

Federation of Christian Ministries



Newsletter

May/June 2017

VOL. 51 - Number 3



Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter - May/June 2017 VOL. 51 NO. 3



*Ah, how wonderful is the advent of the Spring!—
the great annual miracle....
which no force can stay, no violence restrain, like love,
that wins its way and cannot be withstood
by any human power, because itself is divine power.*

*If Spring came but once in a century,
instead of once a year, or burst forth with
the sound of an earthquake, and not in silence,
what wonder and expectation
would there be in all hearts
to behold the miraculous change!...*

*We are like children who are astonished
and delighted only by the second-hand of the clock,
not by the hour-hand. ~*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Kavanagh, 1849



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President Election Results



Congratulations...Tom Cusack

On February 4, 2017, FCM Secretary Bill Appleton, cast a single vote on behalf of the FCM membership electing Tom Cusack as FCM President for the 2017-2020 term.

The majority of the nominations for president received were for Tom Cusack. Several other FCM members were nominated but declined the nomination. We are happy to report that Tom accepted the nomination for a second term, making a ballot to the membership unnecessary.

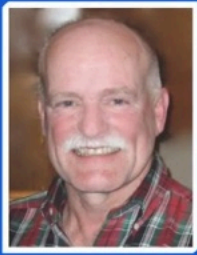
Thank you, Tom.

Tom will be completing his first three-year term as FCM President in July 2017. Tom's new term as FCM President will begin after the 2017 Circle of Directors meeting and continue through the 2020 Assembly.

Tom Cusack, we want to thank you for your service to FCM and offer our support and prayers as you begin your second term in office.

Tom Stricker, Chair, 2017 President Election Committee

Kathy Bean and Antoinette Marold
Election Committee Members



TOM STRICKER

Chairperson

May/June 2017
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A Word From The Chairperson

As I had mentioned in the last Newsletter we would continue to discuss what we need to do as a Convention of Churches to be relevant in a very volatile political world. I want to emphasize the importance of talking to people who are of a differing opinion on issues. We need to connect especially with those with whom we disagree. "I hear you" an article from Quartz Media at: <https://qz.com/838321/nonviolent-communication-the-scientifically-proven-step-by-step-guide-to-having-a-breakthrough-conversation-across-party-lines/> lays out a nonviolent communication way of talking cross party lines. Please see additional link to this site in the newsletter Constant Contact Quick Links. I would also like to call your attention to a book written by Ralph Dull, "Nonviolence Is Not For Wimps". Ralph speaks of the power and struggles of following the way on nonviolence in a violent world.

In the last Newsletter, I suggested that you might want to put your state and federal representatives and senators on your speed dials. I cannot stress enough that we need to be talking to our federal and state representatives because they work for us. If you do not know it is easy to find out. Text your zip code to 520-200-2223 and you will get your information back immediately. Give it a try.

In this issue, I wish to raise an important question. Do we as believer and as a Convention of Churches need to be concerned about the federal budget? It is often said, you can tell your priorities by how you spend your money. If this has any truth, then the 2017 and 2018 Federal budget proposals being discussed right now are of consequence.

Did you know that "The U.S. outpaces all other nations in military expenditures? World military spending totaled more than \$1.6 trillion in 2015. The U.S. accounted for **37 percent** of the total. U.S. military expenditures are roughly the size of the **next seven largest military budgets** around the world, combined." These countries in order of spending are; China, Saudi Arabia, Russia, United Kingdom, India, France and Japan. "U.S. military spending dwarfs the budget of the #2 country – China. For every dollar China spends on its military, the U.S. spends \$2.77." (Information found in the National Priorities Project).

The President is proposing an increase of 9% in the military budget while cutting the State Department 32% which does much peace making work throughout the world. Military Generals have said that for every dollar spent in the State Department (soft power) that is one less dollar I need to spend on military equipment (hard power). Another cut in the budget is the Environmental Protection Agency, 31%. These cuts are of concern.

The administration also proposed a \$363 million cut in the United States Agency for International Development's "Food for Peace" program, which provides food assistance in poor countries. The proposed cuts come as famine threatens four African and Middle Eastern countries simultaneously – Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia and Nigeria.

The proposal includes a reduction of \$1.5 billion from the Housing and Urban Development Department's Community Development Block Grant program, which the Trump administration proposed eliminating in its fiscal 2018 budget.

The White House also proposes eliminating almost all funding for the AmeriCorps State and National program, cutting \$377 million from the \$385 million appropriation. Many of these cuts are to offset the increases in military spending.

These proposed increases and cuts in our National Budget are frightening to me. I am deeply concerned and anxious about the direction of our country. I worry about how they will affect millions of people around the world and not just in our country.

I believe as people of Faith we need to speak out about the way the federal government is spending our money. The values of nonviolence and peace are values we profess as people of faith. Pope Francis reminds us that in any social and civil contest authentic Christianity... "does not create walls, but builds bridges....one who creates walls in not Christian....this is not the Gospel." I believe the same applies to a country and the people who live in that country cannot continue to build military resources while decreasing resources of peace cannot claim to be a Christian nation.

It may be trite to use the saying WWJD (What Would Jesus Do). Would Jesus call us to increase the military spending while cutting humanitarian funds?

As people of faith we need to speak out on issues. We need to come together talk with each other especially those with whom we disagree. Use the methods of Nonviolent Communication in conversations across party lines.

1. Remain objective. Judgmental or demonizing statements get us nowhere.
2. Seek to understand the feelings and not the issues. Clearly describe your own emotions rather than your policy positions.
3. Identify the needs. Our feelings are all connected to our unmet needs.
4. Make requests and not demands. There is a time in any conversation to ask for concrete actions to satisfy the needs.

I ask you to stay in contact with your congressman and senators and talk to them about your concerns. Our FCM Mission speaks of inclusion of all people. I ask you to talk to people who have different views than you and listen to them. This is an effort to speak and live the values of Jesus. It is an effort to live nonviolence as Jesus lived.

Gratitude for Circle Changes

The latest renewal of our leadership gives us one more opportunity to share out gratitude and congratulations to some of our generous members who have graced us with their energy and service.



