

Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter

July/August 2021

Vol. 55 No. 4





*May we think of
freedom, not as the
right to do as we
please, but as the
opportunity to do
what is right.*

Peter Marshall



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Chairperson

Christy Howard-Steele

Gratitude for Those Going and Those Coming

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Best Wishes to Amy Simpson Bennethum!

After 6 years on the Circle of Directors as Vice President of the Great Lakes Region and 4 years as Realm Initiator and Administrator, Amy has decided to step down from her Realm Administrator responsibilities in order to focus on her family and her health. We are so grateful to have been blessed by Amy's energy, and dedicated investment of time, and vision. The words "thank you" cannot do justice to the immense sense of appreciation we have. Our hopes for you, Amy are for joy, good health, and continuing significance in the activities and relationships of your life. We look forward to your continuing ministry in FCM.



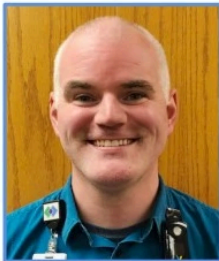
Best Wishes to Tom Cruse!

After 2 years of service as editor of FCM's Newsletter, Tom Cruse has ended his tenure. Thank you, Tom for your dedication to the quality and timeliness of the newsletter and for your diligence and patience with those of us who required more reminders to keep us on task. We are grateful for your service. We hope you continue to enjoy traveling, family, and ministry.



Best Wishes Diane Dougherty!

After 7 years on the Circle of Directors; one as secretary and 6 as Vice President of the Southern region, Diane's term as Vice President is ending. Diane has been a tireless Vice President connecting with her people throughout the vast Southern region. Thank you, Diane for your service to FCM in ways too numerous to count. We will miss you on the Circle!



Best Wishes to Conner Sims!

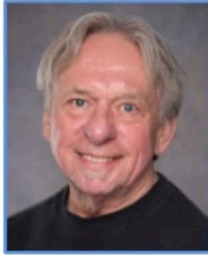
Conner graciously stepped in to fill the remaining term of former Mountain and Plains Vice President, Richard James. Little did Conner know at the time that other commitments would call him away from his family and his FCM service for an extended time. Conner has recognized that his life currently does not have enough spaciousness to serve FCM in the ways he would like and has decided to resign his position as Mountain and Plains Vice President. We appreciate Conner's heart and willingness to serve. We are grateful for the time you gave.





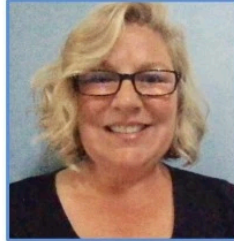
Chairperson *Christy Howard-Steele continued*

Gratitude for Those Going and Those Coming



Congratulations to Carl Yusavitz!

Carl Yusavitz has unanimously been re-elected to service as Vice President of the Northeast Region for another 3-year term. Carl has served his region faithfully connecting monthly via zoom. Carl, we look forward to you continuing to share your wisdom, experience, and history with FCM. Congratulations and thank you.



Welcome Carole duBois and Sandy Tracy!

Carole Dubois (Southern Region) and Sandy Tracy (Southern Region) have agreed to be co-editors of the newsletter. Sandy joined FCM in 2013; Carole in 2019. Both are commissioned members with backgrounds in literature and/or publishing who were open to supporting FCM. Welcome Sandy and Carole. We look forward to serving with you. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us.



Welcome Chris Young!

Chris Young (Great Lakes Region) who has previously worked with Realm Administrator, Amy Simpson Bennethum, has agreed to continue in this capacity. Chris joined FCM in 2018 and is a commissioned member. Thank you, Chris for sharing your gifts with us.



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.



President Ron Davis

Blessings FCM Community

As I sit here writing this letter, I have a smile on my face - because people across this country are becoming vaccinated, and there is a real sense that America can open safely. I am hopeful that we can begin meeting face-to-face and have more normal engagements with one another. I can't be any more happy about this change.

Two of our Vice Presidents will leave their roles in July.

Diane Dougherty



Diane Dougherty has been the Southern Region's Vice President for the last 6 years. Diane is full of energy and done very good work in bringing new members to that region of FCM. She has mentored other Vice Presidents and provided support and training as they joined the Circle. Diane has been a strong voice for social justice over the years and been an advocate for Roman Catholic Women Priests as well as helped to grow our relationship with them. We are grateful to Diane for many years of service with FCM.

