY City itself, and enriching friends. Here are key elements of my spiritual growth: Teilhard de Chardin, ecumenism, the spirit of John 23, and a widening intellectual context.

My leaving was in part driven by disillusion with celibacy. I looked for other clergy who shared such views and in 1969 became the first President of Society of Priests for a Free Ministry (SPFM) which became the Fellowship of Christian Ministries (FCM) in 1973. In 1986 its name again was changed to Federation of Christian Ministries. The ups and downs of my marital career can be checked out in my memoir, *Taking the Long Road Home*. For the past 25 years I have lived with my wife, Peggy Herman, a recovering Baptist and trainer/lover of an old priest. Call this period with the ladies from 1969 a long spiritual discipline.

My years as a religion professor at Emory have further extended my religious outlook and practice. The school set up an exchange program with the Dalai Lama who visited campus on occasion. This drew me into deeper study and teaching of Buddhism and Taoism. Mindfulness and Zen meditation became part of my practice. I was able to link it to forms of western mysticism. Years ago I urged the church to spend a portion of Sunday services to teach and practice meditation among Christians. Ritual and sermon are not enough. Peggy and I belong to a weekly Buddhist *sangha* and we are exploring the meditative ways of a local Quaker meeting. Are we still Christians? Yes, why not? We try to follow the Spirit where she bloweth. John Courtney Murray, S.J. said in 1966: "Bianchi, you are becoming unstuck." He didn't mean unhinged. I think he meant evolving.

I'd like to pull this together in two words that seem to summarize my theology/spirituality: agnostic pantheist. Agnostic in the best sense of Taoism and early church apophatic unknowing. Ease up on rules and doctrines imposed from top clerics and their subservient theologians. Pope Francis tries to do this. But we like the seeming certainty and comfort of certitude, even false certitude.

Pantheism: we are already in God, always have been, as is every molecule of the cosmos. This whole gig didn't start with Jesus, wonderful as his acts and teachings are. For over a decade I have been writing poetry. My third volume just appeared: *The Hum of It All: Poems from a Personal Journey*. These three books best express my "religion" in concrete terms. bianchibooks.com/hum-of-it-all.htm (great discounts) The other two poetry books can be found in www.bianchibooks.com

Finally, every week I meet with an Athens gagle of kindly critics about a new poem. This week's poem, which is still in the shop, "Return to Earth," is about my aging and death and a renewed appreciation for my garden on the Oconee River where I live and may die. Ecological spirituality come home.

Thanks to the Federation of Christian (or Community) Ministries for friendship and inspiration over the years.

Gene Bianchi (releb@emory.edu), Athens, GA

JULY 20-22, 2018
DOUBLETREE HILTON HOTEL
PHILADELPHIA, PA

2018 Assembly Updates

MICHAELITA QUINN, ASSEMBLY CHAIR



It's only ONE YEAR from now!

FCM 50TH ANNIVERSARY ASSEMBLY

July 20 - 22, 2018

Save the Date 2018 Assembly **Save these dates!**.....Page

Preview of the Assembly Program

- Friday, July 20** **GRAND OPENING! 50TH Anniversary Celebration!**
Reception, Dinner, Opening Session
Celebrating 50 Years of Ministry
Reconnect with old friends, Meet new FCM friends
- Saturday, July 21** **LISTEN, SHARE, GROW**
Two Keynote Speakers:
 Rabbi Rami Shapiro, Simone Campbell, SSS
Workshops:
 Morning and afternoon
Evening:
 One inclusive Worship Service for all
 FCM Commissioning and Endorsement ceremonies
 Celebratory Reception
- Sunday, July 22** **COME TOGETHER**
Ecumenical Eucharist for all
FCM Annual Membership Meeting – all invited

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July/August 2017

WWW.FEDERATIONOFCHRISTIANMINISTRIES.ORG

SAVE THE DATE

FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

CELEBRATING

50

Years of Ministry
Reflecting on the past
Celebrating the present
Shaping the future

