

FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER



2021

January/February 2021...Vol. 55 Number 1

Federation of Christian Ministries 2021

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New Year Blessings

Peace
In your world...

Love
In your home...

Joy
In your heart...

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CHAIRPERSON

CHRISTY HOWARD-STEELE



NEWS FROM THE CIRCLE OF DIRECTORS

Happy New Year and Welcome 2021!

Kindness, kindness, kindness.

I want to make a New year's prayer, not a resolution.

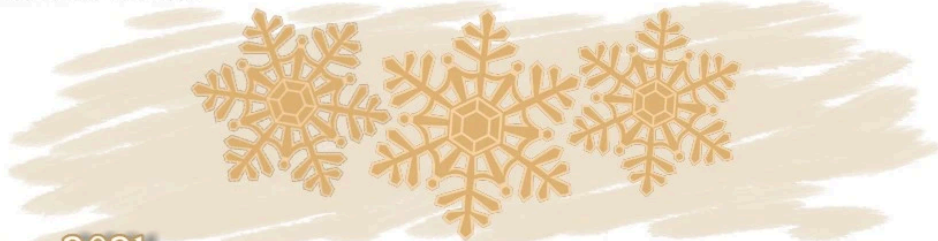
I'm praying for courage.

Susan Sontag

I am again filled with hope for the year to come. 2020 was filled with so much loss, grief, anger, and stress, I find myself relieved. Not that things magically reversed themselves on New Year's Eve night, however the end of one year and the beginning of a new one symbolizes the opportunity and the promise of change. As I reflect on when I turned 21, with the benefit now of many years of hindsight, I recognize that turning 21 was just the beginning of my living into and being held accountable for being a fully mature adult. It is my hope that as the 21st century turns 21, we all continue to live into and hold ourselves accountable for creating the inclusive society that reflects the kin-dom of G-d on earth.

Requests and Reminders:

- **Educational Workshop or Presentation** - If you have an educational workshop or presentation that you would like to offer to the membership, please email your proposal to chairperson@fcmmail.org. On one page, include title, presenter(s), information on professional experience(s)/experiential(s), issues to be covered, the learning objectives, outcomes for each, and a brief discussion of the proposed format.
- It is important for you to know that as a volunteer organization, the Central Office and the Circle of Directors cannot spend most of the year working on renewals of membership. The time to renew your membership for 2021 has ended. On January 15th, any members who have not renewed will become inactive. This means that for commissioned and commissioned/endorsed members **Your Commissioning and/or Endorsement faculties ended December 31, 2020**. If you need help renewing, please contact the Central Office or myself immediately.
- **Regional Commissioning Liaisons** – As mentioned in the last newsletter, volunteers to help regional vice presidents guide applicants through the commissioning process are being sought. Please email your Regional Vice President to volunteer.
- **Ministry Peers** – we are always in need of ministry peers to pair with new members. Ministry peers help familiarize new members with FCM, provide support and accountability. Please email your Regional Vice President to volunteer.



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PRESIDENT

RON DAVIS

New Year's Resolution



It's December 3rd and I am seeing new people come into my gym for morning workouts. So, I think to myself, "if there ever was a time when people should commit themselves to a New Year's Resolution before New Year's Day, now it that time!"

America should take on a New Year's Resolution. Do you want to know what it should be? Well, I'll tell you anyway. I think that America should work hard at listening to and talking with one another much, much more in 2021.

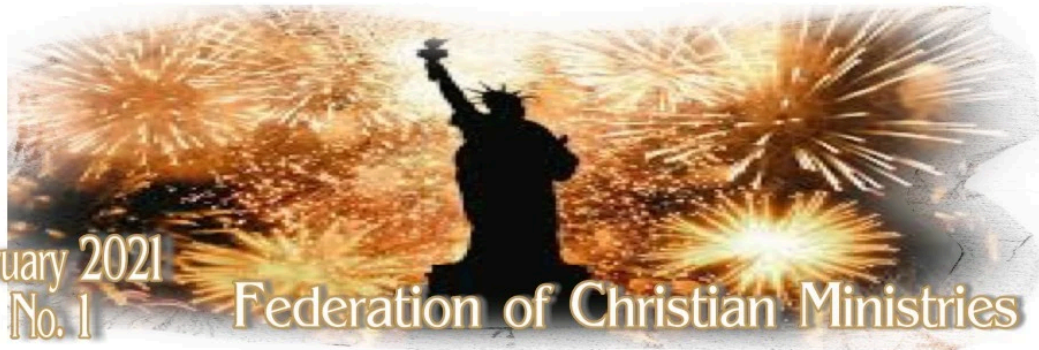
The year 2020 has been a challenging one, partly because it feels like the America that I know and love is unraveling right before my eyes. Truth, honesty, facts, character and thoughtfulness are being sacrificed for personal and political agendas. Then, when I saw the election results, I saw data that confirmed that America is as polarized as it feels in the city square. We are a divided nation, and this gives me pause and it is of great concern.

