

Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter

January/February 2022

Vol. 56 No. 1

2022



Federation of Christian Ministries



2022

May the sunrise of every day of
this coming year brighten and
enlighten your life with
knowledge and power....

Wishing you a very
Happy New Year

blessed with strength and courage
to win all the challenges
and come out successful...

May God always bless you.

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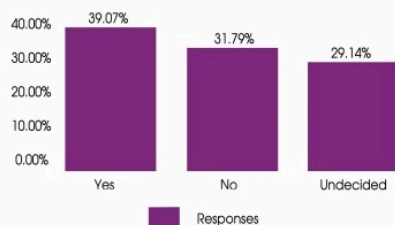
Chairperson

Christy Howard-Smith

What's Next? 2022

In 2020 we began the year unaware of the pandemic that would shortly overwhelm our lives. In 2021 we began the year in anticipation of a vaccine that we hoped would return our lives to "normal." Here we are now at the beginning of 2022, aware that the vaccine did not become the panacea that we anticipated, and we now must face the reality that the Covid virus with its Delta, Omicron, and yet-to-be-known variants will be a more permanent part of our lives than we would desire. The question confronting us given this reality, is how then will we live our lives? How will we continue to be cautious with our in-person social interactions? These are questions for us as individuals. These are also questions for us as a community of faith.

In late November, FCM's Executive Committee sent a survey to our membership to gather a sense of how our members are feeling about gathering in-person in 2022. Below are the results:



As you can see, while many members want to gather in person, many members are still undecided or do not want to gather in-person. Many factors impact our individual decisions about attending an in-person FCM gathering. Factors such as our own sense of risk to our health or that of our loved ones; the time, distance, and cost involved; and the myriad benefits we gain from meeting in-person with other FCM members all inform our choices. However we weigh these factors, we're at a crossroads given that this virus seems to be with us for the foreseeable future. It is one thing to "shelter in place" for a temporary period of time. It's quite another thing for this to become the way we live our lives.

I recall the debates or arguments about smoking in public. Given the impact of second-hand smoke, which was widely debated initially, it is now generally accepted that smoking is not permitted in most public spaces. The same arguments are now being raised regarding vaccines and masking. As much as a person has a right to not get vaccinated or wear a mask, others have the equal right to not have their health adversely impacted by that person's decision. Our deference to arguments about "rights" misses the mark for this is really a matter of public health and what is in the best interest of the common good. Why should those who do not want to be vaccinated or masked continue to limit the life we can engage in with one another and jeopardize the health of those who really cannot get vaccinated? I have had to share my vaccine status with every school I have enrolled in and with every hospital I have been employed by. Gathering with those who are vaccinated and willing to be masked is not an invasion of privacy so much as it is a way to provide a safe way to gather in-person.

What's next for the community of faith known as FCM? As wonderful as our zoom gatherings are, they simply do not create the kinds of connections that emerge from our in-person gatherings. At the February meeting, the Circle will discuss and decide whether we can safely hold an in-person Assembly in Chicago in 2022 considering the survey results, the most recent scientific information, and CDC recommendations. We will also discuss how we will live our communal life in 2022 and beyond. I solicit your prayers.

Chicago?



President

Ron Davis

Letter From the President

Every generation has faced difficult challenges that impacted life in serious and difficult ways. In this generation, humankind is faced with a global pandemic. In March of 2020, we found ourselves working and living in the midst of a pandemic while trying to keep our families safe and strong. People were becoming infected, and there was great loss of life. Who would have imagined back then that a vaccine could be created to fight off this virus so quickly? Yet, now we have several vaccines available worldwide. And to think, 3.33 billion people across the world are fully vaccinated; 197 million people are fully vaccinated in the United States. And, children are receiving their first doses of the vaccine. To see children leave my hospital, Nationwide Children's Hospital with capes on their backs after receiving their first dose of the vaccine is simply tremendous!

We've come a long way. We're learning a lot. I applaud all that's been done. However, I still say we have a ways to go. Almost 48% of Ohioans are anti-masking and anti-vaccine. I don't know the stats for other states, but what I do know is that because of this, people are becoming infected and losing their lives unnecessarily. This really breaks my heart as it is an assault on the value of human life.

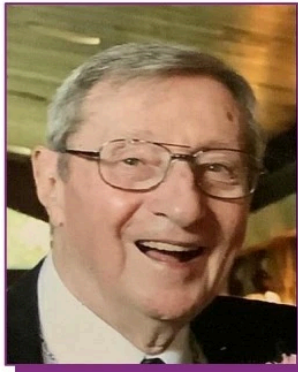
I have been there applauding patients leaving the intensive care unit alive and healing after being there for over a month. I've watched some patients head home alive, but I've also seen the tears and felt the pain of families that didn't believe the truth about COVID-19 and suffered great loss.