This July, **Ron Davis** will be completing his first full three year term as Vice President of the Great Lakes Region of FCM. **Cindy Jones** headed up the nomination team for the new term of office that would begin at the conclusion of the Circle meeting in July of 2017. Ron has been a wonderful asset to the Circle. We are excited to have him on the Circle of Directors for the next three years, continuing after the July 2017 Circle meeting and concluding at the end of the July 2020 Circle Meeting. Please join the entire Circle as we offer Ron our support and prayers as he begins his second full term of office.



We are also pleased to welcome **Heidi Tierney** who has been appointed to the Circle of Directors as Treasurer of FCM. Her three year term will officially begin at the end of the July 2017 Circle meeting when **Sue Ross**'s term of office will expire. Heidi is an endorsed member of the Northeast Region. She has been a commissioned member since July 2013 and was endorsed in February 2014. Heidi is a Hospital Chaplain and the coordinator of Pastoral Ministry. She is part of a small faith community and officiates at weddings and funerals. Prior to her being ordained a RCWP, Heidi was an accountant and worked with accounts payable & receivable as well as payroll. As you can see she brings a wealth of experience to the Circle of Directors on many levels. We are very grateful to have Heidi accept the appointment of this position and we welcome her to join us in this capacity.

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TOM CUSACK

President

May/June 2017
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Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you for three additional years as your president (July, 2017 to July, 2020). That I can continue in this position makes me very happy. There are challenges to confront and work to do, of course. Knowing just a little of my background will enable you to understand this positive feeling I have.

I was ordained a Catholic priest in May 1971, forty six years ago. After about two years, I had the great benefit of being at the right place and the right time to meet and quickly marry my wife, **Ginny**. That great action moved me out of my religious leadership job before I had much of a chance to get settled in. I was very green. I entered the insurance business "temporarily" in 1973, and have just ended that temporary assignment this January... a short span of 44 years. But it was by entering and becoming involved with FCM (2000) that I became able to exercise some of the religious leadership for which I studied.

Now I hope to affect FCM in the following ways going forward.

First, I hope to encourage among our individual members greater awareness of their *friendship possibilities with other FCM members*. We are a group who seem to walk the walk of Christianity more than talking about it and splitting doctrinal hairs. This makes us a unique type of religious body. Many of our members found that their presentation of lifestyles and beliefs were not accepted by the Christian denominations in which they had matured. FCM continues to offer a welcoming community for all. I am proud to continue to encourage these connections and this welcoming visage.

We define ourselves as a *convention of churches* to the broader community. This self-understanding indicates our need.

Second, to pursue a variety of *new activities to support and give birth to faith communities*. This is a challenging arena for any group that calls itself Christian. We know that all of the major and mainline denominations are shrinking in their numbers of adherents. People describe themselves as spiritual and not religious. Given the depth of our members' study and experience it seems to me that FCM could begin controlled experiments with new forms of community which deal with values and experiences without preconceptions of what a contemporary Christian community might look like. I hope to encourage systematic thinking to attempt to address this challenge.

We live in an era of vast changes, affecting every aspect of our lives with more to come. Climate change confronts us as we see its effects from droughts, such as that which has affected Syria and its beleaguered population. We see its effects in the significant melting of glaciers and the Greenland and Antarctic ice caps. We have a hard time dealing with such massive and slowly encroaching change.

Third, I hope to have official FCM positions develop in response to societal issues that affect us all. For example, we are confronting the very real possibility of nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula. There a ruthless regime builds nuclear and missile capabilities as fast as it can. Now confronting that situation, our new president issues threats and moves warships toward this volatile area. When sabers rattle, bad for things can easily happen.

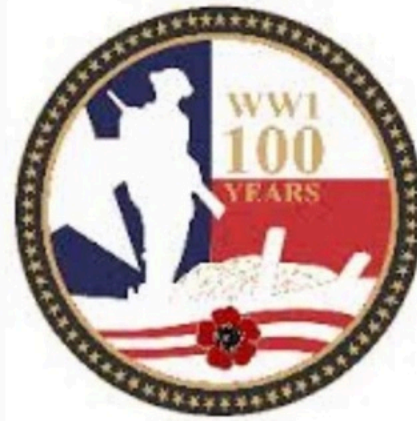
On April 6, 1917, 100 years ago, the United States entered World War I. It was a major and devastating war begun on the slimmest provocations. On April 6, 2017, the United States launched 59 cruise missiles against a Syrian air base. This shows us how easily war-circumstances can expand their grip. With North Korea we have a nuclear armed and radical regime, desperate to maintain its own power. Will contemporary provocations escalate to a nuclear war? We must *pray* they do not. And then we must *do those actions* within our system of government which might deflect this possibility of nuclear war. **Write to President Trump and your members of Congress as the religious leaders you are.** Members of Congress hold the power to declare war under our Constitution, and the president does not. Congress must control this Korean nuclear question with debate from all sides. We must not repeat Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Challenges like these require action on our part which flows from a deepening spiritual experience. **So I hope to continue to encourage FCM to devote more systematic time to prayer and meditation.** From this deepening spiritual awareness actions will flow from us that are Spirit-guided and which will have good results. Specifically, please continue or begin a daily exercise of **2 X 2 4 FCM** (two minutes of prayer and meditation daily for the benefit of FCM). In addition each Tuesday add **Tuesday 10 4 FCM** (10 minutes of prayer and meditation for the benefit of FCM). Thank you for being on the FCM journey. For the many who build FCM, thank you. For those who are involved in other ministerial activities, please consider carving out some time to build FCM. Blessings and hope to us all.



