

Federation of Christian Ministries NEWSLETTER

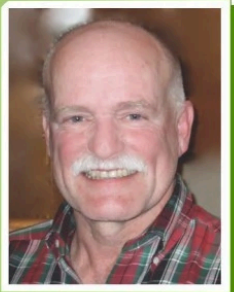
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TOM STRICKER

Sharing the Call to Service

CHAIRPERSON

Since FCM has been a major part of my life for so many years, I would like this last column to serve as an expression of my gratitude. First, a bit of my history: I responded to the call to priesthood and was ordained November 15, 1980. On July 30, 1994, I responded to another call when I married Patty. As you well know, such a “dual calling” is not accepted within the Roman Catholic Church. Although the archbishop of Cincinnati insisted I discontinue functioning as a priest, I knew in my heart I was called to ordained ministry. At the same time, I strongly believed I ought to live out that service together with my wife. What could I do?

Shortly after our wedding, the Dignity Dayton faith community (now known as the **Living Beatitudes Community**) invited me to be a presider. Dayton Correctional Institution also requested that I continue to serve as a chaplain, a ministry I had previously conducted at the prison. I was also getting requests to officiate at weddings for friends and others who did not agree with or who could not fulfill the requirements of the church. A local hospital requested that I visit patients who had no church affiliation but maintained a Catholic identity. My ministry to them included not only those visits but occasionally funerals. So many people I met seemed to feel as though they were no longer part of a believing community. I knew them well for I shared that feeling. I needed to be part of an organization larger than I to continue to serve in this way.

It was then that **Joe Emanuel** introduced me to the Federation of Christian Ministries. Like so many others, my commissioning has made it possible for me to serve as a faith community leader, a prison chaplain, a presider at weddings and funerals – and to do so as a married man. It is a gift for which I will be forever grateful.

Eleven years ago, the members of the Great Lakes Region elected me as their Vice President, an office I held until 2013. Getting to know my fellow members within the region expanded my understanding of how broad a service FCM actually provided. Six years ago, I was elected Chairperson, an honor I could not have imagined. It has been truly a humbling experience serving in this capacity with so many incredibly committed people. I have learned so much from our diverse community with whom I am proud to stand as we speak truth to power, proclaiming the message of the Gospel.

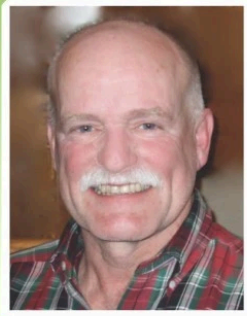
I have witnessed FCM continue to grow as an international organization, without which I could never have been able to be of service to so many people. I would not have had the experience of so many people who have taught me to see the Divine in all situations, truly broadening my vision of the world and making me a more complete minister. I honestly believe I have received much more than I have given.

I move on now, more invested and committed than ever to continue to walk with you, my sisters and brothers. Together we will serve God in all people, in all places and in all times. Thank you again for the many gifts you have shared. May we continue to respond to the Divine Call by empowering and nurturing those inspired for inclusive ministries.

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Chairperson Tom Stricker Completes Six Years in Office

BY TOM CUSACK

In July FCM will experience a change in its top leadership. **Tom Stricker**, our Chairperson for the last six years, will complete his second three-year term and will depart from the Circle as the July Circle meeting concludes. Then, **Christy Howard-Steele**, well known to most in FCM as the Chairperson of Specialized Ministries, will step into the Chairperson responsibility. She will move us into the future. This little article will take a look at **Tom Stricker** and the past.

First a comment about the “software,” the feeling-part of our Circle experience... Tom has created a warm atmosphere in which the Circle has done its work. His bringing homemade granola, providing welcome bags with chocolate, and providing interactive and engaging “welcome back to the Circle” meetings on the Thursday evenings as the meetings begin, all make for a friendship - based and supportive atmosphere. With this relationship basis, work proceeds in a more effective and efficient way. The meetings are hard work, but they proceed as if a group of friends are doing that work together.

Next a comment about the “hardware,” the results - oriented part of our Circle experience.... Tom's leadership over the last six years has generated changes in the way FCM lives its mission. These changes have kept us evolving in ways that provide new life to FCM within the membership *and* new attractiveness to those looking at FCM from the outside. All of these changes were decided in the context of Circle meetings, all of which are planned by the Chairperson, by **Tom Stricker**.

Here are a few highlights: early in his first term FCM moved from an annual Assembly to a biannual Assembly format. Tom played a key role in the development of this new concept for FCM. The first and second of these new assemblies were held in Cleveland. They were led by **Amy Simpson - Bennethum** in 2014 and **Patty Stricker**, Tom's wife, in 2016.

The FCM 50th Anniversary Assembly in Philadelphia was led in 2018 by **Michaelita Quinn**. In all three of these assemblies Tom Stricker worked as an important and involved ex-officio member of the Assembly committees. Hand in hand with a biannual Assembly came the regional conferences being held locally during the odd-numbered years. These have brought FCM members into close contact with one another. A change of culture like this only happens with creative guidance and leadership. Tom provided that.

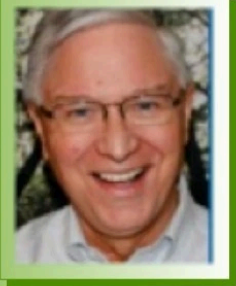
You can look at the FCM website and read the new *Standards of Ethical Conduct*, adopted in the last couple years. Our **Ethics Committee** wrote the new standards under Tom's leadership of the Circle. On the website you can also review the technical documents describing the operation of the *FCM Endowment*. Tom guided Circle activity to move the *Endowment* to become a part of FCM's financial stability going forward. When the September, 2019 FCM renewal time begins, members will accomplish their renewal through the new human resource software called *Realm*. Tom led the Circle to initiate and support the work to bring *Realm* to FCM, an effort led by **Amy Simpson-Bennethum**. 60% of our membership has responded to the *FCM Survey*. This initiative came forward in a conversation between **Tom Stricker** and **Mary Vidas** at the 2018 Assembly. Mary led the effort in its nuts and bolts, and Tom led the Circle to support and market it. Not resting, Tom also was the spark plug behind the revision of the FCM Mission Statement. Our new, brief and dynamic statement provides new clarity for FCM going forward.

