

Federation of Christian Ministries

CELEBRATING

50

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

1968 ♦ 2018



Newsletter

January/February 2018

VOL. 52 -Number 1

2018



Happy New Year

*"The Lord bless you and
 keep you; the Lord make
 his face shine on you and
 be gracious to you; the
 Lord turn his face toward
 you and give you peace"*

Numbers 6:24-26

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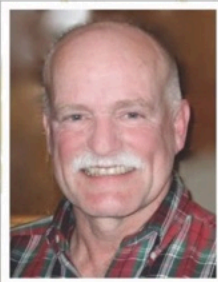
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TOM STRICKER

CHAIRPERSON

Jan/Feb 2018
VOL. 52 NO. 1



Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

As I write this we are anticipating the celebration of the 50th anniversary of our founding. When I think of the men and women who began this organization, I am amazed at their vision, courage and strength. It was not always easy sailing. The many successes in our history were accompanied by challenges as we grew into the national organization we are today.

A look at our history <http://federationofchristianministries.org/index.php/fcm-history> gives a glimpse at the testimonials of our past presidents as well as a snapshot of who we are now: "Today FCM is a Faith Group member of the Association of Clinical of Clinical PASTORAL Education, Inc. (ACPE) and is listed in the Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches. FCM has a process called Endorsement for Specialized Ministries for commissioned members seeking employment in chaplaincy or clinical pastoral work. It has a national Circle of Directors, a bimonthly FCM Newsletter, holds regional and National assemblies and offers continuing education and bachelors to doctoral degrees through Global Ministries University." Though initially a mainly Catholic organization we have become a diverse and inclusive organization of individuals and faith communities who welcome all people with love and acceptance.

Personally, FCM gave me the foundation and organizational structure that has allowed me to minister in a variety of ways: as one of the leaders of the Living Beatitudes Community, a small faith community in Dayton, Ohio, as a prison chaplain and as a minister in the community for baptisms, weddings and funerals. I humbled by the women and men who made all this possible for me and thousands of others and am proud to stand with them as we move into the future. Here is a bit of what that future looks like:



Christy Steele, Carl Yusavitz and the entire Specialized Ministry team have been working hard to prepare the way for FCM to become a Military Chaplain Endorser. All of the preparations have been completed. We are ready for our first candidate. Spread the word FCM has the capacity to be an endorser for Military Chaplaincy.



We have had Group Membership and group members going back to 1968. As we begin our fiftieth year, we are introducing our first online series of networking meetings for Group Members. **Ginny Cusack** and **Marita Grudzen** will facilitate four meetings via Zoom beginning February 2018. The purpose is to have representatives from each group member share what they are doing and get new ideas and resources. Beginning discussion topics will include liturgy and resources, social and educational practices, outreach, service, collaboration, and growing your community. We hope to have additional topics emerge from those attending the meetings. Every Group Member contact person will receive an email the first part of January with specific information plus a follow-up call to answer any questions.

Our records were originally were all on paper. Some years ago **Tom Leonhardt** and **Carolyn Horvath** began keeping the registration information on an Excel file which we have long since outgrown. For the past six months **Amy Simpson Bennethum** has been working on this process and thanks to her hard work, FCM is moving to "Realm," a new record-keeping process. Although it primarily serves the administrative needs of our staff, it also offers some exciting opportunities to support the way members are involved. Not only will this improve work life for our ministry staff, it will make it easier for our members to connect with each other, keep up with what's going on and grow as a connected community.



The process of establishing our endowment fund continues to move toward completion. The legal tasks, by-laws and oversight committee will be complete and set in place by the end of our Circle meeting in February, 2018. As it grows the FCM Endowment will establish financial security into the future. The interest from this permanent fund will allow us to address economic challenges down the road more securely. We need your commitment to help fund it by donations of any kind, such as being included in your will that will help FCM to be here long into the future.

I conclude by urging you to attend our **50th Anniversary Assembly July 20-22**. Register early and make the commitment to be a part of this celebration in Philadelphia. Join us in "Reflecting on the Past, Celebrating the Present and Shaping the Future." We have exciting keynote speakers and workshops that will be valuable to you.

We are the Federation of Christian Ministries celebrating the past, present and future.

Federation of Christian Ministries



TOM CUSACK

PRESIDENT

Jan/Feb 2018

VOL. 52 NO. 1

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YEARS

Standing With the Forces of Justice

#MeToo

Humanity's time on earth has been characterized by struggle, war and slavery. Countering that has been the effort to strengthen and sustain dignity and justice for all people. Over time our ancestors organized into successively larger organizational structures. They moved from families to tribes, from tribes to villages and cities, from cities to empires, all engaged in the effort to survive and flourish.

This constant struggle typically involved the stronger exerting power over the weaker so as to capture their resources and eventually grow their economy through slavery. In most of these conflicts the losers were objectified and denigrated as slaves and sex objects. Note the paths of conquest of the Mongol invasions led by Genghis Khan, who impregnated enough women in defeated lands to cause 15% of people today in those lands to carry his DNA. This was sexual assault on a scale never before seen.

Our Creator has not left us alone in this. Through the centuries, the divine presence has broken in to human history. In our own religious tradition we hear the prophets calling for justice. In Judea a land occupied by the Roman Empire, Jesus of Nazareth is born, the revelation of God-With-Us. His life, death and resurrection have not ended humanity's struggle for power and its use against weaker people. But His respect for the outcast (the lepers), the supposed enemy (the Samaritans), and those with no power (the woman at the well and the one caught in adultery) have provided us with a new paradigm of relating to others with dignity and respect and a loving call that they might grow more deeply into their own spirituality. His followers continue to stand with love against forces thousands of years old.