I wonder, what should be the church's resolve in a polarized land? I wonder what should be FCM's resolve to the current polarization of America.

We are ministers, chaplains, church planters and general members of FCM who have a lot of love for God and for humanity. I wonder how we ought to use our voices and ministry platforms to find real solutions to problems and issues, one which affords us reduced stress and fewer challenges in America. For instance, racism has been a 400-year problem in this land. Yet, even after the death of George Floyd, very little has been done to address the problem of racism. From listening to politicians, we as a nation should be committed either to law enforcement or to Black lives. Can't we be committed to both? Really? Why not? Ought we to join the conversation? Can we dig deeper into this conversation and move towards solutions rather than kick this can to the next generation to solve? Can we deepen our relationships with our local and national politicians so that they can know our concerns? I want all politicians to know that we are troubled by the unraveling that is taking place in America. I want them to know that silence when politicians behave badly is not right for America, for me. I would like us to talk and listen because there are many issues which have become politicized that should not have become political at all.

As I anticipate 2021, I am praying and believing that God can use FCM to celebrate our love of God and our love for one another by having open, honest and intentional conversation. That, we will work harder at opening doors of conversation on those tough subjects—race, religion, and politics. I am hoping that we will discern strategies and practices that work in moving the bar. For, history tells me that if we continue to approach tough subjects in the current ways, nothing will get done. America will continue to see no change, unraveling, and continue to experience a lot of frustration. I believe that we are better than our current practices. Therefore, I encourage America to take on a New Year's resolution for 2021: That we will learn to listen to and talk with one another in order to bring this nation back together.

We know better, let us strive to do better. Can we talk?



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FCM ENDOWMENT

ANTHONY ERCOLANO

DONATED TO DATE: \$50,500
OUR GOAL: \$100,000



Tribute Gift

Is there a friend, family member, teacher, or mentor you would like to honor on their special day or send an expression of sympathy?

Consider a small donation to the **FCM Endowment Fund**.

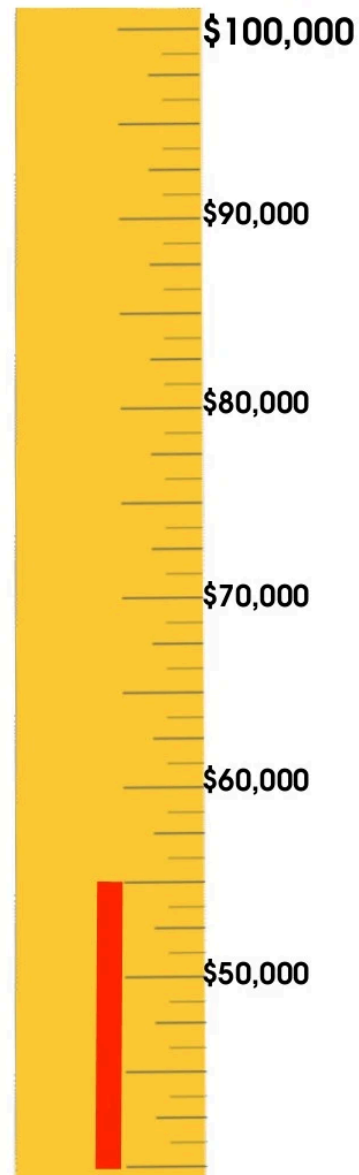
A notice of your gift will be sent to the honoree or a member of their family. You will also know that your gift will help ensure that FCM will be able to support future generations of ministers and congregations.