World War I Timeline

1914	Archduke Ferdinand assassinated, war declared
	Battle of Mons
	First Canadian troops to U.K. for training
	First Battle of Ypres
1915	First Canadians in France
	Second Battle of Ypres
	Actions at Festubert and Givenchy
1916	Allied withdrawal from Gallipoli
	Beginning of Battle of Verdun
	Battle of Jutland
1916	Battle of Mount Sorrel
	Battle of the Somme
	Italy declares war on Germany
1917	Germany begins unrestricted submarine warfare
	United States declares war on Germany
1917	Battle of Arras, Battle of the Scarpe
	Third Battle of Ypres
	Second Battle of Verdun
1918	Russia signs armistice with Germany
	US President Wilson announces Fourteen Points
	German offensives at the Somme, Ypres
	German offensive on the Aisne
1918	Second Battle of the Marne
	Battle of Amiens
	Second Battles of the Somme and of Arras
	Final allied offensive on the Western Front
	Bulgaria, Austria & Germany sign armistice.



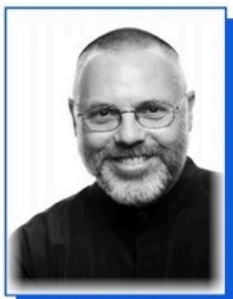
JULY 20-22, 2018
DOUBLETREE HILTON HOTEL
PHILADELPHIA, PA

2018 Assembly Updates

MICHAELITA QUINN, ASSEMBLY CHAIR



Meet Our Keynote Speakers!



Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Rabbi Shapiro is an award-winning author of over 30 books on religion and spirituality. He currently directs the One River Foundation and its World Wisdom Bible project, writes a regular column for Spirituality and Health magazine called *Roadside Assistance for the Spiritual Traveler*, and hosts the magazine's weekly radio show. His newest book is *The World Wisdom Bible*. Rabbi Shapiro is in demand as a speaker at churches, synagogues, and retreat centers across the country and abroad. He comments that he will go anywhere "...where there are people willing to wrestle with the perennial spiritual questions that challenge thinking people in every generation."



Simone Campbell, SSS

Simone Campbell, a Sister of Social Service, is an attorney, activist, and advocate for social justice. The Executive Director of NETWORK since 2004, Sr. Simone has extensive experience in public policy and advocacy for systemic change. Widely known for leading the five "Nuns on the Bus" tours in 2012 to highlight issues of social justice, she also wrote the famous "nuns' letter" supporting the healthcare reform bill in 2010. Sr. Simone is constantly sought as a speaker worldwide for conferences, interviews, and the media on current topics of public policy and social justice. A featured speaker at the 2012 Democratic National Convention, Sr. Simone has received numerous awards.

Now We Want To Hear From You!

What topic would you like to hear about in a workshop at the 2018 Assembly?

Would you like to be in a workshop or group session where you could share ideas with others? If so, what do you suggest for a topic?

Email suggestions to Michaelita Quinn, Chair of 2018 Assembly -- by May 20, 2017
quinnems@aol.com

WWW.FEDERATIONOFCHRISTIANMINISTRIES.ORG

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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





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JEANNE HALE, SOUTHERN REGION LIAISON,
SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

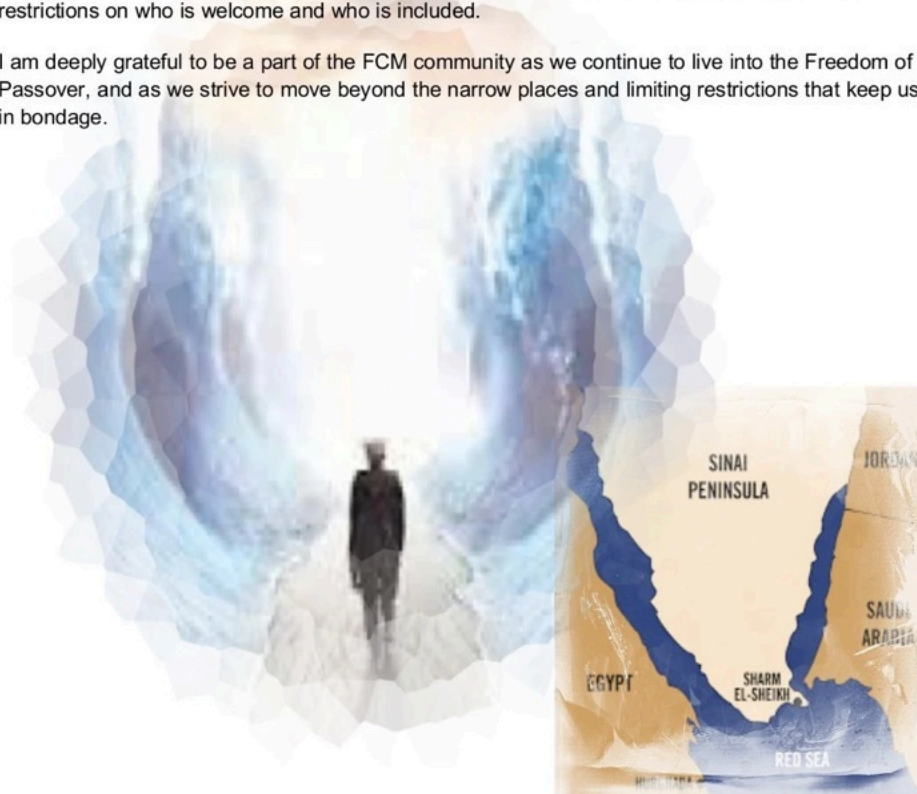
Negotiating the Narrow Places

As a hospital chaplain, one of the many things I appreciate about my work is that every morning, we in the Spiritual Care Department gather for morning devotion time. This week, Jennifer, one of our Clinical Pastoral Education Residents offered a reflection based on the Passover Seder she participated in recently. She shared that through the Passover story, Seder guests were reminded about the Israelites' escape from Egypt.

The Hebrew name for Egypt is "Mitzrayim," and in her reflection Jennifer stated that in Judaism, Mitzrayim has been connected with the word meitzar (מצרים), meaning "sea strait", possibly alluding to narrow gulfs from both sides of the Sinai Peninsula. It can also mean "boundaries, limits, restrictions" or "narrow place." As she shared this, Jennifer invited us to reflect on the restricting, narrow places in our lives. What is it within ourselves that may be limiting our ability to move into freedom, she asked?