Our culture is moving currently through a very chaotic time. Though fraught with danger, chaos can also lead to a new and deeper realization of the call that Jesus has offered. For example, we have seen the successes gained by the LGBTQ community in the United States. This victory is not complete, just as the victory of Jesus is not complete. But its direction is new and wonderful.

In addition, women have begun arising to call for justice for themselves and their sisters. They demand that there be an end to the application of raw power against them in ways that denigrate and objectify them. #MeToo is their voice. It expresses a new struggle for justice that has just come to the fore. There are powerful forces arrayed against its success. Some are subtle, others overt and both are strong. Yet the forces opposing them are also formidable. This will be a life-long struggle.

FCM stands with women, minorities and with the LGBTQ community, just as Jesus the Christ recognized the dignity of others and called for justice throughout his life. FCM continues to empower women, minorities and the LGBTQ community for ministry, including specialized ministries. We look to build communities of faith that will affect change in their local area.

All of us engaged in this movement toward justice, dignity, and peace must go to the well of spirituality on a daily basis. Please give your devotional time the highest priority. Remember to spend **2 by 2 - 4 FCM**: two minutes in prayer and two minutes in meditation. In addition, do **Tuesday 10 for FCM**: 10 minutes on Tuesdays for the spiritual growth and progress of FCM, its members and its service and faith groups. In this time of chaos we must go deep within to the center of our own stability where we encounter God through Jesus. In that place we are able to leave the waves at the top of the ocean and go to the deep stillness where we are strengthened and changed to be the instruments of the divine.

As we enter a New Year, I am confident it will be filled with your good works and their good effects. Let it be also filled with our own commitment to grow spiritually by prayer, good works, study of the scriptures and meditation. It is such a pleasure to be with you and be part of the Circle of Directors and the leadership it provides as we move forward. May Jesus help you every day on your way.

Federation of Christian Ministries

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RABBI RAMI SHAPIRO

*Four Points, Five Questions:
Ministry in the Second Axial Age*



SIMONE CAMPBELL, SSS

Faith and Witness in the Public Square

FCM 2018 ASSEMBLY

JULY 20 - 22, 2018

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL - PHILADELPHIA AIRPORT

4509 Island Avenue - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

www.FCM2018assembly.org

www.federationofchristianministries.org



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Saturday, July 20, 2018 - 9:00 a.m



Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Four Points, Five Questions: Ministry in the Second Axial Age

A hallmark of this age is the emergence of the spiritually independent: seekers of any faith and none. This presentation will explore the four core teachings and five key questions of every spiritual quest and how best to minister to those who ask them.

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."

Saturday, July 20, 2018 - 3:15 p.m.



Simone Campbell, SSS

Faith and Witness in the Public Square

This presentation will examine the call of faith to be engaged in times of chaos and uncertainty and will address the questions we all need to ask in these times: Where are we nurtured? How do we respond? Where do we act?

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.

Federation of Christian Ministries 2018 Assembly Quick Look



Friday - July 20, 2018
Registration 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

50th Anniversary Celebration
5:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres (cash bar)
6:15 p.m. Celebration Dinner
7:45 p.m. Assembly Welcome/Program

Saturday - July 21, 2018

7:00 a.m. Morning Meditation, optional

8:00 a.m. **Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. Keynote: Rabbi Rami Shapiro

10:30 - 11:45 a.m. Panel Sessions and Workshops

Centering Prayer: The Deeper Connection.....Presenter: Maria Gullo

End of Life Care: Integrating Cultural Humility and an End of Life Doula Approach to Spiritually Diverse Populations

Presenters: Dennis O'Keefe, Cathy O'Keefe, Marita Grudzen

Transgender Support: Trans Christian Voices Facilitator: Patty Stricker, Presenter: Linda Thomas

12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:45 - 3:00 p.m. Panel Sessions and Workshops

God's Cocktail: Addiction, Faith and Hope.... Facilitator: Joe Ruane, Presenters: Carl Yusavitz with a recovering person

Diversity and Spirituality of FCM Faith Communities....Facilitator: Gerry Grudzen

Panel: Juanita Cordero, Linda Gonzales, Jim Korbel, Jack Cunningham, Carolyn Horvath, Tom Leonhardt, Ann Wagner

Spiritual Health and Interfaith Care that Nurtures Healthiness: A Chaplain's Perspective....

Facilitator: Amy Simpson Bennethum, Panel: Adam James, Lavender Kelley, Heidi Tierney

3:15 p.m. Keynote: Simone Campbell, SSS

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Cash Bar

5:45 - 7:00 p.m. **Dinner**

7:15 p.m. **Worship Service with Commissioning and Endorsement**

8:15 p.m. Dessert Reception

Sunday - July 22, 2018

8:15 a.m. **Breakfast**

9:15 a.m. FCM Membership Meeting - Sit with your Region

11:00 a.m. Interfaith Community Service

11:45 a.m. Assembly ends. Safe Travel



FCM 2018 ASSEMBLY - JULY 20-22, 2018

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL - PHILADELPHIA AIRPORT - 4509 ISLAND AVENUE - PHILADELPHIA, PA

WWW.FCM2018ASSEMBLY.ORG

Federation of Christian Ministries 2018 Assembly Workshops



PRESENTER: MARIA GULLO

Centering Prayer: The Deeper Connection

This experiential workshop will explain the difference between Centering Prayer, Mindfulness, and Meditation and will empower you with the understanding of this ancient contemplative practice which will help you make this deeper connection to God, your true self and others. The presenter will lead participants in a Centering Prayer session.