Conner Simms



Conner Simms has served the Mountains and Plains as Regional Vice President for the last 2 years. Conner has been a strong voice on the Circle. He brought forth many candidates for commissioning in the Mountains and Plains. While at FCM, Conner has served as a hospital and military Chaplain, and has a young family at home as well.

Conner was deployed as a military officer for several months until this past spring. After much prayer and conversation with his wife, Conner was led to give more time to his wife and family. Because of this need, Conner is stepping down from his Vice President role with FCM. We are grateful to Conner for his years of service and wish him success as he renews his time with his family and career.

I am currently working to find who will provide the needed leadership in these two regions. I am calling people who have shown interest in this kind of leadership. My prayer is that we will be closer to an answer by the July Circle Meetings. I have hope and good leads. We will have an answer with time.

Blessings FCM Community,

Ron Davis

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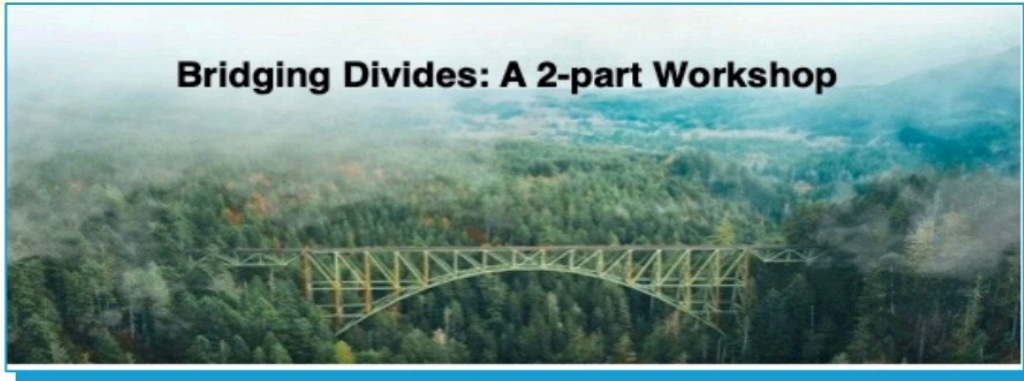




FCM Free Member Workshop July 10, 2021

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Bridging Divides: A 2-part Workshop

Join Us July 10, 2021 for the Bridging Divides Workshop - FCM Members Only

Many of us deeply feel the divisiveness of our time. We long to have bridge-building conversations about polarizing issues and yet when we try, we end up frustrated, angry, and wondering how "they" (whoever "they" are) can possibly believe what they believe, say what they're saying, support who or what they support. Not knowing how to navigate these conversations is particularly painful when "they" are people we love.

This two-part workshop introduces the Nonviolent/Compassionate Communication (NVC) framework to explore strategies for finding connection across divides, while standing firmly in our own values and integrity.

The following 2 pages describe the workshop

The workshop is FREE and for FCM members ONLY

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS Final day to register is July 8, 2021

Go to www.onrealm.org (You may want to bookmark this page for future use.)

LOGIN

After you login, go to **Events**

On the events page, you will see **2021 FCM Work shop - Bridging Divides**. Click on this event

Please provide the requested information and **click the button that says register**.

That's it! You're registered.

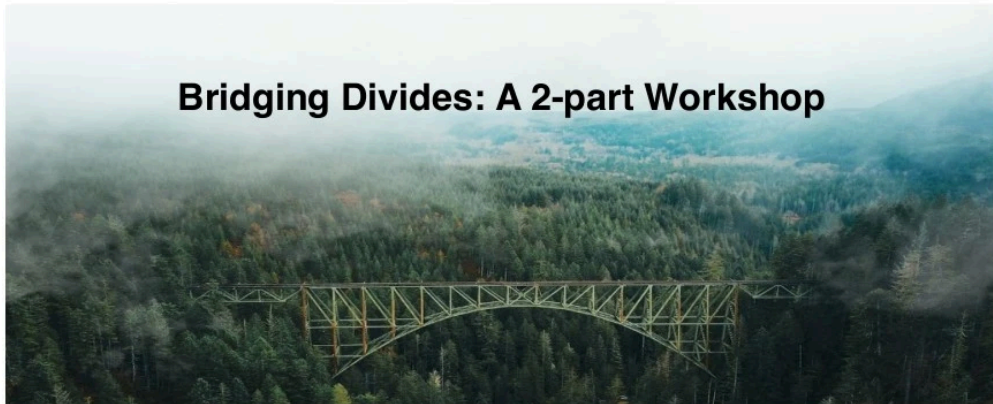
You will receive a confirmation email.

