

Federation of Christian Ministries



Newsletter
March/April 2018
VOL. 52 - Number 2





IN THIS ISSUE



FCM
2018 Assembly
July 20 - 22
Doubletree by Hilton
Philadelphia Airport
Register Now!
www.FCM2018assembly.org

Taking Care of Business
Tom Stricker, FCM Chairperson.....Pages 2-3

Preaching to the Choir
Tom Cusack, FCM President.....Page 4

2018 50th Anniversary Assembly
Keynote Speakers
2018 Assembly Quick Look
2018 Assembly Workshops
2018 Assembly Sponsor
2018 Assembly Advertising
2018 Assembly Registration
Michaelita Quinn, Assembly Chair.....Pages 4-11

Circle of Directors Approves Endowment Policy Document
Tom Cusack, FCM President.....Page 12

FCM Meets Face-to-Face Online
Ginny Cusack, FCM Group Member Coordinator.....Page 13

FCM Treasurer Report
Heidi Tierney, FCM Treasurer.....Page 14

When God Leads Us into Our Deep Gladness
Dan Hord, FCM Specialized Ministries.....Pages 15-16

Missionaries of the Sacrament of Love
David Guadalupe, FCM Group Member.....Page 17

Regional News

Northeast...New Members Among Many Highlights
Dan Pellegrin, Northeast V.P.....Pages 18-19
FCM Offers Sympathy

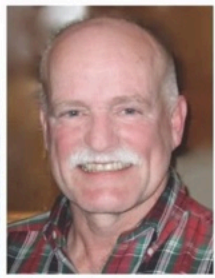
Southern...Southern Region Celebrates 8 Newly Commissioned
Diane Dougherty, Southern V.P.....Pages 20-21

Great Lakes...New Member Strengthens Region, FCM
Ron Davis, Great Lakes V.P.....Page 22

Mountains & Plains...New Members Continue to Grace FCM
Richard James, Mts. & Plains V.P.....Page 23

Pacific..Regional Gathering Continues Regional Contacts
Donna Schreiber,V.P.....Page 24
With Deepest Sympathy - Frederick McCarthy by William J. Manseau, FCM

FCM Directory.....Page 25



TOM STRICKER

CHAIRPERSON

March/April 2018

VOL. 52 NO. 2

CELEBRATING



Taking Care of Business



LEFT BACK: RICHARD JAMES, MTS. & PLAINS..DAN PELLEGRIN, NORTHEAST..BILL APPLETON, TREASURER..TOM CUSACK, PRESIDENT..NEXT ROW LEFT: ANTHONY ERCOLANO, COMMISSIONING CHAIR.. CARL YUSAVITZ, SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES VICE CHAIR..NEXT ROW LEFT; TOM STRICKER, CHAIRPERSON.. HEIDI TIERNEY, TREASURER..CAROLYN HORVATH, TOM LEONHARDT, CENTRAL OFFICE..RON DAVIS, GREAT LAKES..FRONT LEFT: DIANE DOUGHERTY, SOUTHERN..CHRISTY HOWARD STEELE, CHAIR SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES..DONNA SCHREIBER, PACIFIC

The Circle Meeting that took place last month was one of our most worthwhile and productive for a number of reasons. Our agenda included some exciting topics for our organization at this moment, namely Realm, Endowment, Mission Statement, Faith Groups and 50th Anniversary Assembly. I hope as you read on you will appreciate what I mean.

Full speed ahead on Realm... Amy Simpson Bennethum joined us Thursday night and Friday morning familiarizing us with this system, a new kind of record-keeping solution designed primarily to address the administrative needs of our staff. I believe Realm will also make it easier for our members to connect with each other, keep up with what's going on and grow as a community. Realm will be rolled out in each region over the next several months and by the time we gather for our Assembly it will be fully operational. Thanks to Amy and the entire Circle who will be continuing their efforts to introduce FCM to this process.

FCM Endowment now a reality... The endowment policy and by-laws have been approved by the Circle and you can review them now on the FCM website. Our committee consists of **Mary Ann Cejka, Jim Verrecchia, Tony Ercolano and Tom Cusack.** **Shawna Tuttle** has experience in this area and will be assisting the team. We are still seeking a 5th person for the committee, so if you have experience in this area or wish to nominate a member, please contact **Tom Cusack** president@fcmmail.org.

As you are probably aware, the interest from this fund will allow us to address more securely the economic challenges we will face down the road. To start building the endowment, all the members of the Circle have made initial donations and I am asking you to consider your personal contribution. We need your commitment to build the fund and there are many ways you can do so, for example a regular donation on a monthly or annual basis. A regular donation is one way we can show our gratitude to FCM as part of this 50th year celebration. Another option is to consider dedicating a donation in your will and to request that on your passing donations could be made to the FCM Endowment Fund. In any way possible we can all do our part to build the foundation that will secure FCM's future.

Federation of Christian Ministries

Mission Statement brainstorming session begins... As we build upon our past and focus on the future, we have begun developing a new mission statement which sets our sights toward the next 50 years. Our goal was three-fold: 1) build a statement that was clear and easily understood. 2) Make it concise and to the point, using less than 15 words. 3) It would need to inform, focus and guide FCM as individual members, faith communities and as a Circle. We have a great start on this process that will allow us to present it along with a new statement of our *vision* as well as our *core values and services* at the Assembly in July. I encourage you to forward your ideas on this important effort to me chairperson@fcmmail.org.

Strengthening Group Membership... Small faith groups have been a part of FCM going back to 1968, and group membership has increased tremendously of late. **Ginny Cusack** and **Marita Grudzen** presented the Circle with plans they have been working on to foster this effort. By the time you read this, FCM will have had its first Zoom conference meeting in which 9 faith community representatives participated. This ground-breaking event saw the networking group share information about their communities and what they are doing, along with new ideas and resources as part of a collaborative effort. Future discussion topics will include liturgy and resources, social and educational practices, outreach, service, collaboration, and community growth and development. In addition we hope to have topics emerge from those attending the meetings. We want all of our Faith Groups involved. Stay tuned for more on this exciting aspect of FCM.