PRESENTERS: MARITA GRUDZEN
CATHY O'KEEFE, DENNIS O'KEEFE

End of Life Care: Integrating Cultural Humility and an End of Life Doula Approach to Spiritually Diverse Populations

Presenters will introduce and illustrate two new developments in providing compassionate and competent spiritual care of the dying: the practice of "cultural humility" with ethnogeriatric competencies in the care of the dying of diverse elders and their families, and, secondly, the evolution, practice and personal experience of the Doula Program for the Care of the Dying.

A Doula is a highly trained, non-medical person who provides emotional and spiritual support for the dying person and his/her family.



FACILITATOR: PATTY STRICKER
PRESENTER: LINDA THOMAS

Transgender Support: Trans Christian Voices

A transgender presenter will discuss the core issues facing transgender Christians today and how to ensure that there is a place at the table for transgender persons, both in our churches and in society. Participants will gain an understanding which will enhance their skills to listen to, minister to, and communicate with LGBTQ individuals.



FACILITATOR: JOE RUANE
PRESENTER: CARL YUSAVITZ

God's Cocktail: Addiction, Faith and Hope

In response to the major breakout of opioids and street drugs, the presenter will share his experience as a mental health counselor and discuss the interconnectedness of one's addiction and his/her faith in the recovery process. A recovering person will be present to share his/her story on the path to hope after fighting addiction.

JUANITA CORDERO-JACK CUNNINGHAM-CAROLYN HORVATH-TOM LEONHARDT-JIM KORBEL-ANN WAGNER

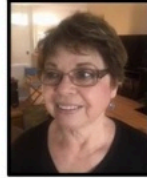


FACILITATOR: GERRY GRUDZEN

Diversity and Spirituality of FCM Faith Communities

A panel of five FCM Faith Community leaders will share information about the origin of their communities, the nature of their faith meetings, their leadership structure, special charism, and their outreach to the larger community.

Questions and comments will be invited from participants who will also hear results of a survey sent to all FCM Faith Communities.



LINDA GONZALES



FACILITATOR: AMY SIMPSON BENNETHUM



PANEL:
ADAM JAMES
LAVENDER KELLEY
HEIDY TIERNEY

Spiritual Health and Interfaith Care that Nurtures Healthiness: A Chaplain's Perspective

A panel of chaplains from diverse ministry settings will share their definition of spiritual health and discuss interventions that strengthen the spiritual care they provide, regardless of religious orientation or none. Participants will be invited to discuss their own interventions and how they nurture their own spiritual health and increase their own resiliency.

FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES



Be a Sponsor
for the 2018 Assembly

Sponsor or memorial name will be printed in the Assembly Program
Donations will be used to help fund the 50th Anniversary Assembly

Platinum...Donation of \$500. or more.....\$ _____
Gold...Donation of \$250. or more.....\$ _____
Silver...Donation of \$100. or more.....\$ _____
Bronze...Donation of \$50. or more.....\$ _____

Total \$ _____

Donations are tax deductible and can be made on the FCM Assembly website
at www.FCM2018assembly.org
Donate under Assembly Donations. Thank you

Or send a donation check made out to
Federation of Christian Ministries and send to:
Michaelita Quinn
93 Post Road - Danbury, CT 06810-8367

Name as you would like it to appear in the program _____

Your Name _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Additional Questions...Please contact Michaelita Quinn at 2018assembly@FCMmail.org



FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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Place an Ad in the 2018 Assembly Program

FCM members and non-members are welcome to advertise in the
2018 Assembly Program

If you are an Author, Artist, Retreat Center, Community of Faith,
or offer any online, by mail or telephone services, this is a great
opportunity to advertise your services.

IN ADDITION TO THE ASSEMBLY PROGRAM, ADVERTISERS WILL BE PROVIDED A TABLE
TOP DISPLAY AREA AT THE ASSEMBLY FOR THEIR BROCHURES OR FOR SALE MATERIAL

Full page ad (7 1/2 x 10) - \$200.....	\$ _____
Half page ad (5 x 7 1/2) - \$100.....	\$ _____
Fourth page ad vertical only (3 1/4 x 5) - \$50.....	\$ _____
Your name or group on a page Congratulating FCM on its 50th Anniversary - \$25.....	\$ _____
Total \$	\$ _____

PAY ONLINE AT WWW.FCM2018ASSEMBLY.ORG

OR SEND A CHECK MADE OUT TO FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

SEND TO: Michaelita Quinn - 93 Post Road - Danbury, CT 06810-8367

Send a jpeg ad in color or black and white or send the information you would like
on the ad and one will be designed for you. Please limit words for an effective ad.
If you have a logo it can be included.

Email information to communication@FCMmail.org

Your Name _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Additional Questions...Please contact Antoinette Marold at Communication@FCMmail.org



Federation of Christian Ministries 2018 Assembly

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JULY 20 - 22, 2018

DOUBLETREE by Hilton Hotel
Philadelphia Airport
4509 Island Avenue
Philadelphia, PA



Assembly Registration

Registration Deadline July 13, 2018

Registration \$280 before March 1...\$290 before May 1...\$305 after June 15.
50th Anniversary Celebration and all meals included

CANCELLATIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING BY JUNE 10...\$25. CANCELLATION FEE (2018ASSEMBLY@FCMMAIL.ORG)

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

Name: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Registration for the Assembly July 20-22, 2018 includes meals (see amount by date above)..... \$ _____

Special Dietary Needs... TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Vegan _____ Gluten Free _____ Other _____

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

Were you ever a member or a committee chair of the FCM Circle of Directors?

