

# Federation of Christian Ministries

# NEWSLETTER

March/April 2020  
VOL. 54 Number 2





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*Lord we lift our hearts to you. As the dawn breaks, may we carry the unity we share into every moment knowing that we are one with the risen Christ.*

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CHAIRPERSON

## The Survey Says...

Christy Howard-Steele, Chairperson

I am happy to report that during the February 2020 Circle of Directors meeting, FCM's leadership spent time reviewing the write-in responses to question 23 from the membership survey completed last April. Question 23 asked members "What top 2 or 3 priorities FCM should consider? Short term? Long term?" Not many responses made a distinction between short term and long term so the leadership team considered all the responses together. Member responses were tabulated into the following categories. Input was considered regardless of whether it was a single suggestion, or it was suggested multiple times.

- I. **Membership:** The suggestions include increasing/improving regional outreach and gatherings, recruiting and integrating younger members, recruiting more people of color, recruiting or developing faith communities, offering support for members through professional development and educational opportunities, streamlining the commissioning and endorsement processes, becoming a military endorser.
- II. **Identity:** The suggestions include considering a name change, exploring international dimensions, becoming inter- or trans-denominational, focus on unity in Christ, strongly advocate for optional celibacy and women's ordination.
- III. **Social Justice:** The suggestions include moving from talk to more social justice living, doing local or regional service projects, continuing to grow in our stances and statements on social justice concerns.
- IV. **Visibility:** The suggestions include strengthening our local and regional presence, working with other denominations or traditions, building name recognition among denominations and seminaries.
- V. **Communication:** The suggestions include improving the website, making Realm the main communication, developing a vehicle for sharing prayer requests and for dialogue.

FCM leaders individually assigned priorities to the survey results. These individual results were then combined to suggest our focus for the upcoming year. The following three areas of focus were selected for this year:

### 2020 Focus

1. **Increase/improve regional outreach and gatherings** (this is also the most frequent suggestion from the survey)
2. **Social justice**
3. **Improve membership support** (this is the 2nd most frequent suggestion from the survey)

We see these areas as a focus on building our community, developing and supporting our members while also critically engaging the issues of our times. Of course, while members of FCM leadership have volunteered to work on these initiatives, we are open and need your involvement. If you would like to volunteer to work on one of these initiatives, please email me at [chairperson@fcmmail.org](mailto:chairperson@fcmmail.org).

Shortly after the survey was completed, FCM launched its new website which we hope addresses many of our members' concerns. Here are some other initiatives that have been implemented that we hope will continue to grow and develop our membership and community:

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**Zoom meetings:** As listed in the last newsletter, 5 zoom meetings have been scheduled focusing on the following topics:

- February 2: Leadership in Ministry: Who do we Choose to be?
- March 3: Racism
- April 5: Non-Violence and Peace Building
- May 3: Evolutionary Spirituality
- June 7: Stewardship of Our Common Home

Additional zoom meetings can be scheduled according to interests. Please let me know if you would have a proposal.  
[chairperson@fcmmail.org](mailto:chairperson@fcmmail.org).

- Military endorsement: FCM has met all of the qualifications to become a military endorser except we still need a candidate to get on the list of approved endorsers! A candidate must meet the age and physical screening requirements and enlist in active duty in one of the branches of the military not the Reserves or National Guard; must have or earn a M.Div.; must not have been previously endorsed by another tradition; and must have 2 years of experience as a spiritual leader. If you know someone interested in this path, please refer them to the Committee on Specialized Ministries at [specmin@fcmmail.org](mailto:specmin@fcmmail.org).
- Established Social Consciousness Committee to propose to FCM leadership statements for publication reflecting FCM's perspective on relevant, current events or issues consistent with FCM values.
- While we acknowledge that the membership renewal in Realm did not go as smoothly as we hoped, FCM did take a huge step towards efficiency. We expect that this process will eventually free all of us to focus on what's most important: our relationships with each other!



## Circle Meeting - February 6-9, 2020 - Cleveland, Ohio

**TOM CUSACK,  
PRESIDENT**

**CHRISTY HOWARD STEELE,  
CHAIRPERSON**

**TRACY PETERSON,  
PACIFIC, V.P. ON SCREEN**



**JEANNE HALE,  
SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES  
CO-CHAIR**

**CARL YUSAVITZ,  
NORTHEAST V.P.**

**DIANE DOUGHERTY,  
SOUTHERN V.P.**

**MARITA GRUDZEN,  
FAITH COMMUNITIES  
CO-CHAIR**



**CAROLYN HORVATH  
&  
TOM LEONHARDT  
CENTRAL OFFICE**

**RON DAVIS,  
GREAT LAKES V.P.**



**KATHY BEAN  
SECRETARY**

**HEIDI TIERNEY  
TREASURER**

**TONY ERCOLANO  
COMMISSIONING  
CHAIR**

**PETER STRENING  
SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES  
CO-CHAIR**





Plant and Grow

## Plant and Grow, Pray and Fast

by Tom Cusack, President

### Pray and Fast

The Assyrian Empire was feared and *hated*. It expanded through organization and military discipline, wielding new iron weapons. The army *terrorized its opponents* and at its height it dominated the Fertile Crescent (10<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> century BCE). Assyria had subjugated the Kingdom of Judah and besieged Jerusalem in 701 BCE. Yet, it was to the Assyrian superpower's capital, Nineveh, that *Jonah* was directed by God. Jonah was resistive and half-hearted in making his call to Nineveh to repent. Despite this, the King and all the people "... proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth." (Jonah 3: 5) Their fasting and repentance caused God to change his mind. He did not destroy Nineveh.

Where am I going with this, you can reasonably ask. Currently, our country is divided and people do not respect one another. People of different viewpoints are seen as evil instead of just being seen as simply holding different viewpoints. Fear is present to so many. **A national change of heart and repentance from these attitudes, feelings and behaviors would benefit us**, just as Nineveh's repentance benefitted them. **Diane Dougherty's** new social vision working group presented a plan to the Circle, and the Circle affirmed it. It is a plan developed by a number of significant religious leaders and its purpose is spiritual work toward repentance. They have called for *prayer and fasting for America from Ash Wednesday until our November election*. This link holds the details: <https://sojo.net/articles/let-us-go-god-call-reclaiming-jesus-elders>. Please review it.