1968 ♦ 2018

JULY 20 - 22, 2018

Keynote Speakers



RABBI RAMI SHAPIRO



SIMONE CAMPBELL, SSS

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL
PHILADELPHIA AIRPORT
4509 Island Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

www.federationofchristianministries.org



Northeast Regional News

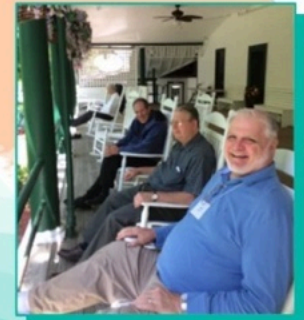


VICE PRESIDENT
DAN PELLEGRIN

Northeast Regional Gathering..May 2017



GATHERING ATTENDEES



DAN PELLEGRIN, BILL MANSEAU
JOHN O'SULLIVAN, TONY ERCOLANO



KATHLEEN REILLY, JAMES WOODS, PAT STUBENBORT,
PAUL STUBENBORT, ELLEN DANEKE, JULIE STUMPF



JOHN O'SULLIVAN
MEAL PRAYER



JOO YOUNG HONG, TOM QUINN,
MICHAELITA QUINN



JOO YOUNG HONG,
TONY ERCOLANO



CARL YUSAVITZ & TOM CUSACK



PAT & PAUL STUBENBORT



LEO MCILLRATH
KATHLEEN REILLY, JAMES WOODS



GINNY - MARGARET
CUSACK BROWER



PAUL STUBENBORT, ROBERT MEROLLA
& JOO YOUNG HONG

July/August 2017
VOL. 51 NO. 4



2017 Regional Conference

July/August 2017
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PAUL STUBENBORT, FCM

Regional Conference Renews and Inspires

Thirty-three Northeast Region members gathered at Eddy Farm on the banks of the beautiful upper Delaware River for a weekend to reunite with old friends and enjoy the refreshing energy of the new life coming into FCM. The manicured grounds and stately Conference Center were ideal for us to revisit our ministries and go once more to the well of spirituality. Our keynote speakers and personal interaction with one another made the visit not only refreshing but also meaningful.

Joanne Blaney has been working with *Restorative Justice* in Sao Paulo, Brazil for years and has given presentations on that process here and abroad. Her presentation was riveting as she explained the distinction between legal justice and restorative justice and how the latter brings the victim and perpetrator face-to-face. Both have the opportunity to let the hate and fear from their previous violent encounter dissolve as each accepts the other as a person. When this powerful process is utilized in prisons, the rate of recidivism drastically decreases.

Spiritual director **Maria Gullo of Deeper Connection**, a ministry that teaches and nurtures contemplative spirituality described *Centering Prayer*, the heart of her ministry. She pointed out that the core problem of mental prayer is the distractions that intrude on our focus. It helps to overcome these distractions when we realize we are addicted to control and our thoughts are part of that control. To give this control up is not easy. Maria gave the group a true experience of the process of centering prayer as a way of meditating.

FCM President **Tom Cusack** led a group discussion on a matter of current significance in our organization that turned out to be the liveliest give and take of the weekend. The question was, "Should FCM *officially* endorse or oppose a position on any of the social issues that are so hotly debated in our country today", e.g. health care coverage for the poor? Some thought FCM should do so publicly and officially. Most indicated since individual FCM members are already deeply involved in concerns like promoting health care for the poor and consideration for undocumented refugees, there was no need for FCM to take a public stance as an organization. It will be interesting to see what the other four FCM regions do with this issue.

Our Northeast VP, **Dan Pellegrin** did the leg work to put together this idyllic weekend. **Bill Meyer** was the force behind the program and the speakers, and **Bill Manseau** was there to add a pinch of salt. The months of planning clearly showed the hard work of our entire committee: Co-Chairs **Paul and Pat Stubenbort, Dan Pellegrin, Bill Meyer, Tom & Michaelita Quinn**, and our liturgy team of **Tom Cusack, Tony Ercolano, Carl Yusavitz** and **Joo Hong**. All contributed many hours to conference calls and preparation to make the event a success.