Finally, a great benefit to me has been working hand in glove with Tom all this time. We have become close friends through our super - numerous telephone calls and collaborations on FCM projects. Our friendship has been a great treasure to me during my time as president. Our work discussions usually include meaningful updates on personal events and sharing of personal spiritual progress for ourselves and for FCM. This friendship is not part of the chairperson's job description. But it certainly has been a part of my working relationship with Tom. So, for all these developments for FCM and for my personal enrichment, **Tom Stricker... Thank you.**

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TOM CUSACK

PRESIDENT

A Spirituality Plan for the Choir

Our FCM membership, faith communities, and their members are "the choir." Likely, you have diligently followed the Master Jesus, studied His teachings and lived as closely as possible to His Way. You have followed His commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13.34). Yes, you are the choir, the committed group. But we know that every choir has practice sessions and attempts to sharpen up their skills. I'm offering this article as a challenge and a way to do just this.

The Master tells us in John (14.12) that "... Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these...." This is a striking statement calling us to doing great works in his name. Only through our capacity to do these great works could they be done at the level He suggests. And so, my focus here is on our *capacity*, our *spiritual capacity*. How do you measure this capacity? You don't. It's not something objective. It is an inner quality. And through introspection over many years you can compare the spiritual capacity that you have today with that which you held in the past. Hopefully you will see that your capacity has grown. My comments here offer a structured way to consciously and systematically work to *increase your spiritual capacity*.

First, set up in your residence a place where you intend daily to conduct your spiritual activities. This may be a corner of a room with a simple TV tray set up there. It can be more elaborate, a desk or table. But this is a place that, when you go there, you, your body, and your soul know that you are about to conduct your spiritual activities with the goal of coming closer to the Master and to develop your spiritual capacity with His help. On your table, desk, or TV tray set up an image of Jesus that is meaningful to you. This will be a helpful focus point for your prayer and meditation. Alternatively, set up a candle to remind you of the Light. Or, set your book of the Scriptures there on a stand.

Now, daily conduct your spiritual time as follows. Anticipate the amount of time that you will spend, whether it's as little as three minutes or any longer time (longer is better). Then divide that time roughly into three segments. In the first segment read the Scriptures or the writings of a saint or of a contemporary writer who manifests a high consciousness. Your reading will set your stage. In the second segment pray, speaking to the Master or to the Divine. Express your issues in your own words or through already-prepared prayers.

We are very good at praying and expressing ourselves in this way. It is the third segment that often is a challenge, and that is to meditate.

Meditation is a challenging activity, and that is because it is a not-activity. We are used to activity and our mind rushes in to fill the silence as we attempt to meditate, to use the time for its own purposes. But our challenge is to exert control over our mind so that it becomes silent. In that silence your soul can interact in its way with the Master and the Divine. By utilizing these three segments of spiritual activity to grow your spiritual capacity, that growth will happen.

In brief order, here are three of the many meditation techniques that exist. Each technique assumes your devotional time is filled with your inner intention to connect with the Master and to grow spiritually. In the first technique, place your right hand on your right knee, have your eyes half open and half closed as you direct your gaze to your image of Christ or another inspirational object on your table. Become conscious of Christ as if He is holding your right hand, and be aware of the sensation of your right hand. This will anchor you in the present moment and give you a reference point by which you can observe your mind's activity and gently call it toward silence. In the second technique, become aware of your breathing with slow breathing in and out. Connect your breath with the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus breathed on His disciples (Jn 20.22). Slowly count in and out with the understanding that the Holy Spirit will be with you guiding you and filling you. Finally, in the third technique, you might choose to slowly repeat a brief prayer to occupy your mind while your real concentration is upon the Master. An example of a short prayer is "Help me come closer to you."

In conclusion, I request that you ask the Master to provide His help to FCM and its mission. We are all in FCM together for a reason. Ask the Master to clarify that reason for you and for all of us. Remember my formula of two minutes per day of prayer and two minutes per day of meditation for the benefit of FCM. Please make this a minimum (2 x 2 for FCM). On Tuesdays, do *Tuesday 10 for FCM*.

Okay, my friends and dear choir, that's our spiritual practice session for the day, let's go forward to our daily performance.

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**ANTOINETTE
MAROLD**

THANK YOU

John Polanski - FCM Newsletter Editor



What a privilege it has been for me to collaborate with John as he worked his magic as the FCM Newsletter editor. His uplifting words and wit were always welcome.

John kept the authors of many articles at task with his gentle and kind reminders. He offered editor notes for the articles and his editing was flawless.

John also extended his service to include participating on the 2016 Assembly team. He shared his spirituality as a presenter at an assembly and at a Great Lakes gathering in Maria Stein in Ohio.

John is the pastor of The Woodworth Church of the Brethren in Poland, Ohio.

Personally I will miss John's friendship, wisdom, and the time we spent planning the FCM Newsletter. Dziękuję Ci John.

WELCOME

Tom Cruse - New FCM Newsletter Editor



Welcome Tom. Thank you for volunteering to serve as the FCM Newsletter editor. I am looking forward to working together to bring the newsletter to our members.

Tom is a retired academic and research consultant in a field within aerospace engineering. He holds an MDiv from Iliff School of Theology in Denver. Tom was commissioned in FCM in February 2018.

For the past 2.5 years he has been involved in urban ministry and currently he is the executive director of a small ministry focused on the minority and oppressed in neighborhoods in Dayton, Ohio.

Welcome to the team, Tom.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

In the beginning of July 2019, FCM will be making some changes including a new website. The website will have information for the public as well as useful information for our members. Our members will also be able to list their ministries on the site. See site information below. Questions contact Antoinette Marold at communication@fcmmail.org

Our new site for FCM MEMBERS ONLY "Realm". Realm is the login program that FCM is using to connect with members. Realm includes the member database. You will be using the FCM Realm connections to complete your 2019 report and to pay your 2020 dues. The FCM Realm login site will also have the information listed below. Questions contact Amy Simpson-Bennethum at connect@fcmmail.org.



