



Federation of Christian Ministries
Newsletter

July/August 2022

Vol. 56 No. 4



Federation of Christian Ministries



**FCM National Assembly
July 15 - 17, 2022**

THE STORIES OF OUR LIVES

Free for FCM Members Only!

**Register to attend
virtually in your
FCM REALM Account**

See additional information
in this Newsletter



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CHAIRPERSON

Christy Howard-Steele



The Fruit of the Spirit

*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.
Galatians 5:22-23*

In my local faith community, we used Parker Palmer's 40-Day Journey as our prayer focus. On Day 5, Palmer states that humans "not only take physical abundance and make it scarcity, but we do the same with the infinite supply of goods of the Spirit." If you agree with this statement, why do you think it is true? Perhaps it's our way of protecting ourselves. Perhaps it's the way we have experienced the world and know no other way.

Our recent cycle of baby formula shortages and increased prices for gas and other items is also accentuated with hate, violence, impatience, and lack of self-control. In other words, a shortage of the fruit of the Spirit. It is my prayer that we'll feel the fresh dose of the Spirit poured out lavishly during Pentecost.

Fresh from the May Zoom Circle meeting, I am filled with gratitude and can say resoundingly, FCM does not have a scarcity of the "goods of the Spirit." I am grateful that, unlike some faith communities that were forced to close permanently, you, our members have been faithful. We have nearly 600 active members and many have given generously to FCM's Endowment fund. I am grateful that FCM continues to gain new members who want to serve others. I'm grateful we continue to ordain and commission exceptional members, to elect persons to serve on the Circle of Directors, and this year, for the first time, we were able to award grants to some of the ministries of our members! I am also grateful that FCM continues to gather, and some of us will gather in person this year for the first time since 2018/19. These are Spirit-filled actions.

FCM's Mission, Vision, and Values reflect the fruit of the Spirit. As I observe what other faith communities are doing, many have gone back to in-person gatherings. However, many, if not most, continue to offer digital options as well. A digital offering is a way of being inclusive. It's a way to include those who, geographically, would not be able to participate. It's a way of including those who, for whatever reason, choose not to participate in person. FCM's challenge is to create the same welcoming sense of belonging and inclusion digitally and to continue to facilitate ways for those who wish to gather in-person to do so between Assemblies.

This work doesn't only belong to the Circle. As always, we need more members to volunteer. What role is the Spirit leading you to serve in FCM?



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Letter from the PRESIDENT

Ronald Davis



“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”

Hebrews 10:25

New Living Translation of the Bible

Today, as I reflect on living through a pandemic (two years of no Federation of Christian Ministries National Assemblies and very few gatherings), I'm wondering how this Bible verse should inform our practice. God knows, there are times when we must be careful.

When I was younger and a congregational pastor, it was difficult for me to look out and see an empty pew - or two or three pews. Believe me, people are creatures of habit, and pastors know who sits in each and every pew in the sanctuary. I could look to the left of the pulpit, and I knew the families who sat on that side of the church. There were other families and individuals who always sat to the back of the sanctuary. There were some individuals who always arrived ten minutes late. It was impossible for them to slip in unnoticed. Yeah, I knew who was at home too.

I have talked to some of the leaders in our faith communities. They tell me that once the lockdown ended, when they opened the doors for in-person worship, it took time for people to come back to church. They said that some people became used to doing other things on Sunday mornings. They've said that some new people now worship with them on Sundays and throughout the week. Our leaders have shared they also have a core group who has stayed with them through all the challenges and joys during these challenging two years. In many ways, they tell me that their faith communities are finding a new normal.

I'm praying that FCM, at a national level, will find its new normal. In July, we will have our first National Assembly in two years. I've been going to FCM's national assemblies since 2010. The first one I attended was in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. What I remember most about that time was meeting FCM members from across the country. The program was great, yet, what I remember most was meeting people, sharing laughter, life stories, and food together over the weekend. That time strengthened my relationship with FCM and our people. Those people have become my FCM friends and family. That's priceless.

To me, this our most basic and important mission as spiritual organizations and the most basic priority in our lives. Whether you join us virtually or in person, as FCM, we must meet and grow together in love and grace.