I know that navigating disinformation, variants of the disease and politics is difficult. Yet, it doesn't have to be this way. We are smart people, and many of us are faith-based people. Within FCM, many of us are on the front lines in hospitals and health care and we clearly see the truth of COVID-19.

As trusted voices in our churches and our health communities, I hope and pray that we will find our voices and speak out. Talk about what you are seeing and know to be true. Respectfully, share stories of what you experience in ministry. Make data accessible in the medical community where you work and spend your days. Call out your medical community to make this happen. We must share the data and research to help people navigate life during a pandemic. Make sure hospital websites and media platforms are updated and correct. It is outrageous that the politicians have a stronger voice than the medical community around this pandemic. As medical professional, I'm hoping and praying that we will choose to stay steadfast in following science, advocating for the patient, and doing all that we can to prevent the spread while treating those who have contracted the virus. As followers of God, I am hoping that we will speak to what it means to love neighbor as self during a pandemic. Oh how we must speak up.

May the Holy one have mercy on us as we navigate living through this pandemic.

With Sympathy and Great Sorrow FCM announces the passing of TOM LEONHARDT to Eternal Life



Thomas Joseph Leonhardt passed into eternal life on December 2, 2021 at 4:25pm, with his beloved wife Carolyn at his side. Tom, a native of Toledo, OH, is the son of the late Elizabeth (Betty) Faber Leonhardt, an artist, and the late William Leonhardt, a professional violinist and conductor. After his mother died when Tom was 4 years old, his father married his mother's sister, the late Agnes Faber Leonhardt, who raised Tom. Tom was also preceded in death by his brother Billy and his sister Joan. He is survived by his devoted wife Carolyn Horvath and his beloved grandson Mason S. Alexander.

A graduate of a Jesuit boarding school, Tom joined the Society of Jesus, earned a bachelor's degree and a Licentiate of Sacred Theology (S.T.L), and was ordained a Jesuit priest. Tom taught Theology and Latin at St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland.

In 1979, Tom founded an intentional faith community originally called **Abba's Children**, which later became known as **The Emmaus Community**. Tom then founded **Hope House of Prayer** in 1981. He was joined at Hope House by Sr. Carolyn Horvath the following year. Together, Tom and Carolyn collaborated on a ministry of prayer, spiritual direction, healing and community-building. In discerning the work of the Holy Spirit over the years, they came to understand that God called them to married life together. Tom and Carolyn married on November 18, 1989, and continued to forge a lifelong partnership that modeled equality and mutuality to all who were graced to interact with them.

Tom and Carolyn's ministry included serving as presiders at liturgies, as retreat masters, as Reiki practitioners, as leaders of Dances of Universal Peace, and were involved with meditation and other spiritual groups. Throughout the years, Tom and Carolyn were involved in numerous community service and social justice activities. Tom and Carolyn were particularly dedicated to upholding the dignity and promoting the rights of persons and groups that are often marginalized by the dominant culture. Among many examples, Tom and Carolyn were dedicated to participating in the work of the Cleveland Catholic Worker Community.

In 1991, Tom and Carolyn became members of **The Federation of Christian Ministries**, a national organization of faith communities and persons desiring to continue in ministry or to be certified in the ministry they feel called to do. **Tom and Carolyn served in many leadership roles for the Federation, including a term as it's Co-Chairpersons, Co-Presidents, Co-Great Lakes Vice Presidents, and recipients of the FCM Anthony Soto Award; at the time of his passing, Tom with Carolyn staffed the Federation's Central Membership Office. Hope House is also a FCM Faith Community.**

Tom loved to sing, and he was very good at it. Tom's singing was an integral part of his liturgies. Tom also loved nature, and spent many hours over the decades by Lake Erie at Edgewater Park, and in various other Metroparks. Most of all, Tom loved to offer the gift of his loving presence to people who crossed his path. Tom's favorite words by Thomas Merton **THE RADICAL TRUTH OF REALITY IS THAT WE ARE ALL ONE.**

A memorial service will be on February 19th to coincide with Tom's birthday (February 20) at 2:00 pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd in Lyndhurst, Ohio where Tom and Carolyn were married. Reception will follow in the church hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Tom's name to the Federation of Christian Ministries Endowment Fund, to Hope House of Prayer, to the Cleveland Catholic Worker Community, or to a charity close to your heart.