Website

www.federationofchristianministries.org

Welcome Page
Letter From Our President

FCM Constitution
FCM Commissioning Polity Manual
FCM Endorsement Polity Manual
FCM Professional Practice Polity
FCM Standard of Ethics
FCM Bylaws
FCM Endowment Fund

FCM History
FCM Circle of Directors
FCM Regions

FCM Membership Information
New Member Application
FCM Faith Community Member Information
FCM Faith Community Application
FCM Commissioning Information
FCM Endorsement Information

FIND A MINISTER
Weddings
Baptism and Funerals
Healing
Faith Communities
Spiritual Counseling
Peace and Justice - Solidarity
Retreats and Workshops
Authors and Services

Prayer Support
Donations
FCM Blog
Events and Assembly Listings



www.onrealm.org

Login Data Base for all FCM Members
FCM Membership Directory

2019 Member Annual Report
2020 Members Dues Payment

2019 Commissioned Member Annual Report
2020 Commissioned Member Dues Payment

2019 Endorsed Member Annual Report
2020 Endorsement Member Dues

2019 Faith Community Member Annual Report
2020 Faith Community Member Dues

Website FIND A MINISTER Listing application on
Renewal forms.

FCM Commissioning Information
FCM Commissioning Application
FCM Endorsement Information
FCM Endorsement Application

Donations
Events

Baptism and Wedding Registry

Commissioned and Endorsed members will email registry@FCMmail.org and request a form to record a Baptism, Wedding or Holy Union. They can complete the form and email it or mail it to the address on the form. Members are required to register Baptisms with FCM. Weddings and Holy Unions are suggested but not required.



AMY SIMPSON-
BENNETHUM



REALM

As most members are aware by now, FCM has moved to a new kind of record keeping solution called Realm. It primarily serves the administrative needs of our membership and Circle of Directors, but it also offers some exciting opportunities to support the way you are involved in the organization. Not only does Realm improve work life for our ministry staff, it will make it easier for FCM members to connect with each other, keep up with what's going on, and grow as a connected community of ministry.

We are excited to utilize Realm for our 2020 membership renewal, which will begin September 1. The process will be an easier online method to complete the necessary steps of submitting ministry information and renewal fees. An important feature is that it will all be done electronically which means that we will not need to mail hard copies of the renewal form to each member. This will aid FCM in its efforts to be more fiscally responsible and environmentally friendly.

You will be receiving more information during July and August which will include a step-by-step guide on our 2020 renewal process. We are very excited to offer this new, simplified renewal process to our members. Stay tuned as our community stays connected.



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PETER STRENING



2020 FCM Assembly

Planning Team Calls for Presenters

With the FCM Bi-Annual National Assembly only a year away, the Planning Committee has already begun its work. Our tentative dates and location soon to be confirmed are **July 17-19, 2020 in Chicago**. The conference theme is ***"Spirituality and Service for the 21st Century."*** We are hoping that we can explore opportunities to carry out our mission in expanding, inclusive and diverse ways as we move forward.

If you are interested in presenting a workshop during the Assembly, please consider this invitation. We envision having six workshop sessions, in addition to our plenary speakers, recognition of our Commissioned and Endorsed members, and other business of the Federation. We are seeking presentations on a variety of topics related to the theme, reflecting the breadth of ways in which FCM members serve God's people.

Workshops will be scheduled for 60 – 75 minutes. If you are interested in being a presenter, please contact me at peterstrening@comcast.net. Thank you for your interest in the mission and work of FCM.

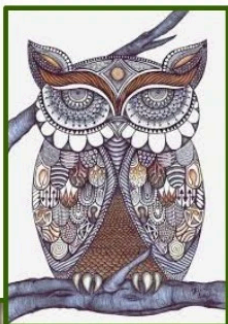
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FCM Welcomes a New Bishop

BY DAN PELLEGRIN AND MICHAELITA QUINN



The Wellesley Hills Congregational Church in Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts was filled to capacity recently with women priests, bishops, visiting clergy, the Spirit of Life community and family gathered to celebrate the ordination of one of their own – **Jean Marie Marchant** – as Bishop.

Roman Catholic Women Priests (RCWP) had asked Jean to assume this role as current bishop **Andrea Johnson** ended her six-year term as head of the RCWP-USA Eastern Region. On June 15, FCM was proud to participate in this extraordinary Episcopal Ordination and transition of leadership involving two FCM members.

In attendance were women bishops from five states, Austria and Canada, along with three male bishops and visiting clergy. RCWP members filled the sanctuary during the entire Liturgy of the Eucharist and rite of ordination. *Of the 38 women priests, 27 were FCM members. Of the 11 bishops, seven were FCM members.*

The ceremony featured the bishop-elect being presented with the Book of the Gospels, the Bishop's Ring, the Servant Cross, and the Apostle's Staff from the five ordaining bishops, including **Andrea Johnson**, **Nancy Meyer**, and **Jane Via**, all FCM members. Jean's husband **Ron Hindelang** led the congregation with the laying on of hands. The church swelled with song and awe and applause.

The five additional participating bishops included three other FCM members: **Bridget Mary Meehan**, **James David**, and **William Manseau**. Jean's children and grandchildren led the entrance procession carrying symbolic gifts and the bishop's gifts and also led the offertory presentation. Visiting clergy in the entrance procession included **Tom Quinn**.

FCM was one of three organizations who made a presentation to Bishop Jean at the conclusion of the ceremony. The Mission Statement of FCM was read and **Dan Pellegrin** represented FCM in offering a formal congratulatory statement. As the recessional concluded, all were invited to a reception at the church to continue celebrating this very moving and meaningful occasion.



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TOM LEONHARDT

The Challenge of Moving Toward Nonduality

(Editor's note: The following is part two of Great Lakes member **Tom Leonhardt's** latest reflection on spirituality in the 21st century. We are grateful to Tom for his offerings and encourage members to send poetry, essays and other submissions on spiritual topics for consideration to newsletter@fcmmail.org)

Assuming responsibility for our own spirituality

For Christian devotees, whether clergy or lay, it is critical to assume responsibility for their own spiritual growth. This is a challenge perhaps especially for lay persons who have been accustomed for centuries to having clergy tell them what to think and how to act. For their part, during that same time clergy have passed on to the laity what they have received from those who have preceded them. These days, people are learning various kinds of technology which they use to communicate and learn at paces previously unheard of. These technologies also hold resources available to all for spiritual growth.

As previously stated, the process needs to proceed with integrity, passion, compassion and love. Transformation will proceed gradually not instantaneously, and within the context of living, loving, caring and supporting communities. Adults taking responsibility for their own spiritual growth often choose to focus on the meaning of the Jesus Story using whatever means available including their own wisdom to move beyond a literal understanding to the core of that story which is about our oneness with each other, God, and all that is.