If so when _____ What position(s) _____

Registrations can be made and paid for ONLINE at www.FCM2018assembly.org or download the form and send with a check made out to Federation of Christian Ministries to Michaelita Quinn - 93 Post Rd. - Danbury, CT 06810

Hotel Reservations

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel - Philadelphia Airport - 4509 Island Avenue - Philadelphia, PA

• Room Rate: \$129. plus tax per room per night...rate in effect 3 days prior and 3 days after Assembly

Reservations must be made by **June 18, 2018** by calling 1-800-445-8667 use the code FCM or online at:

http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/P/PHLDADT-FCM-20180718/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

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

Attendance Certificates available ...

Additional Registration information:
email: 2018assembly@FCMmail.org



**The Community of
St. Mary Magdalene:
A New Church Sung Into Being**



EILEEN MCCAFFERTY DIFRANCO

Poet Audre Lorde warned that those who try to do something brand new should not dismantle the old with the master's tools. Likewise, neither should the master's tools be used as building implements or incorporated as a floor plan as the new is being built. The early members of St. Mary Magdalene were mindful of Lorde's advice as they worked hard together to build a new model of church.

And so, we were to have no priestly caste at St. Mary Magdalene even though we have priests. We were to have no select group running the show; we were all in this together. There were to be no bosses, no pulling rank, and no secrets. We would do our best to be a discipleship of equals. We tested out our egalitarian principles at the very beginning. I returned from vacation and the community informed me that they had named our fledgling community in my absence. "We didn't think you'd mind," they said. I didn't. And there we were, a beloved community.

That was eleven years ago. In the beginning, we were a very small group, fifteen people or less worshipping together in a brand new way with the gospel and our hearts as our guide. Growth over the years has been slow but steady. On any given Sunday, between thirty and forty people gather to worship God at our main site. There are approximately 70 people on the parish rolls. The size of the community enables the time of deep sharing after the homily and during the petitions which would be impossible with a larger group. Worship at St. Mary Magdalene is extraordinary, prayerful, deep, and engaging.

For a nominal fee, we rent a spacious chapel at Drexel Hill United Methodist Church in a Philadelphia suburb, graced with colorful stained glass windows depicting the creation. The community also rents a small chapel from Epworth United Methodist Church in Palmyra. Both churches allow the use the main sanctuary in the event of a funeral or a wedding. Because of the generosity and support of our United Methodist hosts, the Community of St. Mary Magdalene can provide its parishioners with all of the sacraments, as do traditional Catholic parishes, making it a church community in every respect.

If you live near Philadelphia or Palmyra, you should try us out.

The parish is financially self-sufficient. Because the space is rented and not owned, there is very little overhead aside from rents and small stipends for the musicians and the priests. No time is spent on managing a large plant. There are also no worries about meeting financial deadlines or needing to have giving campaigns to raise money to keep the parish operating. Thus, the parish is able to give away a significant amount of money collected to charities such as Water for Kenya, Dawn's Place, a safe haven for formerly trafficked women, orphanages in Honduras, homeless shelters, to name a few. The parish is incorporated into a nonprofit entity, so all giving is tax deductible. The pastors do not handle any money; instead a treasurer collects it, keeps financial records, and makes monthly reports on finances. All financial decisions are made at well-attended monthly community meetings.

Since the parish is run as a discipleship of equals, all members of the Community have an equal voice in running the parish. Committees spontaneously arose who care for the chapel space and provide linens, bake bread, purchase wine, and flowers each week. The same is true of those serving as lectors and Eucharistic ministers, and providing hospitality after Mass each Sunday.

No organization, however well-meaning, is exempt from controversy. People who attend the Community of St. Mary Magdalene vary in their theological, social, and political opinions as do those who attend traditional Catholic churches. Because everyone has a voice, all members of the community are invited and encouraged to express their opinions at monthly community meetings where fellow congregants may or may not agree. Since the community adheres to the democratic process, all motions are put to a vote. The congregation also does its very best to hold fast to the law of love while in the midst of sometimes painful disagreements.

We have built it, this new model of being church. Now you need to come.





FCM Group Members

GINNY CUSACK

GROUP MEMBERS

Jan/Feb 2018

VOL. 52 NO. 1

CELEBRATING



Don't Miss These Group Member Networking Sessions

One of the major benefits for FCM group members is networking and sharing with many other local faith communities. We are excited to introduce a series of networking meetings beginning February 2018. **Ginny Cusack**, FCM Group Facilitator, and **Marita Grudzen**, past Co-President and a long-time member of a small faith community, will facilitate these hour-long meetings via Zoom, a video company that provides remote conferencing services. You can join us in the comfort of your home sitting at your computer. If Zoom is new to you, we will help you get started.

The purpose of these meetings is to create a forum for FCM group members to meet one another, share ideas, resources, and information about their small faith communities and thus create a larger community among all FCM groups.

Each group member contact person will receive an email in early January with an explanation of the logistics and specific instructions for using Zoom. We will also follow up the email with a phone call. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact Ginny at cusack.g@gmail.com or 732-267-5372.