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



Federation of Christian Ministries



TOM CUSACK

PRESIDENT

March/April 2018

VOL. 52 NO. 2

CELEBRATING

50
1968
♦
2018
YEARS

Federation of Christian Ministries *Preaching to the Choir*

You've heard this comment before. Someone speaks to a sympathetic crowd. An objective observer off to the side says, "Well, she's preaching to the choir." Of course, this means that everyone in the crowd is on the same page with the speaker. Thus, there is no need to make these comments to people *who are already in agreement with you, the preacher*. And the implication is you shouldn't be wasting your breath on the choir; you should be out preaching to the people that aren't in the choir. They're the ones that need to hear you.

Well, I'd like to move you away from that way of thinking. *It is exactly the choir that needs to have new inspiration, new ways of looking at their spirituality, new ways of acting out their faith day-to-day.* The choir forms the core of dedicated people. The choir is the group that will have an interest in growing spiritually. It is this group, the choir, that needs the additional inspiration and will accept it; they will integrate it and act on it. **You really do need to preach to the choir.** I come from a background of life insurance and financial services sales. There was no talk of choirs there, but there is a saying that you have most likely encountered. It goes, "20% of the people provide 80% of your income." In other settings, the phrase goes, "20% of the people do 80% of the work." So please consider yourself both as part of the 20% and as part of the choir. Being in this group carries a great responsibility. It is a responsibility of leadership, self-awareness, and dedicated effort to grow spiritually so that in fact you can help the 80%

Most of the people in FCM have come along a tough journey. Their journey of faith and of following their inner call has not been easy. Often their beliefs, their lifestyle, or their developing theology has turned them into refugees from their original faith home. Refugees ultimately become bonded to and totally supportive of the refuge that has turned into their new home. For most of our members that refuge is FCM. All of us need to keep ourselves and FCM growing to receive more refugees.

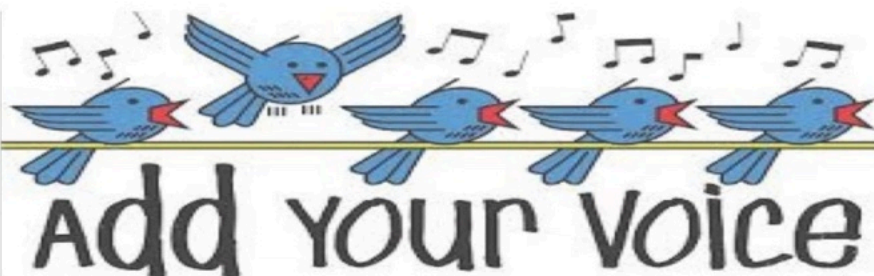
Any member of the choir (20%) who wants to encourage the 80% to join the choir has got to have their own inner spiritual life growing, deepening, and blooming in ways that you haven't thought of or even considered. That blossoming is the work of the Spirit. But your own work is the work of pushing your spiritual activities, devotions, prayers, meditations, and other spiritual growth activities to a new level of time commitment, diligence and creativity. Not one of us is completely Christ-like. Not one of us is God-realized. Those are our unmet goals, so we simply have to do better.

I have no idea what doing better is for you. I have ideas of what it means for me. But in this Newsletter and in my articles I continue to ask and request that you spend an expanding piece of your time broadening and developing your spiritual life specifically for the benefit of FCM. I ask that you do **2 x 2 4 FCM**. That means two minutes of prayer, two minutes of meditation, for the benefit of FCM. I also ask that you do **Tuesday 10 for FCM**, that is, on Tuesdays you specifically enter into prayer and meditation for 10 minutes with the intention of benefiting FCM. **The inner running (spirituality) supports the outer running (manifestation).**

The outer running and outer life of FCM are taking some big steps forward.:

- * We have established an endowment fund. It is ready to receive donations large and small.
- * Our faith community members have held their first electronic video meeting, led by **Ginny Cusack** and **Marita Grudzen**.
- * We have a new data management platform that will be introduced and go live in the next months.
- * We have an experienced crew of leaders on the Circle, and the Northeast Region and the Southern Region both have vice presidential elections coming up.

These are all exciting changes and developments. We are blessed. Please continue to respond to those blessings through your ministry. And then deepen your ministerial capability by deepening your spiritual life.



FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

CELEBRATING

50

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

1968 ♦ 2018

K
E
Y
N
O
T
E

S
P
E
A
K
E
R
S



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 21, 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 21, 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 Roberts

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,

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

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 ROBERTS

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-LINDA GONZALES-JACK CUNNINGHAM-CAROLYN HORVATH-TOM LEONHARDT-JIM KORBEL-ANN WAGNER



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.



FACILITATOR: GERRY GRUDZEN



FACILITATOR: AMY SIMPSON BENNETHUM



PANEL:
ADAM JAMES
LAVENDER KELLEY
HEIDI 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

CELEBRATING

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

1968 + 2018

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: _____

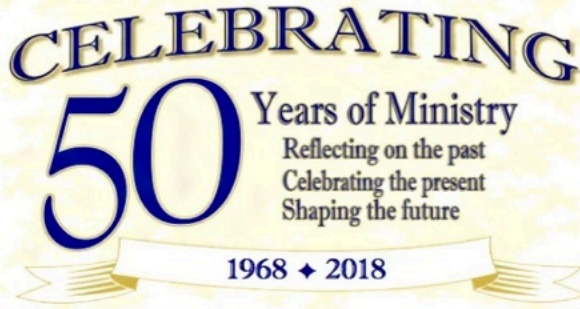
Address _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

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



Federation of Christian Ministries 2018 Assembly



JULY 20 - 22, 2018

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



Assembly Registration

Registration Deadline July 13, 2018

Registration \$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



Circle of Directors Approves Endowment Policy Document

TOM CUSACK, PRESIDENT

ENDOWMENT

By unanimous vote FCM's Circle of Directors approved the new Endowment Policy. This document lays out the rules, requirements and guidelines which now govern **The Permanent Endowment Fund of the Federation of Christian Ministries**. The Endowment is now live and ready to begin playing its part in the financial stability of FCM going into the future.

Several aspects of the Endowment are noteworthy. Donations go into the Endowment, *but they never come out*. Donations' principal is held in the Endowment as long as it exists, and the donations themselves are never disbursed. We look forward to the day when the endowment's total value is \$100,000. [It is \$10,300 now] At that time the Endowment Committee may determine that up to 10% of the accumulated appreciation of the endowment fund may be disbursed to support FCM's efforts as the Circle determines. In this way all donations will work to support FCM into the distant future.