Expressions of sympathy can be sent to:
Carolyn Horvath
1709 W. 69th. Street #1
Cleveland, Ohio 44102-2957
ch.tjl99@gmail.com

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Endowment

Grayce Lane

Distinct Honor and Privilege

I recently read an article about the meaning of **distinct honor and privilege**. The author states, "both distinct honor and privilege are used when talking about something that is of special value or advantage to experience or have."

As a members of FCM, how fortunate we are to contribute *every month* to the Endowment Fund and secure the future of FCM. We **get** to become a part of history by deciding today to become monthly donors. And, it doesn't require a lot! A small donation quickly adds up! If 600 members would contribute just \$5/month, we could provide \$36,000 each year to make certain FCM continues to be a place where inclusive ministry transforms society.

I became a monthly donor and want you to also experience the gratification of participating in the Endowment Fund. It *is* truly a distinct honor and privilege to not only be a member of FCM, but also to ensure that others might find the path to live out their calling in such a worthy faith tradition.

All we need is you!

<https://onrealm.org/fcm/-/form/give/now>

Grayce Lane

We, the Endowment Committee, would like to thank another monthly donor who wished to remain anonymous, he and his wife took the opportunity to make a very generous donation in memory of Tom Leonhardt who passed away last week from COVID.

We believe their donation in memory of Tom Leonhardt is significant because that donation allowed us to meet our first goal of \$100,000.

As Tom Leonhardt and his life's work focused on inclusive ministry may this, our first \$100,000, empower FCM to continue long into the future to be a place where inclusive ministry transforms society.

Thank You

FOR HELPING US TO REACH
OUR FIRST \$100,000. GOAL



Endowment Fund Report

Tom Stricker

Thank You

FOR HELPING US TO REACH
OUR FIRST \$100,000. GOAL

VALUE AS OF 12/13/2021
\$104,401.78

Donate to the FCM Endowment Fund
NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL!

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@fcmmail.org

\$104,401.78



Measuring Our Success

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Communications

Antoinette Marold

Happy New Year!

The 2022 Membership Drive has ended. If you requested a listing on the FCM website under **FIND THE MINISTER** it is in the process of being listed or renewed. The process will be completed by the end of February.

If you listed more than 3 categories on your renewal, only 3 categories will be listed. Faith Communities who are FCM Faith Community members will be listed on site. At their request, they will be listed on the Faith Communities page with an ad included. Faith communities who are not members will not be listed.

The following page has the communication areas for FCM. Help us to receive more coverage on **FACEBOOK** by going to our page and clicking Like/Join. You can also help by sharing our pages on your page.

If you would like to share on the **FCM Blog** page, please send you article with photos to communication@FCMmail.org All blogs are written by FCM members.

You can also find additional information on the **FCM Directory** (last page) of the **FCM Newsletters**.

cheers to 50 years



Congratulations to Joe & Nancy Ruane on their 50th Wedding Anniversary!

Joe and Nancy have been members of FCM since 1968. Joe has served as Chairperson for 3 terms, President, Commissioning Chair, Development Director, Director at Large, and also serves on the Ethics Committee.

FCM REGISTRY

www.fcmregistry.org

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & HOLY UNIONS

All FCM members presiding at Baptisms must register the Baptism with FCM

Forms to register Baptisms, Weddings & Holy Unions can be found at www.fcmregistry.org

Weddings and Holy Unions can also be registered but are not mandatory

FCM Communicating



THE **FCM FACEBOOK** PAGE IS THE WORLD LOOKING AT US. OUR COMMENTS ARE PRAYERFUL AND WE ARE CONNECTING WITH ANYONE WHO IS ON THE INTERNET WHO IS INTERESTED IN READING OUR PAGE. TO HELP FCM GET NOTICED PLEASE GO TO THE FCM WEBSITE AND CLICK THE **FACEBOOK BUTTON** AND THEN THE **LIKE/FOLLOW** BUTTON WHEN YOU ARE ON THE FCM FACEBOOK PAGE.