Date	Topic
Sunday, February 11, 2018 7 - 8 pm EST	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sharing Liturgical practices, resources, questions, concerns 2. Rituals marking significant life stages and events 3. Topics participants suggest
Sunday March 11 7 - 8 pm EST	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call to Service and Collaboration (Where, what, when, how) 2. Topics participants suggest
Sunday April 8 7 - 8 pm EST	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Multiple aspects of dynamic small faith communities 2. How an aging population affects small faith communities 3. Topics participants suggest
Sunday May 6 7 - 8 pm EST	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Growing your community 2. Topics participants suggest

Federation of Christian Ministries



CARL YUSAVITZ
SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES
VICE CHAIR

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES

Jan/Feb 2018
VOL. 52 NO. 1



Growing Old "Grace-fully"

A big part of my FCM-endorsed ministry is supervising chaplains who minister in local retirement communities. Over the years, we have talked a lot about what it means for the persons they serve to "grow old gracefully."

Let me begin with a short story: one day a tourist, tramping the mountain villages of northern Vermont, came upon a very old woman sitting in a rocking chair on her cabin porch. "Have you lived here all your life?" the visitor asked. "Not yet," the old lady replied!

This woman reminded the tourist (and all of us) that we all live in a "not yet" time. Not quite young enough to do the things we used to do, not quite so old that we can't enjoy many of the same things we did when we were younger, but in a different way.

Some of us FCM folk are baby boomers, a group that proclaim they will NEVER grow old! Boomer or not, we're all aging. Trust me...

What does it mean for you to "grow old gracefully?" Here are two views on aging - one secular, one from the Bible:

*"Grow old along with me,
the best is yet to be,
the last of life –
for which the first was made". (Robert Browning)*

"You have taught me, O God, from my youth, and till the present I proclaim your wondrous deeds. And now that I am old and gray, O God, forsake me not, till I proclaim your strength to every generation that is to come". (Psalm 71: 17-18)

My retirement home chaplain friends tell me growing old gracefully often involves these commitments:

- ◆ Living as fully as possible with the strength that we still possess
- ◆ Facing the reality of our death with some inner preparedness, dignity, courage, and a sense of adventure
- ◆ Living in a place where we feel safe
- ◆ Enjoying some measure of privacy
- ◆ Remain as independent as possible
- ◆ Still being in control of what we can still control
- ◆ Experiencing love and intimacy in new and creative ways
- ◆ Having daily experiences of physical touch
- ◆ Feeling needed by others
- ◆ Leaving a legacy behind

Shortly after I began ministering at Penn Foundation, we invited the UCC pastor and writer Robert Raines to talk to our community about what aging with grace meant for him. Here is what he told us:

- ◆ **Wake up** - which means recognizing our mortality, engaging (again) in meaning-making, and seeking new avenues of purpose in life
- ◆ **Embrace our sorrow** - which means acknowledging our losses and using them to become more compassionate with others
- ◆ **Savor our blessedness** - which means remembering and savoring our past - "counting our blessings" more often
- ◆ **Re-imagine what lies ahead** - which means figuring out new ways to contribute to society or completing our life work or experiencing our legacy
- ◆ **Nurture intimacy** - which means deepening our connection to those we love and those who love us, including, of course, God
- ◆ **Seek forgiveness** - which means "clearing the deck" of relationships that are burdensome and troubling, so that our later years can be forgiving of the past and hopeful of the future
- ◆ **Take on the mystery of life** - which means exploring the meaning of our lives with thanksgiving and anticipating our future with hope

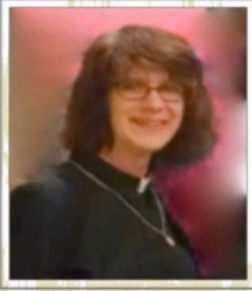
For me personally, at 72, growing old gracefully involves activities like:

- ◆ Identifying people and activities which still "make my heart sing," especially if they are intergenerational
- ◆ Reading literature or engaging in media that gives me hope
- ◆ Honoring my new place in society as an elder
- ◆ Spending more intentional time with God in prayer and scripture-reading/study.

Remember that growing old is as much a part of our journey toward God as being born. All the gifts with which we were born came from God and the God of our Sacred Scriptures wants us to make the most of these gifts as long as we live.

The best part of the art of living is to know how to grow old gracefully.

Federation of Christian Ministries



SUSAN FERMAN
PRAYER SUPPORT TEAM
COORDINATOR

PRAYER SUPPORT

Jan/Feb 2018
VOL. 52 NO. 1



Support One another in Prayer

When I first sat down to write this article, telling the membership a bit more about who the Prayer Support Team is and what we do, I realized that telling people about the process—the mechanics, if you will—is the easy part. What is more of a challenge to put into words is what it feels like to be a part of this wonderful team, to be truly blessed to be working in the ministry. To say that being on the team is simultaneously humbling and rewarding is a good start, but it is far more than that; it is the very embodiment of unconditional love, love of the Lord and love of one another.

The process of submitting prayer requests is a simple one – just use the form on our website, or ask a member to pass on the request to the team. Once we receive the request, it goes out to the team members. We then pray, using the 2 x 2 formula (2 minutes of prayer plus 2 minutes of meditation), as well as many additional prayers. We do this for two weeks, and if we have contact information for the person who made the request, we follow through with a phone call or email.

