

Federation of Christian Ministries

Endowment Fund



Newsletter

May/June 2021

Vol. 55 No. 3



FCM Ministring in the Twenty-second Century

**FCM envisions a future in
which inclusive ministry
transforms society.**

**We make a difference!
In the present and
in the future!**

In This Issue

Creating a Legacy
Jim Verrecchia, FCM.....Page 2

FCM Endowment Information Quick LookPage 3

FCM Endowment Fund Purpose.....Page 4

Serious Planning for Endowment
Tom Cusack, FCM.....Page 5

Measuring Our Success.....Page 6

FCM Members Speak.....Pages 7-9

FCM Endowment Committee.....Pages 10-11

Directory.....Page 12



Federation of Christian Ministries

Creating a Legacy

Jim Verrecchia – Southern Region; Member of the FCM Endowment Committee

Nature has the remarkable ability to survive long winters. Trees go dormant. Spring bulbs remain closed and safe a few inches beneath our feet. True, a few flowers thrive in the cold, but nothing compared to the explosion of colors in the spring and summer. The secret lies in cultivation and nature. The gardener can help make the conditions more favorable, but the growth is accomplished by nature.

We are responsible for the “now” but also the “when” in how we prepare for the future. It is good to pause and reflect upon our witness. The First Letter of Peter states it well, “Just as each one of you has been endowed a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of God’s multi-faceted grace.” (1Pt: 4:10)

What will your legacy be? How will your life and your witness live on? What life-dividends can be planted now that will survive in the future? Questions like these have been posed in many retreats and, more recently, even in non-religious gatherings. While we traverse this life, we are called by grace to be Christ’s presence in our community. Just as each spring season reminds us once again of the beauty of life that springs forth from the dormancy of winter, Easter is the season of hope and our call to eternal life; it inspires us to live in the present with our eyes fixed on the future life of heaven.

Through our work and ministry, many seeds have been planted as we continue to serve both locally and nationally. But, it is the work of cultivating the seeds we have planted through our ministry that will bear fruit in abundance in the future. FCM’s Endowment is our gift for the future. A gift to the Endowment connects us to one another, to those we serve, and to the future. It is our legacy, it is our abiding presence in the ministry and service of our Federation. Consider a gift today. No gift is too small. Every gift matters. May our efforts explode into the colors and beauty of our ministry!

Consider creating a legacy with one of the following options:

- A Legacy named gift (\$25,000+)
- A Named Fund – (\$10,000-24,000)
- An estate planned gift
- A memory or tribute gift in honor of a loved one or friend
- An Endowment Monthly Sustaining Gift



For further information visit

<https://www.federationofchristianministries.org/fcm-endowment-fund/permanent-endowment-fund.html>

2

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Federation of Christian Ministries

FCM Endowment Information Quick Look

ENDOWMENT INFORMATION FOUND ON THE FCM WEBSITE

www.federationofchristianministries.org

FCM Endowment Fund Drop Down Tab

The Permanent Endowment Fund

ONLINE Tribute Gift Form

"Tribute Gifts" in any amount can be a meaningful way to honor the life of a friend or family member, living or deceased. They also provide the opportunity to make a donation to celebrate a special occasion - a birthday, anniversary, or wedding. Make a gift by using our secure online giving form, or by printing the mail-in form. We will notify the honoree or the honoree's family about your gift.

Endowment Named Fund

Endowment Estate Plan

Permanent Endowment Plan

Make your donation in any amount by

going to the **FCM website**, www.federationofchristianministries.org, or to your personal account on **Realm** www.onrealm.org to make your donation.

1. Sign in to **Realm** or, if on the FCM Website, use the "Donation" button to get there.
2. Click on "Giving" (left-hand column) and this will take you to the donation page
3. Click on the "+ Give" button
4. You will see a pull-down (FCM General Account); click on the pull-down arrow
5. Click on the "FCM Endowment Fund" button

or you may want to send a check made out to the **FCM Endowment Fund** to:

FCM Endowment Fund
Tom Stricker
9660 Hemple Road
Germantown, Ohio 45327





The FCM Endowment Fund is here to provide us with financial security for the future. As FCM has expanded and matured as an organization, we have recognized the need to provide for our long-term financial stability through the establishment of a permanent endowment. As stated in our policy, "The Permanent Endowment Fund the Federation of Christian Ministries" (February 2018) has the following purpose:

"The purpose of the Fund is to enable FCM members, organizations, and friends to express their commitment to Christ through gifts that will support in perpetuity the inclusive and ecumenical missions and programs of FCM ."