**I truly hope to see you at the National Assembly this month:
July 15th – 17th.**



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2022 ASSEMBLY

Peter Strening FCM, Chairperson



FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES 2022 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THE STORY OF OUR LIVES

Holiday Inn Chicago O'Hare Hotel

The FCM 2022 National Assembly is fast approaching. If you plan to attend, and have not yet done so, please register via your [Realm account](#).

Assembly is FREE for FCM members!

- There is no registration fee.
Meals are provided Friday evening, throughout Saturday, and Sunday morning.
- The Holiday Inn conference room rate has expired. If you are interested in attending in person, contact Peter Strening for up-to-date details. peterstrening@comcast.net
- Register for the Assembly on [Realm](#).
For more details, see the FCM webpage, www.federationofchristianministries.org.

Our Assembly Theme is

"The Stories of Our Lives"

We look forward to the opportunity to learn and grow from being blessed with one another's stories.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

FRIDAY, July 15

Stories of Faith Communities

SATURDAY, July 16

Stories of FCM Members
Commissioning and Endorsement Ceremony

SUNDAY, July 17

FCM Business/Members Meeting
Leave-Taking Service

Not able to attend the Assembly in person....Join us Virtually!
Register on [Realm](#)

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PAUL J. STUBENBORT

September 23, 1931 - June 25, 2022



We at FCM offer our deepest sympathy to FCM member Pat Stubenbort and her daughters Cheryl and Danielle and to all of us who mourn the passing of our long time friend and fellow member, Paul Stubenbort. Paul joined FCM in January 1999.

Paul's Obituary

Paul J. Stubenbort passed away on June 25, 2022. Born September 23, 1931 of Joseph and Mercedes Stubenbort in Pittsburgh, PA.

He attended the Franciscan Seminary in Oak Brook, Ill, and was ordained a priest in 1958. Paul received graduate degrees in English and German from St. Bonaventure and Georgetown Universities and was a Fulbright Scholar in Germany before returning to teach at the seminary in Illinois.

In 1970, he left the Franciscans and married Patricia Tringali. Paul and Patricia met in Bonn, Germany where Patricia worked at the U.S. Embassy and where Paul was Catholic Chaplain. He and Patricia moved to Pennsylvania and had two daughters, Cheryl and Danielle.

Paul continued his professional work in education, teaching German in several public schools, serving on the Bensalem Township School Board, and eventually retiring from Hopewell Valley High School.

Paul's special joy was the time he spent with Patricia, Cheryl and Danielle. Paul and Pat coached their daughters in softball and soccer, spent years finding hiking trails and climbing mountains, especially the White Mountains, the Blue Ridge, the Smokies and even the Alaska Range.

After retirement, Paul and Patricia traveled for ten years, beginning with two summers in Alaska, where Paul gave tours at Denali National Park. In addition to his travels, he worked to provide inclusive ministry to all of God's people through Federation of Christian Ministries, Dignity Philadelphia and Call to Action.

Paul and Pat were Vice Presidents of the Northeast Region of The Federation of Christian Ministries 2009-2015. They also were chairpersons for the FCM Assembly celebrating the 45th Anniversary of FCM.

Paul always thanked God for another day, a good long life and the wonderful people he was able to share it with.

Preceding Paul in passing were his parents, his brother Joseph and his sister Marcia.

Succeeding Paul is his beloved wife Patricia, his wonderful daughters Cheryl Synowiec and Danielle Foster, his grandchildren Madison, Timothy, Blaise and Marisol, who brought such joy to his life, his sons-in-law Michael and Brian Robert and his sisters Dolores McMahon and Andrea Clavin, who will miss him dearly.

Family and friends are invited to
St. Jude Syro-Malankara Catholic Church,
1200 Park Ave, Bensalem PA,
on Saturday, July 9th, for visitation at 2 PM and Memorial Service at 3 PM. Reception to follow.

Condolences can be sent to: Patricia Stubenbort - 6528 Hessian Turn - Bensalem, PA 19020-1907
email: paulpatusa@hotmail.com

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The FCM Faithful

Major Anniversaries of Membership

CAROLYN HORVATH & TOM CUSACK



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.