Questions or problems registering, email chairperson@FCMmail.org
Christy Howard-Steele, FCM Chairperson

Day
Saturday July 10, 2021

Time
10:00 am - 3:00 pm CT
11:00 am - 4:00 pm ET
9:00 am - 2:00 pm MT
8:00 am - 1:00 pm PT
6:00 am - 11:00 pm HST





Many of us deeply feel the divisiveness of our time. We long to have bridge-building conversations about polarizing issues and yet when we try, we end up frustrated, angry, and wondering how "they" (whoever "they" are) can possibly believe what they believe, say what they're saying, support who or what they support. Not knowing how to navigate these conversations is particularly painful when "they" are people we love.

Those of us are charged with community care (churches, organizations, groups) may feel hesitant to host such conversations because we want to hold all in care and are afraid that discussing "hot" issues will only widen gaps between people holding different perspectives and experiences. We long for tools to cultivate trust and create more courageous spaces for honest conversation.

- What are ways to maintain connection so that all parties have a chance to speak honestly and be heard?
- How do we move from "us" and "them" to a greater sense of shared vision?
- How do we cultivate these spaces in a way that acknowledges the ways privilege and power affect such conversations?
- How do we move toward conversations that aim for win-win rather than win-lose?

This two-part workshop introduces the Nonviolent/Compassionate Communication (NVC) framework to explore strategies for finding connection across divides, while standing firmly in our own values and integrity.

Part 1, Communicating Across Divides, includes:

- A brief outline of the NVC framework
- Introduction of strategies for maintaining connection with self and others
- Modeling of the practices
- Time to practice the strategies in small groups and receive feedback

Part 2, Facilitating Across Divides, includes:

- Introduction of additional skills and strategies for facilitating group conversations
- Time to practice the strategies in small groups and receive feedback
- Discussion of how to take these tools and strategies beyond the workshop

Both parts of the workshop are participatory with an emphasis on **practice**. You will be invited into the vulnerable space of reflection, discussion, and experimentation through role plays.



Workshop Facilitator:

Cory Lockhart is a teacher, artist, writer, public speaker, and peacemaker. She facilitates classes and workshops for teens and adults on living and communicating with compassion and speaks to groups about the experiences and ideas that have shaped her. She believes in the fundamental dignity of every person and the interconnectedness of all people and Creation.

Cory has been an adjunct professor at Bellarmine University and teacher at Drepung Gomang Center for Engaging Compassion; she was the primary writer of the CrossRoads Ministry program *Seeking the Shalom of the City: Revisiting and Re-visioning Louisville*, wrote the 8-week program *Cultivating Nonviolence, Harvesting Peace* for JustFaith Ministries, and has an ongoing commitment with Christian Peacemaker Teams. In April 2016 in Rome, she was one of about 80 participants in the Nonviolence and Just Peace conference, organized by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Pax Christi International, and other organizations. She lives in Louisville, KY and is involved in various local peace and justice initiatives there. Learn more about Cory and her work through her website, corylockhart.com.



Endowment Fund

Tom Stricker

VALUE AS OF 6/10/2021: \$80,486.00
OUR GOAL: \$100,000

Donate to the FCM Endowment Fund
HELP US REACH OUR \$100,000 GOAL...NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL!

INSPIRATIONAL MATCHING GIFT

We have an offer of a \$10,000
"Inspirational Matching Gift"

We need donations totaling \$6,505. to make the match.