(The entire Endowment Fund Policy can be found at www.federationofchristianministries.org)

Serious Planning for Endowment

Tom Cusack— Northeast Region; Member of the FCM Endowment Committee

Many FCM members have decades of experience with ministry as an FCM member. Their ministries are supported and ratified by FCM. This short article is to spur some thought and consideration about some ways you could return support to FCM through its Endowment Fund.

Simplest way to help: life insurance

You probably have some life insurance. You can add FCM to its beneficiary clause by obtaining the correct forms from your company (call them up!). Add FCM as a partial beneficiary (like for 25% or 50% of the proceeds) or for the full amount, if your earlier beneficiaries are no longer in need of these funds.

You could also change the ownership of the policy to FCM, and then continue to pay the premiums. Or, many policies can be made "reduced paid-up." They no longer need premiums, but they will pay a death benefit. That will benefit FCM at the time of your death.

Update your will, create a trust

Leaving money or property to FCM through a will or trust calls for the help of an attorney. Plan your gift, and remember that amounts of \$10,000 or more can create Memorial Named funds. These Endowment funds carry the name of the person or people you wish to have remembered in FCM Endowment communications. Also, amounts of \$25,000 or more create Legacy Named Funds. This money is held in a separate Endowment account. Its proceeds may be specified for a goal the donor selects, subject to approval by the Circle of Directors. An example of such a goal would be to provide an academic scholarship to a member of FCM.

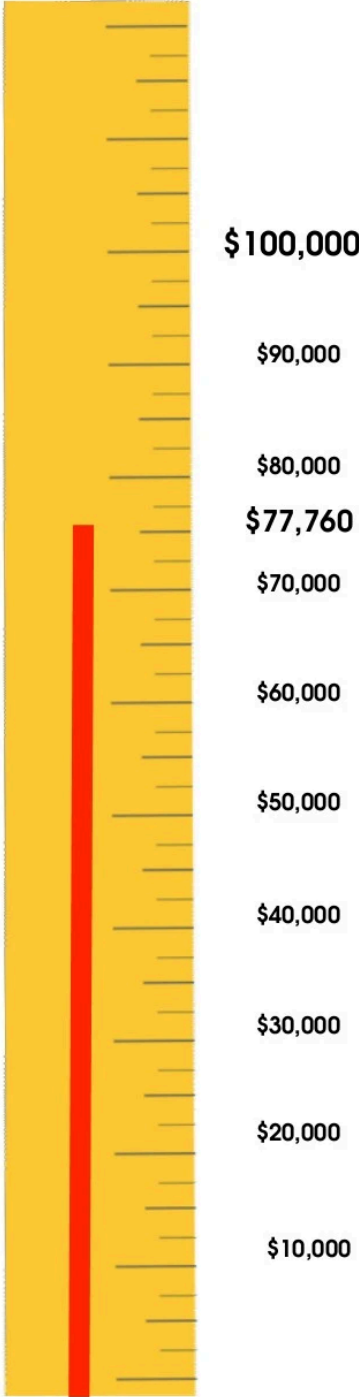
Your legacy

Contributions to the Endowment will benefit future faith communities and members of FCM. Your significant donation can make that happen. For more information, write to us at Endowment@fcmail.org



Donate to the FCM Endowment Fund

Help us to reach our goal of \$100,000



Measuring Our Success

FCM Members Speak



A Hamburger or a Cup of Coffee

Many of us have been around long enough to remember this slogan: "You always get change back from your dollar." While times have changed and there are few things in this world that provide change back from a dollar, there is still a lot of value in even a small donation. The average American spends more than \$5 for the purchase of a Big Mac or a cup of coffee from the ubiquitous Starbucks.

If 500 members would commit to giving \$5 each month to the FCM Endowment, their contributions could multiply to \$30,000 each year, ensuring the longevity of FCM for many years to come!

Think about it. You can set up an automatic \$5 gift through your bank that will come to the FCM Endowment Fund. It's quick, easy, and painless. And your individual \$60 each year will help to provide opportunities for future ministers to minister. I'm starting today. Will you join me?

Grayce Lane

Because FCM has given me the credentials I needed in order to work as a priest, my husband and I have supported the Endowment Fund. The Fund will enable FCM to meet new challenges by providing greater financial flexibility and self-sustaining income streams which can be used to support members of our FCM family. My support is my "thank you" to FCM.