I invite you to follow this program of the soul. Pray daily, fast on Wednesdays.

In *The Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ* (Levi H. Dowling, Penguin Group, 2009) this comment is attributed to Dowling's Jesus, "A fast is deed of soul [sic], and like a prayer, it is a function of the silence of the soul. God never passes by unnoticed any prayer, or fast. He walks within the silence, and his benedictions rest on every effort of the soul. (Chapter 94: 16-17)

A united FCM community, fasting and praying, has the power to impact our American society. I am fully onboard; will you join me?

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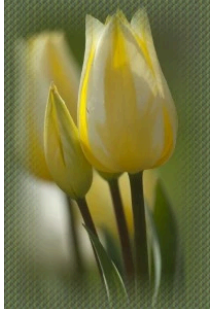
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My thanks to the Circle of Directors of FCM for their hard work at the Circle meeting on February 7 and 8. (See <https://www.federationofchristianministries.org/circle-of-directors/fcm-circle-of-directors.html>) They are such a benefit.

Led for the first time by **Chairperson Christy Howard-Steele**, the 10 members physically present were supplemented by the Zoom presence of Pacific Vice President **Tracy Peterson** and of Mountains and Plains Vice President **Richard James. Antoinette Marold** and **Amy Simpson Bennethum** attended electronically for their segments. Thank you to them. We attended to basic Circle business such as reviewing the financials and coming to decisions on those members to be commissioned and endorsed. We also *looked at the future* as we reflected on the suggestions from membership, made during our survey of the membership from last year. Several working groups were formed to creatively respond to possibilities offered by the membership. Southern Region Vice President **Diane Dougherty** is now leading a small group who are observing our current American cultural landscape to decide upon issues about which FCM leadership and membership could comment. This work group is a response by the Circle to the suggestion in the survey that a continued awareness of social justice issues should characterize FCM into the future.

Growing pains are manifesting themselves for our volunteer organization. As our individual membership has climbed to its largest number of full dues paying members in our history, the demands of time on our vice presidents have grown. To mitigate some of these demands the Circle is exploring new ideas by which existing personnel categories such as Area Representatives could be structured to better support FCM's efforts in each region. In addition, a new category of membership specialist is being considered to support the efforts of the vice presidents *in preparing members for commissioning*. We must do additional development work on this project, and we will report results to you in the next few months. This FCM organizational work will **plant new ideas now to build growth for the future**.

PRESIDENT







# ENDOWMENT



## The Endowment Fund

### FCM's Commitment to the Future by Tony Ercolano

Our plans to ensure the future of FCM are proceeding. Our Endowment Fund presently stands at \$39,398. In addition, we have raised \$5,300 toward the matching pledge goal of \$10,000, leaving us just \$4,700 shy of our commitment to our anonymous donor. We are so close – more than half way there. Will you be the one to put us over the top?

Through the years, FCM has provided a home for individuals to continue their ministry to God's people.

- ❖ It has offered a refuge for those who have felt excluded from other spiritual homes.
- ❖ It has given couples the opportunity to celebrate thoughtful wedding ceremonies leading to meaningful marriages.
- ❖ And it has companioned people in times of spiritual and emotional need.

**If you want to see this service continue, won't you consider supporting the FCM Endowment Fund with:**

- ❖ **Cash donations or marketable securities**
- ❖ **Non-liquid assets like real estate, art, and precious stones**
- ❖ **Life insurance, wills, or trusts**

Only after this professionally managed Fund reaches \$100,000 will annual distributions of the accumulated appreciation be available to continue the work of FCM. Your donation will contribute to the ordination of dedicated men and women, the endorsement of chaplains, the establishment of emerging church communities, and the support of regional gatherings. It will assist those unable to afford their renewal fees and make it possible for those who need assistance to attend our biennial National Assembly. And, as FCM continues to grow, it will help us meet some of the increased costs of engaging in ministry.

Total gifts of \$10,000 allow the donor to memorialize or honor an individual, couple, or organization with a Memorial Named Fund. A minimum of \$25,000 in total gifts can establish a restricted Legacy Named Fund.

Please join us in our common mission to sustain an inclusive, ecumenical faith community which recognizes each individual as equally beloved in the sight of God. Help us to continue to create the Church you always wanted to be a part of.

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# Donate to the FCM Endowment Fund

Help us to reach our match goal of \$10,000

The Endowment Committee has some exciting news. We have an anonymous donor who has challenged FCM's membership with a \$10,000.00 match grant. FCM has accepted the challenge to match this amount, and we are building toward individual donations equaling the \$10,000.

We need everyone to get involved. No donation is too small.

Go to the [FCM website](http://www.federationofchristianministries.org) [www.federationofchristianministries.org](http://www.federationofchristianministries.org) or go to your personal account on [Realm](http://www.onrealm.org) [www.onrealm.org](http://www.onrealm.org) and make your donation.

1. Sign in to [Realm](http://www.onrealm.org) or, if in the FCM Website, use the "Donation" button to get there.
2. Click on "Giving" (left hand column) and this will take you to donation page
3. Click on the "+ Give" button
4. You will see a pull down (FCM General Account); click on the pulldown arrow
5. Click on the "FCM Endowment Fund" button
6. On the "memo" window and write "Endowment Matching Grant"

For additional information contact: Tom Stricker  
[tomstricker2009@gmail.com](mailto:tomstricker2009@gmail.com) or 937-477-0139

\$10,000

\$9,000

\$8,000

\$7,000

\$6,000

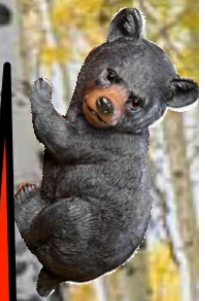
\$5,000

\$4,000

\$3,000

\$2,000

\$1,000



DONATED TO DATE: \$5580.

FCM Endowment Fund Climbing to Our Success





## Faith Community News 2020 Faith Communities Zoom Networking Discussions

Submitted by Ginny Cusack Faith Communities Coordinator  
and Marita Grudzen, Faith Communities Chair

FAITH COMMUNITIES

We are delighted to announce that nineteen (19) FCM members from 11 states: CA, CT, FL, HI, IL, MI, NJ, NY, OH, PA, and VA attended the first 2020 FCM Faith Communities Zoom Networking Meeting on Sunday February 2, the largest number of participants thus far. Marita Grudzen facilitated the discussion on "Leadership in Ministry: Who Do We Choose to Be?" Prior to the meeting Marita suggested reading excerpts from the book by Margaret J. Wheatley, **Facing Reality – Claiming Leadership – Restoring Sanity** as a resource. During the meeting participants shared their responses to the following questions:

- \* How do we conceive of leadership in our faith communities?
- \* Is there one leader, many leaders, or does the community lead itself?
- \* What is the function of leadership in our faith community?
- \* What do we want in our leaders, in ourselves so we step up to our mission?
- \* What would we see in the leaders we admire in ministry?