For more information go to the FCM web site under FCM Endowment Fund for the online **Tribute Gift Form** or **endowment@fcmmail.org**

Regular Donation

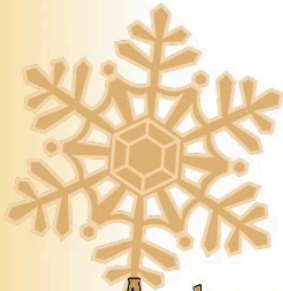
Go to the **FCM website** www.federationofchristianministries.org or go to your personal account on **Realm** www.onrealm.org and make your donation.

1. Sign in to **Realm** 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

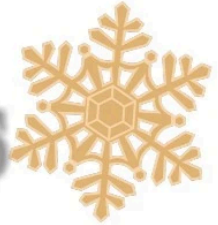


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FCM Faith Communities



MARITA GRUDZEN, CHAIR

A chance to be involved in a core activity of FCM

We are seeking volunteers to serve on a newly formed FCM Faith Communities Committee. The scope of this committee will include but is not limited to:



Planning topics and facilitating the ongoing Faith Communities Zoom Networking meetings



Communicating with existing faith communities to discuss their needs and expectations of FCM



Recruiting and developing new faith communities



Creating a vision for FCM faith communities within in the FCM organization

We'd love to hear from you. All are welcome. Please respond by emailing
Ginny Cusack (cusack.g@gmail.com)
or
Marita Grudzen (maritagrudzen@gmail.com)



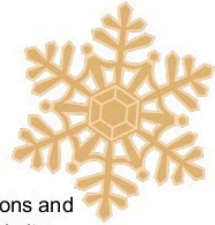
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FCM Communication

ANTOINETTE MAROLD



Happy New Year! Now that you have completed your renewal for 2021, additions and changes will begin to appear on the FIND A MINISTER listings on the FCM website. The process should be completed by the first of February.

The past two months I have noticed that several of our members have had special events in their lives. I decided to create an area to spotlight these achievements. If you like the area please let me know and we will continue to post these events.
email: communication@FCMmail.org

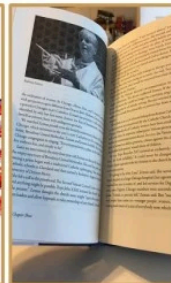
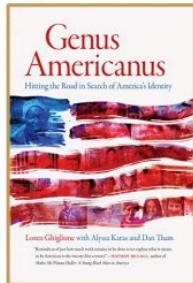


SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations



Scott & Lisa Bennion
were married on November 1, 2020
Scott is a member of the Pacific Region



FCM member Barbara Zeman, from the Mts. & Plains Region, has been featured in *Genus Americanus* by Loren Ghiglione. It is available on Amazon. An interview with the authors is on YouTube.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-GHdcemDcP0&ab_channel=MarkTwinLibraryMedia

Will Pope Francis or a Successor Call a Vatican III Council?

Some Global and Historical Perspectives on Ongoing Crises


JOHN RAYMAKER and GERALD GRUDZEN

Will Pope Francis or a Successor Call a Vatican III Council? by FCM members John Raymaker & Gerald Grudzen

In 2008, the authors wrote *Steps toward Vatican III* which explored developments occurring in the Catholic Church including its teachings on social justice, inter-religious dialogue, and Small Christian Communities. This update of *Steps* explores how Pope Francis has developed such themes in original ways in his encyclicals and in his use of synodal consultations. Available at <https://www.amazon.com/Will-Francis-Successor-Vatican-Council/dp/0761872256>

Happy 50th Anniversary

Pat & Paul



Pat & Paul Stubenbort celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 7th. Because of Covid 19, they renewed their vows in their backyard with family and a few close friends.

Pat & Paul are members of the Northeast Region and past member of the FCM Circle of Directors.

THE INNER ROOM

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RODNEY A. MORROW
RESPONSE POEMS BY MARCEL AIME DUCLOS

The Inner Room by FCM members Rodney A. Morrow and Marcel A. Duclos

This newly published book captures the infinite beauty of creation, frozen in a series of striking images and expressed in response poems. It is the result of two *FCM Prayer Gatherings* in late summer, 2020. **Rodney**, the photographer, presented his images one after the other with time for meditative reflection between each during the *Gathering*. **Marcel**, the poet, wrote his own poetic response to each image in the moment. The power of the combined photo/poems struck all. The two FCM members then collaborated to move their newly created work to print. Both invite you to enter your own Inner Room to hear in the stillness the whisper of the Spirit. **The Inner Room** is available on Amazon.