30 Year Anniversaries

Tom Quinn, Northeast Region, 08/01/1992
 Michaelita Quinn, Northeast Region, 08/01/1992
Tom and Michaelita are former NE VPs and former Co-presidents

25 Year Anniversary

Anthony Gambuzza, Northeast Region, 08/18/1997

15 Year Anniversaries

Wayne Bryant, Mountains and Plains Region, 07/26/2007
 Gerard Friscia, Northeast Region, 08/23/2007
 William Lonneman, Great Lakes Region, 08/23/2007

10 Year Anniversary

Elise Leitzel, Great Lakes Region, 07/17/2012

5 Year Anniversaries

Margaret Alderman, Great Lakes Region, 7/26/2017
 Ellen Daneke, Northeast Region, 8/19/2017
 Karyn Jean Dickhoff, Northeast Region, 7/28/2017
 Shelley Gilchrist, Mountains and Plains Region, 07/18/2017
 Martin Jeffrey, Southern Region, 8/09/2017
 Shelley Lyksett, Mountains and Plains Region, 08/15/2017
 Jeremy Miselbrook, Mountains and Plains Region, 07/20/2017
 Mary Vidas, Mountains and Plains Region, 07/27/2017
Mary is her Region's VP



ENDOWMENT FUND

Rebekah Jackson Maaz, Committee Member



Honorary and Memorial Giving

Honorary and memorial giving is a tangible way to give thanks, a meaningful method of remembrance, and a powerful way to mark important occasions. Whether you want to find a unique way to express gratitude or treasure a loved one, an honorary or memorial gift to the Federation of Christian Ministries combines generosity with inspiration.

By giving to FCM you can:

1. Acknowledge someone you admire. This could be for their gifts of ministry or an accomplishment that deserves recognition.
2. Honor a loved one. Focus on their life and the ways they impacted others for the good.
3. Be creative. You can mark life events like the birth of a grandchild or help celebrate important milestones like birthdays, graduations, weddings, anniversaries, etc.
4. Join together. You can come together with others to donate in a way meaningful to your group.

In the daily hearing of the struggles all around us, remembrance can be a spiritual practice of naming those people and things that are loving and enduring to us. It marks what is important and what we choose to remember.

You can make a difference while affirming those that make a difference to you. Let your next gift inspire a greater purpose through honorary or memorial giving to FCM.

"I thank my God for every remembrance of you."
-Philippians 1:3



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ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT



Tom Stricker, Committee Chair

Thank You

VALUE AS OF 6/22/2022
\$94,816.00

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

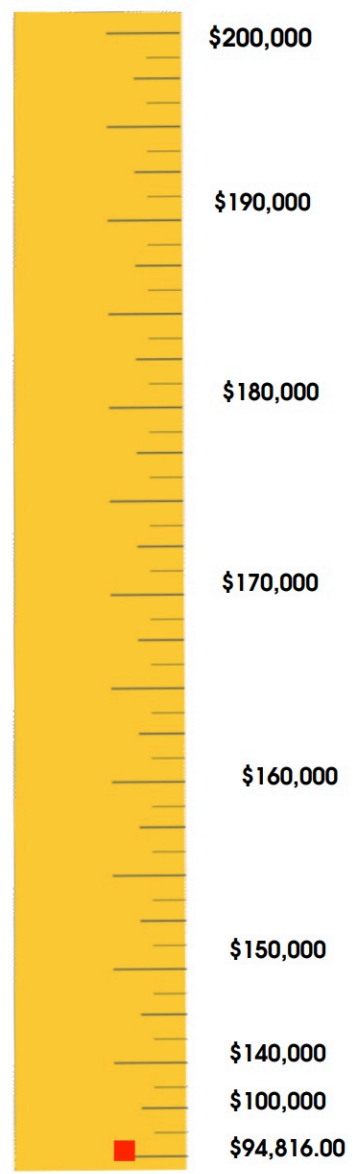
Tribute Gift

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@fcmail.org



Measuring Our Success

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FCM Grant Award Finalists Chosen!



Grant Committee Members - Shannon Queenan - Heidi Tierney - Mary Vidas

The Federation of Christian Ministries 2022 Grant is pleased to announce the finalists for the 2022 Grant Award Program. FCM's Grant Committee noted that among the many worthwhile applications received and projects reviewed, three (3) finalists have been chosen to receive full or partial funding during FCM's 2022 grant cycle.