Very often the requests come from our members, sometimes for themselves and often for friends and family. Of those made directly by the public many, if not most, are made on behalf of friends or loved ones. It is often readily apparent how much our prayers, love and support are needed; a sense of concern, hope, or even fear and loneliness sometimes comes through in those simple requests that is almost palpable. What is both a blessing and a joy is knowing that by our prayers, we are taking a positive action to help someone in need of both our prayers and the hope, faith and love we hold in our hearts for them. We also add our prayers whenever there is a tragedy such as the shooting in Las Vegas or the terror attack in Manchester.

When **Ginny Graf** passed recently, the Prayer Support Team lost a long-time and dearly loved member. Ginny was truly one of the kindest, nicest, most selfless people I've ever known and was a living embodiment of the ideals that makes this ministry so special. Right up to the time of her death as ill as she was herself, Ginny continued praying right along with the team, because that was Ginny. And that was God working through her.

In addition to losing Ginny, we also had two team members retire from the team in the past couple of years and we would really love to have some new members. It would be a true joy if the team and our outreach can grow so that we may serve more people in need of our prayers and support. We can be reached by email at prayersupport@fcmmail.org or by emailing me directly at revsusanferman@outlook.com



Federation of Christian Ministries



Memories of FCM's Early Days

MARY ALICE WARNER

Editor's Note: Many thanks to **Mary Alice Warner** who submitted the following recollection as part of our ongoing series as we prepare to celebrate our fiftieth anniversary. She notes in a letter: "My life has been full and stimulating and I thank God for being with me on my journey, and I could say it all started with Jerry and his including me in their "house church", and his suggestion for my future."

In the late 60's and early 70's I became acquainted with **Jerry Grudzen** in White Plains, NY while we were both involved in activities housed in an Episcopal church. Jerry was a teacher in an alternative high school and I was a volunteer running a housing help line. He would greet me as he passed by, and we became friends.

Though I am unsure of the actual dates, I think Jerry also had a group discussing the welfare system and poverty, possibly linked to an outreach program of New York Theological Seminary. He asked if I would consider attending the Core Theology course at Maryknoll Seminary. As the only Protestant in the class I was privileged to be among a diverse group of students and learned history from a Catholic perspective.

Jerry and Marita, a priest and nun who had met at Maryknoll, married and invited me to be part of a group of married priests and others at their home for sharing liturgy and thoughtful talk of our faith journeys. I was inspired by the way that many who began ministry as priests and nuns were continuing to do so in lives outside of the church, as they still had a call to service. I remember that the name of the group was the *Society of Priests for a Free Ministry*, and I met many other couples who were committed to service as teachers and Christian educators in churches and missions overseas.

After the Grudzens and their daughters Corita and Simone moved to California, I kept my membership in the organization, now known as the *Fellowship of Christian Ministries*, and when my husband Kent and I moved to New Hampshire, I looked forward to the issues of the **Diaspora** (now the **FCM Newsletter**) as spiritually guiding me.

With a Masters degree in Counseling from New York Theological Seminary my own sense of ministry has grown, working as a family therapist, and supporting parent groups in a variety of settings including prisons. I chose not to continue towards ordination, but to be a dedicated lay person and serve where I saw a need. I began interning with the chaplain at the nearby penitentiary, and when we moved to New Hampshire for 18 years, I trained and became coordinator for a Quaker- inspired program called Alternatives for Violence, which was serious and also fun for the groups that we worked with for two-day programs. My husband and I have started an early learning program for parents and babies. I am an Elder in my Presbyterian Church, and minister to shut-ins.

Years ago, I attended an annual gathering of FCM in California, when my daughter was in Stanford Medical School. She met Marita, and last year when Marita and Jerry visited Corita in the east, we had dinner and a grand reunion. I am so grateful to Jerry for opening new avenues of spirituality enabling me to follow Jesus' way of serving others by helping and loving them.

My husband and I are very Senior Citizens now and are blessed with interesting and challenging opportunities to be involved with every day and enjoy our children and grandchildren whenever we can. With prayers for our country, the world and so many millions hungry, homeless and lost, we send wishes to you for an inspiring future for FCM!



**VICE PRESIDENT
DAN PELLEGRIN**

Northeast Regional News

Jan/Feb 2018
VOL. 52 NO. 1



Online Gatherings Promote Solidarity

Of all the ways FCM is of value to its members and beyond, first and foremost I believe it is a special gift of the Holy Spirit to our world. It is a haven and host for our ministries, for ourselves and for those who are in special need of that support. FCM unites us in our journey, and local meetings are a major way to facilitate this awareness. In the Northeast we haven't had the number of local meetings I would have liked to see and I bear a share of the responsibility for that. However we now have two remedies for this.

I am mightily encouraged by the number of FCM members who volunteered as they renewed their membership to serve as local representatives and to foster and organize local meetings in our region. I will be sharing their names and contact information with members in their respective areas so they can begin to facilitate local, personal gatherings. Like crocuses blooming in early spring I look forward to these taking place and will attend all I can.

As exciting as this is, members have told me of their inability to attend local gatherings for various reasons. To meet this need, FCM has selected Zoom as the platform for our members to meet online. This will enable us all to "personally" meet, support and inspire each other. To meet on Zoom, it is simply a matter of the host inviting others to join. I am proud to say I have learned the basics of setting up these online gatherings and look forward to hosting at least some of them. We can now share this expertise with area representatives so they can begin hosting local meetings online. If you are interested in learning about this please email me: northeastvp@fcmmail.org.