The FCM Faithful

Major Membership Anniversaries

January - February 2021



The people listed below have worked long and faithfully to build FCM to its place today. If you wish to congratulate them, search them online in Realm (www.onRealm.org) or on the Realm app. If you are not signed into Realm, ask your Regional Vice President or connect@fcmmail.org for authorization.

Compiled by Carolyn and Tom at the FCM Central Office:

40 Year Anniversary

Russ Ditzel, Northeast Region

30 Year Anniversaries

Sheila and Dennis Linn, Mts. and Plains Region

25 Year Anniversaries

Dennis Condon, Mts. and Plains Region

Mark Doorley, Northeast Region

Bridget Mary Meehan, Southern Region

20 Year Anniversary

Mary Ann Cejka, Northeast Region

15 Year Anniversaries

Eileen DiFranco, Northeast Region

Kathy Vandenberg, Mts. and Plains Region

10 Year Anniversaries

Vera Markovich, Pacific Region

C. Renee Yarmuth, Great Lakes Region

5 Year Anniversaries

Joey Armstrong, Mts. and Plains Region

Judith Lorenz, Southern Region

Susan Negrotto, Northeast Region

Jerry Pepin, Southern Region

Sarah Powell, Mts. and Plains Region

Congratulations!



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Yarns n' Prayers

PAUL SCHLEITWILER, FCM

Each bi-month I reach out to several members from our list of those members willing to write short (500 words or so) articles for our Newsletter. I ask for information on ministries or ministry moments that our members and/or our communities are actively pursuing. This article on one such special ministry came from one of our FCM members, Paul Schleitwiler, of Westchester, IL. Tom Cruse, Newsletter Editor.



Everyone needs prayers and a warm hug, especially at critical times. Prayer shawls, lap blankets and scarves can carry our prayers to those in need and hug them when we cannot.

The St. Giles Family Mass (Non-FCM) Community has had a shawl ministry for years. In the beginning, a few women knitted and crocheted shawls which one of the pastors would take to those in need. Since I crochet, one woman told me they needed lap blankets for men. So, I joined. The best way to recruit is to ask someone to help with a task.

Since then, we began to enlist the whole community in praying and in bringing shawls and blankets to those they knew needed them. We first asked for their prayers and listing what we were praying for in our weekly announcements. Now I edit and publish a quarterly newsletter which includes that plus statistics of what we have made and given out, thanks from recipients or their caregivers, news of events, patterns and humor. We have a page on the St. Giles website with current and back issues of the newsletter and current events, such as healing masses where those prayed for can receive a shawl, blanket, scarf or pocket "blessing square" they choose. Our web page shows up in the first few hits of a Google search and has elicited requests from across the country. A church in California has asked for our help in setting up their own shawl ministry. All this has reaped donations of money and yarn and one grant, so far, to support the ministry.

We have also made purses and headbands for girls at Mercy Home. We are now making scarves for them, for asylum seekers at two points on the border and a detention center and for another church's outreach to the homeless. Asking someone to help has increased our number of crafters to over thirty regular members and some who have made one or a few items. We continue to grow but I am still the only man in the group.

We used to meet monthly at the center to show and bless what we had made and get yarn for more. Now we meet on Zoom and a few take turns adding to our stash and organizing it and the donations we receive. One member successfully applied for the grant to support the work with Mercy Home. Everyone needs a hug and prayers such as those that these crafts carry.

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I Am One Who

CHARLOTTE NICHOLAS ,FCM
GREAT LAKES REGION



I am one who

is descended from the earliest settler colonialists
and slaveholders who came to this nation,
and now I struggle each day to come to terms with that heritage.

I am one whose ancestors fought on both sides of the Civil War
some willing to die to preserve slavery,
others willing to die to end it,
and I wonder what to make of all that.

I am one who grew up imagining Jesus as white,
singing hymns written by dead white males,
rarely questioning why all those
who worshiped with me
were white—after all, everyone around me was white—
except for Mrs. Mamie Miller, who cleaned our house
and did our laundry.

I am one who grew up in a lily-white suburb,
attended lily-white schools, and
was friends with the only mixed-race student in my class
who hid her pain with jokes and laughter,
and I never thought to ask her what it was like to be her.

I am one who learned, in those lily-white schools
that Columbus discovered America,
that the Indians welcomed the colonizers with open arms,
that all great literature and art and music
were created by white men,
and so many other lies.