This is somewhat daunting precisely because for hundreds of years the emphasis of Christianity has held to that literal interpretation which left us with external observances to please a distant and wrathful God. Richard Rohr and others offer assistance, hands extended in love and care for the growth to take root. Of course, this involves work: the work of reading, sharing and studying. People need to move forward without being paralyzed by fear even in the face of moving into uncharted waters and unfamiliar territory.

Finding contemporary meaning in ancient stories

Let us consider some examples of meaning in the myths within basic elements of the Jesus story. To begin with, many of those aspects are found long before Jesus is believed to have lived. The basic outline contained in the many mythic stories around the Middle East is that God becomes human, is crucified, dies and rises from the dead. The meaning of this common mythology is that the divinity becomes human and needs to die, because resurrection is the realization of, the waking up to one's true self as divine. Crucifixion is about the painful challenge of addressing the ego which lives a life of its own, thinking that it is a separate being.

One of the stories predating Jesus is that of the entry of the godman into a city astride a donkey, acclaimed by the crowd waving palm branches. The point of the story is about ego, of which the donkey is a symbol. The master, the godman, is riding the donkey, not the other way around as is the case when we are unconscious of who we really are, thinking that we are separate from God and each other! So, no surprise that Jesus speaks about dying to self (ego, false self). Practically, we need to ask ourselves over and over again when we get caught in fighting for our own way, "What is going on here? Is this all about me?" This is also something we can teach children when they reach the ripe age. Even with small children, parents encourage them to "share" their toys. This is education about addressing ego, about growing in awareness. The best resource I ever read about ego is Eckhart Tolle's book, A New Earth. It has often led me to sing "It's all about me" to the tune of "Singin' In the Rain!"

The Gospels speak of Jesus as a healer. In the Gospel of Mark (8:22-10:52), we hear stories of Jesus healing two blind persons. From the beginning to the end of these verses the point is about "seeing," waking up, becoming conscious of who Jesus is (c.f. the opening of Mark's Gospel: "Here begins the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."). After the death of Jesus, the centurion says: "Clearly this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 13: 39).⁽¹⁰⁾ The whole of the Jesus story as preserved in the gospels invites us to realize who we really are, that we are all one, that we are not separate from each other, creation, or God! The bottom line is that resurrection is about becoming conscious.

Learning to recognize our divine identity

Staying with this point of who we really are, another source I came upon recently is the work of Rupert Spira who offers "The Essence of Meditation Series." Part of this series is the book Being Aware of Being Aware. Spira says that being aware that we are aware is achievable by anyone without any spiritual practice or discipline. One needs only to notice that one is aware that whatever is going on, is going on in our experience, bodily sensations, emotions, feelings, thoughts. He further notes that all that we experience is similar to a movie. The movie cannot be experienced unless there is a screen. We cannot experience a movie without there being a screen. The movie does not and cannot in any way have an effect on or change the screen.

The Challenge of Moving Toward Nonduality cont'd

It is the same with awareness. Whatever we are aware of does not and cannot change or have any effect on the awareness itself. Spira also uses the example of the ocean and the wave as does Thich Nhat Hanh. All of our experience has no independent existence. It is simply a manifestation of awareness, consciousness. The wave is ocean before it is a wave. The wave has no existence apart from the ocean.

As noted above there is **one** Consciousness, call it what you will: Christ consciousness, Buddha consciousness, Universal consciousness, Unitive consciousness. Augustine stated that "God is closer to us than we are to ourselves," ...as close as our own Awareness of being aware! We have known for most of our lives that all that we are and all that we have is "received" from God. Because of our being so given to thinking we are separate from God, the magnitude of what we have always thought about receiving everything from God could not realize its proper impact. Our Awareness **is** God since there is only one Awareness! As stated at the beginning of this article: All things "have no independent existence of their own. They are neither identical to nor distinct from the essence."⁽¹¹⁾

We might try consciously breathing in, knowing that our very breath is received from the Source, our Awareness. Consciously breathing out, we know that we are filled with the movement of the Divine. When we do this, ego is not running the show. This is what we mean when we speak of "being aligned with the One, tuned to the Source."⁽¹²⁾ Let us conclude where we began this article with reference to our distraction with too much stuff: another possible translation from the Aramaic, this time the second line of the Lord's Prayer: "Help us let go, clear a space inside of busy forgetfulness so that your Luminous Name can find a home, a center on which our life turns."⁽¹³⁾

notes

(10) These two sets of passages in Mark's Gospel are instances of a literary practice known as *inclusion*. What it comes down to is that stories such as the blind man at Bethsaida in Mark 8:22-26, and the story about the blind Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46-52, act as brackets for the focus on the rest of the material between the brackets, in this case, who Jesus really is. The use of *inclusion* is also noted in the "brackets" about "Jesus, Son of God." Everything in the intervening chapters from the opening of Chapter I to verse 39 of Chapter 15 is saying the **Jesus is the Son of God**.

(11) [Physicians of the Heart](#) Page 1

(12) These are two possible translations of the first word of each of the Beatitudes in Aramaic, Jesus' native tongue. See Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz, [Meditations On the Aramaic Words of Jesus](#), Page 75, for these and various other meanings of the first word of each of the Aramaic Beatitudes. Alignment and attunement reminds us of what Richard Rohr says in [The Divine Dance](#) about "Flow." See Pages 43 and 56

(13) *ibid.*, Page 16. by the same author, see: [The Hidden Gospel: Decoding the Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus](#) Page 55

Survey Process Moves On

by Tom Stricker

The survey team and the Circle of Directors want to express sincere gratitude for an overwhelming response to the FCM Membership Survey conducted this past April. The two hundred seventy-three responses represent nearly 60% of the total membership. **Bravo FCM!**

The next step is studying the data to understand what the survey means both to the Circle and the entire organization. The process commences at the July meeting when the Circle will review the overall results. We will then establish teams who will begin developing a strategic plan, prioritizing and responding to these findings. Watch for these important details – and **thank you again**.

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THE QUIET, FAITHFUL GENEROSITY OF MONTHLY FCM MEMBER-DONORS

BY MARY ANN CEJKA, FCM ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE
WITH TOM CUSACK, FCM ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR



*It is only when the cold season comes
that we know the pine and cypress
to be evergreens.
~~ Chinese proverb*

There's been no fanfare, no invitation. No noisy campaign, no boardroom-launched program urging them to do this. Some FCM members have been quietly, faithfully, donating to FCM each month.

Like a graceful stand of mountain pine, they are always there for FCM – that is, for you and for me – witnesses, no matter the season, to an ever-giving God.