As I journey through spring, I've decided that I want to let Jennifer's question guide me in this season. Spring is a time that brings forth new life and growth. Perhaps there are ways I can grow that I'm not even fully aware of because of limiting ideas or fears that are holding me back. I was also thinking of this in the context of who we are as the Federation of Christian Ministries. As a community of faith, we often empower people to move out of tight, narrow and restrictive places and into freedom and new life. We speak up for justice and denounce those who would place limits and restrictions on who is welcome and who is included.

I am deeply grateful to be a part of the FCM community as we continue to live into the Freedom of Passover, and as we strive to move beyond the narrow places and limiting restrictions that keep us in bondage.



FCM Specialized Ministries

May/June 2017
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SUBMITTED BY JACK CUNNINGHAM, PACIFIC REGION

(Editor's note: Thanks Jack Cunningham to who provided this reflection from Christine Stephens, one of the members of the Celtic Catholic Church, <http://www.celticcatholicchurchusa.org> an FCM Member Community in Vancouver, Washington.)

Chaplain's First Response



Being chaplain for first responders is unlike chaplaincy in other areas. Theology isn't the main subject, and rarely have I been questioned about my belief system or any other. Being both a chaplain and a first responder has been a double blessing-- I am already a part of the strong brother and sisterhood in a "family" that is highly diverse, perhaps slightly dysfunctional, and full of humor, often dark humor.

The Fire Department, like the Police Department, forms ties that are most often built on high stress. We all depend on each other in dangerous, uncommon and sometimes funny situations. And when I'm not being an EMT? They know, all of them, that I am a phone call away. Sometimes there are 'bad' calls, and once the situation is resolved, steam is released in ways that often are not discernible right away.

So I listen to the radio when I am at home, and if I hear that there may be a need for my presence, I respond. If I don't respond, I go to the station and await the crew's return. I watch and I listen. I watch for signs that perhaps a call has left one of them hurting, or angry, or signs that they are burying their pain in order to not appear "weak" in the eyes of their brothers and sisters. I make certain that I find a way to spend some alone time with them, talking, playing a video game, cooking together-- I even go target practicing with them. And I am always there to listen, or to sit in silence. I believe they all know that. Just listening is the most important part I play.



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CONNER JOSEPH SIMMS - MTS. & PLAINS REGION



Crystal-like Clarity

I remember the visit with crystal-like clarity. I was a resident at Methodist Hospital in suburban Minneapolis, and it was my weekend for on-call rotation. My wife Mayme and I were out grocery shopping (within the 30-minute response window of course), and my pager went off. It was near the end of the day, and this was the first time I had been paged all weekend. A patient had been admitted to the ICU (which along with the ER happened to be my unit during my residency) shortly after giving birth. We didn't have time to drop off my wife at home, and so she came to the hospital with me to wait it out in my office. When I arrived in the ICU, I discovered that the patient had a very difficult delivery (her twin babies were fine, thankfully) and was fighting for her life.

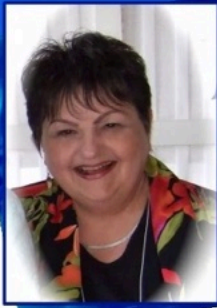
With the patient intubated and sedated, my primary focus became her husband and other family. I stayed with them for a while and took my leave when it seemed as though they had reached some semblance of equilibrium and peace. Mayme and I headed home, and my pager didn't go off again for the rest of the weekend. I didn't sleep well that evening. I didn't sleep well the night after either. Near the end of the week, it was my turn to present a verbatim (remember those!?) At a loss for any other recent visits of substance I submitted the ICU call I had received over the weekend. The interaction seemed to be pretty cut and dry. I wasn't expecting much in the way of learning from my peers.

A wry smile has probably overtaken your face at this point because I'd bet you know what's coming. As it turns out, my issues sleeping that week had nothing to do with our new pillows. It turns out that as I sat in that hospital room with the patient, her husband, and their family, I saw my wife lying in that hospital bed. I was the husband. I realized that the patient and her husband were the same age as Mayme and I. In fact, we had just recently been discussing our plans for growing our own small family. I came to recognize all of this and its impact upon me as my cohort, and I discussed the verbatim. I further came to realize that I had even abandoned the patient's husband (conversationally & emotionally) at one point during my visit. I had quickly pivoted away from a line of discussion that had brought the whole situation to close to home for me.

I found myself thinking anew of this story the other day as my wife, and I were discussing our daughter who is to be born later this summer. I began thinking about the ways in which we as chaplains are called to stand both together and apart from those we minister to. We chaplains are able to do this beautiful work because we are skilled in ways that allow us to enter in with people during their deepest pain while at the same time not becoming enmeshed in that pain. As with any other skill, there was a time when we all learned how to hone our skills. Back in my residency days, I had much to learn (I still do!) You would think that as the days grow nearer to my own child's birth, stories like this would grip me with increasing anxiety. In reality, they don't.

These types of stories remind me that everything is learning. Every circumstance is an opportunity to expand my awareness, my empathy, and my love. Every circumstance is an opportunity for trust and perseverance. Everything is an opportunity to bring more Shalom into the world. An opportunity to stay firmly planted with another person in their pain and to let them know that they are never alone. To let them know that they are loved. This is a chaplain's work. This is my work.

(Editor's note: Thanks to **CJ Simms** from the Mountains and Plains Region for this reflection and to VP **Richard James** for encouraging his members to submit experiences from their various ministries!)



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FCM COMMUNICATIONS...ANTOINETTE MAROLD

Lenten Facebook Postings

A prayer or thought and photo were posted on the FCM Facebook page every day of Lent. Beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter. The prayers and thoughts were provided by the Circle of Directors.

As you know, social media has been a big discussion topic for some time. What works. What doesn't work. I have recently read some articles that suggest that the very best way to get information out about FCM is to ask our members to share our posts on their Facebook pages.

May I suggest the following: After you receive this May/June Newsletter, it will be posted on Facebook. Please go to the FCM FACEBOOK PAGE. You can reach the FCM Facebook page by clicking on the Facebook logo on the FCM website home page. Look for the logo on the right side of the home page. or go to:
<https://www.facebook.com/Federation-of-Christian-Ministries-179262215432851/>
and share the Newsletter with your Facebook friends and share it to the public on your page.