Kathy Bean

We believe that, "God provides." However, these provisions come *through us* for one another as the Body of Christ. So, as followers of Jesus Christ, we are encouraged to always think of the needs of others. By donating to the Endowment Fund, we become God's instruments in helping to provide for the needs of future generations.

Donna and William Podobinski

Why I have donated to the FCM Endowment
I have consistently given to the Endowment because I love FCM. FCM has given me my ministry. It has given me many close friends. It is a fun group. And Jesus really supports FCM. All good reasons to give.

Tom Cusack

7



FCM Members Speak Continues

Two reasons why I give to the FCM endowment on a monthly basis:

As a member of the FCM Circle of Directors, I believe strongly in the mission, vision, and values of FCM, and I believe that having a healthy endowment allows FCM to better live into our mission and values.

I want FCM to have the resources and financial stability to continue empowering people to live into the Divine Call for decades to come. I believe a healthy endowment is the best way to do that.

Jeanne Hale

My paycheck is direct deposited to my checking account. My bank automatically pays recurring bills for me. I list FCM to be paid automatically with the arrival of my paycheck every two weeks, and I never miss the money.

The FCM Endowment Fund is a charity that most closely fits my contribution goals. I think this would be true for most FCM members.

Dan Pellegrin

The word "sustainability" has lingered with me for the past several months. Sustainability as in the capacity to live into a mission or purpose for the long-term. Upon reflection, the idea of sustainability surfaced when I was in my hospital chaplain residency program at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. I witnessed the immense energy it took for frontline workers to battle this virus. The reality set in that this was going to be a protracted effort.

As I focused on the staff's self-care as a way to renew their spirits, I started thinking of what it takes to sustain a ministry. I pictured ministry as a valuable resource ready to meet immediate needs but also requiring replenishment for times to come. "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor. 9:8, NRSV). It takes faith and good stewardship to build a ministry that will continue to benefit others for many years.

When I received a call asking me to be on FCM's Endowment Committee, it was an opportunity to help further our current mission to support the ministries of our members. It was also a chance to participate in preserving our organization well into the future. This is how we will be able to continue fulfilling our shared vision. Any amount you are able to give will help reach the important goal of the sustainability of FCM's ministry.

Rebekah Maaz

I give to the FCM Endowment as investment in and a tangible support of my hope for FCM's future in transforming society through Belonging, Compassion, Empowerment, Equity, & Mindful Living.

Sarah Lindberg



FCM Members Speak Continues

We have been members of FCM since 1991 and have had the privilege of watching FCM grow and mature. We are proud of the inclusivity, especially afforded through the Commissioning, Endorsement, and Faith Community programs.

We want FCM to be a continuing servant organization for a very long time and we intend to maintain our material support for FCM through our donations to the Endowment Fund.

Carolyn Horvath and Tom Leonhardt

Hope House of Prayer, Inc., has been a Faith Community Member of FCM since July 2011, and appreciates the support of belonging to an organization larger than ourselves. We wish to support FCM through our ongoing donations to the FCM Endowment Fund.

Hope House of Prayer

I am the Vice President of the Great Lakes Region. I began giving to the FCM Endowment Fund this year when I came to understand more completely the mission of FCM. I give to the FCM Endowment Fund because I believe in FCM and want us to thrive as a national organization, leading the way in the paradigm shift toward a non-hierarchical, inclusive community.

Peace,
Shannon Queenan

We need everyone to get involved!

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

Thank you in advance for your donation.

9



Federation of Christian Ministries

*Newsletter May/June 2021
Vol. 55 No. 5*

FCM Endowment Committee



Tom Cusack completed two three-year terms on the FCM Circle of Directors as President in 2020. He joined FCM in 2000 and is a commissioned member. He served two three-year terms as FCM's Treasurer and remained on the Circle until he became President in 2014. In his mid-twenties, after a short time as a Catholic priest in Iowa, Tom married and entered the insurance business. He spent 15 years in Prudential's Newark, New Jersey, home office in agent training work and as a compliance manager. The bulk of his career, 26 additional years, was as an insurance agent and financial planner. He served on the board of a private school for five years. In addition to 60 graduate hours of theology and scripture study, he earned a Master's Degree in American History from Notre Dame, and he holds several insurance industry designations. They include Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU), Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC), and Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (CPCU).