TEAM LEFT TO RIGHT
BILL MEYER, CARL YUSAVITZ, PAT STUBERBORT, JOO YOUNG HONG, PAUL STUBENBORT,
MICHAELITA QUINN, TOM QUINN, DAN PELLIGRIN, TONY ERCOLANO, TOM CUSACK

A Grateful Heart

Today I am living in a spirit of gratitude. As many of you know, this is **Amy Simpson's** last month of being a Co-Vice President of the Great Lakes Region of FCM. Although I must admit I am sad at the loss of her leadership, I would rather let you know I am full of joy because of the work that she has done over these years.

When I was a Clinical Pastoral Education student at Cincinnati's Children's Hospital, **Amy Simpson** was my mentor and I experienced first-hand how she is an excellent chaplain. In addition, it was Amy who introduced me to FCM. Over the years, there are many chaplains who share this very same experience with her. I remember her for taking the lead in planning the Assembly in Cleveland, Ohio. She has a keen ability to give attention to every detail. Because of that, the Assembly became one of my favorite FCM memories.

Amy greets all of us with a smile and has been fully engaged in the FCM movement. So, I want to give a shout out of praise and thanksgiving to God and to Amy for the work that she has done. She is a treasure and I am grateful for her life, her ministry and her spirit.



This week, I am in Houston, Texas at the Association of Professional Chaplains Annual Conference. I came in town early so that I can sit on committees for those who desire to become board-certified chaplains. I had the privilege to sit on the committee for one of our members —**Lavender Kelley**. On this day, I applaud Lavender for the work that she had done to prepare for this moment in her life. She provided excellent written work for the committee, and as good as it was her oral presentation was even better.

She displayed a love of God, love of people and a sense of calling that resounded in the room. I believe God is using her in great ways in the ministry. I am sure that the best for her is yet to come.

Finally, I am grateful to **Antoinette Marold** for making a brochure about the upcoming Great Lakes Region Retreat which will run from Friday, September 29th through Sunday, October 1st. Although very few have taken the time to register so far, my hope is that members from the region as well as nearby states will take advantage of this time. Historically, we have had excellent retreats together, and I am sure that this one will be a great time of sharing, fellowship, and learning for us all. Let's make it happen together.



Registration Form for the 2017 Regional Gathering is available on the following page.

Looking forward to seeing all of you!

Great Lakes Regional News

July/August 2017

VOL. 51 NO. 4

2017 Great Lakes Region Gathering

September 29 - October 1, 2017

Spiritual Center of Maria Stein...2365 St. Johns Road.....Maria Stein, Ohio 45860



SCHEDULE...COST (includes 2 nights, 5 meals, 3 workshops, 2 social gatherings)

Friday, September 29

Activities hosted by Cincinnati area members

4:00 – 7:00pm: Registration
6:00pm: Dinner
7:30pm: Evening Gathering

Saturday, September 30

Morning activities hosted by Cleveland area members

8:00am: Morning Meditation
8:15am: Breakfast
9:00am: Gathering One
10:00am: Break
10:30am: Gathering Two
11:30am: Lunch

Afternoon and evening activities hosted by Michigan members

1:30pm: Gathering One
2:30pm: Free Time
5:30pm: Dinner
7:30pm: Gathering Two
8:30pm: Wine and Cheese

Sunday, October 1

8:30am: Breakfast
9:15am: Prayer & Worship Planned by Ron Davis and Friends
10:15am: Closing Business & Discussion on Future Retreats

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number attending: _____ X \$175 single or \$250 couple = \$ _____ (Total Due)

Please mail registration to:

Ronald Davis, 200 Brookhaven Dr. N, Columbus, OH 43230
with your check payable to: **Federation of Christian Ministries**

If you have any questions, call Ron @ (513) 262-2210.