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

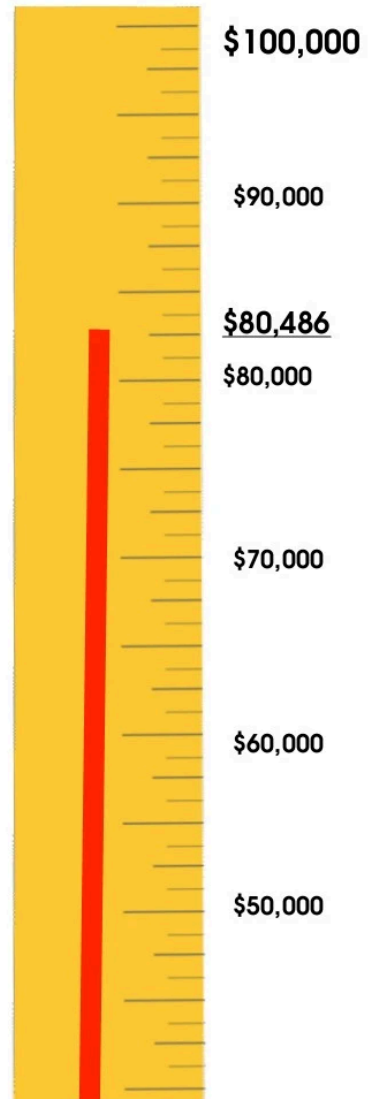
Tribute Gift

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@fcmail.org



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Measuring Our Success

FCM Major Membership Anniversaries

May-August 2021

The members 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. The list is compiled by Carolyn & Tom at the FCM Central Office.

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25 Years

Joanne Fitzgerald, Pacific

15 Years

Mary Kusner, Mountains and Plains

Mary Robertson, Great Lakes

Rod Stephens, Pacific

10 Years

Kathleen Dzura, Southern

Mark Meyer, Great Lakes

Richard Nelson, Northeast

David Nyland, Southern

Peter Strening, Mountains and Plains

5 Years

Anthony DiBartolo, Northeast

Scott Bennion, Pacific

Barbara Bunsold, Great Lakes

Tom Cruse, Great Lakes

Sharon Dickinson, Northeast

Erik Doughty, Mountains and Plains

Christine Haider-Winnett, Pacific

Catherine Knowles, Northeast

Grayce Lane, Southern

Ruth Lindstedt, Pacific

Sakinah Nicholson-Carter, Southern

Javier Perez, Pacific

Tracy Peterson, Pacific

James Verrecchia, Southern



So You Want to Be a Hospital Chaplain?

By Reverend Dr. Mary M. Foley, FCM Board Certified Chaplain

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Hospital chaplaincy is an important and rewarding ministry. But, hospital chaplaincy is also misunderstood, both in terms of what it entails, and what kind of preparation is needed to be an effective, qualified chaplain.

Hospital chaplaincy is interfaith ministry in a multi-cultural setting. Chaplains provide spiritual and emotional support for all the people they serve, whether or not those persons are religious. A chaplain's focus is to support patients and hospital staff in finding their own meaning and sources of strength. Chaplains do not proselytize, evangelize, or in other ways impose their own viewpoints on others. They do open themselves to the faith, beliefs, and life stories of others, as they accompany them through their suffering and meaning-making.

Many times, applicants for staff chaplain positions must be Board Certified (or Board Eligible) in order to be hired. It is important for chaplains to research which credentials are required and accepted at the hospital in the part of the country where they apply, because it will vary. Ordinarily, Board Certification requires at least four units of accredited Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and a Masters of Divinity (or equivalent) degree. This may sound like a lot of alphabet soup! However, learning the different acronyms for certifying bodies is important for anyone seeking to become a hospital chaplain.

I am an ACPE (Association of Clinical Pastoral Care) Certified Educator. I am also an APC (Association of Professional Chaplains) Board Certified chaplain. I manage CPE for the West Florida Division of AdventHealth. Our CPE center is accredited by the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education. I love teaching and working with chaplain students in their learning process, especially those who are preparing for board certification as professional chaplains.

Accredited programs of CPE are fundamental in preparing students for professional chaplaincy. CPE not only provides clinical training, it also engages students in learning about themselves – the ways in which they have been shaped by their families of origin and faith traditions, as well as by significant events and relationships in life. They learn to examine their assumptions and biases, which is the only way to change them. They learn about the importance of culture and cultural humility. All of this intense work helps chaplains become more open to the experiences of others they serve in ministry, without allowing themselves to get in the way.