New Members for the Region... We have several candidates from the Northeast for commissioning and endorsement. They will be reviewed at our Circle meeting in early February, and I look forward to sharing their names in our next Newsletter.

Passing the Torch ... I have decided to not run for reelection as your NE vice president in early 2018. I will remain an enthusiastic and most grateful member of FCM, needing it and appreciating you and all it means to us into the future. I ask you to begin considering and praying about taking on this responsibility, and so contribute to our organization. Announcements about the election will be coming to you soon.

2017 Book Release



How To Keep Your Parish Alive Eileen McCafferty DiFranco

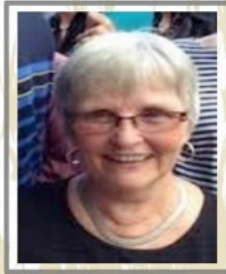


Eileen Di Franco is a prophet indeed. She is wife, mother, teacher, and a Roman Catholic woman priest. In her book, "How To Keep Your Parish Alive When Your Bishop Declares It Dead," DiFranco correctly assesses and describes the current pastoral calamities arising and spreading across the church in the United States. More importantly she proposes creative and life-giving structural changes that offer encouragement and hope for today and tomorrow. She realistically addresses parish closings, a shortage of ordained ministers, financial accountability, shared decision-making, combating hierarchical power, building small communities of faith, and moving the church from signs of death to Christian realities of resurrection and ascension.

---- John A. Dick , Ph.D., international speaker and journalist, is an historical theologian, retired from the Catholic University of Leuven (Louvain).

<https://www.amazon.com/How-Keep-Your-Parish-Alive/dp/099692857X>

Federation of Christian Ministries




VICE PRESIDENT
DIANE DOUGHERTY

Southern Regional News

Jan/Feb 2018
VOL. 52 NO. 1



New Paradigms of Ministry: FCM's Southern Agenda



With Sympathy

Virginia Lynch (Ginny) Graf
Former Southern V.P. and long time FCM member, passed into her new life on November 19, 2017

Ginny along with her husband Bob served as Southern Region Vice Presidents on the FCM Circle of Directors.

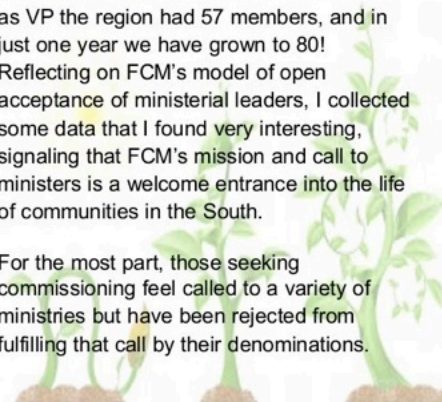
Ginny was a gifted educator, writer and pastoral leader.

Please place her and her family, including her husband Robert "Bob" Graf and her daughter Rosanna Graf and son Robert Graf, Jr. into your prayers.

FCM now has a saint to lead and guide us. **Ginny Graf**, former co-vice president of the Southern Region along with her husband Bob Graf led teams of ministers through the process of becoming members of FCM and on to active leadership. Both she and Bob welcomed many into FCM and she has left us to continue the guidance in another dimension, one without walls, pain or limitations. I pray to her asking for guidance and joy and of course we continue to remember her husband Bob who continues his active membership through ministry and spiritual direction.

We Grew in 2017... When I took over as VP the region had 57 members, and in just one year we have grown to 80! Reflecting on FCM's model of open acceptance of ministerial leaders, I collected some data that I found very interesting, signaling that FCM's mission and call to ministers is a welcome entrance into the life of communities in the South.

For the most part, those seeking commissioning feel called to a variety of ministries but have been rejected from fulfilling that call by their denominations.



FCM not only receives but empowers us to develop inclusive communities offering the traditional sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick, as well as developing non-traditional ministries. For the Southern region this has allowed movement to the margins of society into prisons, homeless shelters, funeral and nursing homes: a breath of fresh air blowing through the south! For instance two members, **Miriam Picconi** and **Wanda Russell**, reside at Mass at a castle in St. Augustine, FL each month (Please include Wanda in your prayers as she recovers from open heart surgery). Others use their ministerial skills to advocate for policies that promote human rights locally and globally. When FCM commissions its members, the places these ministers go and the ministries that develop far exceed what has been seen in the past.

Of the **24 members** seeking commissioning and endorsement in 2017, 16 will work as chaplains. Listening to their stories one learns how they have learned painfully that in outgrowing aspects of former beliefs, they experience thereby the rigidity of the denomination's endorsement structures. Then when it seemed there were no alternatives, they discovered that FCM is an inclusive, accepting and open organization that welcomes all, allowing them the freedom to minister. In this aspect we are creating new ways of being and becoming church.