JOHN POLANSKI, FCM

Members Share Ministry, Plan Retreat

On a warm Sunday afternoon in the Cleveland, Ohio area people typically find themselves in front of a television somewhere, or perhaps near a radio, taking in an Indians game if they're not able to make it to Progressive Field, home of the Tribe. It's about as pleasant a way to spend a summer day as you will find in that neck of the woods.

This past June 11, several northeast Ohio FCM members found another way to enjoy themselves together as they were welcomed by **Antoinette Marold**, ably assisted by her husband Dennis at their home not far from where the Indians were taking on the White Sox. And instead of cheering for their favorite players, those present had the opportunity to catch up on each other's stories of ministry, family and friends, make some plans for an upcoming event and enjoy the hospitality of their hosts.

It's a group that's gathered before in a comfortable room at Antoinette's home, so when Carolyn and Tom rise and invite us to learn a chant and movement that will form our prayer, everyone gets into the spirit. Their gentle leadership draws even those who are hesitant into the embrace of the spirit and find grace in the experience.

Fortified by prayer and some refreshments, Antoinette invites all to offer some experiences of ministry. As so often happens we are quickly reminded of the diversity of the settings in which we find ourselves and moreover of the way our efforts are defined and enhanced through the relationships we share. Whether with colleagues or friends, neighbors or family, story after story reveals how we experience the divine in the people that surround us.

For many years, the Great Lakes region has hosted a fall retreat for its own members and welcomed participants from nearby states to share in a weekend of prayer and reflection, renewing friendships in the quiet surroundings of the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein (see *registration info* elsewhere in this issue). This year's program features various areas of the region – Cincinnati, northeast Ohio and southern Michigan – each providing content for participants' spiritual and ministerial development. Given the insights of those present at this gathering it was one more indication of the wealth of talent within FCM and promised yet another grace-full experience for those able to come together Sep 29-Oct 1.

Regions throughout the country have had similar experiences at area gatherings like this one where people who live within a hour's drive share the joy of each other's spirits. If you've had that pleasure, share your gratitude with the members of your area and region. If it sounds like something you'd enjoy, contact your regional VP or area representative and offer to help plan or host a gathering. There's not a bad seat in the house and your team is sure to come out ahead!

(Oh, by the way... the Tribe beat Chicago 4-2 thanks to the heroics of Erik Gonzalez and the stalwart bullpen. Another fine day at the ballpark!)



Pictured with **Antoinette Marold** (fifth from left) are **Phil and Linda Marcin**, **John Polanski**, **Dagmar Celeste** (whose granddaughter shared part of the afternoon), **Bill Appleton**, **Charlotte Nichols**, **Carolyn Horvath**, **Elise Leitzel** and **Tom Leonhardt**.



VICE PRESIDENT
RICHARD JAMES

Mts & Plains Regional News

July/August 2017

VOL. 51 NO. 4

Join Us!

2017 Mountains & Plains Regional Gathering Lake Williamson Christian Center

17280 Lakeside Drive, Carlinville IL 62626



October 14 -15, 2017

For additional information....
email: mts_plainsvp@FCMmail.org



Federation of Christian Ministries



VICE PRESIDENT
DONNA SCHREIBER

Pacific Regional News

July/August 2017
VOL. 51 NO. 4

Answering the Call



*By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace." Luke 1:78—79*

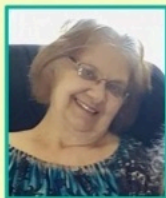
I am drawn to verses with promises of peace. As we all pray for our communities, our nation and our world in these troubling times, let us look toward the dawn as God gives the light. Please pray for this broken world and peace.

It is unfortunate that **Donnieau Snyder** was unable to continue as Vice President for the Pacific Region due to significant family concerns requiring her attention. We hope and pray for Donnieau and her family.