FCM BLOG & NEWSLETTER

THE FCM BLOG FIND IT ON THE FCM WEBSITE OR FCMBLOG.ORG. THE BLOG IS AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE ON THE INTERNET TO READ AND MAKE COMMENTS. BLOGS ARE POSTED BY FCM AND WRITTEN BY FCM MEMBERS. THE CONTENTS ARE THE SENTIMENTS OF THE AUTHOR OF THE POST AND NOT NECESSARILY THE FCM COMMUNITY. THE MOST RECENT AND THE PAST YEAR NEWSLETTERS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON THIS SITE. **CHECK IT OUT!**



TWITTER FOLLOW FCM AT FCMINST@TWITTER.COM
INSTAGRAM FOLLOW FCM ON INSTAGRAM [FCMMIN](https://www.instagram.com/FCMMIN)



REALM THE FCM WEBSITE HAS A LOGIN FOR MEMBERS ONLY, REALM. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO BE LISTED ON THE SITE AS IT IS OUR MEMBERSHIP DATA BASE. MEMBERS ALSO RECEIVE MESSAGES FROM FCM VIA REALM CONTACT YOUR VICE PRESIDENT OR CONNECT@FCMMAIL.ORG FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.



FCM HAS A GROUP ON LINKEDIN. THE GROUP IS FOR **FCM MEMBERS ONLY**. IT IS A PLACE FOR FCM MEMBERS TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER. IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF LINKEDIN GO TO THE GROUP AREA, FIND FCM AND REQUEST MEMBERSHIP TO THE FCM GROUP. IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF LINKEDIN...JOIN MEMBERSHIP IS FREE....



CONSTANT CONTACT IS THE MEDIA THAT FCM USES TO COMMUNICATE WITH FCM MEMBERS. ALL OF THE FCM COMMUNICATION SENT TO THE MEMBERSHIP IS SENT VIA CONSTANT CONTACT. THIS INCLUDES THE FCM NEWSLETTER, ASSEMBLY INFORMATION, GENERAL NEWS OF INTEREST AND ANNOUNCEMENTS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS IS LISTED ON YOUR REALM ACCOUNT. PLEASE DO NOT UNSUBSCRIBE FROM THE FCM CONSTANT CONTACT AS THIS WILL CUT OFF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN YOU AND FCM.

FCM WEBSITE

WWW.FEDERATIONOFCHRISTIANMINISTRIES.ORG - THE FCM WEBSITE IS A SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND THOSE WHO ARE EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT FCM IT CAN PROBABLY BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE. CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, FCM HISTORY, EVENTS AND MANY OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST ARE ON THE WEBSITE.

The FCM Faithful Major Anniversaries of Membership

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. Not signed in to Realm? Ask your Regional Vice President or connect@fcmmail.org for authorization.

Tom Cusack, for Carolyn Horvath in her illness and in memory of Tom Leonhardt, both of FCM Central Office

Anniversaries before 45 Years Ago

These are FCM Pioneers and Founders, still active in FCM

Gerald Grudzen, Pacific Region, 01/01/1970
Marita Grudzen, Pacific Region, 01/01/1970
William Manseau, Northeast Region, 11/08/1969
Julien Olivier, Northeast Region, 01/01/1972
Joseph Ruane, Northeast Region, 05/25/1968
Robert Schutzius, Mountains and Plains Region, 05/01/1976

Anniversaries January/February 2022

40 Year Anniversary

David Voellinger, Northeast Region, 02/14/1982

30 Year Anniversary

Joyce McFadden, Northeast Region, 01/01/1992

25 Year Anniversary

George Shreck, Northeast Region, 01/01/1997

20 Year Anniversary

John Weyand, Northeast Region, 02/02/2002

15 Year Anniversary

Andrea Johnson, Southern Region, 01/22/2007

5 Year Anniversaries

Jaki Cottingham-Zierdt, Mountains and Plains Region, 02/16/2017
Linda McKnight, Mountains and Plains Region, 02/23/2017
Kelly Wunderlich, Mountains and Plains Region, 01/16/2017
James Sam, Great Lakes Region, 01/22/2017
Julie Stumpf, Northeast Region, 01/14/2017
Gerald Washko, Northeast Region, 01/14/2017



Prayer Gathering

Tom Cusack & Anthony Capone



What Is the Prayer Gathering? When will you participate?

By Tom Cusack

In 2020 when it became obvious that a pandemic was taking lives and dramatically impacting day-to-day life, I, then President of FCM, spoke with Anthony Capone, FCM's Prayer Ministry Coordinator, about developing an online prayer experience. I wanted to create a way to safely gather, share, lament and strengthen ourselves as individuals and a spiritual community. Through our conversation a format emerged, and we have used it since May of 2020 through today.