The Endowment Committee is to be made up of two members of the Circle of Directors with three members from FCM's general membership. The committee will have a chairperson and secretary, and the committee will guide investments, marketing, solicitation of donations and will determine disbursements as time moves forward. **At this moment FCM needs one more member to join the Endowment Committee**. If you have leadership experience or training in financial matters, fundraising and working towards a goal, consider volunteering to be the final member of the Endowment Committee. Our current committee members include **Mary Ann Cejka** (NE Region) and **Jim Verricchia** (Southern Region). The two committee members currently serving on the Circle of Directors are **Tony Ercolano** (Commissioning Chair) and myself, **Tom Cusack** (President).

With the endowment in place all members and friends of FCM have a fund into which they might donate amounts small and large. Small donations provide the realization that a sacrifice now provides benefits far into the future. Substantial donation amounts can memorialize significant people in your life, such as a spouse, parents, grandparents and the like. Memorial Named Funds and Legacy Funds will carry those peoples' names forward supported by the substantial donations that the establishment of those funds requires (\$10,000 – \$25,000). Often donations like this are made through bequests in a will or through a series of donations accumulating over time. And donations made through life insurance, individual retirement account rollovers to FCM and the like will all play a part in the more rapid growth of the fund.

We are entering a time frame in which the community of FCM, which means so much to so many, may be strengthened and recognized by more people in a financially meaningful way. We are blessed to see the beginning of this new financial chapter in FCM's history.

March/April 2018
VOL. 52 NO. 2

Federation of Christian Ministries





GINNY CUSACK

FCM GROUP MEMBERS

March/April 2018

VOL. 52 NO. 2

CELEBRATING



FCM Meets Face-to-Face Online

Submitted by Ginny Cusack, FCM Group Member Coordinator



FCM Group Members

Representatives from 9 FCM small faith communities attended the first FCM Group Member Networking Zoom Meeting on Sunday February 11. They left the meeting grateful for the opportunity to meet each other and share what is happening in their communities. **Marita Grudzen**, the group facilitator, began the meeting by introducing **Tom Stricker, FCM Chairperson, Tom Cusack, FCM President, Tom Quinn, Past Co-President of FCM**, the first leader to recruit faith communities to join FCM. She then invited those present to speak.

They were:

- **Tom Stricker**, Living Beatitudes Community, Germantown, OH
- **Ann Wagner**, Christian Zen Living Presence Community, NJ/NY
- **Juanita Cordero**, Magdala Catholic Community, San Jose CA.
- **Gerry Grudzen**, La Comunidad, San Jose CA
- **Sean Anderson**, Celtic Catholic Church USA, Vancouver, WA/Portland, OR, TX.
- **Mary Ann Crilly and Mike Corso**, Sophia Inclusive Catholic Community, NJ.
- **Phil Belzunce**, Good Shepherd Companions, Cleveland, OH
- **Maria Marlowe**, Community of St. Mary Magdalene, Philadelphia, PA

Representatives suggested the future topics.

- Sharing prayers and music that have inclusive language
- Hearing directions small faith communities are going
- Ideas of ways to serve the homeless and the poor including SSI and mental health
- Immigration issues, support and reform
- How do we grow our communities? i.e., how do we grow younger?
- Pointers for social outreach and funding volunteers
- Creation prayers used by communities in liturgy with inclusive language

In addition, **Gerry Grudzen** offered to draft a letter template that each faith community could send to its respective senators and congress people supporting DACA, if they choose to do so.

All representatives from small faith communities are welcome to attend the next meeting on **Sunday March 11 at 7-8 pm EST** in which **Marita Grudzen, Ann Wagner, and Mike Corso** will give a short presentation on **“Services for the Homeless”** with discussion following. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact **Ginny Cusack**, FCM Group Coordinator at Cusack.g@gmail.com or **Marita Grudzen**, Group Facilitator at agrudzen@gmail.com

Dates and times of future meetings are: March 11, April 8 and May 6, 2018 all at 7 - 8 pm EST.



Federation of Christian Ministries



HEIDI A. TIERNEY

TREASURER

March/April 2018

VOL. 52 NO. 2

CELEBRATING



FCM Treasurer Report

At the 2018 February Circle Meeting I reported to the Circle of Directors that we had Operating Revenue of \$95,560.57 (less \$10,340.00 for the Endowment Fund) equaling \$85,220.57 in actual Revenue for 2017. We had Operating Expenses of \$84,320.78 (99.57% of our projected budget for 2017). 18% of our operating revenue came from your generous donations, while 76% of our operating revenue comes from our dues and application fees.

The Circle of Directors approved an expenditure budget of \$106,336.00 for 2018. The approved budget for 2018 consists of several exciting new ventures for FCM. As a Circle we decided to add Group Affairs to our budget to provide increased support for our Group Members. Another very exciting new endeavor for us is to have a new data management company, called Realm. In the upcoming months you will be hearing more about this wonderful opportunity for all of us to be connected in new ways. We have increased the budget lines for our Regional Vice Presidents to facilitate innovative ways to support all our members, regional representatives, and continue to advance FCM in our regions. Finally, we have added sponsorship support of our members who need help to attend this year's National Assembly.

Our operating budget is supported primarily through our membership dues and by your generous donations. It is very important for all of us to pay our dues timely and expeditiously. Thank you all for your intentional efforts to ensure that the Federation of Christian Ministries continues to enable and empower all of us to be in ministry.

I am looking forward to renewing acquaintances and meeting many of you for the first time at our National Assembly this July. Remember to register early and book your hotel room. See you there!

Respectfully,
Heidi Tierney, Treasurer

BAPTISM ATTENTION
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



DAN HOARD

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES

March/April 2018
VOL. 52 NO. 2

CELEBRATING



When God Leads Us into Our Deep Gladness

(Editor's note: Thanks to **Christy Howard-Steele** for sending along this reflection. The author is a member of the Mountains and Plains region and serves as a hospital chaplain in Chicago.)