I was privileged to fill in on the Circle as Pacific Vice President once before. I must admit, volunteering was real work. As the only chaplain at a 300-bed hospital, I am very busy. At the end of the day I am usually too tired to do more than make dinner and go to bed. But my life is changing. My hours went from 5 days/week to 3 days/week. Having a 4-day weekend is amazing. It allows me to rest and recover well. I have time for things I never could fit into my schedule before. I am pleased for the opportunity to serve again.

We held an Area Gathering in Casa Grande, Arizona in January at the Casa Grande United Methodist Church which is somewhat central to our Arizona members. The group enjoyed the day and we had **Tom Cusack** join us for a visit via Google Hangouts. There is discussion of having another gathering next year. In the works is a gathering for this fall to be held in the Seattle/Tacoma area. More details will follow as plans are made. I would very much appreciate anyone interested in helping plan a gathering or to join me as an area representative to please contact me at schreiber.donna@gmail.com.

A Note from President Tom Cusack: It is with gratitude to Donna that we welcome Donna back to the Circle of Directors as Pacific Region VP. With her experience and dedication giving leadership, the Pacific Region will be the happy beneficiary of her ministerial attention.



Mary Margaret (Peggy) Ripp

It is with great sadness that The Federation of Christian Ministries sends sympathy and prayers to the family of Peggy (Mary Margaret) Ripp, on the news of her passing into Spirit on May 3, 2017.

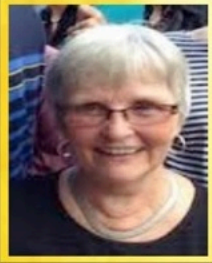
Peggy and her husband Phil were past Vice-Presidents of the FCM Pacific Region.

Peggy's daughter, Mary Austin wrote on Facebook....One month ago my mom was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. We were given one precious month to show her how much we loved her. Her goodness and generosity lived on in every person who knew her. She taught me so much and had a huge impact on the woman/mother/wife I am today.

I will always be grateful for the time we had, Her last lesson was to show me how to accept death as a natural part of life to look back on all the memories and accomplishments made. I will celebrate her life today and always. She is at peace.

Mary Margaret - Peggy Ripp
12/24/1936 - 5/3/2017

Her wish was for a small memorial service with family and friends



VICE PRESIDENT
DIANE DOUGHERTY

Southern Regional News

July/August 2017
VOL. 51 NO. 4

Interreligious Dialogue and Human Rights: Affirming our Solidarity

FCM members traversed the globe to attend this important conference. The Grudzen's, California; John Raymaker, Germany; Richard Penaskovic, Auburn, AI; and beloved Eugene Bianchi (One of the FCM founders) and his wife Peggy, Athen's GA.



Richard Penaskovic



Spiritual and mystical songwriter, **Anahata Iradah** is leading the group to sing of the peace and wisdom we long for... As-Salaam-Alaikum, Peace be to you. She is a leader of Dances for Universal Peace.



Also attending were FCM members **Gilbert (Bert) Thurston**, Stone Mountain, Ga and **Lindsay BUTLER**, Memphis, TN



Fairyal Halim highlighting the power of dialogue.

Special Thanks to Turan Kilic and the beautiful people of the Turkish Community that welcomed us during Ramadan and provided this wonderful gathering space.



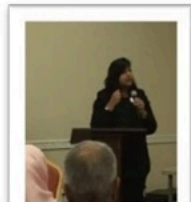
*Interreligious Dialogue and Human Rights:
Affirming our Solidarity
A Collaboration of many Faiths and Traditions
Istanbul Cultural Center 591 N Main St. Alpharetta, GA June 3, 2017*

Surprised by the spirit on the Christian weekend of Pentecost and the Muslim celebration of Ramadan, over 75 people of a variety of faith traditions gathered at the Istanbul Cultural Center in Alpharetta, Georgia to dialogue over deep cultural and societal issues as we explored ways in which we could stand in solidarity.