Finalists are as listed:

1) **The Community of St. Hildegard, Fairport Harbor, OH**

Project: Hildegarden Herbal Sanctuary at Hildegard Haus
c/o FCM Member - Pastor, **Reverend Dr. Shanon Sterringer**

Goal: Creation of expanded outdoor sacred space and Hildegard-themed healing garden in support of, and as a means to deepen spiritual engagement and connection to the natural world.

Requested: \$4,150 Granted: \$2000

2) **London Correction Institution, London, Ohio**

Project: Horizon Prison Initiative Cycle #10 Program at the London Correctional Prison
c/o FCM Members - **Madeleine Trichel**, Interim Director, and **Richard Korn**, Educator

Goal: Providing equipment and support for Horizon's multi-faith education program serving 134 individuals preparing for community re-entry.

Requested: \$992.00 Granted: \$992.00

3) **Immigration Outreach Service Center, Baltimore, MD**

Project: Sólas Circles Volunteer Care Support and Leadership Training
c/o FCM Member - **Pat Shannon Jones**, Executive Director

Project: Provision of daily meditations, mindfulness programs, equity and leadership training, and an annual retreat for the Immigration Center staff and legal and service volunteers.

Requested \$2618.89 Granted \$1008.00

As we celebrate with our finalists, we also wish to acknowledge and thank the FCM members who expressed an interest in, and/or applied to this year's grant program. Continued blessings on all!

FCM Grant Committee Members - Shannon Queenan, Heidi Tierney, Mary Vidas
Contact: grant@FCMmail.org 651-303-6005



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PRAYER GATHERING

by Tom Cusack

Anthony Capone



The Federation of Christian Ministries Prayer Gathering *2* Years old

Two years ago, **Anthony Capone** (Coordinator of the FCM Prayer Ministry) and I (then serving as FCM President) brainstormed how to provide a setting of prayer and meditation to benefit FCM members, who often served on the front lines of the pandemic. We created the Thursday Prayer Gathering on Zoom. It was comprised of half an hour of dedicated spiritual practice, followed by half an hour of conversation. And it happened!

Each week a different member of FCM leads the first half hour of our Prayer Gathering. **Tom Cusack** (NE Region) usually facilitates the second half hour, with **Anthony Capone** (NE Region) substituting regularly. **Mark Bernecker** (NE Region) now offers his online tech skills for a practice session with the next leader.

"How is it going?" you may ask. Here are some participants comments:

As soon as Thursday evening gathering is over, I am looking forward to the next Thursday's Gathering. Why? Seeing everyone on zoom is so supportive to me. The SHARING is so rich, diverse and energizing. It truly sketches out the Body of Christ in its diversity and meaningfulness. I, so often, carry away sentences I wrote down during the sharing that are helpful at a later time as well. We are so blessed. THANK YOU! **Carolyn Horvath, FCM Central Office Coordinator, Great Lakes Region**

Being invited to join the FCM Thursday night prayer meeting was like finding a beautiful oasis in the midst of the very dry and isolating COVID desert. Having the weekly opportunity to be with FCM members from around the country and getting to know them as they came forward to lead one or more of the sessions, was a pure gift. I am so very grateful. **Kathleen Dzura, Southern Region**

I am grateful to the Thursday Night Community for the offer of a heartfelt hospitality to all approaches to the Good News. I leave the meeting convinced, again and again, that it belongs to me to be a prayer, a willing conduit of a Grace, sourced beyond me, for the good of all. **Marcel Duclos, Mountains and Plains Region**

I began attending FCM Prayer Gathering in October 2020. This weekly gathering has offered me a community of love and inclusion through a constellation of spiritual practices. This group has allowed me to explore my gifts by sharing my spiritual practices and receiving feedback. I appreciate new insights and interpretations of the scriptures to provide different ways to reframe my ongoing faith journey and those in my care. **Claudia Lee Dorsch, Chaplain, LPC, Mountains and Plains Region**

You are invited to enjoy the benefits of the Prayer Gathering, and to share yourself. Each week members with an active Profile in Realm receive an emailed invitation to join. We look forward to seeing you.