There are moments in life when God sets a path for you that you would never have predicted. Ministry as a chaplain has been full of those moments for me. I have learned that God often leads this way; that growth and renewal result in meaning and blessings for us and those we meet along the path. Frederick Buechner aptly puts it this way: "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

Let's begin with the deep gladness. While in seminary I discerned God's calling to ministry as a calling to journey with others in both the good and the challenges of life. I seemed to gravitate toward the studies and ministry that provided a skill set that taught me how to be with another, so pastoral care and counseling seemed a solid fit for me. In retrospect, it was the focus on *the other* that piqued my deep gladness, the act of developing the skills to listen with presence and empathy. This often seemed to stand in stark contrast to my background in theology, which primarily focused on answering questions with concrete and focused statements on the *why* of things. Being with another, with a focus not on answering questions, but instead on naming pain together, leaning into the pain: those were the moments in which I experienced hope and God's healing. I began to embrace the paradoxical truth that, for me, my deep gladness is realized through sharing in some of the deep pain of those I served.

When I transitioned from parish ministry to hospital chaplaincy, I found that it seemed to have been designed for me, or rather me for it. I was drawn to the task of being with those who were, as the Psalmist would describe it *in the pit*: those dealing with deep, chronic pain, those facing the end, those facing news of loss or a new diagnosis. Most of the time I had no idea what to say, but I sought to be merely present with the pain and grief, and in small ways to be a faint flicker of light in dark places, a faint flicker of hope that makes room for God's hope. **I became a person God called and sent so another would not have to sit in the pit alone.**

Early in my career, I was hired as a weekend chaplain at the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab. In this hospital I served as a chaplain who would journey with patients and their families as they sought to recover from illness or injury in the rebuilding and reclaiming their quality of life. In a sense I provided spiritual support as others were learning to crawl out of the pit. I was content to keep supporting others in ways that fueled my deep gladness, providing spiritual care and counseling through one-on-one encounters, but it was not until I served here that God connected my deep gladness with the deep hunger of the world.

Federation of Christian Ministries

When God Leads Us into Our Deep Gladness

In my pastoral training, I've always thought of public speaking as a weakness. Many of my mentors tried to name that as one of my growth edges and I was always aware of that goal for myself. As a child I struggled with speech impediments that made public speaking challenging. As I got older I was able to manage my impediments, but from time to time I often felt troubled by my lack of skill in this area. To my surprise and fear when I began working at the Ability Lab, I learned I would be leading an inter-denominational worship service every Sunday. I forged on, praying to God for growth and renewal in my abilities. But I countered my fears and learned to lead this service with aptitude and grace for myself.

Throughout my first year, I worked hard to improve my public speaking skills through practice and effort. God, it seemed, was blessing my work in this task as well. With God's help, I began to understand that I could take my approach of being with another in the one-on-one context and fuse it into a half hour worship service. Many people found healing through God's leading in these services. God had taken my deep gladness and used it to meet the world's deep hunger. This was such a meaningful event in my life: to see how God can turn my weakness into a strength that gives others hope, healing, and love. I would never have expected that as a chaplain I would be preaching every Sunday as a parish minister would.

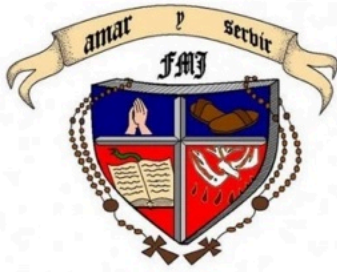
For myself, there has been a healing of wounds that could only have come through God as I see my weaknesses being perfected to give others encouragement and hope.

A patient, nearing his discharge, tearfully said that the greatest therapy he received here was the Sunday morning service that gave him hope and power to face the journey of recovery. A volunteer who helps to transport patients to the service said, "Your words fed my soul. I haven't attended a church community in many years, but being here at this service makes me feel love and hope, like I would at church." When I first started at the Ability Lab I was called by many Chaplain Dan. But now I am honored to be called, chiefly by those who attend the service, **Pastor Dan**. I consider it a badge of honor, a testimony from those I serve that my time with them is a blessing and gives hope. As a patient told me recently, "I really enjoyed your preaching, Pastor—your words were exactly what I needed to regain my strength and find hope again, so thank you."

I simply want to encourage all that God is with us and lovingly provides healing from the pain that hurts us.



Federation of Christian Ministries



Missionaries of the Sacrament of Love

Love in the Middle of the Disaster

BY DAVID GUADALUPE

*(Editor's note: As members are aware, FCM has made a committed effort to respond to the overwhelming needs of the residents of areas devastated by last fall's hurricanes, particularly in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. One example of that outreach was the donation of over \$1,000 made by FCM group member **Living Beatitudes Community** in Dayton, Ohio.*

*The following essay was submitted by Rev. David Guadalupe, Superior General of the **Missionaries of the Sacrament of Love**, an FCM group member in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Our thanks to David, who is also a group member liaison. Contact information is provided at the conclusion of the article.)*

GROUP MEMBER

March/April 2018

VOL. 52 NO. 2

The Missionaries of the Sacrament of Love were founded with the purpose of loving and serving God as present in the poor and in all those who suffer from any situation or challenge that places them in a position of vulnerability. Since 2004 we have worked tirelessly developing several projects through which we have provided services to children, young people and adults with limited resources. Our response to the difficult social reality we face led us to develop outreach programs to homeless and impoverished people particularly with regard to violence prevention, education, communication, and artistic expression.

In September of last year our island suffered the onslaught of Hurricane Maria. The experience impacted our people in a truly significant way because although they had previously known poverty and need, the number of people living in difficult conditions increased. The lack of power, water, food and other basic supplies was coupled with severe limitations on medical assistance, employment and other aspects of daily living.

This painful period represented an immense challenge to us as missionaries. We saw up close how peoples' lives were changed suddenly and drastically: the concern of fathers and mothers not knowing how to go on, how to bring sustenance to their children or even for many how to survive on their own.

The entire situation heightened the truth in the heart of each of us: the need for sensitivity and compassion for the neighbor in whom Jesus is present, particularly in those who are hungry, thirsty, cold, alone. Apart from praying intensely for all who live here, we moved to distribute water, food, clothing and other essential items in communities affected by the disaster, collaborating with others in the coordination of these services. One example was the opportunity to bring school supplies and toys to children at a school in Canovanas which has a population that struggles with extreme poverty.

As of this moment our work has not stopped although the plans for each project have been adjusted in order to focus on continuing to provide support to individuals, families and communities regardless of age, gender or religious denomination. Despite the challenges we have had to face throughout the recovery process, we thank God because it allows us to serve others and work hard for the good of our society. We appreciate the help you have given us through FCM. Any donation is welcome so we may continue our wide-ranging work in the communities and areas we serve.