If all of our members share our posts with their Facebook friends, thousands of people would be receiving information about FCM.

facebook



Several members have taken the time to **LIKE** us on the **FCM FACEBOOK**. Thank you.

Are you listed on the FCM website under the Find A Minister heading?

If you would like your ministry services or your faith community listed on the FCM website, under the Find A Minister drop down, login at the FCM Member Login on the FCM website home page. Click on the Ministry Listing Form, complete the form and click Submit. If you have changes on your listing, please submit the same form with your changes.

This listing is free to active FCM members. If you have questions, email me at communication@FCMmail.org.

www.federationofchristianministries.org



*Deepest Sympathy to FCM Member, Amy Simpson Bennethum
on the Passing of her Grandparents*

Grandfather - Harold E. Malinosky, March 2, 2017
Grandmother - Dorothy M. Harper, March 26, 2017



Federation of Christian Ministries Newsletter



VICE PRESIDENT.....DAN PELLEGRIN

Gatherings, Commissioned Members Highlighted

Northeast Regional Gathering – May 19-21, 2017

SPIRITUALITY...Come to the Water A Source of Renewal, Justice & Healing

Location: Eddy Farm Retreat & Conference Center - - Eddy Farm Road, Sparrow Bush, NY 12780
Webpage: www.eddyfarm.com

Huge Cost Reduction for NE Gathering...

Our energy is focused on our Regional Gathering scheduled for May 19-21. In reviewing our mailings for it, I discovered a huge misprint that is my fault, completely and entirely. The cost is the fabulously low price of \$135 per night, inclusive of three meals and our outstanding program. For two nights the cost is still only \$270. And for full-time clergy the cost is half of that: \$67.50 for one night and three meals, \$135 for two nights and meals.

To those who haven't committed to this special event, please do so now! The cost is irresistible! You will find the corrected information elsewhere in this newsletter. Please use it. We only need your commitment to come – you can make late payment arrangements with me at (914) 328-9732, weeknights and weekends.

Ordinations...

FCM gladly and rightly supports the ordination of Women Priests, and I will be attending those in the Northeast this spring. This includes the RCWP ordination in Baltimore, MD., on April 29. FCM gifts all new *ordinandae* with one year's membership.

Albany local meeting...

Watch for a report next issue on a local meeting of FCM members in Albany on April 23, hosted by **Mary Theresa Streck**. I will be working on other local gatherings, and hope to soon have Google Zoom available for easier member participation at meetings. Please contact me if you can host or have any suggestions for a local gathering site (small faith community gathering and/or home and/or restaurant).

Newly Commissioned...



I am happy to include the following information (missing from the last newsletter) regarding newly-commissioned member **Julia Polter**: she is an ordained priest of The Christian Community-Movement for Religious Renewal. Julia has been the pastor for the past 12 years of a 250-household progressive church of her denomination in Brookline, MA.

Commissioning This Summer...

New members may be considering commissioning for the next Circle meeting this summer. The meeting is a little earlier than last year, and all applications have to be in one month before the meeting (all papers have to be submitted by June 12). So the time to contact me for us to do this together is NOW. I will be most happy to help.

Northeast Regional News

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Northeast Regional Gathering - May 19-21, 2017



Contact: Northeast V. P. - Dan Pellegrin
Email: Northeastvp@FCMmail.org Phone: 914.328.9732

Location: *Eddy Farm* Retreat & Conference Center ...Eddy Farm Road, Sparrow Bush, NY 12780
Webpage: www.eddyfarm.com
Driving time from New York City 2 hours Philadelphia 3 hours or Boston 4 hours

SPIRITUALITY: Come to the Waters The Source of Renewal, Justice and Healing

Please consider giving yourself this special gift of spiritual deepening, joy and growth. The weekend will center on enriching our life in God, and will be in keeping with FCM's year-long theme of "Spirituality – The Engine of Social Change." This is also our opportunity to meet and get to know one another better in FCM. Who among us does not need the support and encouragement of one another in our ministry?

We encourage you to commit to the conference as soon as possible. A deposit of 50% of the total cost is due by **March 19, 2017**. Payment is due in full by **April 19, 2017**. Registration will be opened after April 19, 2017 on a first come, first serve basis.

Make checks payable to FCM. Send to: Dan Pellegrin, 11 Linda Ave., White Plains, New York 10605-1110

You can choose to attend for two (2) nights - Friday & Saturday May 19-20, 2017-includes 5 meals, Friday supper, Saturday breakfast, lunch and supper and Sunday breakfast and lunch. Or one (1) night - Friday - May 19 - includes Friday supper, Saturday breakfast and lunch. Or one (1) night - Saturday May 20, 2017 includes Saturday supper, Sunday breakfast and lunch. (Saturday lunch may be added for an addition cost of \$12.95)

ROOM RATES: THESE RATES ARE FOR 2 NIGHTS, PER ADULT & 1 NIGHT PER ADULT

Standard Rooms: Single occupancy - \$270.00 per adult, 2 nights...1 night \$135.00 (no TV or phone)
1 flight or no stairs Double occupancy - \$220.00 per adult 2 nights...1 night \$110.00 (no TV or phone)
Deluxe Rooms: Single occupancy - \$320.00 per adult 2 nights..1 night \$160.00 TV and Phone
6 steps to climb Double occupancy - \$260.00 per adult 2 nights..1 night \$130.00 TV and Phone
Triple occupancy - \$240.00 per adult 2 nights..1 night \$120.00 TV and Phone

All rooms have private bathrooms, air conditioning and heat..

FCM has been offered a 50% discount for full time ministers & their spouses...take 50% off of the above rates..