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ATTENTION FCM MEMBERS

DID YOU KNOW:

FCM members who celebrate/officiate a **BAPTISM** are required to register the **Baptism** with FCM. To register the **Baptism** go to www.fcmregistry.org click on the **Baptism Form**, complete the form and press send!

The same registry site is used for **Marriage** and **Holy Union**. You are not required to register **Marriages** and **Holy Unions** but it is an added service to your couples.

FCM CERTIFICATES

These lovely certificates are available from the FCM Central Office. Please specify your choice: **Baptism, Marriage,** and/or **Holy Union**, along with 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.

Email: centraloffice@FCMmail.org with your order.



We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. —





Aware: God, Others, Self

Drusilla "Dru" McLeland, FCM



AWARE: God, Others, Self

I am revisiting the concept of awareness of God, others and self. Here are some of the results.

I intentionally practice a specific way of being aware of God. I have the image of a satellite dish sitting on my head, like a fascinator hat. It is continually tuned into the God channel.

(I do hope you're laughing now.) It works for me! I am reminded to ask and look for God's help and direction.



One day at the hospital, I visited a Muslim patient and her daughter. Concerned about connecting well, I tuned in to my imaginary satellite dish to be aware of God. As I entered the room, I remembered Hagar. The three of us reflected on this woman who met "The God Who Sees Me" and whose tears brought water to the Zamzam Well near Mecca. We connected on a deep level united by our womanhood, belief in the God of miracles and Hagar. All thanks to satellite-on-the-head awareness.

I usually feel like an unwelcome outsider. I am aware that others may feel the same. This awareness allows me to look beyond self to others and offer hospitality and welcome.

Welcome

One day I was called to the emergency trauma room to be with a patient who was having a heart attack. As I entered the room, I observed three family members wearing identical black t-shirts sitting stiffly in a row like a second wall. I greeted them as I walked to the head of the patient's bed. As I spoke to them, I became aware that they were afraid to approach the bed. This was a new experience for them – fortunately. I was in this room in these situations daily. I invited them to come gather around the bed. As I spoke to the patient, they began to speak to her and touch her. The awareness of their feelings allowed me to offer welcome in and gave them the gift of connecting with the woman they loved in this fear-filled, strange environment. Hospitality – Hospital + ity.

Self-awareness is difficult for me. I was driving to work and feeling angry. As I stopped at a light, I asked myself, "Why are you so mad?" As I reflected, I realized I was stressed because in the process of transitioning from one hospice company to another I was covering both companies. Acknowledging that I express stress in anger, I identified and observed my thoughts and chose new ones.

One thing that helps me is the practice of objectively observing my thoughts, taught by Deepak Chopra on my Fitbit app. I ask, "I wonder what my next thought will be?" Waiting for it creates space for quiet. When the next thought comes, I decide whether or not to engage it.

Another source of help is the writings of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 4:8-12

8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

I am empowered to choose my thoughts. Objective observance and choice of thoughts help me to be self-aware and recover peace.

I hope sharing my reflection and practice of awareness of God, others and self encourages you in your practices. I would love to hear your thoughts and practices, if you would like to share them.



Healing Family Connections

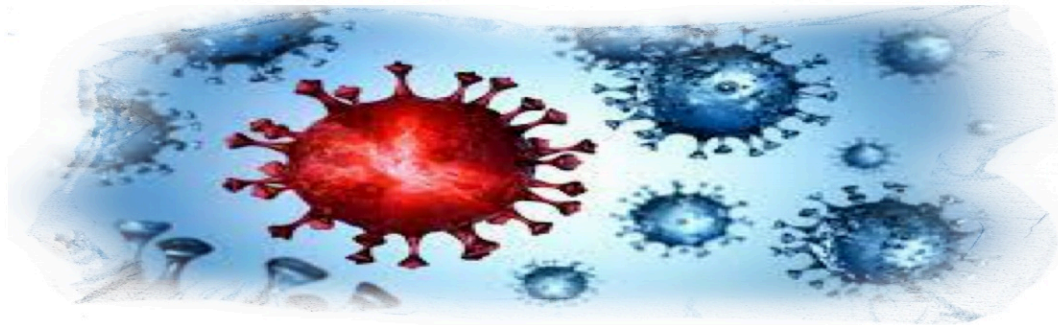
Heike Ward, FCM



Healing Family Connections in a Post-Covid World

Chaplain Heike Ward

Ward Critical Incident Support Services



The magnitude of this recent global health crisis has left many of us feeling disempowered and has affected every aspect of our lives: our health, our jobs, our financial situation, and even our personal freedom to come and go as we please, how we spend our time and who we get to spend it with.