Twitter: @casageneralmmas <http://twitter.com/casageneralmmas>

Facebook: Misioneros y Misioneras del Amor Sacramento

<https://www.facebook.com/misionerosdelamorsacramentado>

Instagram: @misionerosdelamor <https://www.instagram.com/misionerosdelamor/>

Postal address: PO Box 9020308 San Juan, PR 00902-0308

CELEBRATING

50
1968
♦
2018
YEARS



Federation of Christian Ministries



**VICE PRESIDENT
DAN PELLEGRIN**

Northeast Regional News

March/April 2018

VOL. 52 NO. 2



New Members Among Many Highlights

Members Commissioned... Four FCM members from the Northeast were commissioned at the Circle meeting on February 1-3, 2018. Our sincere congratulations go out to them as they join us on our journey.

Rev. Jacqueline R. Cook: Jacqueline is working as a chaplain at Grane Hospital Franklin/ Adams Counties, PA. As is the case for many of our members, she comes to FCM through an interesting journey. She was in the music industry for ten years excelling as a vocalist before moving on to ministry and coming to FCM for commissioning from the Evangelical Lutheran Church. One of her references wrote: "While I'm saddened the Lutheran Church in this time and place could not offer an ordination trajectory that best honors the stewardship of Jacqueline's existing gifts and time, I'm equally joyous that she has an opportunity to move into an ordination sojourn with FCM that allows her to faithfully Jacqueline credits a special conversation she had with **Carl Yusavitz** that led to her membership, application for commissioning and hopefully to endorsement. She wrote that her ministerial self-understanding is wrapped up in Micah 6-8: "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Pennsylvanians can now look forward to her commissioned services, and we can all look forward to her serving as a music minister at our National Assembly Liturgy on Saturday, July 21.



Kevin M. Correll appreciates this reference from long-time FCM member **Russell Blair**: "My years of membership in FCM allow me that perspective to share about Kevin. Kevin presents a genuine, caring, and welcoming presence. His voice is both authoritative and calming. His smile is sincere. If spirituality were to be assigned a number, his consistency would garner the highest marks. My personal standard by which I assess is colleague is whether or not I would choose to go to that one for my deeper personal crises. I would unhesitatingly go to Kevin." Kevin is working as a chaplain at Lehigh Valley Health Network in Allentown, PA. We are stronger for his joining us as a commissioned member.

Margaret M. Gering has completed four decades of service, and comes to FCM looking for more. She described her progression from working as a registered nurse, tending to the physical and emotional needs of her patients and their families to serving in the chaplaincy program at Lehigh Valley Health Network of Pennsylvania. Her education and training also include advanced computer and systems skills experience.

Margaret is a veteran of numerous mission trips: "I have experienced the sense of Divine presence in many interpersonal encounters such as while tutoring inmates in the county prison, in visiting and sleeping beside homeless women in a church shelter on winter nights, in nursing the street people under bridges and in clinics." She continues, "I have come to understand these to be occasions of communion, to be the Divine Being revealed – the *imago Dei*." How fortunate we are to have Margaret journeying with us.

Rev. Charles Franklin "Frank" Shipman III comes to FCM with a rich personal history from the Moravian Church. The first part of his life was one grounded in charity and based in the fine arts of weaving and textile art. His letters of recommendation describe him as "a thoughtful, inquisitive, and deeply caring person who possesses both good pastoral sense on an individual level and a sincere passion for community ministry and social justice... He speaks his mind articulately and forthrightly, while having the ability to listen attentively to the opinions of others." Another reference spoke of Frank's "integrity as a caring person," and his meeting "many challenges in his life" with unflinching optimism.

It is my special honor and joy at the twice-annual Circle meetings to present members for commissioning. I am unflinchingly moved to tears during these meetings while describing the gifts our newly commissioned members bring to us and to those to whom they minister. FCM is truly blessed to have such Spirit-filled members.

Federation of Christian Ministries

New Members Among Many Highlights

Yes to Zoom... We in the Northeast can now connect through Zoom. This video platform along with other digital communication options is being actively pursued in our other regions as well. I invite our Northeast members to email me at Northeastvp@fcmmail.org to explore this exciting means of journeying. Our members simply sign on Zoom and as VP I will be able to host video meetings. Please let me know of your interest, and we will work it out together.

New VP for the region... Notices will be going out regarding the Northeast Vice Presidency. I have decided to not seek a second term. Please allow me several thoughts. I strongly encourage nominated members to run for this challenging, growth-inducing, blessed office. You will have my support to make the transition as easy and seamless as possible. You will find the FCM officers and members with whom you will be working on the national level to be generous and filled with charity, understanding, accepting, eager to help you succeed, and ready to work with you closely. Your life will be richer and deeper for knowing them and working with them, as mine has been.

As you may have heard, FCM is transitioning to an exciting computer platform called **Realm**. It will make so much of the VP's work so much easier. I had real difficulty keeping up the email lists for each state and local area and I believe Realm will make communication so much easier. As a VP you will be patiently trained in this new platform, as it just now is starting to be operational.

I can't think of a more deserving entity than FCM to give of your time. It is a convention of churches, but to me it stands so tall over any church I have experienced. Personal and family needs compel me to not seek a second term, along with a helping of humility when I think of the ways I fell short in the VP obligations. I will remain an excited, contributing and most appreciative member of FCM.

Deepest Sympathy

Mountains & Plains Region



We offer our sincere prayers for FCM Minister Grayce Lane and family on the passing of her mother, Quance Smith on February 5, 2018 at Iowa Lutheran Hospital. Grayce's communication information is: grayce.lane@unitypoint.org

Friends of FCM who have passed away

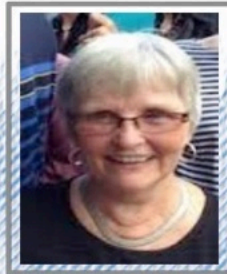
For decades the **International Council of Community Churches (ICCC)** has been a supportive friend to FCM. Recently two leaders of ICCC have passed over to the presence of Jesus. We remember them in prayer.