One such generous member is **Dan Pellegrin**, a former Vice President for FCM's Northeast Region. Full disclosure: Dan is a friend of mine. I've known him for several years. I've attended many a gathering and enjoyed many a lovingly prepared meal in the White Plains, New York home that he shares with his family. He has demonstrated an abiding interest in FCM's development efforts. But never, in all this time, did I guess that he has been donating to FCM each month, without fail. (When I did find out, it wasn't from Dan.)

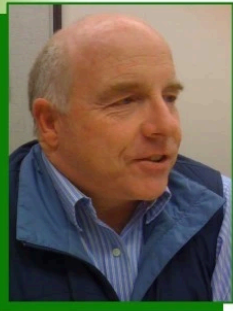
Here's how he does it...and how you can do it too. Dan has utilized his bank's automatic bill-payment option to make his donations to FCM. He has arranged that donations are alternately designated for our **Endowment** and for our **general fund**. His donations are timed to be paid out the day after his paycheck goes into the bank. This is the most convenient method of contribution – you just arrange for it once with your bank, and voilà! – it's done for you, each month. Other methods include making a donation (through [FCM's Web site](#)), or a monthly check made out to the Federation of Christian Ministries and sent to our Treasurer: **Heidi Tierney**, 23 Ellicott Road, Milford, NJ 08848-1823.

Will you consider joining Dan as a monthly member-donor? Contributions of any amount are welcome for both the **Endowment** and for the **general fund**, and they will help to ensure that FCM's enabling of ministries like yours will continue, no matter how stormy the months and years to come. The **Endowment** builds for the future of FCM. Immediate **general donations** allow the Circle to support members in new ways. Please recall the grants offered to members for the 2018 Assembly. A dozen were able to come, due to these grants. Remember: By supporting its members' ministries (through commissioning, endorsement, community, education, and other valuable resources), and through its faith communities, FCM offers hope to a world longing to know God's never failing, lifegiving love. Like the "pine and cypress" that see us through winter, FCM's monthly givers are "ever green" – giant, beautiful reminders of the warm, vibrant life that awaits beneath the world's cold, icy surface to re-assert itself, again and again.

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JOHN JEFFERY

FCM in an Era of Ecological Crisis

(Editor's note: As part of our ongoing series on justice and peace concerns, we offer this challenging reflection on earth care from Pacific Region member **John Jeffery**.)

We see quite clearly that what happens to the nonhuman happens to the human. What happens to the outer world happens to the inner world. (Thomas Berry, The Great Work)

Over the past two years North America has experienced dramatic and devastating climate-change disasters. In the West we have had colossal fires. In the South there have been overwhelming hurricanes. The East has experienced extended winter storms. Now the Midwest is flooding. Americans have received an unsettling taste of what other parts of our globe have been experiencing for years.

In October 2017, one of the most ferocious fires in American history struck my hometown of Santa Rosa, California, making it a personal event for me. I have family members and lifelong friends whose homes were burned to the ground in a matter of minutes. Over 60 people died and 20,000 people became fire-refugees. The following month Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico killing nearly three thousand people and the Southern United States experienced additional major weather events.

Then last fall, wildfires again struck in both Northern and Southern California with even more intensity. The Paradise Fire (Camp Fire), located less than 40 miles from my current home in the Northern Sierra, roared wildly out of control for 17 days consuming the equivalent of one football field per second. Over 90 people died in this catastrophe and 30,000 became fire-refugees. This fire became the second most deadly fire in US history. Total damage to homes and businesses was \$16.5 billion, one-quarter of which was uninsured. The Midwest is dealing with unprecedented flooding with 200 miles of compromised levees in Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas. The number of flood-refugees is still being determined.

The impact of climate change is not something looming in the future, it is here now.

There is little disagreement among climate scientists that phenomenal hurricanes, fires, flooding, and famine are caused or profoundly enhanced by human-influenced environmental conditions. The impact of climate change is not something looming in the future, it is here now. The United Nations Council on Human Rights (UNCHR) recently estimated that globally, one person every second is being displaced by human influenced climate disasters. Climate change refugees are not just unknown people of distant lands, they are now our family, friends and neighbors.

Historically, religious and pastoral care organizations have been slow and at times resistant to embrace ecological theologies and environmental-based systems of ethics. Faith groups and pastoral care organizations need to recognize there is an integral relationship between the care of earth and care of others. Our callings and commitments to ministry need to be framed as being in service to the earth rather than assuming the earth serves us. Our theological sensibilities need to affirm a responsibility to the non-human world and recognize our evolutionary participation in the unfolding of a cosmos far greater than ourselves.

Our callings and commitments to ministry need to be framed as being in service to the earth rather than assuming the earth serves us.

FCM has engaged in direct outreach to victims of the Santa Rosa and Paradise fires and some of our members have provided pastoral support to families who are dislocated physically, emotionally and spiritually due to the trauma of climate disasters. Consequent to that effort, the FCM Circle of Directors have made the timely and important choice to incorporate climate change as an integral part of our overall mission and ministry. It does make a difference when faith organizations such as FCM speak out and take a public stand on behalf of environmental and justice concerns. In many ways ecological justice is the foundation for nearly all matters of global equality: economic, social, gender and racial justice. How we treat the earth is emblematic of how we treat one another.

The efficacy of FCM's mission in the world is dependent upon our engagement with the urgency of this era of ecological crisis. We can continue to educate ourselves and others about the essential and immediate lifestyle changes we all must make. We can continue to be responsive to the physical suffering of those who struggle and grieve in their dislocation. We can prepare our commissioned and endorsed members within the scope of their varied ministries to recognize and respond to the unique psychological and spiritual suffering of human-caused ecological destruction. And, most importantly, as an organization FCM can support science-based public policies dedicated to the mitigation and restoration of global ecological balance._____

Wendell Berry wisely reminds us that the ecological crisis we face is a crisis of character. It is ultimately about what we love and how we hold ourselves in responsible relationship to what we love. There is no separation between love of earth and love of the Divine. What does this love require of us?



CARL YUSAVITZ

Ordinations, Gatherings Inspire Membership



On April 27, I represented FCM at a glorious *RCWP ordination in Morristown, NJ* and offered the two new priests free FCM membership for a year. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, on June 15 former Northeast VP **Dan Pellegrin** represented our organization at FCM member *Jean Marchand's episcopal ordination in Wellesley, Massachusetts*.