Both the experience of CPE and life as a hospital chaplain can be tremendously rewarding. It is important for those embarking on this path to do the important work of making sure they get what they need to become successfully employed. As an educator, I have the long-range hope of preparing others well for hospital chaplaincy, I also know the immediate need for people to find the right kind of training programs as they begin their chaplaincy journey.

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





Northeast Region

Carl Yusavitz, Vice President

The Northeast region continues to grow, despite the on-going pandemic and necessity to do many things on-line.

Congratulations to our five regional members who were Commissioned by the FCM Circle of Directors on May 8th.

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Holly Bonner just finished her fourth unit of CPE at the Institute of Clinical Pastoral Training in New York City. She is a Chaplain with the New York State Chaplain Task Force and also serves as the Staten Island Borough Coordinator of their Blind and Visually Impaired Programs. She hopes one day to be board certified by the Association of Professional Christian Chaplains.



Julie Corron is a Deacon in the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests (ARCWP) and will be ordained as a Priest this fall. She is a member of the FCM faith community – “The Upper Room Inclusive Catholic Community” – in Albany, NY. Julie hopes one day to be board certified as a Chaplain.



Jane Frost was recently “called” and hired as a part-time Pastor of a small congregational church in Maine. She has extensive experience in Behavioral Health Chaplaincy and Nursing and hopes one day to be board certified by the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC).



Dennis McDonald is a Priest in the ARCWP and serves in their Administration Ministry. He is a Presiding Priest in The Upper Room Inclusive Catholic Community.



Kim Panero is also a Priest in the ARCWP and a Presiding Celebrant with the Upper Room Inclusive Catholic Community.





Northeast Region continued...

Our monthly on-line Regional Gatherings continue. The last three gatherings focused on collegiality and mutual support, as well as a presentation on how churches can help alleviate the on-going opioid crisis. Future gatherings will feature these presentations:

- On **July 10th** **Jack Wentworth**, a member of FCM's justice and peace committee, will help us focus on the militarization not only at our Southern Border, but in many other areas of American domestic and foreign policy. Jack's working title:
"Militarism—Not Your Run-of-the-Mill Kind."
- On **August 21st** **Kimberly Ann Borin**, FCM member and Spiritual Director, will help us focus on the heart as the seat of spiritual discernment. Kimberly Ann's working title:
"Healing Heart and Retreat."
- On **September 11th** **David Pasinski**, FCM member and Chaplain who has been to our Southern Border multiple times, will focus on the continued immigration crisis there.



Despite the Covid-19 restrictions, we were able to celebrate **Chera Wertz's** FCM Commissioning in-person at her home church in Reading, PA. Pictured below (from left to right) are: Susan Iliff (Chera's FCM peer), Carl Yusavitz (Chera's FCM Regional VP), Chera, and Chera's Pastor, Rev. David Duquette.



Southern Region

Diane Dougherty, Vice President

Congratulations to the Newly Commissioned FCM Southern Region Members

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Congratulations to members Commissioned on Zoom - February 22, 2021



PHILLIP CRENSHAW
EAST POINT, GA

CLAUDIA DORSCH
DUBUQUE, IOWA

LATASHA RAMSEY
EVABS, GA
(NOW IN DALLAS, TX)

YURI YAMAMOTO
RALEIGH, NC

Congratulations to members Commissioned - March 7, 2021 Anderson's Chapel - Groveland, FL



DAVID BROWNING



LARRY WATCHORN

Led and Directed by Beth Knight
Assisted by members Sue Levy and
Kathy Anderson

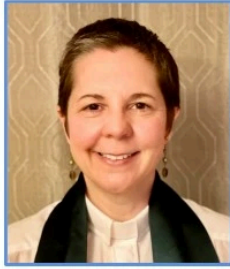
Congratulations to members Commissioned in May, 2021

Rev. Ashley Cooper, Lewisburg, TN
Nancy S. Williams-Boyd, Simpsonville, NC
Jennifer Carpenter, Longwood, FL



Southern continued - 2

Newly Commissioned Members continued...