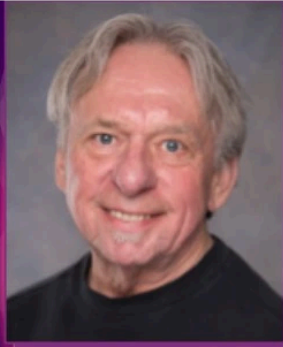
Each Thursday evening at 8 PM EST we hold our Prayer Gathering. Every week a different person leads the first half hour. It is a time of prayer, reflection, meditation, silence... all to grasp the inner life a little bit more firmly – something that is imperative in this time of turmoil and crisis. When this key part of the hour wraps up, usually I, as facilitator, ask for comments from those who are attending. This discussion opens new avenues of understanding for ourselves and for the other FCM members on the Gathering Zoom. Over time this sharing has allowed us who attend regularly to know these many other FCM members and to grow in friendship with them.

That's what takes place on Thursday evenings. We have 25 to 35 people each week in this FCM time of spirituality. To my knowledge there is no other FCM nationwide effort of this type. This has become FCM's weekly prayer time. Yes, 25 to 35 people is a very good number. It is consistent. However, there are about 650 people in FCM. All 650 draw benefit from FCM and its existence. Its existence is as a *convention of churches*. Churches are characterized by prayer and community. So my question is, "Are you praying with and forming community with FCM members?" The pandemic has limited our ability to get together in person. Getting together regularly on-line for prayer and support is a high-value alternative.

Anthony Capone and I invite you to sample the Prayer Gathering and consider making it a part of your regular FCM spirituality. Check our invitation emails from Realm for the link to the Prayer Gathering. If the Thursday gathering time isn't convenient for you, prayerfully consider hosting a prayer group at another time. There is always more time and space for prayer. If you are interested in establishing another prayer time, please contact me or Anthony for assistance.

Grace and Peace.





Northeast Region

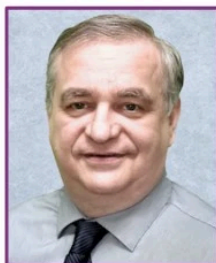
Carl Yusavitz Vice President

Northeast Region News Congratulations Newly Commissioned

Congratulations to six members of our FCM Northeast Region who were commissioned by the FCM Circle of Directors on November 6, 2021. Here are brief snapshots of your colleagues in ministry in their own words:



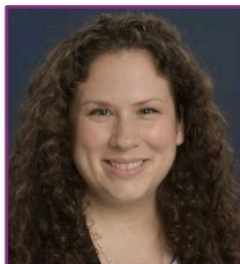
"I spent 11 years in higher education, non-profit management and development before following the call to ministry and enrolling at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. I completed four units of CPE at three Boston-area hospitals and have been an interfaith hospital chaplain since 2010. Raised in the Roman Catholic tradition, my husband and I now attend a Congregational church. As an interfaith chaplain, my role is to offer compassionate and nonjudgmental spiritual support that affirms each individual's unique spiritual journey and growth. I was drawn to FCM for its foundation in seeking and following the Divine in the many beautiful ways it may come to us and its affirmation of spiritual growth, exploration and practice". (Alyssa Adreani)



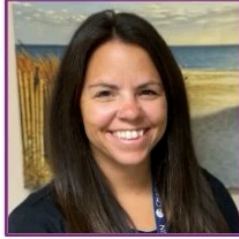
"I am grateful to be a commissioned member of FCM. I have been expanding an online ministry to include weekly worship, Sunday school lessons, and Bible activities and I can now add officiating at baptisms, the Eucharist, weddings, and funerals to the ministry I can offer. I hope to be able to add more resources for other spiritual traditions. One goal is for this ministry to become an on-line FCM Faith Community. I look forward to being able to support the greater mission of FCM, particularly in the area of Faith Communities. I also appreciate the spiritual and practical support I have received from FCM members". (Mark Bernecker)



"As a missionary kid in Surinam I grew up around ministry and that continued as I grew older and married. Although employed as a fire fighter, I pursued opportunities to minister and was ordained by my local independent church. After finishing my CPE residency at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, I was hired by a Hospice organization called Amedisys to care for the aging/dying population. I plan on pursuing my career in chaplaincy here and anywhere else, doing God's will for me. I am grateful for FCM's help along the way". (Peter Cramer)



"When I started my CPE Residency at St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem, PA, I met several chaplains who had already discovered this organization of like-minded and hearted folks. My FCM ministerial peer has been a huge help in sharing in the unique and devastating challenges of COVID on chaplaincy ministry. I bring to chaplaincy years of training and education in integrated health (body, mind, and spirit). I look forward to growing personally and professionally through the sharing and relationships nurtured in FCM, and continuing front line work and public education on End of Life Issues and planning". (Gina Mercurio-Brown)