This initiative was began as a request from *John Raymaker, Germany and Marita and Gerald Grudzen, California* who are long time members of FCM and believe interreligious dialogue is a continuation of FCM's vision of inclusivity. Because people today experience great stress and trauma worldwide, the call to **Dialogue** is an ever present mission, demanding cultivation of the skills. This workshop was both a learning experience and a Call to Action.

Richard Penaskovic, FCM of Auburn, AI who has given Interfaith workshops for 30 years, responded to being part of the team as well as 2 members of the Turkish community, Nwandi Lawson of the Baha'i Community, John Tures, professor at LaGrange College, and Adelina Nicholls of the Latino Alliance for Human Rights.

Designed to explore the role dialogue plays in managing issues before conflicts arise, the opening exercise pulled us into questioning why we would make the effort to both travel and participate. What would bring you to this table?



*Fairyal Maqbool Halim
Interfaith Speakers
Bureau*

Panel 1 Dialogue is finding common ground and developing friendships that bend toward the unity of our religious practices, acknowledging that our values-compassion, empathy and love-are the binding agents of all faithsIn this we affirm our solidarity.

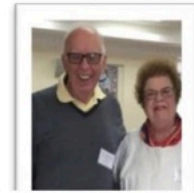
We clarified that when we come to dialogue, we must put down our desire to proselytize, preach and evangelize- a skill not taught in seminaries or promoted by our traditions, but necessary as we move forward. We come seeking a wisdom beyond our traditions, embracing what values are common to all.. Our faith compels us to increase the bonds of unity and learn to stand as equals in conversation and action.

[Fairyal Maqbool Halim](#) of the [Islamic Speakers Bureau](#), asked how our personal faith compels and propels us to dialogue....With great skill, she led the community to reflect on the importance of Dialogue, gave examples of successes and obstacles in her local interfaith community, and how developing friendship and a desire for unity were key values in bringing people back to the table.

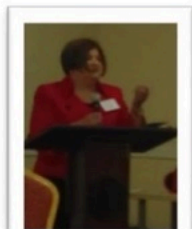
From this local perspective, we moved to an international setting and learned how dialogue has been a catalyst, through [Paths of Peace Kenya](#). In our local setting we explored how dialogue is a defining community builder among those resettling refugees and residents of the [Clarkston Community of Atlanta](#)

How does your faith compel or propel you towards an interreligious dialogue?
What are some of the opportunities and challenges to interfaith dialogue?

[Gerald and Marita Grudzen](#) (FCM) have taken their Christian missionary zeal not to convert the people of Mombasa, Kenya, but to use their faith and leadership skills in calling regional religious leaders to learn how to talk to each other and build bridges. Joining with a multitude of religious leaders and teachers, they visit communities striving to build long lasting and sustainable peace through understanding of our shared values. Their first hand experience is chronicled in Gerald's new book, [Bury the Sword: Confronting Jihadism with Interfaith Education](#) and the continuing efforts they are making through [Global Ministries University](#) to promote Interfaith Dialogue.



Gerale and Marita
Grudzen
Paths to Peace. Kenva



Roberta Malaveda
Clarkston Development
Foundation

When the US government chose Clarkston, Georgia-a small residential village inside Atlanta that housed many low income residents, -as a space to re-settle refugees from warring countries, [religious leaders, government officials](#) and a multitude of teachers, university professors of varying traditions began the long journey of assistance to invest these new-comers in America's best values.

[Roberta Malaveda](#) shared how her Jewish faith and lived traditions have found a home in Clarkston. She gave witness to the months she worked with multiple communities to painstakingly work on dialogue and collaborative decision making among all residents. These activist communities seek funding to go to Apartment homes to set up day care, offer classes for teacher certification so people can hear their own languages and learn processes of American life. The community is a thriving group that is working to build strong citizens and promote integration through diversity. She ended with an invitation to join the community June 17th for [World Refugee Day at Refugee Coffee](#).