I am one who is now trying to see history
and art and music and literature
from the perspective of those who have been oppressed
by white people like me.
Sometimes that learning is very painful,
but sometimes it's joyful as well
as the boundaries of my long-limited world expand.

I am one who attended a nearly all-white (church-related) university
and pledged an all-white sorority
and never challenged that,
even though my Black roommate could never have joined,
and I now feel ashamed of my choices back then.

I am one who has lived, most of my adult life,
in diverse neighborhoods,
while faithfully participating in the most segregated hour of each week
in congregations that are far from diverse.

I am one who believes that Black Lives Matter
and whose son is a white police officer,
who has paid a high price for his service
on levels too many to count,
and my heart feels torn in two
with every collision between demonstrators and cops.

I am one who hopes and works and prays for a better world
even as I benefit from the unearned privileges I enjoy
in the world as it is.

What comes next?

For me?

For our nation?

For us all?

I pray, I hope, I ponder.





So Long 2020!

SHANNON QUEENAN, GREAT LAKES VP



This is the first year in my memory in which there is such collective agreement in the thoughts, feelings and attitudes about said year. Ask anyone. Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day, a children's book from the early 1970s and a 2014 movie, with the same title, shows how a bad day can be shared. But 2020 has shown itself to be the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad YEAR!

I am sure, like me, many of you remember March very well. You remember the incredulity of the cancellation of March Madness...and secretly thinking, this will pass. Then the news we are all working from home, while also having the rest of the family home...working or doing Non-Traditional Instruction. But that can't last. Then postponing the Derby in Louisville. And let's be honest, the truly important things that were happening were patients dying alone in the hospital, families unable to gather for funerals and weddings. Graduations everywhere were being cancelled. Yet, still, we all believed—a few more weeks. As we learned more about the disease, people continued to get sick and die. **ALL OVER OUR PLANET.** Soon it became clear to us that it wasn't going away quickly or easily. We found some acceptance, we shared some collective grief, we adapted.

It seems clear enough that we also learned a lot in 2020. We learned that we have a great capacity for adaptation, for helping each other and for disappointment. But way more importantly, we have been called to look closely at what is important to us, individually and collectively. In addition to the pandemic, we also had political and racial upheaval. 2020 invited us to stand up for what we believe in ways other years have not. It was often uncomfortable, sometimes confusing and full of challenges.

So it is no wonder that sometime back in the summer, people started banking on 2021. It's a lot of pressure on a new year. Before we move to the hopes for 2021, let's acknowledge that 2020 did have its blessings. They are the kind of blessings that we generally don't want, but they are ours. We have earned them.

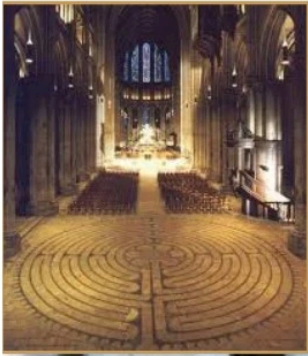
1. First and most, the blessing of "stay safe at home." This is hard to receive. The ones we love most, well, we have gotten a lot of each other this year. If we are paying attention, we are likely learning more about how to be kind to each other. This is an amazing blessing.

2. Second, we have learned (I hope) the importance of toilet paper in our lives. We don't need to hoard it. There will be enough.

3. Third, Perhaps we are learning to prioritize use of time and resources, and to preference relationships over material goods. Everything was flipped on its head and we were invited to reevaluate our priorities. Most of us didn't get to take a trip this summer, which we have missed. Many of us have done way more hiking in local parks, and have worked with intention to support locally owned businesses. These are all gifts. There are many other blessings that have come to us because of the pandemic. They will continue to unfold as time goes by. And if we are willing, we will continue to learn the lessons offered.

So that brings us to the promise of 2021 and a New Year! I have heard many say they are so ready for 2021 and for things to get back to normal. Here's a news flash: Things aren't going back and our normal didn't include everyone. We are going forward with a greater understanding of who we are and how deeply connected we are to each other. The pandemic has shown us clearly how much our actions impact others. We are invited to take responsibility for ourselves and to engage in our communities in new ways. Usually in a new year, we set some goals (personal and in our work) and commit ourselves to being better versions of ourselves. In that way, this year is the no different. But we can bring greater insight to this process this year!