"I currently serve as a resident chaplain at Albany (NY) Medical Center. I am honored to serve as a chaplain and to provide spiritual and emotional support to patients, families and staff. CPE has been a transformative experience for me, and I am in love with the process of growth and feel deeply grateful for the invitation into the sacred parts of people's lives. I am drawn to FCM, and grateful for the FCM community, largely because of its vision for inclusive ministry and the core values of belonging, compassion, and mindful living". (Jana Miner)



"My current ministry is as a Spiritual Care Associate (Chaplain) at Paoli Hospital (near Philadelphia) in a per diem capacity. At the same time, I am finishing my 4th unit of CPE. When I finish this unit, my hope is to be in a regular part-time position, where I will be able to practice Spiritual Care on a steady basis. Being commissioned by FCM will offer more opportunities to minister more fully as a Chaplain in a variety of venues. I've already been asked to do graveside services and anticipate this occurring more and more. Having the credentialing behind me, will give me more credibility and enable me to offer more services to the people I minister to and with". (Rebecca Preston)

Our next **Northeast Region zoom gathering** will be January 8th at 9 AM. A Zoom invitation was sent in December to all Northeast members. If you did not receive an invitation, please contact me at cysavitz@comcast.net.

*At the sound of the tolling midnight bell
a brand new year will begin.
Let's rise our hopes in a confident toast,
to the promise it ushers in.*

*May your battles be few, your pleasures many,
your wishes and dreams fulfilled.
May your confidence stand in the face of loss
and give you the strength to rebuild.*

*May peace of heart fill all your days
may serenity grace your soul.
May tranquil moments bless your life
and keep your spirit whole.*

unknown



Mts. & Plains Region

Mary Vidas Vice President

Stepping Through the Threshold

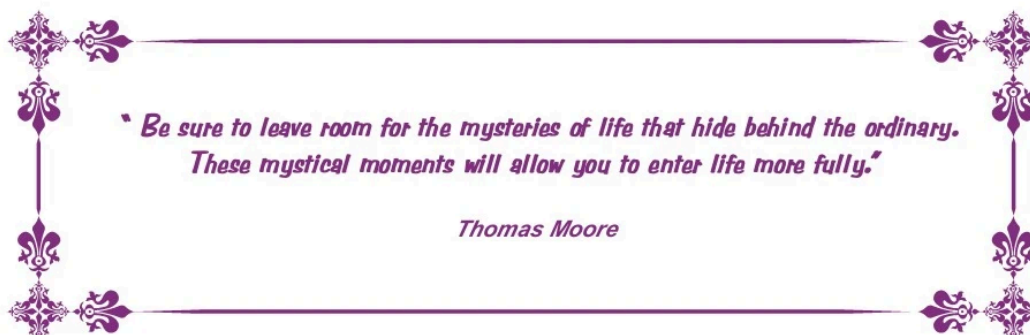
As the new year beckons, we may envision ourselves standing at an open door looking out toward a gently curved pathway, crowned by clouds of possibility and discovery. However, in the midst of this setting, I'm reminded of the times I've found myself standing on the threshold, hesitating, as I gazed into the distance trying to make out what lies ahead. Have you been there too? Know you are in good company!

As part of a year-end retreat I attended, we were asked to recall the gifts the new year offers as we gathered our intentions and resolutions. All empowered by a sense of purpose and renewal. My list was long! Repeated refrains of "this time, I will" (fill in the blank) were written with conviction. And yet, from my own experience, I knew not all would be realized. This, led to further reflection - what will be different this time, this year?

Taking my cue from our study of Thomas Moore, author, theologian, psychotherapist and former monk, I was struck with his message, "*be sure to leave room for the mysteries of life that hide behind the ordinary. These mystical moments will allow you to enter life more fully.*" After the sharing our intentions with one another, the idea of Moore's message, of leaving room or allowing space for the sacred to manifest seemed a given. I wondered do I actually have to write this down? Resoundingly, a strong "Yes!" erupted from my heart. With an eye toward the transcendent reality of life, we were urged to include this aspect of our spiritual practice by giving it the same credence one would a lot the other "to do's" on our list. No doubt, my goals and resolutions still exist; however, they are now accompanied by the added line "*pay attention to how the sacred is working-note it, name it, celebrate it!*"

As you find yourself crossing the threshold of 2022, may you also find a way to make room for the Sacred. As doors open (and close) throughout the year, may you embrace both the majesty and mystery of life, knowing you have the support of our FCM community. I look forward to our gathering, listening and learning from one another as we grow our souls and serve the world!