Ginny Cusack recorded the session with the permission of those attending. If any FCM member would like to receive a copy of the recording, please contact Ginny Cusack at [Cusack.g@gmail.com](mailto:Cusack.g@gmail.com) and she will send you an MP3 of the meeting.

The second meeting's topic is Racism and will be held on Sunday, March 1 at 7-8 pm EST  
Premise: If we all have the responsibility to create a just society, what can and are we doing to acknowledge racism and work toward a just society? The culture of racism is the shared beliefs and assumptions that undergird the economic, social, political disparities experienced by different groups. The incidents of racial trauma are continuous and chronic as we observe increased police killings of unarmed black people, hate crimes against Muslims (or those who are assumed to be), assaults and killings of transgender, people of color or indigenous (POCI), violation of indigenous lands, and the dehumanization of immigrant communities.

### Resource:

**When Getting Along Is Not Enough: Reconstructing Race in our Lives and Relationships**, by Maureen Walker  
Website: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/healing-through-social-justice/201911/radical-self-care-in-the-face-mounting-racial-stress>

### Future Topics

- April 5 Non-Violence and Peace Building
- May 3 Evolutionary Spirituality
- June 7 Stewardship of Our Common Home

All FCM members and any member of an FCM faith community are welcome to join in the meetings. Look for the Zoom links on Constant Contact prior to each meeting. If you have not used Zoom previously, please contact Ginny at [Cusack.g@gmail.com](mailto:Cusack.g@gmail.com) or call at 732-267-5372 and she will assist you.

All meetings are held from 7-8 pm EST.



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## Community Engagement

On Tuesday, December 31, 2019, Rev. Richard James, Sr. Staff Chaplain & APMC Interim Leader of Mission and Spiritual Care was featured in the attached article entitled; *Talk to Your Family Now About Advance Care Choices*, by Francine Knowles, Freelance Columnist, in the Daily Southtown newspaper. The article emphasizes the importance of advance directives and encourages persons to take advantage of the holiday season to discuss their end-of-life values and choices.

## Ministry Vignette

### ***The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. & Multicultural Taste Celebration***

Submitted by Rev. Richard E. James

During the past 26 years, I have chaired a celebration at Advocate Christ Medical Center and Children's Hospital, remembering the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The objective for the MLK Celebration Day has always been to celebrate the life and work of Dr. King considering Advocate's mission, values, and philosophy, in a manner that is multiculturally sensitive within the diverse context of the hospital.

On Monday, January 20th, 2020, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Multicultural Taste Celebration, was held in the Robert N. Stein Auditorium. The theme, "*Serving Humanity Inspired by Divine Benevolent Intent*," guided our planning efforts. The program began with a reflection, which included a brief audio excerpt from Dr. King's speech entitled "The Drum Major Instinct," delivered on February 4th, 1968. Brief thematic MLK Quotes, linked with Advocate Aurora's mission, "*Helping People to Live Well*," followed the MLK audio excerpt. Participating team members included Michele Beard, Rev. Horace Bridges, Tony Estrella, Dr. Roman Kozycky, Rev. Eliza Leatherberry, Lacreacia Spence, and Esther Talusan. The program also featured a keynote speaker performance by Grammy and NAACP Image Award-winning performance poet, recording artist, actor, and author, J. Ivy, who discussed how Dr. King's legacy had impacted his life. J. Ivy is the author of the book "Dear Father Breaking, The Cycle of Pain," which attendees received at the celebration.

The Multicultural Taste Celebration followed the program, consisting of food donated by associates, twelve local restaurants. Participating restaurants included: Angelica's Bakery; Jedi's Restaurant; Barraco's Restaurant; Mabenka Lithuanian / Polish Restaurant; Chi-Tung Restaurant, Papa Joe's Restaurant; Chuck's Southern Comfort Café; P.F. Chang's; Corner Bakery; Siam Thai Restaurant; Fox's Restaurant; and Spicy Thai Lao Restaurant. Also, retired team member Barbeque Man, Mr. Bernie Whitaker prepared 200 lbs. of barbeque, which was a big hit!

Thus, we celebrated the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in a diverse, inclusive, multiculturally sensitive manner and in-light of Advocate /Aurora's mission, values, and philosophy. Over the years, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day has become one of the most well-celebrated events at the hospital. Nineteen people attended the first celebration; now, approximately 300-plus gather under one roof to enjoy an inspirational message and music, as a true testimony to this institution's celebration of diversity. On Tuesday, January 21, 2020, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Multicultural Taste Celebration was featured in the attached article entitled '*Hospital Gathers to Promote Togetherness*' by Frank Vaisvilas, Freelance Columnist in the Daily Southtown newspaper.

The celebration is a testimony to this labor of "love" in that each team member prepares their most treasured ethnic dish to share over a conversation during the multicultural taste. In this way, the event focuses on uniting our associates, physicians, volunteers, patients, families, and our community in rejoicing in their ethnicity and commonality.

<sup>1</sup> Knowles, F. (2019). Talk to Your Family Now About Advance Care Choices. Daily Southtown, Chicago, Illinois, Chicago Tribune Media Group. Also see website: < <https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/ct-sta-knowles-health-care-planning-st-1231-20191230-kxm7yawvhfvzft42l4pztzrhy-story.html>>

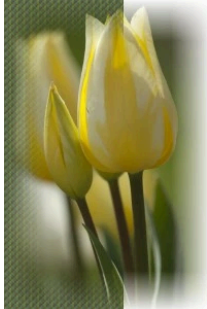
<sup>2</sup> Vaisvilas, F. (2020). '*Hospital Gathers to Promote Togetherness*'. Daily Southtown, Chicago, Illinois, Chicago Tribune Media Group. Also see website: <<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/ct-sta-christ-hospital-martin-luther-king-st-0121-20200120-geeblyexubbsjkh2belahgt2ki-story.html>>

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## FCM bridges the past and the present through the Progressive Catholic Coalition (PCC)

by Jack Wentland, FCM

The United States has continued its colonialism in the Western Hemisphere through our Defense Department by providing military education and training to the Latin American militaries. First established as the School of the Americas (SOA) at Fort Benning, Georgia, it is now called The Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC). SOA Watch (SOAW) was formed with the goal of dismantling border imperialism and ending all forms of US-led and supported violence. The effort includes those associated actions of these Latin American militaries through direct action and alliances with others, focused on the many forms of US imperialism contributing to the crises that are driving migrants fleeing their home countries for our borders.