As a human being, how can I contribute to the collective wellbeing of those I encounter daily? How can I allow the insights of 2020 be a benefit to my community? (And how will we use our experiences to impact our world for the good?) 2020 has shown us that the best response to a New Year is to be bold, expect a lot and lead with our entire hearts! The year will change us. How will we impact the year that we are given? If we have learned the lessons and received the blessings of 2020, perhaps, as a community we will gather together to live lives more fully rooted in love that leads to justice making.



MIND & BODY

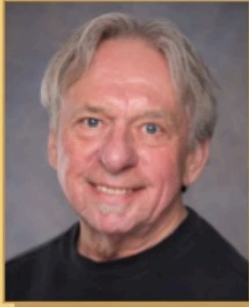
CHARTRES CATHEDRAL LABYRINTH



This is a finger labyrinth patterned after the walking labyrinth in the floor of Chartres Cathedral in France. A finger labyrinth is "walked" by tracing the path with a finger of the non-dominant hand. The advantage of a finger labyrinth is its accessibility. It can be carried with you and used almost anywhere at any time.

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NORTHEAST REGION

CARL YUSAVITZ, VICE PRESIDENT

Congratulations, Workshops & Support

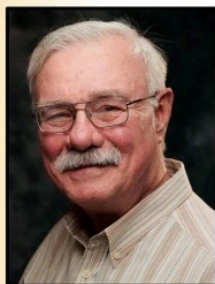
Congratulations to Rev. Terra Epps who was commissioned by the FCM Circle of Directors on November 1st. Terra was born in Louisville, Kentucky as the youngest of three children. She was raised in the church and began to develop her own personal relationship with Christ at the age of 15. After some time of discernment and discussion with her mother, pastor, and mentors she began to sense a call to ministry in 2000. On May 6, 2001, at the age of 17, Terra preached her Initial Sermon and was licensed as a Minister of The Gospel by her church.

Since that time Terra went on to earn her Master of Divinity Degree, complete seven units of Clinical Pastoral Education, and serve in various parish ministry roles including: Assistant Pastor, Youth and Young Adult Pastor, and Director of Christian Education. She has consistently displayed a deep love and commitment to the Black Church Experience, Expository Preaching, Pastoral Care, and Discipleship. While still committed to serving within parish ministry, Terra has found her most fulfilling and fitting work to be in professional healthcare chaplaincy. To that end, she currently serves as a Staff Chaplain at Baltimore's University of Maryland Medical Center.

Terra is honored to be a part of FCM and takes pride in her recent Commissioning. She believes in our common work of diversity, inclusion, and mutual support.



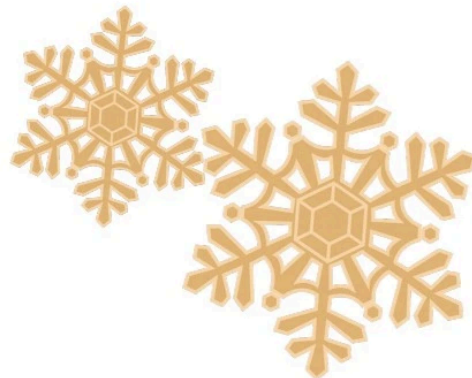
Marriage workshops continue on-line. We are grateful to **Tom Quinn** for his presentation on the family-of-origin influences on marital relationships and for introducing us to John Gottman's "Seven principles to make marriage work." Tom's November 14th workshop was attended by 22 regional members and there was important sharing of various marriage prep resources. We are also grateful to **John Haag** for his December 12th presentation on the evolving nature of marriage in our culture.



On January 9th, **Norman Simmons** will reflect on "Some perspectives of same-sex marriage." We are still unclear about our February 13th workshop. Suggestions? Volunteers?

Congratulations to regional member Rodney Morrow on the recent publication of his book with Marcel Aime Duclos "The Inner Room." You can purchase their book of visual meditations and poetic reflections from Amazon.com.

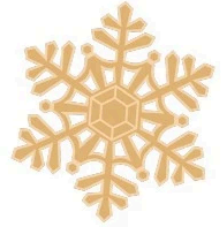
Interested in joining a grief support group on-line? A number of regional members are finding these pandemic times pretty tough and asked for some communal support to help with more personal losses too. If you are interested in forming or joining an on-line regional FCM grief support group, please contact me by email.





SOUTHERN REGION

DIANE DOUGHERTY, VICE PRESIDENT



Growing the Southern Region

COVID has not kept us away from each other because we have found 21st century protections – prayer, Zoom, and PPE as shared with us by our member, Lavender Kelley, of Washington, DC.