Rev. Ashley Cooper, Lewisburg, TN

Ashley lives on a small farm with her spouse, Jenny Cooper. They have been married for 19 years and are still loving life together! Ashley and Jenny are members of First Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg, and enjoy sending cards to those who are sick and homebound.

Ashley is a former Air National Guard Chaplain and Major. She also served as a Department of Veterans Affairs Chaplain and Odyssey Hospice Chaplain. She graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with an MDiv with a specialization in Psychology and Counseling and is currently working on her DMin at Hazelip School of Theology/Lipscomb University.

Ashley desires Commissioning through The Federation of Christian Ministries because the organization is a representation of the Kingdom of God practicing love and inclusivity.

Ashley's Commissioning will be in Lewisburg at the end of Summer.

Nancy S. Williams-Boyd, Simpsonville, NC, is a feminist theologian and Master of Divinity Chaplaincy Candidate at Regent University, Virginia Beach, Virginia. She has one year of academic experience as a Ph.D. Candidate in Counseling and Supervision from the University of Mississippi, a M.Ed. in Counseling from South Carolina State University, a B.A. in Public Affairs from Columbia College (SC), and over 30 plus hours in business education courses from The University of Memphis and The Citadel.



Nancy was raised in the Baptist and Holiness faith and she practiced Catholicism until 2018. After experiencing a full-immersion baptism into the Baptist denomination, Nancy was led to found a start-up organization focused on women's interfaith empowerment. Her organization addresses issues surrounding the marginalization of women across all denominations.

When asked why FCM, Nancy responded, "FCM is an organization that captured my attention and desire to collaborate with like-minded professionals because the FCM mission demonstrates Christ's love of humanity and respect for all voices of all people."

Nancy's Commissioning is set for 2:00 PM, July 3, 2021, Columbia Presbyterian Church, 711 S. Columbia Rd, Decatur, GA.

Jennifer Carpenter, Longwood, FL. I sought out FCM because I felt I was having to mentally, emotionally, and spiritually contort myself to fit into a denominational box that no longer fit.



The artist Scott Erickson drew a picture of a crustacean with—instead of a shell—a church on its back. I'm paraphrasing, but the main point of the caption of the picture was: "Remember, the shell was never your home; the ocean is." I experience my values and spiritual practice in alignment with the mission and values of FCM, I feel welcomed and supported with my Jewish fiancé, and I have already experienced such wonderful kindness in connection with others.

I'm excited to see where my work in hospice chaplaincy and music ministry connects with other folks in FCM, and continuing this next part of our journey together!

Jennifer's Commissioning is set for June 27, 2021, in Orlando, FL.

Please stay tuned and check your FCM messages for additional details regarding Commissioning services





Welcome New Members

Zephora Benson, Seneca, SC (Inquirer)
Ashley Acken, Mebane, NC
Andy Ross, Wake Forest, NC
Lord Tirtowa Lembo, Frederick, MD
Robert Whiteford, Memphis, TN
Mary Murphy, Nashville, TN
Rance Cannon, Gainesville, FL
Althea Truman, Clearwater, FL
Emmanuel Agbor, Bell Rose, LA

Good News for the Southern Region

Two FCM members have volunteered to assist in meeting the needs of the fast-growing Southern Region. These members will work with the Southern Region Vice President to receive new members, connect FCM members and process those seeking commissioning. They will also organize commissioning celebrations with other members of the region.

Please give a warm welcome to **Ashley Cooper, Lewisburg, TN**, who will be the Regional Representative for the area of Tennessee, South Carolina and North Carolina. We will have a zoom gathering of introduction in the near future.

Beth Knight, Clermont, FL, who many have already met, is going to be the Area Coordinator for the East and West coast of FL and all the in between. She has processed many of those seeking commissioning as well as led services and is now preparing a service in Orlando with Jennifer Carpenter. So happy to have her with us.

The Southern Region is still in need of someone to become the Regional Representative for the Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and DC region. Please pray daily that the Spirit will lead someone to take on this responsibility, and please contact Diane Dougherty (doughertyadd@gmail.com) if you have questions about the position or are feeling led to take on this role.