**FULL TIME MINISTERIES ACCEPTED FOR THIS DISCOUNT MUST BE FULL TIME CHAPLAINS, PASTORS OR CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS, WEDDING MINISTRY IS NOT ACCEPTED BY FACILITY AS A FULL TIME MINISTER.*

REGISTRATION FORM: MAY 19-21-TWO NIGHTS...CIRCLE ONE: STANDARD DELUXE TRIPLE
FRIDAY, MAY 19 - ONLY....CIRCLE ONE: STANDARD DELUXE TRIPLE
SATURDAY, MAY 20 - ONLY...CIRCLE ONE: STANDARD DELUXE TRIPLE

SINGLE OCCUPANCY _____ DOUBLE OCCUPANCY _____ TRIPLE OCCUPANCY _____ TOTAL COST \$ _____

Make checks payable to FCM. Send to: Dan Pellegrin, 11 Linda Ave., White Plains, New York 10605-1110

FULL TIME MINISTER (LIST YOUR MINISTRY) *SEE ABOVE _____

NAME OR NAMES: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DIETARY NEEDS: _____

DO YOU NEED A ROOM WITH NO STAIRS TO CLIMB? YES _____ NO _____

Northeast Regional Gathering....May 19 - 21, 2017

SPIRITUALITY: Come to the Waters **The Source of Renewal, Justice and Healing**

Friday, May 19, 2017

3:00 p.m. Registration

Informal group discussion on the front porch concerning ministry, led by Tom Cusack.

Followed by: Supper

Activities: Getting to know each other and sharing our ministries, led by Ginny Cusack.

Presentations on FCM and the Northeast Region. Presentors: Tom Cusack and Dan Pellegrin

Guided Meditation: Led by Bill Meyer

Time for informality or sleep - Dan hopes for some singing!

Saturday, May 20, 2017

Breakfast

Guided prayer by Tom Cusack

Keynote Speaker, Joanne Baney

Joanne will speak and lead a workshop touching on the transformative power of mercy, compassion and restorative justice. Then time for private reflection which you can do on the bank of the picturesque Delaware River, which runs right along our site: "Come To the Waters!"

Lunch

Panel on "The Place of Social Justice in FCM and Its Responsibility for Leadership."

Contemplative Prayer. Maria Gullo (You can learn more of her on: <http://mariagullo.com>).

Reflective Time for us before Supper. Touch our Creator and be touched!

Buffet Supper

We join for a presentation on "FCM Members' Journey."

It will include background on FCM: description, background and history

Personal reflection time.

Closing: Guided Prayer

Sunday, May 21, 2017

Breakfast

Remarks on our 2018 National Assembly, 50th Anniversary of FCM

Memorable Liturgy - Led by: Tony Ercolano, Joo Young Hong and Tom Cusack

Closing ceremony and remarks by all.....

Lunch concludes the weekend

You have to come!

Please call or email Dan Pellegrin with any questions: 914-328-9732; Northeastvp@fcmail.org.

Northeast Regional Gathering....May 19 - 21, 2017

SPIRITUALITY: Come to the Waters **The Source of Renewal, Justice and Healing**

Speakers



Tom Cusack is President of FCM. He joined FCM in 2000 and was commissioned in 2003. He became Treasurer in 2007 and led our IRS redetermination of FCM (2013) as a religious body. He served as Chair of Denominational Concerns Committee 2013-2014. His business career involves 41 years with Prudential. He has learned meditation under the 29 year guidance of the Indian Spiritual Master Sri Chinmoy.



Ginny Cusack is an executive coach who works with people to identify their leadership strengths and challenges, perfect their leadership style, set goals for themselves and their institution, make positive changes, and remove any barriers that prevent them from realizing their highest potential. Previously, Ginny served as director of Princeton Center for Teacher Education, Princeton, NJ, for 17 years. She received her coaching certificate from Georgetown University and did her Enneagram training with Don Riso, which she incorporates in her coaching. Ginny has a BA in Education and an MA in Theology from New Brunswick Theological Seminary. She was one of the first Catholic women to take CPE training in Madison, WI in 1969.



William (Bill) Meyer – Bill is a teacher, speaker, and author. He has given dozen of talks on contemplation, mindfulness, and the modern classroom. He has led meditations for students, teachers, and parents looking to reconnect to spirit in their lives and in their professions. His doctoral work connects back to the writings of Thomas Merton and Thich Nhat Hanh. He is also the author of a middle grade adventure series called "Horace and the Time Keepers." The second book in the series comes out the fall of 2017.

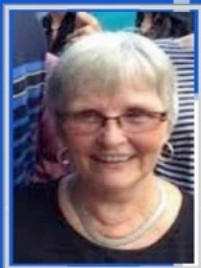


Maria Gullo - Maria is a Spiritual Director within the Christian tradition. She received her graduate degree in pastoral counseling and certification in spiritual direction from Neumann University. She works with individuals of all ages and backgrounds.

Maria accompanies people on the spiritual journey as they seek to transform and heal their lives by developing a deeper connection, clearer understanding and authentic relationship with self, God and others. In addition to her work in the greater Philadelphia area and New Jersey, Maria is the Spiritual Director and ministry partner for Living Room at Twin Creeks a contemplative retreat house nestled in the Cascade Mountains in Enumclaw, WA. She is the director of The Deeper Connection, a ministry that teaches and nurtures contemplative spirituality through centering prayer meetings, workshops, cd's and contemplative worship.



Joanne Blaney - She has made presentations on Restorative Justice at conferences in Northern Ireland, U.S., Australia and Brazil. She presented her work on ESPERE – Conflict and Peacemaking at the International Congress of World Religions in Australia in 2009. She has also co-authored a book on the themes of Forgiveness, Reconciliation and Restorative Justice that is being used in working with children and adolescents in social-educational centers in São Paulo.



Federation of Christian Ministries Newsletter

VICE PRESIDENT.....DIANE DOUGHERTY

DRAFT TO DATE...



*FCM Southern Region...collaborates on an
Interreligious Dialogue
with Faith Leaders of the South*

Southern Regional News

Interreligious Dialogue and Human Rights: Affirming our Solidarity Pathways to unity and peace through dialogue-service - human rights

Istanbul Cultural Center- 591 N Main St Suite 100, Alpharetta, GA 30009
June 3, 2017 2PM to Sunset with an iftar meal shared afterward

Panel 1: DIALOGUE

What is Interreligious Dialogue and why dialogue is essential for religious leaders?