After three years of holding a "Border Encuentro (gathering)," SOAW returned in 2019 to the gates of Ft. Benning. Our FCM was there through its sponsorship of the Progressive Catholic Coalition because it wanted to recognize the event 30 years ago that caused the movement's founding. That November 16, 1989 event was the brutal military attack on this private Jesuit University of Central America in El Salvador. Wikipedia cites that "Ellacuría, Martín-Baró and Segundo Montes, along with three other Jesuit professors, their housekeeper, and her daughter, were murdered by the Salvadoran Armed forces on November 16, 1989, in one of the most notorious episodes from the Civil War." **Father Roy Bourgeois** initially formed The SOA Watch movement to denounce this massacre, one of the many atrocities that occurred in Central America as the United States-funded civil wars and trained military at the SOA/WHINSEC.

High school students and many, older others were happy to see the presence of the "reforming church" represented by the PCC in this protest demonstration. FCM has sponsored the Progressive Catholic Coalition each year since 2004. The context for the PCC presence each year is that this gathering, like a family reunion, brings all together in one unified spirit of warm sharing of stories of what's been done back home to further the efforts of the SOA Watch movement. Further information about the speakers at the SOA Watch program panels and their topics can be found at: <https://www.soaw.org/biographies/>.

### Sunday Service used a PCC Inclusive Liturgy

The Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests (ARCWP) members **Kathy Butler** and **Janet Sevre-Duszynska** composed the Sunday Liturgy which was led by **Katy Zatsick** and **Diane Dougherty**. The liturgy was modeled on the way communities in El Salvador allow time for everyone to include their comments so that the Spirit is respected in the gathered believers before the prayer continues. An informal pizza party followed the liturgy. ARCWP is also sponsored by the FCM.

### At the PCC Information Table

Young people from around the country were more evident this year with eight of them from St. Charles Borromeo Church, Skillmen, New Jersey. These students gathered around the PCC information table to ask about the sponsoring organizations. One of them commented how welcome they have been made to feel among the people from around the country. To these young people, being recognized by so many "gray hairs" was an unexpected blessing. And, the older members of the movement were encouraged by the presence of these dedicated young people. Background about the PCC is found on the Facebook page: @pcc4churchjustice. Please "Like" the PCC ministry there. The SOAW website is [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org).

Photo 1 - Jack Wentland (FCM Member) answers questions about PCC from the visiting high school young persons.

Photo 2 - Jack Wentland in the PCC "Sandwich Board" joins hundreds of activists in a march to honor the thousands killed at the hands of graduates of the SOA/WHINSEC and at the border.

Photo 3 - Katy Zatsick, left, and Diane Dougherty (FCM VP)—both of ARCWP—lead the liturgy. Charlie King, left foreground, led the singing.



FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

**SAVE THE DATE!**



**FCM National Assembly**  
**July 17-19, 2020**

**HOLIDAY INN CHICAGO O'HARE**  
**5615 N. CUMBERLAND - CHICAGO, IL**

Assembly Registration  
& Hotel Information  
[www.fcm2020assembly.org](http://www.fcm2020assembly.org)



Assembly Chairperson: Peter Strening...[specmin@FCMmail.org](mailto:specmin@FCMmail.org)



# FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

## 2020 National Assembly

July 17-19 2020

Chicago, Illinois



**SPIRITUALITY**  
and  
**SERVICE** for the 21st century



**Friday, July 17**

**KEYNOTE**

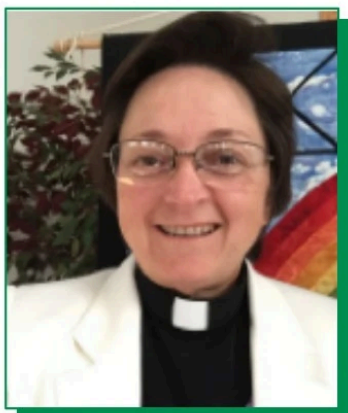
Missionary Discipleship and Our Baptismal Vocation

Dr. Timone Davis  
Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology  
and Black Catholic Theology  
Institute of Pastoral Studies  
Loyola University, Chicago



**Saturday, July 18**

**KEYNOTES**



21st Century Theological Challenges  
and Opportunities

Rev. Dawn Hutchings  
Pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran Church,  
Newmarket, Ontario, Canada



No Time For Ordinary: Daring to be Prophetic

Jan Phillips  
Writer, Storyteller, Workshop Facilitator  
Executive Director, Lovingkindness Foundation

**HOLIDAY INN CHICAGO O'HARE - 5615 N. CUMBERLAND - CHICAGO, IL**





# Keynote Speakers



**Dr. Timone Davis** Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University Chicago  
 timone davis is a cradle Catholic who was a “pewster” until she discovered that the uselessness of the Church was because she wasn’t giving anything of herself. After committing to do something, her life changed. Her first ministry was with the RCIA, where she not only welcomed others into the Church, but also revitalized her own spirituality.

After working for the Archdiocese of Chicago as the coordinator of ReCiL – Reclaiming Christ in Life Young Adult Ministry, timone launched PEACE centered WHOLENES with her husband Orlando, where they are blending clinical counseling and spiritual companioning.

In addition to running a business, timone is an assistant professor in the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University Chicago. In her spare time, she serves as the treasurer of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium.

timone’s dynamic energy and deep spirituality enhance her brand of teaching that engages one’s spirit through the use of storytelling. No matter the occasion, timone’s mission is to help others open their hearts and minds to the soul-saving power of God’s Grace, Love and Mercy.