Many thanks to **Thom McLeod and Carole duBois** who assisted in the attempted election of a Southern Region VP. Although a new regional VP was not elected, the Spirit is still moving and the work of FCM's Southern Region will continue with Diane and the new volunteers at the helm.





Great Lakes Region

Shannon Queenan, Vice President

A View from the Great Lakes

Endowment Fund was the focus of our last newsletter. I hope you had a chance to read and learn about the exciting ways we are each able to support the ongoing growth and health of this organization that has celebrated 50 years of service in communities around the nation.

Connect and Reflect is what we call our regional Zoom meetings (one in April and the other in June). Each was well attended and offered members an opportunity to touch base and get to know each other. We are working on creating regional group meetings, as well as looking forward to when we will feel comfortable planning an in-person regional retreat!

Circle of Directors met on May 8. There has been (like everywhere) pandemic related changes, namely the cancelation of all in-person meetings over the last 16 months. This has led us to many process changes and a few personnel changes. We are cautiously optimistic about planning our National Conference for 2022! Watch this space for more information. We will meet again in mid-July.

Commissioning I had the honor of presiding at 5 Commissioning ceremonies for those commissioned at our February Circle meeting. All of them were in Ohio. The weekend of March 27-28 in Central Ohio and then May 22 in Toledo. Each service was beautiful in its own right. I was grateful to get to meet each candidate in their own setting and learn more about each ones' work. One more Congratulations to **Randy Dawson, John Diller, Bhoke Peter Kirigirti, Maija Mikkelsen and Deirdre Manning.** *Photos follow*



MAIJA MIKKELSEN AND HER GUESTS AFTER HER COMMISSIONING (WITH AND WITHOUT MASKS)



RANDY DAWSON IS ALL SMILES SHARING HIS COMMISSIONING CERTIFICATE



DEIRDRE MANNING SHOWS HER CERTIFICATE OF COMMISSIONING TO HER DAD

Drew Frawley (Indiana), **Jennifer Hill** (Ohio) and **Kyle Kirchoff** (Kentucky) were all approved for Commissioning at our May 8 Circle meeting. We are currently setting up dates and places for each of them to have their Commissioning ceremonies.

Final Thoughts As summer approaches and more people are vaccinated, there is a certain electricity in the air. Some people are hugging again! And yet there is the tension of uncertainty. What is safe? We must all take slow and steady breaths, listen deeply to our own hearts and do what is right for ourselves. Trust yourself and be generous with others. Be well!

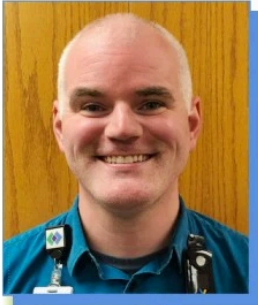
I leave you with this blessing of **St. Clare:**

Have no fear! Our God has made us Holy, has always protected us and loves us as a Mother. Therefore, go on the good road and be at peace. Amen.

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Mts. & Plains Region

Conner Simms, Vice President

Hello Mountains & Plains

Let me get this out of the way first...it's hotter here in Minneapolis than it is in Austin, TX and I'm mad about it. Texas FCMers, please send some of that A/C up our way! Since that's out of the way...

I hope that life is settling back into something approaching normalcy for each of you. It feels repetitive to mention that it's been a difficult year but the truth is that the trauma, anxiety, and uncertainty of the past 15 months is still very fresh and even ongoing for so many.

Despite this ongoing pain, we humans have shown a tremendous amount of beauty, compassion, and grace for one another in this time. These virtues have been on display alongside all of the struggles we have faced medically, socially, and politically. When this season in America's history is long in the rearview mirror may we remember this time as one of great progress as a culture and as a community.

I firmly believe that, in part, this progress will be indebted to, among many others, those who we have recently commissioned here in the Mountains & Plains region. Please join me in sending prayers or notes of congratulations to:

- Erlinda Cuajunco Perlado-Mertens, Missouri**
- Scott Wayne Chapman, Minnesota**
- Koren Ernestine Willetts, Minnesota**
- Kathleen A. McCauley, Minnesota**
- Kyle Joseph Vlach, Minnesota**
- Ian Reed Butts, Wisconsin**
- Shelby Dee Johnson, Minnesota**
- Sharon Kay Howell, Minnesota**

My prayer for these ministers is the same as it for all of you – that you would leverage your divine skills of care, empathy, and presence to bring greater Shalom to both the world around you and yourself.