Rev. Dr. Richard O. Griffith, ICCC Immediate Past President - We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Rev. Dr. Richard O. Griffith who died on Thursday, January 25, 2018. He was Immediate Past President of the ICCC. He served in the Detroit Conference at Waterman/Campbell Avenue UMC and then Detroit: Fourteenth Avenue/Preston UMC. Dr. Griffith then served at Greenfield, Novi, Trenton Faith and Belleville First UMC in the Ann Arbor District (Detroit Conference). He retired from ministry in 1991 where he attended Novi UMC. Condolences may be sent to his surviving wife, Mrs. Nan Griffith, 29518 Westbrook Pkwy, Southfield, MI 48076.

Rev. Dr. Claude Swanson, Pastor Emeritus - Entered into eternal rest on Sunday, February 4, 2018. Pastor of Craig Memorial Community Church for 18 years. Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Brenda; two sons, Claude Jr., and Craig; three grandchildren; three sisters; nephews; nieces and a host of relatives and friends. Home-going service was at Craig Memorial Church, 5305 Farmingdale Pl., Capitol Heights, MD 20743. Interment at Ft. Lincoln Cemetery. In addition to having served as the Senior Pastor at Craig Memorial Community Church for many years, Rev. Swanson also served as the ICCC Region B, area 1 Trustee and other leadership roles in the International Council of Community Churches over the years.



Federation of Christian Ministries



**VICE PRESIDENT
DIANE DOUGHERTY**

Southern Regional News

March/April 2018

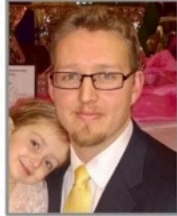
VOL. 52 NO. 2

CELEBRATING



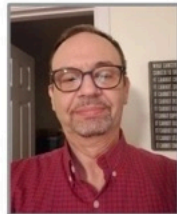
Southern Region Celebrates 8 Newly Commissioned Members

Virginia and Georgia



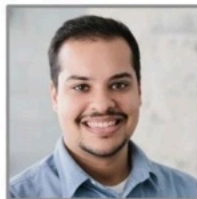
Michael Jason Morey Poquoson, VA

Michael was raised in 7 different denominations and was exposed to many other religions, so at an early age he learned about the complexity of faith and the individuality of those within each faith tradition. He writes "I have come to find the Federation of Christian Ministries as a good fit to my personal beliefs and ministry goals..." Because FCM goals are built on equality, justice, peace, Christian values and spiritual healing and guidance, he believes his own personal values and those he practices within the ministry coincide with FCM beliefs.



Martin Jeffrey-Gainesville, VA

He has a BA in Psychology as well as Sociology, and in the summer of 2018 will have an MA in Human Services Counseling with a specialization in Crisis Response and Trauma. Martin believes FCM would provide a ministerial license that would allow him to keep being a chaplain. He is a member of the Association of Professional Chaplains in VA and works with the Chaplain Fellowship Ministries toward recognition as a disaster response chaplain... this will give him the freedom to expand beyond the home-based small group that would be the foundation behind a nondenominational Bible-based church. He is also a member of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church.



Ryan Mulkowsky- Sandy Springs, GA

In describing why he joined FCM, Ryan says, "My current credentials do not reflect my beliefs and values as a minister," and believes FCM will allow him to fulfill his ministry and be part of a fellowship that will meet these needs. And allow him to grow. He is a staff hospice chaplain and bereavement coordinator at an inpatient and home team hospice company in Atlanta, GA. He also volunteers in pastoral care and outreach at his church. He has set his goal as being one that gravitates toward being part of an organization that will continue to help him grow personally and professionally as a chaplain and minister. He is delighted to have found FCM.

Florida



Laura Moenning Smith Odessa, FL

Reflecting on her ministry Laura says, "Much of my ministry is the ministry of presence. I walk alongside patients, families, and staff who are suffering to offer my presence and to serve as a reminder of God's presence in the midst of the suffering. My own grief and loss fuel and inform much of my ministry, and the most meaningful ministerial moments arise from my own places of broken-ness and wounded-nessI am called to help others find God's presence—within their own faith tradition—in the midst of their suffering." Because FCM's Constitution, and By Laws more accurately reflect her theology and FCM folks were warm and welcoming from the beginning, she pursued membership.



Linda Van Putte Safety Harbor, FL

Linda has been an active member of the United Methodist Church. She was an advocate for people known to be on the margins and felt a call to social justice at an early age. As a full time staff member, she provides comfort in times of grief, has theological discussions as individuals process their theological thoughts and officiates at memorial services. Outside of the work setting she is a homeless advocate, chair of Missions/Outreach and Bible study in her local church. She spent much time in congregational care providing support to families in personal and spiritual crisis. As a Missions/Outreach Director she worked as a refugee coordinator traveling to Slovakia and Sierra Leone. These experiences deepened her call to ministry and work for Social justice.

Southern Region Celebrates 8 Newly Commissioned Members

Florida



Michelle Mehan – Port Richey, FL

Michelle has a Master of Arts in Practical Theology from Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur GA. She says her life experiences and continued pursuit of ongoing education drive her to continue learning and developing her skills as a chaplain. She has a degree in Practical Theology, a certificate in Spiritual Formation and has anticipated in the Institute of Compassionate Presence by Joyce Rupp. She is an ardent follower of Brene Brown, Parker Palmer, Carl McColman, Henri Nouwen and Chris Glaser to name a few. Her faith life depends on them to grow as well as to have someone to hold her accountable and be a support on her journey. She is an active member of Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church in New Port Richey, FL.



Shelley Gilchrist-Deland, FL

Shelley has a BA from the University of Minnesota in Education, Speech and Theater arts and a Masters in Fine Arts. As an actor, she performed in many productions and theaters, represented the Equity League and toured with the USO as well as worked on TV and radio formats. Simultaneously, she worked as a teacher/director and Associate Professor, she worked in and developed Curriculum to develop interpersonal communication in High school students that had Special Needs. After the death of her mother, she completed her first unit of CPE through their VITAS program under Rev. Martha Rutland who introduced her to FCM. She writes, "I am very hopeful that commissioning through FCM can enable me to go forward as a hospice chaplain, or perhaps in an exciting new ministry I may just be beginning to realize."