Commissioned in November

Congratulations to **Michelle Joachim**. After a 37 year in the Navy, Michelle has been called into chaplaincy. Although she is ordained in the AME church, she believes she is a servant leader of the Christian community, called to minister to a community of faith that will "help her to find the right balance". This means seeking a more inclusive, freeing and affirming community and she believes FCM will become that for her.

Surprising Growth in Southern Membership in 2020

In spite of a pandemic, 30 New Members have transferred from other regions, become members, been commissioned and/or endorsed in 2020. We can really say that our net has been thrown to the other side of the boat and although it is filled, it is not breaking.



Stepping up to help

In responding to the request for additional assistance, two people responded. Beth Knight, Spiritual Director, Clermont, FL will be the Southern Regional Area Coordinator. **Larry Watchorn**, a Chaplain in training, will be our Zoom Coordinator

Social Gatherings Friday Night at 7PM have proven to be a fruitful experience in networking. Getting to know each other and develop positive connections is a goal. It has been an enlightening December.

Welcome 2021

We will continue trying to make connections with each other and share all of the joy, promise of our ministries as well as the support we can give each other. Eye has not seen-that is the truth.

Deepest Sympathy



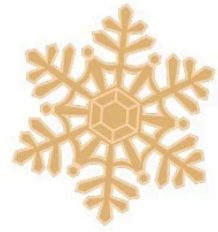
Deepest Sympathy to Ken Knapp as he mourns the loss of his partner, Juanita Acevedo, who passed on to her new life on November 24, 2020. Juanita passed away at home after a long illness with Ken at her side.

Ken is a member of the Southern Region and a past member of the FCM Circle of Directors. He can be reached at: kckpriest@aol.com



GREAT LAKES REGION

SHANNON QUEENAN, VICE PRESIDENT



A View from the Great Lakes

First, I send congratulations to **Allen Theis**, a member in Michigan who was approved for Commissioning! Special thanks to his ministerial colleague, **Tony Ercolano**, for wonderful collegueship and for holding an intimate Service of Commissioning for Allen. Allen is looking forward to being able to officiate a few special family weddings as a commissioned member.

Second, we held the first Great Lakes Zoom gathering in late October. There were about 25 of us.
We shared 1... where we were from
2... what work we do and
3... why we joined FCM.

Our next Great Lakes Zoom gathering is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19 @ 7:30pmE/6:30pm CST. We will meet for one hour. Our time together will include a time for shared reflection and an opportunity to share your hopes for FCM. Be looking for the email with the Zoom link.

I am so grateful for the many ways I have been blessed to meet and talk with so many of the wonderful FCM members of the Great Lakes Region. I know there are many more of you that I haven't yet had the privilege to meet. It is my hope that 2021 brings us the opportunity to gather in person. As soon as that seems safe and reasonable, we will plan a retreat for the region. Traditionally it has been held in the Fall. We shall see....



Baptism

ATTENTION

All FCM members who preside at BAPTISMS
You are required to register the Baptism with the FCM Registry Office
Register the Baptism at fcmregistry.org

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

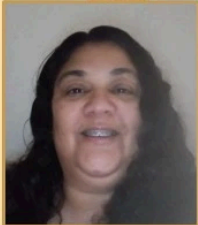


MTS. & PLAINS REGION



CONNER SIMMS, VICE PRESIDENT
SUBMITTED BY RON DAVIS, PRESIDENT

Mountains and Plains welcomes the following four members who were commissioned in our November Circle Meeting:



Keasha Baldwin of Houston, TX currently works as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker/Case Manager in the Veteran's Administration office in Texas. She knows that she is called to become a hospice/palliative care chaplain. Although she is currently a member of the Seventh Day Adventist church, she wants to be commissioned and endorsed as a non-denominational/interfaith chaplain to have a broader reach of people. She feels that FCM is the right path to take to achieve this goal.

Throughout her career, she has worked to make life better for others. She served as a chaplain assistant in the United States Army. Since 2004, she has worked as a social worker, helping others in their life stories. May God continue to journey with her as she follows God's path for her life in the chaplaincy.