Together, we will continue to persevere through this time.

Grace & Peace

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Pacific Region

Tracy Peterson, Vice President

Congratulations and Welcome

The Pacific Region is so happy to announce that **Kori Pacyniak, Lance Baker** and **Portia Howard** have been approved for commissioning/ordination. **Congratulations!**

We are also delighted to welcome **Rebecca Cusack, Sandy De Jesus, Samuel Hunt, Shannon Kelley** and **Andrew Weygandt** to the Pacific Region. Join me in welcoming them all!

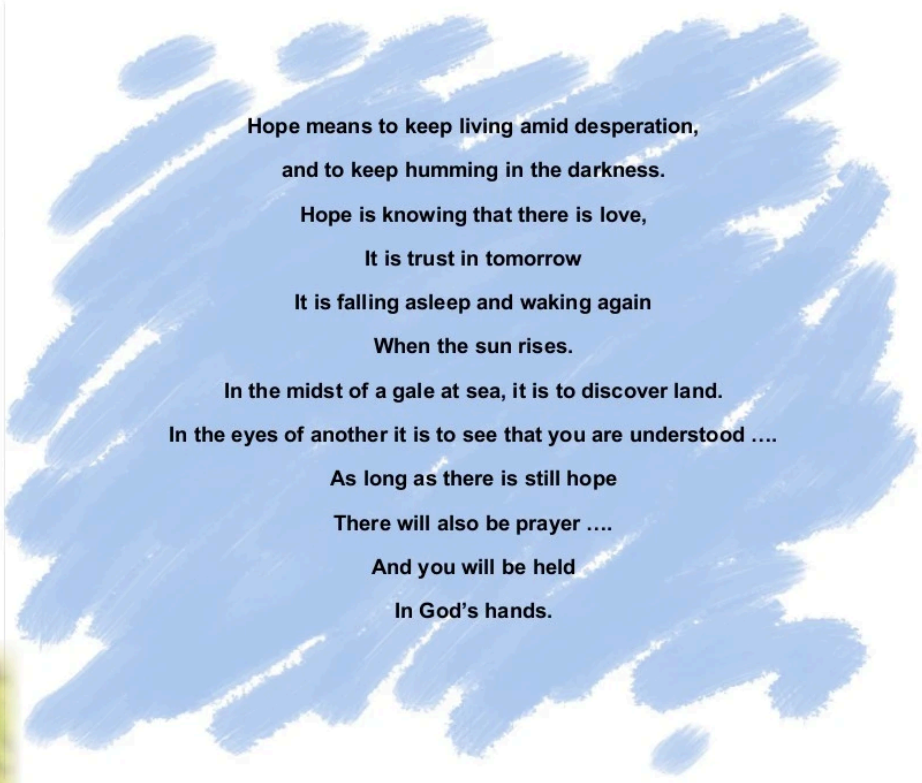
Our regional Zoom meeting for April was held on Saturday, April 10th at 10am PDT. Our topic was "One Year of Covid and How are We All Doing?" We had a wonderful conversation and provided much needed support to one another.

Our regional meeting for June was June 12 at 10am PDT and we talked about ways we are providing ourselves with self-care.

The meeting in August will be Saturday, August 14th at 10am PDT. And we will be meeting again in October and December this year. I'll continue to send out invitations to everyone in the region to join us. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Finally, from Henry Nouwen's "**With Open Hands**"

When you pray with hope, you turn yourself toward God, trusting fully that God is faithful and makes all promises real. This hope gives you a new freedom that allows you to look realistically at life without feeling dejected. This freedom is expressed in this way ...



Hope means to keep living amid desperation,
and to keep humming in the darkness.

Hope is knowing that there is love,
It is trust in tomorrow

It is falling asleep and waking again
When the sun rises.

In the midst of a gale at sea, it is to discover land.

In the eyes of another it is to see that you are understood

As long as there is still hope

There will also be prayer

And you will be held

In God's hands.

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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 8th 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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Inquiries may be made by email at: specmin@FCMmail.org

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