Great thanks go out to nineteen members who have volunteered to *host small area gatherings*, some of which are scheduled throughout the summer and early fall. As we continue to grow, it is so vitally important that we get to know one another more closely. Get-togethers have already been held in Philadelphia and Danville, PA where a group is meeting quarterly. 13 people were at the Philly group, and hopefully that will take place on a regular basis as well as one in the Lehigh Valley and Reading, PA.

On June 22, a number of members came from Westchester County, Long Island and the Bronx to the apartment of **Eileen Hogan** for fellowship, laughter and a shared meditation. We discussed mutual aid, enjoyed a delicious lunch Eileen thoughtfully provided and appreciated a meditation prepared by **Tony Ercolano**, accompanied by his wife Margaret. The meditation shared two different ways we can relate to the world and its inhabitants: as an object - an "It" and as a presence, a "Thou" (drawing on Martin Buber).

Thanks to **Amy Simpson-Bennethum** and Realm, I was able to *welcome many new members by email or phone*. I also met personally with five candidates regarding their commissioning and one candidate for endorsement in different parts of the region. Six of us telephoned or emailed (if necessary) all 150+ members of the NE region, inviting them to participate in our successful national member survey.

Finally, please look elsewhere in this issue for the *registration form and enroll in our third Northeast Region Fall Retreat at Eddy Farm, near Port Jervis, NY*. Our planning committee is working hard and is committed to making our gathering enriching and relaxing so please consider joining us!



Morning Reflection

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Federation of Christian Ministries

Regional Gathering Returns to Eddy Farm October 11-13, 2019



Eddy Farm is a Christian retreat and conference center located approximately 85 miles from New York City. FCM has met there twice before and found it accessible for most of our Northeast members. The center is situated on 100 acres of property on the Delaware River near where New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania meet. Visit at: www.eddyfarm.com

Room descriptions & weekend rates (below) are for 2 nights lodging, with 6 meals, and the use of all amenities, as well as 1 night's lodging, with 3 meals.

Standard Rooms with Private Bath - These are basic rooms with private bathroom and air conditioning. They are located in The Main Inn, The Lodge, or The Annex.

Standard Single Occupancy = \$253 per person (or \$126.50 per person for 1 night)
 Standard Double Occupancy = \$198 per person (or \$99 per person for 1 night)
 Standard Triple Occupancy = \$178 per person (or \$89 per person for 1 night)

Deluxe Rooms - These are bigger rooms with private bathroom, air conditioning, telephone, and limited Dish television. These rooms have outside balcony, suite, or a porch. They also have a view of either The Delaware River or our beautiful recreational fields.

Deluxe Single Occupancy = \$297 per person (or \$148.50 for one night)
 Deluxe Double Occupancy = \$242 per person (\$121 for one night)
 Deluxe Triple Occupancy = \$218 per person (\$109 for one night)
 Deluxe Quadruple Occupancy = \$194 per person (\$97 for one night)

Not staying overnight? - Single meals prices are \$35 for one meal and \$45 for two meals, and \$55 for three meals) FCM has been offered a 50% discount for full-time ministers and their spouses. (Please note: the facility policy recognizes full-time ministers to include chaplains, pastors, or Christian counselors and does not include those whose ministry is limited to weddings).

REGISTRATION FORM FOR FCM NORTHEAST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY.....OCTOBER 11-13, 2019

IF YOU ARE STAYING BOTH NIGHTS, CIRCLE ONE: **STANDARD** **DELUX**
 CHECK ONE: SINGLE OCCUPANCY __ DOUBLE OCCUPANCY __ TRIPLE OCCUPANCY __

IF YOU ARE STAYING ONLY ONE NIGHT, CIRCLE ONE: **STANDARD** **DELUX**
 CHECK ONE: SINGLE OCCUPANCY __ DOUBLE OCCUPANCY __ TRIPLE OCCUPANCY __

IF YOU ARE A FULL-TIME MINISTER AND WANT TO CLAIM THE 50% DISCOUNT (SEE ABOVE), LIST YOUR MINISTRY POSITION AND CHURCH OR AGENCY YOU WORK FOR:

IF YOU ARE NOT STAYING OVERNIGHT, BUT JOINING US FOR 1, 2, OR 3 MEALS, YOUR MEAL COST = _____
 YOUR TOTAL COST = _____

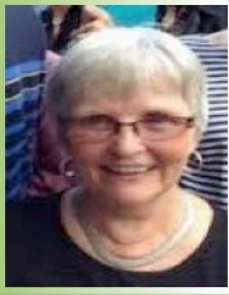
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FCM.
SEND TO CARL YUSAVITZ, 7128 CRITTENDEN STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19119

NAME OR NAMES _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

ANY DIETARY NEEDS? _____
 WOULD YOU VOLUNTEER TO HELP PREPARE OUR GATHERING? _____
 WOULD YOU VOLUNTEER TO HELP FACILITATE OUR GATHERING? _____
 WOULD YOU VOLUNTEER TO DO A WORKSHOP? _____

CUT AND MAIL

SOUTHERN REGION



DIANE DOUGHERTY
VICE PRESIDENT

The Future Is So Bright We Need Sunglasses

In the last edition of this newsletter, five new members were introduced to the Southern Region. This time around we have grown in membership by *eight* with an additional member transferring to our region! Join us in welcoming them one and all...



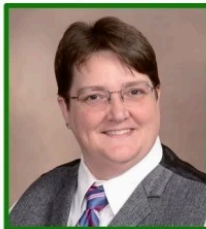
Jim Andrews, St. Petersburg, FL... Jim is director of Spiritual Care and the chair of Bioethics Screen at Florida Suncoast Hospice. He seeks commissioning because of our commitment to inclusion and recognition of the validity of all faiths.

Randy Shebek, Tampa, FL... A photographer and former graphic designer, Randy is completing his CPE residency believing this pathway completes one more phase in his transformational journey as he moves on in ministry.



Carole deBois, Fredericksburg, VA... Carole is seeking commissioning to give her the sacramental authority she needs as she pursues opportunities for pastoral care in public and private spaces.

Joe Mitcho, Dumfries, VA... Joe is returning to FCM after a brief absence to pursue sacramental services that members of his community are asking him to provide.



Kimberly Mehan, Port Richey, FL... Kimberly is a ministerial associate with a Lutheran church where she is a valued member and seeks commissioning as confirmation of her call to further serve the community.