Gerald and Marita Grudzen, FCM California, will share the effectiveness of Inter religious dialogue their initiative Pathways to Peace. They will be joined by Fairyal Halim of the Islamic Speakers Bureau who will talk about the bureau's initiatives throughout the area and Brian Bollinger of Friends of Refugees, Clarkston, GA who leads refugee resettlement initiatives, emphasizing the key role dialogue plays in refugee resettlement within established communities.

Panel II: SERVICE

What Religious Leaders can learn from the Hizmet or "Service" Movement? Set the stage....

Nwandi Lawson (Bahai) will moderate a panel on the role SERVICE plays in affirming our solidarity with the Other. Richard Penaskovic, FCM Alabama, will share with Kemal Korucu and Joseph Tures, how the *The Hizmet* or service movement is key in creating non-violent, action and promoting "soft power" to about peace. Storytelling will highlight how non-violent resistance, inter-religious dialogue, have been effective as people practice the virtues of hospitality, love, and hope to unite the local and global communities in which we live.

Panel III: HUMAN RIGHTS

**Affirming our Solidarity at the time of unjust treatment: Human Rights-How to Move Forward
WHAT we can we do next as an inter religious community locally and globally?**

Panel Three will be led by Marita Grudzen, FCM California, who will explore with panelists John Raymaker, FCM Germany, a PhD Turkish student whose family lives in Turkey and cannot be identified, and Adelina Nicholls of Georgia Latina Association for Human Rights, giving attendees suggestions how members of the world religions and secular persons can bridge their differences by 1) respecting human rights as inviolable; 2) engaging in dialogue in an open and tolerant way 3) thus using "soft power" to bring about world peace in an infinitely small way.

Because it is Ramadan and Muslims fast until sunset, we are joining them by starting late. The Turkish Community will provide us with an iftar dinner after sunset to continue our conversation. You will be receiving invitations by Evite. We are staying at hotels around the area as we will probably stay late into the evening.

A GREAT THANKS goes to the FCM members that are committing to this initiative. We could use more help as the date gets closer....some have already volunteered and you will be called...

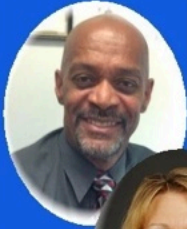
COLLABORATIONS to date.....

FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES, The Atlantic Institute (Turkish Group providing the room and food), The Baha'i Community, Friends of Refugees and GLAHR Georgia Latina Association for Human Rights

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Federation of Christian Ministries Newsletter

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS.....AMY SIMPSON BENNETHUM & RON DAVIS



Great Lakes Regional News

Gatherings Celebrate the Heart of FCM

This spring has been a great time in our region of FCM with three gatherings in various locations. The first took place at Christ Hospital in Cincinnati and it was a time of good conversation among the group. The second was in a Cleveland suburb and like the first the conversation was sweet, forward seeking, lasting for two hours. Our get-together in southern Michigan found this group enjoying their rich conversation met for four hours.

Apart from the thoughtful sharing and friendship our president Tom Cusack encourages in his column elsewhere in this issue, there is another reason why our members are talking. Our fall regional retreat is in the planning stages and will be structured differently this year. Several areas throughout the region will have a block of time for which they will prepare a topic through conversation, worship, lecture or fun. We presented this idea to the various gathering areas this spring and people are thrilled to have the opportunity to share something of special meaning to them with members from throughout the region at The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein <http://spiritualcenter.net>.

As we move through the spring and the summer, members will be planning their offerings and I know that God will use their many rich talents to bless us this fall.

When you make your plans for later this year, I want you to know that *you are invited and welcomed* to take part in this event Friday, September 29 – Sunday, October 1 as are spouses and friends. You will find more detailed information on the next page. Know that registration is now open. Please come and share in the heart of FCM: our being together!



Left back: Hostess, Elize Leitzel, Antoinette Marold, Ron Davis, Carolyn Horvath, Tom Leonhardt
Front: John Polanski, Dagmar Celeste.....Hats were knitted by Christine Mayr-Lumetzberger as a gift to Dagmar for the women's movement supporters.

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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.

Federation of Christian Ministries Newsletter

VICE PRESIDENT.....RICHARD JAMES



Resiliency in Ministry

"...they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

There are two events that are the impetus of this reflection. The first occurred when I found myself sitting in my manager's office in the Department of Mission and Spiritual Care, at Advocate Christ Medical Center. It was that anxious time of year—annual review time. Before we began the review conversation, my manager shared a bit of affirmation that moved me to the foundation of my soul. He said, "Richard, let me begin by saying I appreciate you. I would imagine that there are not many, perhaps only a few chaplains across the country that have been doing the work that you are doing, at the level and for the length of time that you have been doing it. I want you to know that you are appreciated."

The second incident is the fact that recently I was asked to begin working with medical family practice residents on an ongoing basis to "identify challenges and maintain resilience and a sense of mission in their work as physicians" as a part of the Wellness Program. I am not sure just yet how I will engage that group. However, the invitation represents that which gives my work as chaplain a bit of the spice of variety and the challenge to be relevant. Thus, I asked myself "What is resiliency?" and "How have I managed to sustain my stamina for the work of pastoral/spiritual care for twenty-seven years, in such a complex context as at Advocate Christ Medical Center, a Level One Trauma Center?"

A response to these questions can be seen in my responsibility as Sr. Staff Chaplain: to provide experiential educational support to the medical students on rotation from the Advocate Medical Groups' Family Practice Medical Clinic. I accomplish this via a program I called "Shadow the Chaplain at Work." The program affords family practice medical students the opportunity to accompany me as I extend pastoral/spiritual care to patients, families, and the medical staff. Students witness first-hand crisis ministry in the Emergency Department, an array of pastoral/spiritual care issues in the Surgical Trauma Intensive Care (STIC) and in the Neuro Critical Care (NCCU), as well as several other areas of the hospital.