Blessings and Happy New Year, Mary



Regional Zoom Meetings

Monthly Regional Zoom meetings were held in November & December 2021. Members have commented that in addition to visiting with FCM colleagues across the region, they've appreciated hearing from the variety of guest speakers who generously shared insights related to their ministerial and faith journey. If you are interested in receiving list and links of past guest speaker sessions, send an email to mts_plainsvp@fcmmail.org.

Regional Zoom Schedule:

January 5th, 2022 (Wednesday) 7:00 pm CT. (Link will be shared in regional email notice.) **Guest Speaker:** **Claudia Dorsch, MA, LPC, CGCS, Staff Chaplain, UnityPoint Health-Finley Hospital, Dubuque, IA.**

As the first woman chaplain serving at her hospital, Claudia will share her insights and multi-cultural perspective. Also, we hear about Claudia's recent trip to Taiwan and odyssey that followed as she planned for a family member's memorial service. Claudia was also recently featured as a guest on FCM's Thursday night prayer session.

February 9th, 2022 (Wednesday) 7:00 pm CT. (Link will be shared in regional email notice. **Guest Speaker:** **Ian Butts, MDiv, Senior Clinical Staff Chaplain, Children's Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI.**

We hear from Ian who was on duty as Chaplain at Children's Wisconsin where all of the children were admitted during the tragic Waukesha, WI holiday parade event. Ian attended to the children's care and their families and continues to provide his support. Join us to hear his direct and unique perspective of this traumatic day

Meet and Greet Opportunities

It is understandable that not all members are available to join us on Wednesday evenings. Given this, additional online regional Meet and Greet opportunities are in the planning stages. Notice of events with links will be provided.

Welcome New Members!

Sara Godloe, William Volmer

Congratulations Commissioned & Endorsed Members!

Meg (JungEun) Park-Landis – recently Commissioned

Lauren Drummond Littrell – recently Endorsed

Area News:

On December 11, St. Louis FCM members met with **FCM President Ron Davis**. Area members enjoyed lunch and visiting with Ron at Ari's Greek Restaurant.



BACK ROW (left to right)
Todd, Paul Vincent Reithmaier, Erlinda Perlado-Mertens, Robert Blattner, Ron Davis.
FRONT ROW (left to right) Joan Mertens, Lauren Littrell, Marybeth McBryan.

Ron gave the table blessing before the group began eating lunch and served as provocateur as the group conversed. He was interested in knowing more about each person in the group and asked questions to that end. He asked Joan Mertens to give the thanksgiving at the end of the meal.

FCM members who attended the luncheon were Paul Vincent Reithmaier, Erlinda Perlado-Mertens, Robert Blattner, Lauren Littrell, and Marybeth McBryan. Guests were Joan Mertens and Todd.

St. Louis area members continue to meet monthly for prayer and conversation. To receive meeting link and/or further information about this meeting or other future meetings of the St. Louis FCM group, contact:

Marybeth McBryan, Area Coordinator: 314-277-3212 or **Paul Reithmaier** p.reithmaier@att.net.

Thank you to various FCM members throughout the region area for sharing their time and support of newly commissioned and endorsed candidates. Also, a special thank you to the FCM members who also have expressed an interest in becoming an Area Representative, leading a workshop, prayer session, writing an article, and/or hosting a local or online gathering in their area. Know, we will be in contact with you soon!



Great Lakes Region

Shannon Queenan Vice President

A View from the Great Lakes Region

Connect and Reflect Meetings

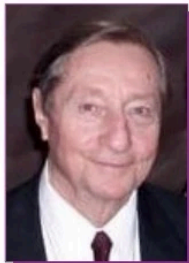
Our scheduled meeting dates for the first half of the year are: Monday, February 7, Tuesday, April 12 and Wednesday, June 15 @ 7:30 each time. Each meeting we continue to welcome a couple of dozen people that join. We also continue to encourage, foster and nurture the gatherings of local groups for support. Contact me if you want to be part of a local group gathering!

Circle of Directors

The Circle of Directors meets February 3-5. We will review candidates for Commissioning and Endorsement as well as move forward with initiatives to serve our membership. The most exciting part is the National Assembly slated for July 14-18, 2022 in Chicago!