Betsy Newsome Moody, Clayton, NC... Betsy is preparing for commissioning so that she can move forward in response to a call to ministry that her church would not recognize because she is a woman.



Amber Litka-Angier, NC... Amber's experience with homeless people taught her how much they long for a spiritual life in the midst of constant disruption. She hopes her CPE training and commissioning will enable her to provide a holistic ministry.

Jaqui Boyer Jackson, NC... Jaqui met ongoing resistance within the leadership of her faith tradition as she pursued ordination so she appreciates FCM's welcoming stance and affirmation.



We also welcome member **Erma Croom** who has recently moved to Atlanta.

Watch for details of our regional gathering in Palm Coast on June 28-29 with an interfaith liturgy (at a real castle!) on June 30.

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RON DAVIS
VICE PRESIDENT

GREAT LAKES REGION

Celebrating Who We Are, What We Do

The past two months have been full of activity in our region. In my role as vice president, I have come to appreciate the importance of celebrating commissioning as an important spiritual event. For those of us designated to ministerial roles within main line denominations, the ordination experience was a very important thing. The faith community would gather with special speakers and extended family to share in worship and celebration. I liked the way it was done because it demonstrated honor and respect for a person set apart for ministry.

Over this past couple of months, we have celebrated the commissioning of three of our members, beginning with **Will Grinstead** in Muncie. My favorite memory of his service was the message he spoke that day on his call to reach out to people of all walks of life with the love of God.

A second service took place in my home in Springfield for **Phillip Green**. I loved the intimacy of his service and the fellowship meal that we shared afterwards. It was a special time of building relationships and showing love with one another. The third service was in Toledo for **Suzanne Ujvagi**.

I enjoyed the beauty of Trinity Episcopal Church, built in 1862. But much more than that, my heart was warmed by the fact that over 50 people showed up to offer love and encouragement to Suzanne that evening.

When I think of all the wonderful gatherings in the Great Lakes Region, nothing is better than commissioning celebrations. I do hope that we will continue these moments together.

Across our region and beyond, members continue to share the story of FCM. Because of that, I have been working with seven new candidates for commissioning, meeting with nearly all of them at least one time. It is exciting that we are growing in this way.

The Louisville community continues to meet quarterly. The Indianapolis area has a group of members that are talking together and working to build relationships. This is a new and exciting thing. Given all these experiences, it should come as no surprise that I have been growing in my prayer ministry for the members of the Great Lakes community. There is truly much for which to be grateful and delighted.



Phillip Green's commissioning service in Springfield. Left to right: **Patty Stricker, Tom Stricker, Ron Davis, Phillip Green, Jera Niewoehner-Green, Tori McGraw-Rowe and Thomas McGraw.**



Suzanne Ujvagi's commissioning service in Toledo. Left to right: **Julia Bertalan, Suzanne Ujvagi and Ron Davis**



Will Grinstead's commissioning service in Muncie at the I U Health Ball Memorial Hospital Chapel
Back row: **Matt Schooler, Dustin Buchanan, and Ron Davis**
Front row: **James Hilleson, Will Grinstead, Heather Grinstead, and Rick Cruse.**

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2019 Great Lakes Region Gathering

Friday, October 4 - Sunday, October 6, 2019

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



SCHEDULE

Friday, October 4, 2019

4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Registration
6:00 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Workshop: Dr. Shannon Sterring
Women in Ministry - past, present and future
8:30 p.m. Fellowship Time

Saturday, October 5, 2019

8:30 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Worship Service: Melody Carpenter
9:45 a.m. Break
9:50 a.m. Workshop: Ron Davis
**People of God: There is a link between
Religion & Suicide for LGBTQ Teens**
11:00 a.m. Workshop: Chris Young
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Workshop: Rev. Dale Lykins
My Argument for Church Planting
2:30 p.m. Afternoon Break
5:30 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Workshop: Phillip Green
What I have learned from Other Faith Traditions
8:30 p.m. Fellowship Time

Sunday, October 6, 2019

8:30 a.m. Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Workshop: Will Grinstead
Belief Grief and Spiritual Growing Pains
11:00 a.m. Prayers and the Lord's Table (Tom Stricker)
12:00 p.m. Lunch
12:30 p.m. End of Conference

Name: _____

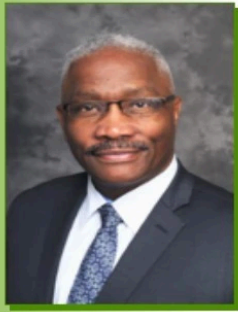
Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

Please mail registration to:

Ronald Davis, 258 S. Arlington Avenue, Springfield, Ohio 45505
with your check payable to: **Federation of Christian Ministries**



**RICHARD JAMES
VICE PRESIDENT**

MTS & PLAINS REGION

Transformative Spiritual Care Toward the Greatest of Gifts

*“Greater love has no one than this,
that one lay down his life for his friends.”*



ORGAN / TISSUE DONATION BENEFITS EVERY FAMILY DISCUSSION PANEL (LEFT-RIGHT) DR. ELLEN OMI, A TRAUMA SURGEON AT ACMC, REV. RICHARD E. JAMES, SENIOR STAFF CHAPLAIN AT ACMC, DR. JULIE FITZGERALD AT LOYOLA MEDICINE, RN, CINDY MELE AT FRANCISCAN ALLIANCE, INC., DR. DINEE SIMPSON AT NORTHWESTERN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

Recently, as an FCM Endorsed minister and as a Senior Staff Chaplain at Advocate Christ Medical Center, I was invited to speak at the Gift of Hope, 2019 Organ Summit, with Dr. Ellen Omi, a Trauma Surgeon at ACMC. We participated on a panel entitled, “Donation Benefits Every Family.” The panel discussion allowed us to speak about the care that our ACMC interdisciplinary teams provide to patients and their families who may ultimately receive the chance to donate organs and tissue of their love one. It is here that I seek to share my response to the question posed to me: “As a Chaplain, how do you support families and facilitate informed decision-making regarding organ donation?” I responded in the following fashion.

As we gathered in this space this morning, we listened to the sounds of jazz music playing in the background. Life is like jazz. Jazz begins simply and predictably. Soon one of the jazz musicians begins a solo, by introducing intentional and creative complications that gradually transform the melody. The listener is entertained and held in suspense, wondering, “How will the musician ever get back to the simplicity of the melody.”