24 NEW MEMBERS 2017

Joshua	Albrecht	St. Petersburg	FL
Lindsey	Butler	Memphis	TN
Laura	Callender	Dover	FL
Jeffrey	Childers	Lexington	KY
Brian J.	Coleman	Gainesville	FL
Erma	Durkin	Glen Arm	MD
Abigail	Eltzroth	Weaverville	NC
Mary	Foley	Johnson City	TN
Ralph	Garofano	Columbia	SC
Shelley R.	Gilchrist	Deland	FL
Martin	Jeffrey	Herndon	VA
Lavender	Kelley	Washington	DC
Lisa	Koch	Raleigh,	NC
Judith	McNutt	Jacksonville	FL
Michelle	Mehan	Port Richey	FL
Laura	Moenning (Smith)	Odessa	FL
Michael	More	Poquoson	VA
Nicholas	Mosaic	Annapolis	MD
David	Nyland	Oldsmar	FL
Marilyn E.	Rondeau	Eldersburg	MD
Linda	VanPutte	Clearwater	FL
Patricia	Weidman	Frackville	PA
Russ	Ditzel (relocated)	Jamestown	NC

Federation of Christian Ministries



Welcome 2018-The Challenge of Growth... The challenge of a growing community in the south is upon us. How shall we grow, what direction shall we take? In responses sent with your renewals, I have noted the fact that many of you are willing to serve in some capacity, be it gathering a small group, calling others, being a support person. Thank you so much, and please know I will be in touch. Getting to know each other is a challenge and one I truly welcome. I thank those who generously responded to the call to reach out to new members and to most particularly to care for the needs of those who were impacted by the hurricane. FCM is stretching its wings in many new ventures. Even as we do that I encourage you to mark your calendars for July's National Assembly honoring and celebrating our 50th anniversary. Stay tuned for more blessings in 2018.

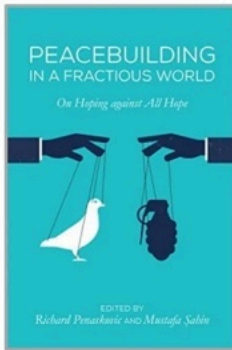
FCM Authors of Excellence from the Southern Region

Books released in 2017

PEACEBUILDING IN A FRACTIOUS WORLD

On Hoping against All Hope

EDITED BY **Richard Penaskovic and Mustafa Sahin**

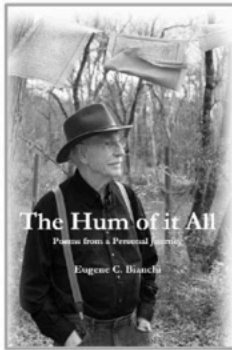


This volume has three outstanding features that distinguish it from other books on peacebuilding. First, it approaches the theme of peacebuilding from both a macro and a micro perspective.

Second, we address the theme of peacebuilding from an interdisciplinary perspective. Why so?

Third, the various contributors to this book have endeavored to transcend vague theories and generalities. Instead, they believe that their reflections have application to, and can solve, problems in the real world.

<https://www.amazon.com/Peacebuilding-Fractious-World-Richard-Penaskovic/dp/1532616481>



THE HUM OF IT ALL (A KIRKUS REVIEW)

Poems from a Personal Journey

Eugene C. Bianchi

Parson's Porch Books (106 pp.)

ISBN: 978-1-946478-15-3; March 24, 2017

<http://www.bianchibooks.com>

A poet muses on faith, peace, and the ties that bind in this accomplished collection.

Bianchi's poetry is conversational without ever lapsing into the colloquial, and in his lessons on religion, the former professor educates without seeming didactic—no small feat for an academic. A sensitive volume in which art and religion merge.



Federation of Christian Ministries

Jan/Feb 2018

VOL. 52 NO. 1



**VICE PRESIDENT
RON DAVIS**

Great Lakes Regional News

Jan/Feb 2018

VOL. 52 NO. 1

CELEBRATING

50
1968
♦
2018
YEARS

Taking Good and Making It Better

I look forward to 2018 on many different levels. First, because it means we will celebrate 50 years of FCM. I have been a member since 2010, the beginning of my hospital chaplain career. When I think about the lives that I touch in this work, I must recognize that FCM has played an important role in blessing and supporting my work and for that I thank you one and all! I look forward to going to Philadelphia in July to be with members and friends of FCM from across the country to give thanks, reflect, and shape the future of our ministry together. I believe we have had a great impact through our various ministries and the best is yet to come. I do hope to see you in the City of Brotherly Love this summer.

Second, across the Great Lakes Region, we will have gatherings in Kentucky, Ohio, and Michigan. My aim is to offer my support and encouragement to members and friends of FCM by attending at least one gathering in each state. The first will happen in Springfield, OH on January 20th—in my new home. It would be good for us to begin the year in prayer so I am hoping that friends will come from places close and far to be still before God. We will gather at 10 a.m. for brunch and the meal will be followed by prayer for FCM, the nation and the world. All are welcomed to come. If you are interested, please contact me at greatlakesvp@FCMmail.org.

Third, I look forward to developing new and deeper relationships with our FCM members in the Great Lakes Region. I want the Great Lakes members to anticipate receiving an email or phone call from me, at least once this year. Please recognize that I will be reaching out without an "agenda." Rather, it will be a genuine invitation to have conversation with you to get to know you better.

I hope you are looking forward to the new year as well. If there are things I can do to support you in your ministry, feel free to let me know. Also, get in touch with me immediately if you have been unable to renew your membership and endorsement for 2018 and need assistance in accomplishing that. God's grace to you!



All FCM members who preside at BAPTISMS

You are required to register the Baptism with the FCM Registry Office
The registry form is available on the FCM website.

- ◆ Go to www.federationofchristianministries.org
- ◆ Login to the Members Only area of the website.
- ◆ Click on Members Only link on the top right of the page.
- ◆ Click on Baptism Registry Form. You can complete the registry ONLINE or download a PDF form and mail it to the registry office. The address is on the form.

Questions?

Please email registry@FCMmail.org. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Federation of Christian Ministries



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
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