As noted in the opening introduction, the importance of this day was to get a taste of the value of dialogue in interreligious collaborations, not to listen to speakers. Each panelist had 10 minutes to communicate-and as John Raymaker noted, he came 10,000 miles to speak for 10 minutes. The majority of time was spent in dialogue, with someone of diverse background related to a topic of importance. This part of the day was probably the most important and engaging in terms of taking the process home and building opportunities for dialogue in everyone's respective communities.

Panel 2 Service

Serving others is a form of dialogue in which faith groups participate directly in the building up and collective growth of the community. This is a dialogue of the hands...offering yourself for the good of others.

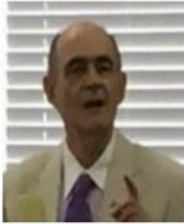
Nwandi Lawson of the Baha'i Community and founder of [The Virtues Collective](#), spoke clearly of the how her faith compels her to live out the prophet Bahauallah's call to [humankind](#). She gave numerous examples of how her community engages youth in projects that involve real problem solving, catalyzing a revolution in [education](#). Perhaps the most touching moment for me was the deep call for prayer with one of the Baha'i members gave in response to the displacement of refugees.



Nwandi Lawson of the
Baha'i community

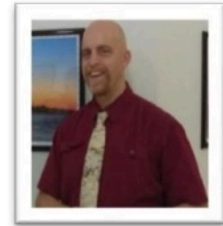
Addressing the Gulen movement , Ms. Lawson asked:

What has been your experience of the *Hizmet* or “service” movement inspired by Fatullah Gülen?
What are the key ideas expressed by Mr. Gülen in his various writings?



Dr. Richard Penaskovic, FCM AL sets the tone for the Gulen movement

Giving background into the *Hizmet* movement, *Richard Penaskovic*, FCM, emeritus professor of Auburn University, remarked that the Turkish intellectual, Fethullah Gülen is a mystic and a man of faith. Gülen argues that in terms of interreligious dialogue we must forget the past, ignore polemics, and focus on the common ground that exists among people of other religious traditions. “*Hizmet* is a faith-inspired civil society movement that seeks to create a culture of coexistence within universal, humanist values and is comprised of volunteers. The essence of volunteerism is to make a contribution without the expectation of anything in return.”



Professor John Tures of LaGrange College shares data of terrorism’s effectiveness.

John Tures reported on research collected by forty plus of his undergraduate students at La Grange College in Georgia. In looking at ninety groups, (half of which practiced terrorism, and half did not), terrorist organizations succeeded 13.3% of the time in meeting their goals (acquiring territory, changing or maintaining policy or bringing about a separate homeland) while non-terrorist groups met their goals 57.8% of the time.



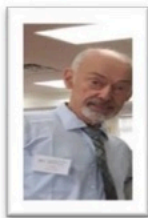
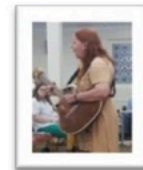
Kemal 1 Gulan and the *Hizmet* movement.

The third panelist, Kemal (who cannot give his last name for security reasons) spoke about his personal journey that took him to be a member of the *Hizmet* or “service” movement, inspired by Fethullah Gülen. Kemal noted that Gülen believed strongly in the power of love, the importance of working with others in peacebuilding, and in the education of youth from elementary school to the university level in order to bring about peace on earth. He also called his followers to spend themselves in service of others as a recipe for inner peace and happiness.

Panel 3 Human Rights—the place where deep dialogue begins and ends

[Anahata Iratah](#) sings —

May wisdom bring about understanding. May love bind us all as one... preparing us for the Dances of Universal Peace.