I cannot remember a time when I have felt more disconnected from people in general and from some of my loved ones in particular. I am not referring to the physical distance, but rather to the disconnect coming from strong opposing views that emerged along with this deadly virus.

Our family, like so many others, was traumatized not only by the pandemic, but also by the ensuing unhealthy family dynamics caused by questions over the validity of this health threat and many of the government mandates that followed.

For healing of these relationships to begin, we must come to terms with the fundamentally different convictions we hold about the reality of this global threat and how these convictions have shaped our individual experiences.

Now that we have regained a sense of safety, we can perhaps take time to not only share our own truth, but engage in information sharing that conveys our openness to respect those who have convictions different from our own.

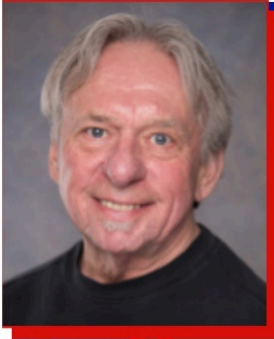
The words and actions of our loved ones may have left deep scars in our hearts. The path forward may require that we practice forgiveness. When we forgive, we release ourselves from the burden of bitterness and make room for reconciliation. Or perhaps we are the ones needing to make amends. We might begin softening our hearts by recognizing that we are not an expert on anyone else's path. What is right and true for me today may not be so for others. Only time will reveal the true impact of our pandemic-related decisions.

What matters today is that we come back together as families, as a local community, and as citizens of this country to do our part in transforming this trauma into hope for our future.

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NORTHEAST REGION

Carl Yusavitz, V.P.



Congratulations to our three NE Region members who were commissioned on May 28th. They are **Melanie Cicalese**, **Q. Hailey**, and **Grace Hochella**.

Here they are in their own words:



"After finishing my M.Div. at Princeton Theological Seminary, I now work at the Manhattan VA- NY Harbor Health Care System as the Palliative Care Chaplain. My ministry is with veterans that are coping with life-limiting illnesses or are near the end of life. I provide spiritual and emotional support to my patients, as well as their families and our staff. My primary ministry is to sit with someone in their suffering and help them speak their truth. I was drawn to FCM because of its openness and Catholic history. I felt it allowed me to be me, while supporting my ministry at the VA." (**Melanie Cicalese**)



"I am an LGBTQ and Mental Health advocate, and I serve as a full-time Staff Chaplain at NYP Brooklyn Methodist Hospital. I received my M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary in NYC and am pursuing an M.S.W. degree at Touro University in NYC. I have been called to walk with patients and their families through their end of life, and I am also deeply engaged in providing mental health care practices. My walk with God through my life experiences has led me to identify to a Queer Womanist Theology of community which undergirds all of the care I provide. I was introduced to FCM through my supervisor and spiritual partner, **Joo Young Hong**, and it has been a blessing. The sheer fact that I can use words like LGBTQ and Queer in a public space provide a testament to the ministry that FCM is doing, and I am thankful to grow in ministry with all of you." (**Q. Hailey**)



"I am a recent M.Div. graduate (Chaplaincy Tract) of Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, PA. Although raised in the church, chaplaincy was a new and inspiring ministry for me. I hope one day to be a Hospice Chaplain. I was introduced to FCM by my friend and FCM peer, **Frank Shipman**. FCM has become my second chance to serve God and serve others. I will be able to administer the sacraments. How blessed is that? This fall I begin a full-time CPE residency at St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem. FCM has become a place of healing for me and a community of those who have remained true to their calling. I am so very honored and blessed to be able to be commissioned with such a loving organization." (**Grace Adele Hochella**)

I hope to see many of you in person or on-line at our long-overdue FCM National Assembly in Chicago (July 15-17).

Our next FCM NE Region Zoom gathering will be July 9th at 9 AM.

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Don Morris, V.P.