Rich Hadley of Crystal City, MO comes to FCM as a board-certified Chaplain with ACPE. He is a member of the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC) and the Spiritual Care Association (SCA). He has been ordained in the Church of the Nazarene (2005) and is a commissioned pastor in the USA Presbyterian Church (2018). He has a BA in Biblical Studies and Pastoral Ministry (2002), an MDiv in Spiritual Formation (2011) and a Graduate Certificate in Ethics (2017).

Rich was ordained in two traditions and found that something was missing. As he worked to figure this out, he explored FCM. He believes in FCM's vision and mission and is willing to be in service, volunteering to serve this community to the honor of God. He works collaboratively with others.



Patrick Mack of Port Washington, WI has been an IT specialist for the last 23 years. Yet, throughout this time he felt God's tug on his heart for ministry. For the last nine years, he has been in school working on his bachelor's degree in ministry at Liberty University. He will complete his MDiv at the same school in 2021. Then also, he is going through Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) which will be completed in 2021 in order to become a chaplain.

Patrick is an active member of his church, the Open Door Bible Church. He moves with a spirit of enthusiasm for God and the work of ministry. His wife and Patrick have a small group ministry that they share. Patrick serves as a leader in the men's group in the church. Patrick is grounded in his faith and is doing all the right things to move along his ministry path.



Drusilla McLeland, now of Prescott Valley, AZ is a chaplain who would like to become board certified. Her home church, Willow Creek Community Church does not formally commission or endorse ministers. Because of this, she has worked to find a commissioning and endorsing body that she would make a good home for her. She has worked to get to know FCM and believes that FCM is the best endorsing body to walk with along her journey in ministry.

Drusilla is following her parents in ministry. Her parents were missionaries and pastors through their careers. This has blessed Drusilla with a love of God and love of people that is deeply rooted in her soul. Being the child of missionaries, she has caught a spirit of empathy and sensitivity towards people from diverse backgrounds. She is a person of prayer, discernment and advocacy. She truly cares for the disadvantaged and the vulnerable people of this world.

We welcome these three commissioned members to the Mountains and Plains Region of FCM and Drusilla who has recently moved to the Pacific Region of FCM. Let us continue to pray for Connor and all the deployed troops (and their families) in the military. God bless each one of them. Amen.



PACIFIC REGION

TRACY PETERSON, VICE PRESIDENT



Welcome Newly Commissioned Members

The Pacific region is delighted to welcome **Jana Dluhosh** as a new member! We are also delighted to announce that **Drusilla McLeland**, **Nina Goulet**, and **Elias Burgos** have all been commissioned with FCM and we welcome **Drusilla** to the Pacific region and Arizona specifically.

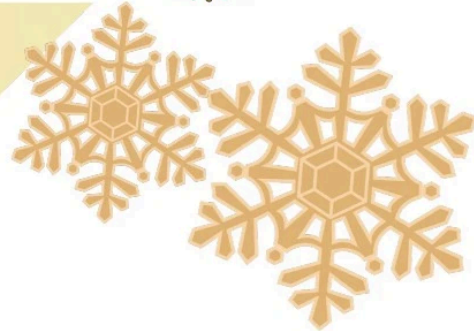
Our regional Zoom meeting was held on December 5th and it was a very uplifting time together. I encourage everyone who can, to join us on Saturday, February 13th at 11:00 am MST/10:00 AM PST. I have to postpone the usual date one week due to the Circle Meeting for FCM. So I'll send out a Zoom link when we get closer to that date!

As we start this new year of 2021, I pray that we are all safe and healthy and able to move forward in joy and God's grace.

I leave you with this traditional Gaelic Blessing:



May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
The rains fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again,
May God hold you
In the palm of His hand.





Newsletter Editor...Tom Cruse
Email: newsletter@FCMmail.org

The FCM Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Federation of Christian Ministries, a non-profit religious body. As the informational publication of FCM, its mission is to keep members current with the organization and its activities, to provide ideas to further ministry and to promote community building among local FCM groups and the national organization. All current members receive a copy. Articles and feedback are welcomed and can be sent to: newsletter@FCMmail.org by the 15th of each month (February, April, June, August, October and December). FCM member-submitted articles should aim for 500 words and 2-3 selected photos in MS Word and JPG formats.

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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

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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 three times yearly. Endorsement application materials are available for downloading on the FCM website at:

www.federationofchristianministries.org

Inquiries may be made by email at: specmin@FCMmail.org

GLOBAL MINISTRIES UNIVERSITY

GMU offers degree completion programs, certificates, 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
Email: info@globalministriesuniversity.org
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