**Pastor Dawn Hutchings** engages in public theology at a small suburban parish and through the internet since 1999.

Dawn has journeyed with the people of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Together, they have transformed from a “traditional” Lutheran community, to a fully inclusive progressive community. Along the way, this small parish has played a pivotal role in the transformation of policies on both a synodical and national level with regard to the full inclusion of the LGBTQ community in all aspects of life in the the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Holy Cross has embraced both the challenges and blessings of its vision of being a church that is “Progressive in Approach: Christlike in Action!”

Followers from all over the world have engaged Dawn’s work through her blog [pastordawn.com](http://pastordawn.com) as well as her articles and sermons on the [progressive christianity website](http://progressive.christianity.website).

Dawn holds a B.A. in Religion from the University of British Columbia; M.Div. from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary



**Jan Phillips** is a thought leader who uses the arts to evoke original thinking and deep feeling. As a videomaker, writer, poet, and musician, she connects the dots between evolutionary creativity, spiritual intelligence and social action. Jan has authored ten award-winning books, taught in over 25 countries, and shared a stage with Pete Seeger and Jane Goodall. Her own spiritual quest has led her into and out of a religious community, across the U.S. on a Honda motorcycle, and around the world on a one-woman peace pilgrimage.

Jan teaches throughout the United States and Canada, leading retreats and workshops for organizations and individuals committed to evolutionary spirituality.

She is founder and director of the Livingkindness Foundation, which has built the Livingkindness Centre for Learning in Nigeria and provides scholarships in the US to diverse women demonstrating creative approaches to social activism.

She is also co-founder of Syracuse Cultural Workers, publishers and distributors of artwork for social justice. As an artist/activist, Jan’s commitment to spiritual healing and social justice resonates in her work. She weaves music, humor, imagery, and stories into presentations that provoke thought and action.





# FCM Assembly Quick Look



for the 21st century  
*FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES*  
National Assembly • July 17-19 2020 • Chicago IL

## Friday - July 17, 2020

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Registration
6:00 p.m.	Welcome and Reception - Hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar
<b>7:00 p.m. Keynote - Dr. Timone Davis</b>	
8:30 p.m.	Community Time

## Saturday - July 18, 2020

7:00 a.m.	Morning Meditation
8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
<b>9:00 a.m. Keynote - Rev. Dawn Hutchings</b>	
10:30 a.m.	Workshops
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "Moral Injury and a Ministry Response" - Linda McKnight</li><li>• "Bending, Breaking and Blending Marriage in America: Are These Trends Remaking Christian Marriage?" - John E. Haag</li><li>• "Ministering to the Lonely and Isolated" - Bill Lonneman, Bea Broder-Oldach, Justin Ferko, Tom Stricker</li></ul>	
12:00 noon	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Workshops
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "That Which Shall Not Be Named: Journeying with Patients and Caregivers through the "Swampland of the Soul" - Rev. Richard Cruse ThM, BCC</li><li>• "People of God - Religion and Suicide for LGBTQ+ Youth - Ron Davis</li><li>• "How Do We Create the Communities We Want to Belong To" - Ginny Cusack, Coordinator, Faith Communities Marita Grudzen Chairperson, Faith Communities - Moderator, Rev. Christy Howard-Steele, ACPE Certified Educator &amp; APC BCC</li></ul>	
<b>3:15 p.m. Keynote - Jan Phillips</b>	
4:30 p.m.	Break - Cash Bar
5:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Commissioning and Endorsement Service
8:00 p.m.	Dessert Reception and Community Time

## Sunday - July 19, 2020

8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Membership Meeting
10:45 a.m.	Leave Taking Ritual
11:30 a.m.	Assembly Ends

FCM 2020 ASSEMBLY - JULY 17-19, 2020  
HOLIDAY INN CHICAGO O'HARE - 5615 N. CUMBERLAND - CHICAGO, IL





## FCM Northeast Region Report

**Congratulations** to Northeast members who were commissioned by the FCM Circle on February 7th.

NORTHEAST REGION



**Kimberly Ann Borin** is a spiritual director, college professor, yoga teacher, Reiki healer and teacher, currently finishing up a CPE residency at Morristown (NJ) Medical Center.



**Rodney Morrow** is a nondenominational chaplain, in transition at the moment, seeking employment as a hospital chaplain.



**Claudia E. Smith** is pursuing a call to ACPE certified educator candidacy status at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

We are grateful to the ACPE certified educators who first introduced these individuals to FCM.

**Despite our best efforts** to schedule an FCM regional gathering near Boston MA, only a small handful of members responded positively. Next attempt will be to try and arrange a monthly or quarterly Zoom conference call for members in New England.

**We are a large region**, so the plan is to do the same with members in New York and New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. FCM is all about community!

**Have you registered** for our national assembly yet? We are grateful to the planning team who organized such an enriching program! One of our own Northeast members, John Haag, will be doing a workshop on "The Future of Marriage." See you in Chicago – and register early!

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## Great Lakes Members Approved for Ordination (Commissioning)

by Ron Davis, Vice President - Great Lakes

I am excited to share the news with you that three FCM members in the Great Lakes Region has been approved for Ordination (commissioning). I would like to take this time to let you know who they are.



**Rev. Garrett Brown** became a member of FCM in the fall of 2019. He was raised in rural Kentucky in a United Methodist family. Garrett went off to college with the dream of becoming a worship leader in a large church. He was fortunate to receive a scholarship to Asbury University, Wilmore, KY which opened the door so that he could go after this dream. Yet, when he got there, he saw the need to make a change. He changed his major to a B.A. in Christian Studies. He followed this degree with a M.A. in Theological Studies.

Garrett took his first unit of CPE while at Asbury Theological Seminary. This experience was like planting a seed in very fertile soil. It was followed by a year of serving as a Chaplain PRN at the University of Kentucky Chandler Hospital, then one year serving as a Chaplain Resident at Cincinnati's Children's, and a second year Chaplain Resident year at Cincinnati's Children's. All of this training and its human experiences brought Garrett's vision for ministry into view. He believes he is called to be a full-time hospice chaplain. In addition to this belief, all of this training and human experience changed Garrett's perspective on becoming ordained as a United Methodist Minister. The denomination has and is changing in ways that are not making Garrett comfortable. He has come to see FCM as the best denomination for him. He now works at Vitas Healthcare and is grateful that he is doing exactly what he feels called to do in ministry.