John Raymaker, Germany

Attaining peace begins first with an internal dialogue, one that acknowledges all religious believe in the oneness of all humankind. As [John Raymaker](#), FCM, Germany author of *Bernard Lonergan’s Third Way of the Heart and Mind*, reminded us, the mind allows us to grapple with what divides us, and our collective religious practices of the heart bring us to universal love, compassion and an empathy that allows people of all cultures to transcend any differences ... we began the heartbreaking exploration of the active marginalization of people, one that compels us as religious leaders to attend to and propels us into the cultures of our religious experience to address and bring about change.

As Moderator, *Marita Grudzen* asked the following questions of panelists...

How can we use dialogue to relate to the violation of Human Rights today?
What ideas and resources do you/your organization bring to this table?
What recommendations do you bring to this interfaith and humanist group today?



Adelina Nicholls,
[Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights](#)

[Adelina Nicholls](#) has been a Latino community activist for over 20 years. The marginalization of Latino's and refusal of the US to grant them immigrant status is well chronicled as an attempt to justify deportation. Culturally, religious leaders must grapple with this issue- Are the undocumented less human and do they support or undermine the society to which they fled?

She argued passionately for social groups to form in order to create a culture of resistance to the violation of human rights for Latinos because of their humanity and the contribution they are making to American society. As dialogue of the mind begins to inform the heart, we come to realize this is a religious issue and a moral mandate, -part of a broader picture of RESISTANCE to home grown terrorism. By EXPANDING SANCTUARY's in cities and churches, by mobilizing legal assistance and delving into policy and legislative action until this humanitarian crisis wanes, all religious communities can create solutions to reach out in compassion, empathy and a true exercise of love within our own borders.



In the same vein, we hear that last year, democracy in Turkey became a totalitarian government as [Recep Tayyip Erdogan](#), grabbed power and expelled his own people.

Kemal 2 shared chilling statistics directly related to the experience of every Turkish attendee. These refugees came to the US as immigrants with green cards with little money as everything they owned and worked for was confiscated by the government because of their affiliation with the Gulen Movement. The [terror](#) continues to exist as their activities worldwide are [monitored](#) and the families left behind are punished, thus they spoke unpictured.

My personal internal dialogue of the heart notes that while Latinos are mostly uneducated, non-professionals, and the Turkish community is composed of the educated university professors, politicians, teachers, community activists, they are all seeking for a place to belong. As a religious leader, I feel called to highlight these needs to bring many to the table who are brave enough to explore the humanity within these populations because new solutions for the next era of sustainable policies will arise.

Question: In the development of culture and societies, do we as religious leaders remain silent as our local and global governments cast out those they deem unfit, allowing others deemed "more fit" to remain? Or, does the exercise of all of our religion's values and principles, propel us to create new forms of living in a society and culture that supports and sustains a global humanity?

Our day began with dialogue of the head, the hands and the heart. We learned that "[Dialogue](#) is finding common ground and developing friendships that bend toward unity of our religious practices, acknowledging that our values-compassion, empathy and love-are the binding agents of all faithsIn this we affirm our solidarity."

But the question remains, can we as religious leaders learn to stand with our feet on many grounds in solidarity with each other, affirming their humanity and ours....? Our test begins today.

Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter -July/August 2017 VOL. 51 NO. 4



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 Blog: fcmblog.org

FCM CERTIFICATES

These lovely certificates are available from the FCM Central Office. Please specify your choice: Baptism, Marriage, Holy Union, and the number of certificates you need. Certificates are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Each certificate is printed on certificate weight paper in blue ink; they carry the FCM logo and seal.

Endorsement for Specialized Ministries

Qualified FCM members may apply for "Religious Body Endorsement" for the specialized ministries of Chaplaincy, Pastoral Counseling, and Clinical Pastoral Education. Such endorsement is required by professional certifying organizations and many institutional employers. The FCM Circle of Directors acts on endorsement applications twice yearly. Endorsement application materials are available for downloading on the FCM website at: www.federationofchristianministries.org
Inquiries may be made at: specmin@FCMmail.org

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Phone: 866 419 8020 toll-free

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