...resiliency in ministry can be embraced when a person finds within themselves the intersection between their professional identity and their spiritual identity

The purpose of this experiential learning opportunity is to deepen the student's appreciation for the challenges and needs of patients, families and medical staff, and how chaplains offer meaningful pastoral/spiritual support. I do this in a manner that enhances the student's perspective as a doctor. Students also encounter via discussion the mission, philosophy and theological/theoretical perspective of the role and function of the chaplain as a pastoral/spiritual caregiver. Each student spends four hours on a Friday morning in this experience.



On one occasion, I had the pleasure of hosting a female Hindu student. After about twenty minutes of connecting conversation, we headed to two interdisciplinary rounds, one in the NCCU and one in STIC. Later, the student witnessed several pastoral/spiritual encounters including: ministry with a 24-year-old African American male with a critical gunshot-wound, along with his family; a family/palliative care meeting; a 35-year-old African American woman being treated for anxiety because her mother was seriously ill and expected not to survive and whose baby had died a week earlier; and a 39-year-old Muslim woman whose husband was involved in an automobile accident and died in the emergency trauma center.

As we sat down later to reflect on the morning's events, she said, "I want what you have for myself in my profession as a physician practicing the art of medicine." I asked, "What do you mean?" She replied, "I see your passion and enthusiasm you have for your work. You have a sound and practical understanding of your spirituality as a Christian, yet a sincere hospitality and respect for persons of other religions. I can tell you love what you do, that it fuels what you do, and you actually help people. How can I have that as a Hindu physician?"

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Then I asked her, "What is a major tenet or theme in the Hindu faith." She said, "Wisdom." I thought for a moment and replied, "Earlier in our conversation when I asked, 'What is the most challenging aspect of medical school? What was the most appealing aspect of medical school?' I noticed you have a high investment in working with patients by sharing information that can help them become proactive in the prevention of illness. I once read that wisdom is the wise use of knowledge in decision-making. Perhaps at the core of your Hindu spirituality and your practice of the art of medicine might be the sharing of pertinent medical information in such a way that enhances a patient's knowledge and ability to practice wisdom, or wise decision-making regarding their health condition, so that they might embrace well-being. Thus, you nurture the practice of wisdom in your practice of the art of medicine."

She simultaneously breathed deep, exhaled, smiled broadly, and straightened her posture. Her affect lit up, seemingly indicating that she was experiencing an epiphany— a certain depth of enlightenment in her mind, soma, and spirit. Born in her, at that precise moment was the hopeful possibility that she too could offer the gift of the art of the practice of medicine as a physician, complemented by her authentic spirituality.

I suggest that resiliency in ministry can be embraced when a person finds within themselves the intersection between their professional identity (be it a chaplain, doctor, nurse or otherwise) and their spiritual identity and commitment. It is that giftedness that can be appropriately offered respectfully (implicitly or explicitly) in service to others without offense, and that hope and its ongoing endeavor is resiliency because it is connected to Divinity.

For me, this is one of the touchstones of resiliency in my ministry, a resource for getting up and getting going in the morning when you don't feel like it. It is at that intersection that I find Divine Benevolent Intent and the acceptance of humanity. This is why and what was touched deep within my spiritual core during my review. This is why the medical student experienced an epiphany of mind, soma, and spirit. Because it is the intersection of professional identity and spiritual commitment, that there is a meeting place where Divinity and humanity meet to find common ground, holy ground. To extend the gift of benevolent intent in some small manner is simultaneous to give and receive resiliency.

It is my prayer and hope for you to know in some intimate and empowering manner your meaning-making at the intersection of your professional identity and spiritual commitment. For that awareness of Divinity/spirituality and the human condition is indeed a resource for resiliency.

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 Newsletter

FCM PRESIDENT.....THOMAS CUSACK

Pacific Regional News

Greetings to the Pacific Region

Greetings to the Pacific Region. I am writing this brief article because your **Vice President, Donnieau Snyder**, has had to *resign her position* due to a family medical emergency. I know that many of you already know of her stepping back to attend to this situation. Please keep her family in your prayers.

The FCM Executive Committee and I are currently in the process of requesting individual members of the region to consider filling the two year balance of **Donnieau's** term. At this time, **Donna Schreiber** is acting as vice president of the Pacific Region. Thank you, Donna.

While the vice president position is currently vacant, two great meetings occurred in the Pacific Region in January, just prior to **Donnieau's** resignation. The first was held in Casa Grande, AZ, managed by Area Representative **Donna Schreiber** (former VP). This was the first area meeting in AZ in the memories of those involved, and nine members attended. Here are some of the attendees: **Donna Schreiber**, of course, and **Nick De Los Reyes** (former VP), **Barbara Bunsold**, newly commissioned member **Scott Bennion** (congratulations **Scott**), and **Tracy Petersen, Jim Husek, Joanne Fitzgerald and Darrell Frye**.

I had the honor of attending this meeting via Zoom video conferencing. It was wonderful to meet "face to face" with this group of FCM members, all enjoying one another's company and experiences. They all want these meetings to repeat.

The second was in San Jose under the guidance of past Co-presidents **Jerry and Marita Grudzen** (unfortunately Marita could not attend). Other FCM members in attendance were **Linda Gonzales, Manuel and Maria Yaniz, Ellen Six and Donnieau Snyder**. I had the pleasure of attending this meeting in person. There was liturgy, discussion, sharing and an excellent lunch.

It is evident that in this vast region we need to meet in person when we can and electronically when we must.

Finally, a congratulations to our three newly commissioned members (February, 2017). They are **Christine Haider-Winnett** of Berkeley, CA; **Scott Bennion** of Glendale, AZ; and **Jamez Terry** of Anchorage, AK. **Jamez** has the distinction of *being FCM's only member in Alaska*. Please keep our three newly commissioned members in your prayers.

Donnieau, please accept FCM's gratitude and mine for your service as Vice President.



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Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter - May/June 2017 VOL. 51 NO. 3



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

GLOBAL MINISTRIES UNIVERSITY

GMU offers degree completion programs and individual courses online. FCM members are eligible for a 5% discount on degree programs. For more information, visit the web site: www.globalministriesuniversity.org Email: GMU5053@aol.com
Phone: 866 419 8020 toll-free

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Email: communication@FCMmail.org