**Rev. Naomi Calkins-Golter** became member of FCM in February 2019. She is a woman who began a ten-year career as a chemist after completing college in 1996. She also worked as a Youth Pastor in a United Methodist Church at that time. She made the decision to change careers in 2006 and she went on to seminary, studying at Asbury Theological Seminary. At that same time, she was called to serve for the first time as a pastor to a United Methodist Church. She completed seminary in 2014. During this time in her life, she changed denominations to Evangelical Lutheran believing that it was a better fit for her.

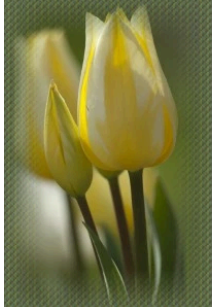
Naomi's family moved to Ohio and when she returned to ministry in this state, she her ministry in a new direction—as a Chaplain. She began to take CPE, completing two units at Ohio Health Hospital in Columbus, Ohio and two units at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH. This was a great time of spiritual discernment for Naomi. She grew to recognize that she was neither a true Methodist nor Evangelical Lutheran minister. CPE and conversation with her CPE Educator caused her to look at FCM for membership and ordination. Naomi found FCM to be a better fit for her denominationally speaking. She enjoys the chaplaincy and was offered a job with Fairhope Hospices, Lancaster, Ohio beginning in February 2020. In addition to this, In January of 2020, Naomi was called to a church in Athens, Ohio to be its pastor. This time, she is serving at a Disciples of Christ church.



I have known **Rev. John Wooden** for 10 years. When I attended King Avenue UMC, John Wooden was an associate minister at the church working on an abstract with the goal of planting a new church in the Columbus area. With the blessing of King Avenue, John set out with sixteen young adults to plant this church which has grown to be a church which offers 2 Sunday services and many programs that meet the needs of many. His philosophy of ministry is simple, to love one another; it is the foundation of the ministries that go out from Stone Village.

John writes that "The reason I am seeking commissioning with FCM is due to the UMC's homophobic policies regarding LGBTQI persons. As an Elder in the UMC, who openly identifies as a gay man, my credentials, my church, and my livelihood are at risk. At any moment within the UMC, a formal complaint can be filed against me due to my sexuality. With the UMC's move toward a 'traditionalist' model, I am now at greater risk of being persecuted and punished within the church."

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John joined FCM two years ago. When we had the first Assembly in Cleveland, Ohio, he partnered with me in leading one of the conference's seminars. I remember the season when Stone Village was very new. I watched John put a lot of time, thought and effort into leading Stone Village forward. I have watched him baptize, teach, preach and provide care to members and visiting friends of the church—even taking the time to bless the animals that are four-legged family members in our homes. God is blessing John as a Pastor/Teacher in Columbus, Ohio.

As winter draws near to spring, we will take time to have ordination services for these three ministers. May God bless them as they follow their calls from the Holy One.



*May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home.*

*May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam.*

*May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures.*

*May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours.*

*Irish Blessing*

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## I greet you in the name of The Divine, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

by Richard James Vice President - Mts. & Plains Region

# MTS. & PLAINS REGION

Please know that shortly after our FCM Circle July 2019 meeting, I took on a new and consuming responsibility as the Interim Leader for Mission and Spiritual Care at Advocate Christ Medical Center. After much prayer and reflection, it has become painfully clear that I can no longer fulfill the responsibilities of the FCM, M&P, V.P. position on a timely basis, due to increasing and changing job expectations. Therefore, I have submitted my resignation as Federation of Christian Ministries, Vice President of the Mountain and Plains Region.

It has always been a distinctive pleasure to be within the presence of the FCM Circle gatherings, which for me, quickly became a source of beloved resiliency. I want you to know that I was so looking forward to continuing working with the new FCM Chairperson, Rev. Christy Howard-Steele, and FCM President, Thomas E. Cusack, Circle of Directors, and the FCM Mountains & Plains (M&P) membership. I am most thankful for the opportunity to play a small part as a "player-coach," assisting those called by the Divine to find their way on to the field of their ministry.

I want you to know that I have enjoyed serving the FCM M&P membership by listening, encouraging, supporting, and representing our members. I have enjoyed contributing to the Circle of Directors conversations that shape and promote our mission explicitly expressed as: "The Federation of Christian Ministries responds to the Divine Call by empowering and nurturing those inspired for inclusive ministries." I have enjoyed being a part of the effort to increase our membership and supporting those applying for FCM commissioning and endorsement. Also, I have enjoyed collaborating with the FCM M&P Region Area Representatives, helping to improve our communication and relational activities as a faith community in the seven areas within the FCM M&P Region. I celebrate the fact that we have made progress regarding the FCM M&P Region, Area Representatives Project. We have defined seven areas across the FCM M&P Region by Geographic clusters of the FCM membership and have secured seven FCM Area Representatives; Chicago, Illinois: Dan Hoard, St. Louis, Missouri: Marybeth McBryan, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Linda Mayes, St. Paul, Minnesota: Conner Joseph Simms, Albuquerque, New Mexico: James Hayes, Denver, Colorado: Peter Strening, and Dallas, Texas: Zachary Wheat.

I trust that soon, another FCM member will step forward as M.&P. V.P. contributing their vision, skill, and expertise and continue to propel FCM into its Divine calling. I look forward to continuing to serve and represent FCM as an Endorsement member actively, and more particularly serving as Interim Leader for Mission and Spiritual Care at Advocate Christ Medical Center.

As, always, may the blessings of health, faith, hope, and love be yours.

Serving Humanity Inspired by Divine Benevolent Intent,  
The Rev. Richard James

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## Newly Commissioned Ministers Mountain and Plains Region

It brings me great pleasure to present to the membership of the Federation of Christian Ministries eight 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 meaningful and fruitful ministry.

### **The Rev. Michael Barrett, M.Div.**

Michael has earned a Bachelor of Arts from Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, and a Master of Divinity from Mount Saint Mary's Seminary Emmitsburg, Maryland. Michael has also completed Five Units of Clinical Pastoral Education at Presbyterian Healthcare Services in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Michael also completed Critical Incidents Stress Management training. Michael is a person living victoriously with a visual disability since birth. Currently, he is serving as a staff chaplain at Presbyterian Healthcare Services in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Michael is attracted to the FCM community because of its emphasis on inclusion. Michael has a desire to continue to serve as a hospital chaplain and minister by officiating for religious ceremonies, weddings, and other sacred gatherings. Michael sought FCM Commissioning because he plans to become a Board-Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains.