Brian J Coleman- Gainesville, FL

Brian was working as a chaplain in Hospital minister, volunteering at church and completing CPE. He was in traditional pastoral ministries for 20 years. As he began working in a Hospice atmosphere as chaplain he loved the work. He writes, "For many years I languished in traditional pastoral ministries... The experience of a divorce shook him to his core believing ministry was over and "that I could not be of use to God in such a broken condition," when he was introduced me to the work of chaplaincy. During my first unit of CPE experienced a total transformation and in the process discovered FCM as an endorsing body, shifting my attention from the strict rules of denominationalism to seeking and embracing a more an inclusive and welcoming experience of community .

Commissioning Celebrations are being set up in GEORGIA, FLORIDA East and FLORIDA West, as well as VIRGINIA to welcome our newly commissioned members.

Special thanks to all who offered to Host a meeting of the Southern Region and become possible regional representatives. This is truly new Beginnings for our expanding FCM Southern Region.
And a **GRAND Thank You** to Franklin Reagan and Laura Callender who conducted the nomination process for the Vice President's position.

Registration is now open for the Assembly.

Please let me know if you are going as I would like to prepare for the gathering on Sunday.

REGISTER AT www.FCM2018assembly.org
or by clicking the Information & Registration Box Celebrating 50 years on
www.federationofchristianministries.org



Federation of Christian Ministries



**VICE PRESIDENT
RON DAVIS**

Great Lakes Regional News

March/April 2018

VOL. 52 NO. 2

CELEBRATING



New Member Strengthens Region, FCM

Tom Cruse has been a member of FCM since 2016. A retired engineer who was trained at Stanford University and received his Ph.D. at the University of Washington, he spent much of his career as a professor of mechanical engineering at Vanderbilt University. He now views his retirement years as a time for a new beginning.

At this season in his life, Tom is in seminary at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado where he will complete his M.Div. in May of 2019. A man of deep faith, he would like to put that faith into action by focusing on social justice and is presently engaged in an effort to revitalize an urban ministry program in Dayton, Ohio. He is striving to use skills in asset-based development to empower people in urban areas to take control of their own lives and neighborhoods. Tom works at listening to people rather than preaching to them and telling them what they need.

One of Tom's references, Rev. John Paddock views Tom as being mature, confident in his faith and very open to the Spirit's leading on his life. He shared with me that "Tom's calling to ordain ministry has been clear for some time." Another reference comes from Tom Stricker who describes Tom as "a progressive Christian who lives his faith through his everyday actions."

On a personal note, I have visited with Tom many times over the past two years and can testify he has a love of God and a commitment to others. His passion for people, especially in the urban community inspires him to work hard to discern what he can do to make positive differences in their lives. He has a tender and a thoughtful heart and I believe he will be an asset to FCM.

Cleveland Area Gathering

Sunday, March 18, 2018 - 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

At the home of: Dennis & Antoinette Marold

Please R.S.V.P. - 440.232.6212 or ammweddings@gmail.com



John H. Wisniewski 1921-2018

Our deepest sympathy to FCM member, Bill Wisniewski and his family on the passing of his father John into Spirit on January 10, 2018. Bill's father was 96 years old.

Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Monday January 15, 2018 at Immaculate Conception Church Ravenna, Ohio with Father William Kraynak officiating.

Federation of Christian Ministries



**VICE PRESIDENT
RICHARD JAMES**

Mts. & Plains Regional News

March/April 2018

VOL. 52 NO. 2

CELEBRATING

50
1968
♦
2018
YEARS

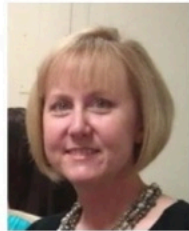
New Members Continue to Grace FCM

It is indeed a great privilege to present the following persons as newly Commissioned Ministers from the Mountain and Plains Region. They are all wonderfully gifted and committed persons of faith, leaning into their sense of Divine calling and guidance. Please reach out to them with your warm welcome, congratulations, and prayers for a meaningful and fruitful ministry.



Helen E. Maddix: Helen grew up in Iowa in a Catholic family. A pivotal experience for her was a Common Venture six-week volunteer experience with the Dubuque, Iowa Franciscans right after graduating from high school. She reports, "This experience allowed me to see poverty up close and personal in the hollers of Kentucky. I experienced a sense of community and spirituality that drew me closer to God." Her education and training includes a BA in Secondary Education, an MA in Religious Studies, and an MA in School Counseling. She has also completed one unit of CPE at Ebenezer Care Center in Minneapolis and a three-unit CPE

Residency at Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina, Minnesota. Her clinical ministry included serving the hospital clinical units, providing spiritual care to patients, families, loved ones and staff in virtually all clinical units at Fairview Southdale Hospital. She also participated in on-call rotation, covering the entire hospital an average of 6-7 days per month. Helen is seeking FCM commissioning and later hopes to secure FCM endorsement, to pursue professional chaplaincy by becoming board-certified with the Association of Professional Chaplains.



Linda McKnight, M.Div.: Linda's educational background includes an M. Div. and an MSW. A Licensed Master Social Worker, she has also completed four units of Clinical Pastoral Education. She began her ministry in 2005 as a commissioned minister with The United Methodist Church where she served as a pastor for four years. Linda was then commissioned as a chaplain in the United States Army Reserve where she served for five years until a medical retirement in February 2014. Since 2016 Linda has been a chaplain for the El Paso VA Health Care System where she provides pastoral counseling to veterans and their families, including pastoral care visits to homebound veterans.

Linda's FCM ministry colleague is Chaplain **Richard Castillo**, who confirms that they have established a ministry collegial relationship through prayer support and sharing ministry reflections. Another colleague, Rev. Scott Jimenez, states "I have found her to be competent, confident, and professional, as well as engaging, enthusiastic, and someone who can think outside the box."



Dr. Jeremy S. Miselbrook, PhD: Jeremy notes that his faith community "supports any opportunity for me to use and expand my gifts of ministry. I have communicated my desire to continue in professional chaplaincy...and they continue to offer their support." He has served in direct and supportive ministry roles for over 30 years, beginning in his teens substitute preaching for vacationing pastors. His education efforts, which include extensive post-graduate studies, culminated in a Ph.D. in theology. Jeremy has also completed four units of Clinical Pastoral Education and is currently serving as a staff chaplain at Lake Forest Hospital where he has worked for nearly eleven years.