SOUTHERN REGION

Beth Knight, Newsletter



*Our commitment to the FCM core value of "mindful living":
Our Region remains committed to being ministers of presence
in word and deed. Please join our region in ever mindful
prayers for Ukraine, for the end of gun violence, for those
grieving, for mental health and for the hope of Shalom for our
world.*

CONGRATULATIONS AND GODSPEED! NEWLY COMMISSIONED MINISTERS!



SERGIO PINO
FLORIDA



MIA HUTCHINS-CABIBI
NORTH CAROLINA



ROGER BUSH
NORTH CAROLINA



JULIA L. STYLES
GEORGIA



GEORGIA MEMORIES COMMISSIONING SERVICE

In FCM we love celebrating God's clear call upon lives and their specialized ministries. A very special thank you to **Rev. Diane Dougherty**, ARCWP in Atlanta, GA, for her honoring two FCM ministers recently in person: **Rev. Vanessa Fletcher** and **Rev. Donald A. Retemiah**.

You may use this link to see photos of Georgia service:
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1-0160302843399747&id=648554746





GREAT LAKES REGION

Shannon Queenan, V.P.



A View from the Great Lakes

Cultivating Hope

Friends, as if a global pandemic isn't enough to isolate and worry us all, we currently have the Russian war in Ukraine and the terror of gun violence happening ALL over our country! Further, there is a division among us, seemingly one side for common good and civil rights, while the other side is for gun rights and taking away hard-won civil liberties: voting, abortion and gay marriage to name only a few. Upon closer scrutiny, though, it seems we are more in-line than popular media would lead us to believe! Studies show that a large majority of us are for common sense legislation that protects voting rights; the right to make personal health decisions and the right to marry who we love. But, it can be challenging not to feel overwhelmed and hopeless in the face of daily news.

We have been isolated from each other during the pandemic. The Zoom connects help, but it is not the same as sharing space and spirit. How do our spiritual practices, community and faith guide us through these difficult times? Below I have included links to articles that address these issues, and that I have found hopeful and helpful.

We have been on COVID shut down since I became VP of this region. We have not had any in-person leadership meetings. I am so excited that the Circle has decided to host our National Assembly in July with both in-person and remote options. I appreciate the format that has been chosen. It is a story format that invites us to share and to listen together to what is happening in our lives through this challenging time. I will be there in-person and look forward to connecting with you in-person or via the World Wide Web!

Connect and Reflect is what we call our regional Zoom meetings. There are several scheduled for the rest of the year: Wednesday June 15, Wednesday, September 28, and Tuesday November 15. We meet at 7:30 P.M. for ONE hour. We share prayer and reflect on our lives. We also continue to encourage, foster and nurture local groups to gather for support. If you want to be part of a local group gathering, let me know and I will help you!

Grant Committee has completed its work for our inaugural offerings! The award announcement can be found in another area of the newsletter! We are so excited to be able to offer this kind of nurturance to our members and their work!

As you may be aware, the Endowment Committee also hoped to offer a grant this year. However, the money market has been volatile recently and we were not able to meet our established goal in order to make a disbursement. We remain hopeful that we will be able to make a grant award from the Endowment Fund next year.

Endowment Fund This helps us to secure the future for inclusive ministry that transforms society. If you'd like to make a donation, please do so on Realm. \$5/monthly donation is about the same as a cup of coffee at a coffee shop and will make a big difference.

National Assembly, July 15-18, 2022 in Chicago! **I HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!** Look for details in your email!

I leave you with this thought...

Recently I had the opportunity to fly in an airplane. It was raining very hard when we took off from the ground, but it wasn't long before we rose up through the clouds and broke into the sun shining, like it always does, all day every day!

**HOPE IS LIKE THE SUN
IF YOU ONLY BELIEVE IN
IT WHEN YOU CAN SEE
IT, YOU' LL NEVER MAKE IT
THROUGH THE NIGHT**

<https://emergencemagazine.org/essay/unraveling-ttw/>
https://onbeing.salsalabs.org/thepause_20220528



MTS & PLAINS REGION

Mary Vidas, V.P.