### **The Rev. Marcel A. Duclos, M.Th.**

Marcel holds a B.A. in Philosophy, a Masters in Theology, an M.Ed. in counseling, and is a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor. He is a Diplomate of the American Mental Health Counselors Association and an Approved Clinical Supervisor. As a certified Core Energetics Therapist and a Certified Internal Family Systems Therapist, Marcel honors the body and soul in the sacred ministry of psychotherapy. Marcel welcomes the inner voice that manifests in a calling to join the world as poet, prophet, and mystic for the healing of the Body of Christ. After a career as a professor of psychology and psychotherapist, Marcel states that he is seeking a creative position as a part-time chaplain in a trauma-attentive organization where my competence as a pastoral theologian may be of service to those who face the crucifying union of opposites in their lives. Marcel is aware that he is an unfinished sapiens on the way to the still point.



### **The Rev. Rebekah Jackson Maaz, MA.**

Rebekah has earned a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism/Communication, graduating Magna Cum Laude, from Sam Houston State University, in Huntsville, Texas. She also earned a Master of Arts in Religion from the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. Rebekah has completed a Grantsmanship Grant Writing Training Program and recently was certified for Group Crisis Intervention by UMBC Training Centers. Currently, Rebekah is participating in a year-long CPE residency program at Ascension Healthcare. Rebekah is on a quest to become a board-certified chaplain. Rebekah proclaims, "I believe the call to ministry begins by recognizing the integrity in all people as created in the image of God. In doing this, we are asked to show love and grace as vessels of the Holy Spirit. I would be honored to uphold and represent the mission statement and ethical guidelines of FCM."

### **The Rev. Roberta C. Jones, MA**

Roberta has earned a B.A. Degree in Spanish Literature, a Juris Doctorate Degree, and an M.A. in Systematic Theology from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Roberta is a licensed attorney and has practiced public law for nearly 30 years. Roberta is an ordained Elder at Liberty Community Church: Where Freedom is Proclaimed, PCUSA. She founded and chairs Liberty's Social Justice Ministry Team and is as a member of the Christian Education Ministry Team. She has also served on boards of directors of non-profit organizations in the Twin Cities. Roberta has discerned God's call on her life to public ministry as founded in social justice and rooted in three core theological beliefs. First, "ministry emanates from the liberating power of the Gospel." Second, "ministry rooted in Jesus' call on Christians to practice their faith." Third, "Jesus' earthly ministry lays the foundation for an ethical model for social responsibility in God's two preeminent commands – to love God with all of one's mind, heart, and soul and to love the neighbor as self."

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**The Rev. Michele L. Mead, MA**

Michele has earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science and Secondary Education with a Spanish Minor, at the University of Northern Iowa, in Cedar Falls. While working as a Welfare social worker in Minneapolis, Michele completed a Master of Theology from St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota. Michele has also completed Four Units of Clinical Pastoral Education at Unity Point Health Iowa Methodist and Iowa Lutheran Hospitals in Des Moines, Iowa. Currently, Michele is serving as a Pastor for a PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly) program at Immanuel Pathways. Michele sought FCM commissioning because she sees her calling and ministry growing in the direction of hospice, palliative care, and other programs that support aging in place. She also seeks a more in-depth sense of ministerial community as well. Michele anticipates attending FCM conferences in the future.



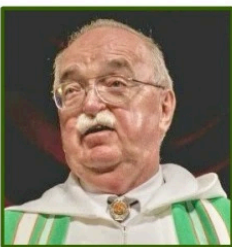
**The Rev. Cyreta Oduniyi, M.Div.**

Cyreta has earned a Bachelor's Degree in Youth Studies from the University of Minnesota and a Master's Degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling from the United Theological Seminary Twin Cities, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Cyreta says, "After much prayer, research, and careful consideration, I feel called to be a part of the FCM faith community. My beliefs align with the same code of ethics as FCM. I also really appreciate that people from different denominations can be a part of the FCM family." Cyreta sought FCM commissioning because she strongly believes in FCM's ethical practice of our faith community, such as "respecting the dignity of the human person." Cyreta plans to engage the FCM community by representing and networking with fellow FCM members within her state and beyond, attending retreats, workshops, and national assemblies.



**The Rev. Kellan Weyer, M.Div.**

Kellan earned a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, from Concordia College, in Moorhead, Minnesota, and has a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. Kellan has completed one unit of CPE at Fairview-Ridges Hospital in Burnsville, MN, and is currently working on a one-year, three-unit CPE residency in Edina, MN. Like many members of FCM, Kellan was looking for a sense of freedom in his ministry. He found himself dissatisfied and limited by the pastoral ministry in which he was engaged. Kellan, through reflection and discernment, has found a home in FCM that allows him to pursue his call to a ministry of refreshment and hope. Called by the Holy Spirit, Kellan is taking courage to act, by uniting with the FCM faith community that he might find liberation and freedom to fulfill his sense of Divine call. Kellan sought FCM Commissioning because he hopes to become a Board-Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains to serve in a hospital or hospice setting.



**The Rev. Tom A. Zuhlke, M.Div.**

Thomas has earned a B.S. degree in Dairy Science, and an M.S. Degree Agronomy from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a Master of Divinity from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, in Evanston, IL. Now retired from parish ministry, Thomas has served thirty-five years as an Ordained Minister in the Parish Ministry of the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ. Thomas is currently an active member of the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Redgranite, Wisconsin, where he participates in Holy Communion Services on First Sundays. Thomas is also a member of Prairie Lakes Unitarian – Universalist Fellowship of Ripon, Wisconsin. He participates in discussions on Engage Sundays, on first and third Sundays of the month and worship services, on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Thomas sought FCM commissioning because he wants to return to paid part-time ministry with the County and the State of Wisconsin for chaplaincy services to county jails and prisons.