Jeremy is seeking FCM commissioning and later hopes to secure FCM endorsement, to pursue professional chaplaincy by becoming board-certified with the Association of Professional Chaplains. Jeremy states that "Commissioning through FCM will further support me in carrying out my ministry by reaffirming my call to public ministry by a recognized authority of believers and ministers of the faith



Reverend Mary C. Vidas: Mary is a pastoral minister with a variety of duties and an adjunct instructor inspiring students at the University of Minnesota. Her education and training spans the fields of education, public administration and business as well as ministry. She has completed her CPE training at the University of Minnesota's Fairview Cancer Clinic & Surgery Center.

She notes, "As a spiritual seeker, I acknowledge the early experiences I felt of the Divine from my familial Catholic tradition served me for many years. However over time, I became gravely concerned that the Roman Catholic tradition was not "large enough in spirit" to truly embrace all of humanity, if not my own orientation."
"It is my sincere desire to seek Commissioning as a member of FCM and to bring to fullest form and expression my ministerial calling. I look to do so authentically, and continue my support of FCM locally and nationally as we build a culture of inclusivity and mutuality recognizing our multiple belongings and spiritual journeys."



VICE PRESIDENT
DONNA SCHREIBER

Pacific Regional News

March/April 2018

VOL. 52 NO. 2

CELEBRATING



Regional Gathering Continues Regional Contacts

On the morning of February 10 we gathered at Hope Covenant Church in Chandler, Arizona, a beautiful location. **Tracy Peterson** arranged the meeting room and provided hospitality. **Tom Cusack**, FCM president, was able to join us by "Zoom" – thanks Tom.



The gathering provided a time of sharing which was uplifting and Spirit-filled. It was a time to reconnect to those we knew and make some new friends. We took lunch in a Mexican restaurant across the street as we continued our discussions. The afternoon sped by.

I was pleased to hear that most of us will be going to the Assembly in July. I am also pleased to announce that **Tracy Peterson** is going to be an Area Representative. Thank you Tracy, and thanks to all who gathered and made the time together so special.

With Deepest Sympathy

Frederick Joseph McCarthy April 23, 1923 - December 30, 2017
Information provided by William J. Manseau

The Federation of Christian Ministries, originally known as the **Society of Priests for a Free Ministry (SPFM)**, an association of Roman Catholic priests, owes its initial civil, legal status as a Christian community to a founding member of the SPFM, Attorney Frederick Joseph McCarthy, late of Austin, Texas. Frederick served on the SPFM Advisory Board as Legal Counsel. According to Romeo Di Benedetto who served on the SPFM Executive Board as Publisher of the Society's Newsletter, "Diaspora" and a former student of Anthony T. Padovano, Fred, a married Catholic priest and attorney, an original SPFM member working in the Four Corners region of New Mexico and Arizona, accepted the request to help the Society become legally incorporated. The Society became a legal entity on March 3, 1970 with the location of its principal office as Belen, New Mexico. He states in the Proceedings of the Second Annual Convention, August 7 -9, 1970 that "it is interesting to note that SPFM was legally born in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe (Holy Faith) within the little town of Belen, which is the Spanish form of the name, Bethlehem." Fred also prepared the Society's application for Federal Tax Exempt Status as a Non-Profit Organization.

Born in Chicago in 1923, and raised in Springfield IL, Fred graduated from Benedictine College in Atchison, KS with a BA degree. He served from 1942 to 1945 in World War II as a B-24 co-pilot for the US Army 8th Air Force including 35 bombing missions from England. Following the war he earned a Georgetown University Law Degree and passed the Illinois Bar in 1948. He decided to study for the Roman Catholic priesthood and was ordained in 1953. He served in a variety of assignments in Illinois for twelve years followed by three years as a missionary in Peru with the St. James Society. In 1968 he decided to leave the canonical priesthood, joined SPFM and later, CORPUS. He entered the practice of law in New Mexico serving in a variety of public and private capacities and married. Fred was predeceased by two of his wives, Karen Adams McCarthy and Joan James McCarthy. At his death on December 30, 2017, he had been married for 19 years to Leora McCarthy whom he married in 1998 on St. Valentine's Day. It was always enjoyable to visit with them at FCM and CORPUS national assemblies. Frederick Joseph McCarthy was 94 years of age when he entered eternal peace, full of age and grace. Condolences may be sent to Leora McCarthy, 11125 #D Pinehurst Dr., Austin, TX 78747-1415.

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



COORDINATORS

Carolyn Horvath & Tom Leonhardt
 Emails: membership@FCMmail.org
centraloffice@FCMmail.org

1709 W. 69th. St., #3
 Cleveland, Ohio 44102-2957
 Phones: 216.651.4362 - 800.538.8923

FCM Website: www.federationofchristianministries.org
 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

FCM Circle of Directors

Chairperson: Thomas Stricker

Phone: 937.477.0139 | Email: chairperson@FCMmail.org

President: Thomas E. Cusack

Phone: 609.947.0770 | Email: president@FCMmail.org

Treasurer: Heidi A. Tierney

Phone: 908.217.8981 | Email: treasurer@FCMmail.org

Secretary: Bill Appleton

Phone: 216.210.0855 | Email: secretary@FCMmail.org

Chair, Commissioning Committee: Anthony Ercolano

Phone: 718.461.7128 | Email: commissioningchair@FCMmail.org

Chair, Specialized Ministries: Christy Howard-Steele

Phone: 708.285.5845 | Email: specmin@FCMmail.org

Vice Chair, Specialized Ministries: Carl Yusavitz

Phone: 215.453.5170 | Email: specmin@FCMmail.org

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

Pacific: Donna Schreiber

Phone: 609.304.4866 | Email: pacificvp@FCMmail.org

Mountains & Plains: Richard E. James

Phone: 773.418.5671 | Email: mts_plainsvp@FCMmail.org

Great Lakes: Ron Davis

Phone: 513.262.2210 | Email: greatlakesvp@FCMmail.org

Southern: Diane Dougherty

Phone: 678.918.1945 | Email: southernvp@FCMmail.org

Northeast: Dan Pellegrin

Phone: 914.328.9732 | Email: northeastvp@FCMmail.org

FCM ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Ethics Committee: Joseph Ruane

Phone: 215.387.7998 Email: j.ruane@usp.edu

Prayer Support Coordinator (on the website or):

Susan Ferman Email: prayersupport@FCMmail.org

FCM Communications: Antoinette Marold

Email: communication@FCMmail.org