Yes, life is like jazz. The crisis-illness journey for a patient and their family often begins in the Emergency Department of a Level One Trauma Center at Advocate Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Illinois. Engaging the emotions and spiritual needs of patients and their families is to attend to life’s rhythmic-jazz pattern, especially when the ordinary everyday experience of the life of a family is intersected and complicated by a traumatic event. On any given day, the simplistic rhythm of a person’s life is turned upside-down by a traumatic event. A person becomes an emergency room patient fighting for their life because of a traumatic event such as stroke, fall, vehicle crash, industrial accident, gunshot, or stab-wound to name a few.

Upon the arrival of a critically injured or ill patient, one of the first tasks of the Chaplain is to contact a significant family member. No matter how sensitively this communication is composed, that’s the moment when the simplicity of a family’s day becomes undesirably complicated, becoming the worst day of their lives.

¹ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update* (La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995), Jn 15:13.

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Chaplains engage the anxiety of family members by providing a relational holding environment, extending a respectful spiritual presence in a trauma-informed manner. When family members arrive, I attend to their anxiety in our quiet room, and facilitate communication with the trauma Doctors and Nurse, and accompany them during their brief visitations with their loved one, the patient.

The journey often progresses with high anxiety to learn the results of a CAT-scan, moving to the Operating Room, and then to the Surgical Trauma Intensive Care (STIC) or the Neuro Critical Care Unit (NCCU). In concert with Dr. Ellen Omi and the Interdisciplinary Team consisting of several resident physicians and Advanced Practice Nurses (APN), Unit Manager, Care Manager, Social Worker, Nutritionist, and myself, the Chaplain. It is often my task to establish a family decision maker via a Power of Attorney for Healthcare (POA) or Surrogate Decision Maker Documents. On occasion, the patient's prognosis deteriorates toward brain-death. When the life of a loved one hangs in the balance, brain-death is a puzzling phenomenon for most persons to grasp. Afterward, informative conversations that support the family decision-making toward developing goals of care and a treatment plans for the patient take place.

Yes, spiritual care is much like being a jazz musician. It is my task as a Chaplain to come alongside the patient/family periodically and extend sensitive spiritual care that complements the family's navigation through their crisis/illness journey. Perhaps you have heard a saxophonist during a solo, as a trumpeter compliments the echoing back bits and pieces of the musical experience. The key to the resolution of the creative complication is that the jazz musicians hear in their minds, what is seemingly not there – the original baseline of the jazz melody. Then they look at each other, face-to-face, and gesture by nodding their heads; one, two, three and, boom, they are right back into the original baseline of the jazz melody. I listen and respond, much like a jazz musician. I guess you could call me a spiritual jazz caregiver.

Such is the quality of my spiritual presence and care of benevolent intent that I seek to share. A family is often caught amid their shock, anger, and hurt, in tension with their deep desire for the recovery of their loved one toward a cure, healing, and well-being. It is in the midst of their journey that I elicit their feelings and emotions, and briefly echo those sentiments back to them, giving them the experience of being heard again and again. I listen for the baseline of their relationship with the Divine, and I echo that baseline back to them. I listen to their faith and frustration, their hope and despair, their love for their critically injured or ill loved-one now threatened by the shadow of death. I listen for the spiritual baseline of their relationship with the Divine, and I echo that back to them in sensitive, compassionate, nurturing, and evocative ways. It is that connection with the Divine that helps persons to discover and embrace a new normal, even as they begin to grieve the loss of their loved one. In this way, we engage the complications of crisis, seeking to hear again what is seemingly not there – our original baseline, the presence of the Divine. It is within that relational, spiritual care environment that families often find the courage and strength to consider the limitations and possibilities of their circumstances.



As a Chaplain, it is in that manner that I seek to support families and facilitate informed decision-making regarding organ donation. It is there that we, with the Divine, develop a deep level of trust. I can discover and echo back the nature and the meaning of life lost and the possibility of extending that life, via the life of another. At this point, with that level of earned trust, I can have critical medical conversations, and after that I can introduce the Gift of Hope representative.

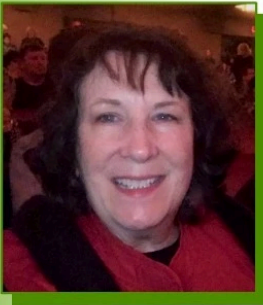
I believe that there is no greater love than for a family member to extend the life of another by organ and tissue donation. To have had a small bit-part in such situations, encouraging and evoking the faith, hope, and love of persons caught between their anticipatory grief and the loss of their loved one, is to spiritually, practically, and meaningfully contribute to serving those in a crisis-illness journey. As a Chaplain, that is how I support families and facilitate informed decision-making regarding organ donation. That is how I answer the call of the Divine – to serve humanity inspired by Divine benevolent intent.



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DONNA SCHRIBER
VICE PRESIDENT

PACIFIC REGION

Region Schedules Additional Gatherings

As you probably know, our online get-togethers have been a rousing success for the region. This response has led to a change in the schedule: we will now be gathering monthly, starting in August.



Please join us on August 3rd at 9:00 am (Pacific Daylight Time). It is always a blessing to keep in touch, providing a convenient opportunity to enjoy one another's fellowship and maybe ask some questions about items of interest including commissioning or endorsement.

Just go to Zoom.com and click on "Join Zoom Meeting." Our Meeting ID is 3113725040 or join by using this link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3113725040>

Please let me know of any questions or concerns about joining us: (609) 304-4866 or schreiber.donna@gmail.com



BAPTISM

All FCM members who preside at BAPTISMS

You are required to register the baptism with the FCM Registry Office

Please email registry@FCMmail.org for the form.

Questions? Please email registry@FCMmail.org

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Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter Editors...John Polanski & Tom Cruse

Email: newsletter@FCMmail.org

The FCM Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Federation of Christian bi-monthly by the Federation of Christian Ministries, a non-profit religious body.

As the informational publication of FCM, its mission is to keep members current with the organization and its activities, to provide ideas to further ministry and to promote community building among local FCM groups and the national organization. All current members receive a copy. Articles and feedback are welcomed and can be sent to : newsletter@FCMmail.org by the 15th of each month (February, April, June, August, October and December).

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FCM CERTIFICATES

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

FCM Membership & Realm

REALM ADMINISTRATOR & MEMBERSHIP

Amy Simpson Bennethum

Emails: connect@FCMmail.org - membership@FCMmail.org

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:**

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