**St. Louis Meeting**

The next meeting of the Federation of Christian Ministries in Saint Louis will be at  
**Marybeth McBryan's home, 3914 Burgen, St. Louis, MO 63116,**  
on **Saturday, March 7, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.**

Please let us know if you plan to attend:

Marybeth McBryan, Telephone: **314-277-3212** Or Paul Vincent Reithmaier, email: [p.reithmaier@att.net](mailto:p.reithmaier@att.net)

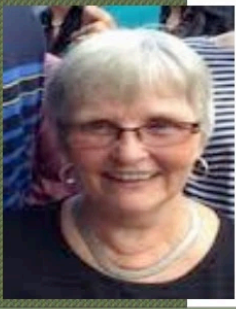
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# SOUTHERN REGION



## Zoom, New Members, Commissioned Members

by Diane Dougherty - Vice President - Southern Region

**District Zoom Meetings are now a reality.** We will hold our future Zoom engagements on Thursday's at 7:30 at the end of each month. Our next two Zoom meetings will be Feb 27<sup>th</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup>.



### Welcoming Our New Members:

**Kathy Anderson, Groveland, FL.** Kathy is graduating from Bible College and working toward ordination. She is working with alcoholic women.



**(Thomas) Jay Kowalski-Mt. Dora, FL.** After serving 40 years as a United Methodist Pastor near Tampa, Jay moved to Mt. Dora and is pursuing Chaplaincy.



**Kamil Cak- Chesapeake, VA** (Pronounced Chalk). Kamil is a board-certified chaplain (APC), He has moved from clinical work to administration and now serves as the Patient Experience Officer for a pediatric health system in Hampton Roads, VA.

### Congratulations to our newly commissioned FCM members:

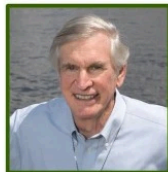
- **Wanda Thomas** (Raleigh, NC)
- **George Francis** (Port Richey, FL)
- **Gregg Aquirre** (Palm Harbor, FL)
- **Joe Musco** (Dunedin, FL)
- **Evelyn Hahn** (Apex, NC)
- **Lacey (Kellin) Kumanchik** (Norfolk, VA)

### Please save this date for our next Southern Region gathering

March 28-29, 2020  
Address of Kathy Anderson Homestead:  
6700 Hunt Road  
Groveland, FL 34736  
[561-312-4048](tel:561-312-4048)

Our next FCM gathering is being planned by Beth Knight and Kathy Anderson in Groveland, FL at the home of Kathy Anderson. This FCM day retreat and gathering will include time for rest, renewal, fellowship and continued bonding as an FCM community. There will be group time as well as time for individual outdoor walks, canoeing on the lake, use of the yoga trapeze or spending time in the chapel.

RSVP: [Dbethknight@hotmail.com](mailto:Dbethknight@hotmail.com)  
Ph 352-978-8180

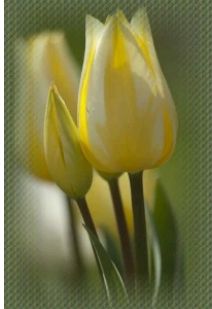


**Southern Region has lost a legend:** We offer our condolences to Judith MacNutt on the death of her husband, Francis, an Internationally know healer. Francis has been a member for over 34 years. Our prayers go out to Francis and the vibrant community they served together in Jacksonville, FL. We ask for a showering of blessings on this community as they continue in God's service.

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## Pacific Region Commissioning

by Tracy Peterson, Vice President - Pacific

The Pacific Region is delighted to welcome **Agnes Koskei** as a commissioned and endorsed member of FCM. She is currently working as a chaplain at St. Joseph's hospital in Phoenix Arizona. Agnes is from Kenya and she brings a wealth of knowledge and energy to FCM. She will also be acting as the Arizona regional representative, so look for an email or two from her as she starts to organize get-togethers for everyone to meet.

As Zoom meetings seem to be working well for us – we will have a Pacific Region Zoom Meeting **Saturday, April 4th at 9:00am Pacific time.**

If you would like to be more involved in what FCM does, please contact me, Tracy Peterson at 602-448-5971 so we can discuss what areas you would like to be involved in. Some options are writing for the newsletter, acting as a regional representative, or being involved in different committees.



PACIFIC REGION



**BAPTISM**

**All FCM members who preside at BAPTISMS**

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

**You will find the form at [www.FCMregistry.org](http://www.FCMregistry.org)**

Questions? Please email [registry@FCMmail.org](mailto:registry@FCMmail.org)

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**Newsletter Editor...Tom Cruse**  
Email: [newsletter@FCMmail.org](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@FCMmail.org) by the 15th of each month (February, April, June, August, October and December). FCM member-submitted articles should aim for 500 words and 2-3 selected photos in MS Word and JPG formats.

## FCM Central Office



### COORDINATORS

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FCM Blog: [fcmblog.org](http://fcmblog.org)  
FCM Registry: [fcmregistry.org](http://fcmregistry.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.

## FCM Membership & Realm

### REALM ADMINISTRATOR & MEMBERSHIP

**Amy Simpson Bennethum**  
Emails: [connect@FCMmail.org](mailto:connect@FCMmail.org) - [membership@FCMmail.org](mailto: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](http://www.federationofchristianministries.org)  
Inquiries may be made at: [specmin@FCMmail.org](mailto:specmin@FCMmail.org)

### GLOBAL MINISTRIES UNIVERSITY

GMU offers degree completion programs, certifies, a Celebrant Training Program, 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](http://www.globalministriesuniversity.org)  
Email: [GMU5053@aol.com](mailto:GMU5053@aol.com) Phone: **866 419 8020 toll-free**

## FCM Circle of Directors

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**Chair, Commissioning Committee: Anthony Ercolano**

Phone: 718.461.7128 | Email: [commissioningchair@FCMmail.org](mailto:commissioningchair@FCMmail.org)

**Co-Chairs, Specialized Ministries:**

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**Peter Strening** Phone: 970.817.1409

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**Co-Chairs, Faith Communities:**

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**Northeast: Carl Yusavitz**

Phone: 215.453.5170 | Email: [northeastvp@FCMmail.org](mailto:northeastvp@FCMmail.org)

### FCM ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

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Phone: 215.387.7998 Email: [j.ruane@uscience.edu](mailto:j.ruane@uscience.edu)

**Prayer Support Leader/Coordinator: Anthony Capone**

**Prayer support button on the website or:**

Email: [prayersupport@FCMmail.org](mailto:prayersupport@FCMmail.org)

**FCM Communications: Antoinette Marold**

Email: [communication@FCMmail.org](mailto:communication@FCMmail.org)

**FCM Realm: Amy Simpson-Bennethum**

Email: [connect@FCMmail.org](mailto:connect@FCMmail.org)