Anthony (Tony) Ercolano was ordained for the Diocese of Brooklyn, NY, in 1973. He served as an Associate Pastor in four large, urban parishes, as well as a spiritual director of an independent Catholic High School, over 33 years of priestly ministry. He earned a Doctor of Ministry degree with a focus on Urban Ministry from New York Theological Seminary in 2002, and a Certificate in the Management of Nonprofits from Hofstra University. He married Margaret in 2006, inheriting a family of seven adult children, 15 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He then worked for two metropolitan hospital systems over the course of 13 years as a senior writer for development, marketing, and public affairs. Anthony was commissioned by FCM in 2006 and presently serves as Commissioning Chair on the Circle. He is one of the two Circle members on the Endowment Committee. In addition, he serves on the boards of his local Catholic Academy, the Flushing Jewish Community Council, and Global Ministries University.



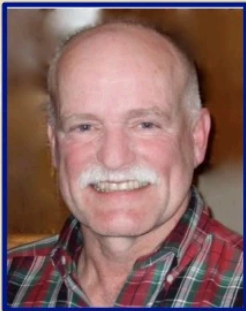
Grayce Lane earned her MDiv at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in May 2004, and was ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC) in October 2004. She served alongside her pastor-husband, Vincent, in the AMEC in several locations in Florida and in Chicago, IL. Grayce has been a chaplain for more than ten years, having completed two CPE residencies at Tampa General Hospital and UnityPoint Health-Des Moines. She is currently a Certified Educator Candidate pursuing her certification as a Chaplain Educator through the ACPE. Grayce was endorsed and commissioned with the Federation of Christian Ministries in 2015. She and Vincent have co-pastored a house church, Oasis, for the last five years. Grayce serves as a pool chaplain for BayCare Health System-St. Joseph's Hospital South in Riverview, FL.



FCM Endowment Committee



Rebekah Jackson Maaz graduated from the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest with a Master of Arts in Religion. She then completed a year-long hospital chaplain residency program. She currently works as a spiritual counselor and bereavement coordinator for hospice and palliative care. She is focused on supporting others in end of life and crisis care. She is active in her local church and is involved with community outreach programs. She is the newest member of the Endowment committee and is pleased to be able to serve the FCM community in this way. Rebekah is a long-time resident of Austin, Texas where she lives with her husband, two daughters, and two dogs. She likes to read, hike, listen to live music, and be creative.



Tom Stricker was ordained for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in 1980 and served as an associate pastor at St. Luke and then in 1984 as pastor for Resurrection Church till 1995. He was the Program Manager of DePaul Center, a 38-room transitional housing program for homeless men. As program manager he was responsible for the program itself and for raising the funding for the program. Tom served as FCM's Great Lakes Region Vice-President for two terms and as FCM Chairperson for two terms. He was on the team that developed the policy for the FCM Endowment policy and program.



Jim Verrecchia has an extensive career and experience in Church administration and nonprofit communities. After serving as a priest for 17 years, he married and transitioned to be a Parish Administrator for an Episcopal congregation. Following this role, Jim began work with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Georgia, serving as the Director of Support Programs, Director of Operations and later as the Director of Development. After leaving St. Vincent de Paul, Jim began consulting work and served as a Fundraising/ Development Consultant with the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Following an interim role as Executive Director of the Cobb Community Alliance to Prevent Substance Abuse, Jim became the Executive Director of Atlanta Master Chorale in 2017. An FCM ordained minister, Jim is also a licensed member of the Fellowship of Christian Ministers.



Newsletter

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.

FCM Central Office



COORDINATORS

Carolyn Horvath & Tom Leonhardt

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1709 W. 69th. St., #1
Cleveland, Ohio 44102-2957
Phone:

FCM Website: www.federationofchristianministries.org

FCM Blog: fcmblog.org

FCM Registry: 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

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

Endorsement for Specialized Ministries

Qualified FCM members may apply for "Religious Body Endorsement" for the specialized ministries of Chaplaincy, Pastoral Counseling, and Clinical Pastoral Education. Such endorsement is required by professional certifying organizations and many institutional employers. The FCM Circle of Directors acts on endorsement applications 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, 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
Email: info@globalministriesuniversity.org
Phone: 866 419 8020 toll-free

FCM Circle of Directors

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Phone: 678.918.1945 | Email: southernvp@FCMmail.org

Northeast: Carl Yusavitz

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Prayer Support Leader/Coordinator: Anthony Capone

Prayer support button on the website or:

Email: prayersupport@FCMmail.org

FCM Communications: Antoinette Marold

Email: communication@FCMmail.org

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