Commissioning

Two Great Lakes members were commissioned last quarter. Congratulations to **Mark Feldbush**, a Chaplain educator at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, OH and **Michael Yordy**, a staff chaplain at Community Health Network in Indianapolis, IN. Welcome Mark and Michael.



Final Thoughts

Our last newsletter included a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Hope House of Prayer. Since that time, Hope House of Prayer's founders, **Carolyn Horvath and Tom Leonhardt** became ill. Tom died on December 2, 2021. Their chaplain at the hospital was FCM commissioned/endorsed member Betsy Hamm. This was a hidden blessing during a sad time. Thank you, Betsy for holding space and standing in the gap for all of us.

In addition to being the heart of the Hope House of Prayer, **Tom and Carolyn** have been members of FCM and served tirelessly in the Central Office for a very long time. I apologize for being so vague, the truth is I do not know those details. What I know is that **Tom and Carolyn** lived a life of service, healing, love and hospitality.

I distinctly remember meeting Tom at a Great Lakes regional retreat. He was a kind, curious and gentle soul. When I say curious, I mean he was interested in learning about others' lives. Over the dozen years I was privileged to know him, he was always gentle and kind. I will be forever grateful I went to the anniversary celebration and had the opportunity to share meals and prayers with Carolyn and Tom. If we commit ourselves to being more like Tom and Carolyn, living the Gospel message of simplicity and love - the world will be a better place.

I leave you with the inspiration of Thomas Merton: "Let us come alive to the splendor that is all around us, and see the beauty in ordinary things.☐"



Pacific Region

Tracy Peterson Vice President

Commissioning Congratulations

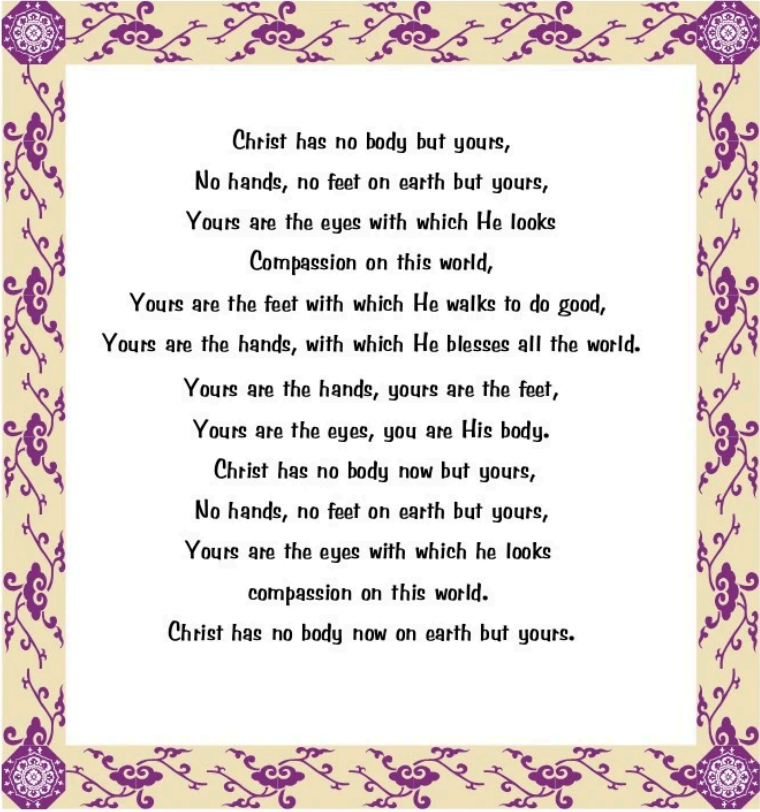
Please join me in congratulating **Susan Palwick** of Reno, NV and **Kendra Dickinson** of Sacramento, CA on their approval for commissioning. It is my pleasure to work with you all on commissioning and endorsement ceremonies!

We also welcome **Shannon Rick** to the Pacific Region of FCM and ask that those of you in the Portland area also give Shannon a good welcome!

The Pacific Region held our regional Zoom meeting on December 11, to discuss what is coming in the new year. I love our regional Zoom meetings as they allow us to get to know one another. Our next meeting will be held February 12, 2022 at 10am PT/11am MT. At that time I'll be able to share more information with you about the FCM National Assembly in July.

The position of Vice President for the Pacific Region will come open as I finish my time as your Vice President. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the position, please contact me at pacificvp@fcmmail.org, and I'll set up a time to talk with you.

My closing prayer for you comes from **St. Teresa of Avila:**



Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which He looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.



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Carole duBois
Sandy Tracy

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 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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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
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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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