"Watershed moments are turning points, those moments often recognized in retrospect, moments that permanently alter an understanding." Martina Thompson, Worship Web



Recently, I had the opportunity to visit our family's former homestead located along the Rainy River in northern Minnesota. The river acts as a natural dividing line between the United States and Canada and has long been a focal point for residents and tourists alike. However, due to the recent rains and severe flooding, the river was 18 feet higher than usual and rising. As a child, I remembered what joy it was to walk the shoreline looking for rocks and driftwood, fishing off the dock, and visiting with our Ontario neighbors "across the way." There was no chance I'd be doing the same on this trip! The very tributary that once filled my soul with peace and calm was now dangerously swift and turbulent. As I stood on the bank taking in the scene, I thought about some of the watershed moments I've experienced. Moments that would take me by surprise and leave me questioning the outcome.

On the drive back to my home, I couldn't help but think about the unexpected, tragic, and challenging events that have occurred throughout our region and beyond. As philosopher Soren Kierkegaard shared, *"It is right and natural to question and ask 'why.' Why did this or that happen? And yet, the answer, at times, is beyond our grasp of understanding. And so, we concentrate on what we do know."* What I do know is that the waters will eventually recede, leaving behind treasures yet to be found. What I also know is that in our connecting with one another our sorrows and joys are made sacred, our resilience is strengthened, and our healing actions affirmed. For this reason and much more, I look forward to seeing you at the July Assembly in Chicago, and all the ways we gather to share our stories, hopes, and perhaps, those watershed moments that call us to hold both the majesty and mystery of life. Peace and Light, Mary

New Members

We welcome the following new members to FCM and our Mountains and Plains Region:

Tillmon Barker III, Fort Worth, TX

Shane Ward, Arlington, TX

Father Anne Tropeano, Albuquerque, NM

William "Bill" Vollmer, Palos Heights, IL

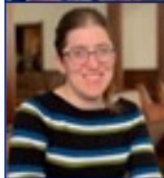
Recently Commissioned



Reverend Annetta Lansdown, MDiv., Lisle, IL
Chaplain, Advocate Good Samaritan, Downer Grove, IL.



Reverend Susan Loving, MDiv., Lubbock, TX
Hospice Chaplain, Interim Health and Hospice East Texas



Reverend Staci Orr, MDiv., Denton, TX
Chaplain Fellow, Methodist Dallas, Dallas, TX

July/August 2022

Federation of Christian Ministries

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Assembly Ordination Ceremony

The FCM Assembly's Ordination Committee has announced that a special Ordination Ceremony will be held during the Assembly, Saturday, July 16, at 7:00 p.m.

If you have been commissioned and not yet ordained, and will be attending this year's Assembly, you are invited to take part in the sacred and affirming commissioning ritual. To be included in the ceremony, please send your name and contact information to mts_plainsvp@fcmail.org. I will be happy to follow up with you to share additional details.

Additional options: For those unable to attend the Assembly, there are still open dates available to schedule a dedicated in-person and/or virtual Ordination Ceremony. Contact mts_plainsvp@fcmail.org to reserve a date on our Regional Ordination calendar.



Congratulations 2022 Graduates!

We extend our best wishes to all FCM members who recently graduated and/or completed their program of study. Know the world truly needs your skills, talents, knowledge, and insights. **Congrats again!**

Become an FCM Area Representative!

Becoming an FCM Area Representative within a particular geographic or local area is just one of the ways you can become an active FCM member while expanding your network! FCM Area Reps share their gifts and talents in support of our local FCM communities. Onboarding is provided. If you are interested and/or want to learn more, contact VP Mary V. at 651-303-6005 or email mts_plainsvp@fcmail.org.

Area News:

Illinois Area – A special thank you to **Rev. Daniel Hoard**, Chicago, IL, Chaplain, for offering to meet and greet new members, speak with those interested in FCM and support those seeking commissioning. Rev. Dan is an FCM Commissioned and Endorsed member of FCM. We have room for additional individuals on the Illinois Area Committee.

Missouri Area – A special thank you to **Marybeth McBryan**, St. Louis, MO, RCWP and St. Louis Area Meeting Coordinator, **Paul Vincent Reithmaier**, St. Louis, MO, Former FCM Chairperson and Regional Vice President, along with Spouse **Janice Reithmaier**, and **Anna Todd**, St. Louis, MO, Chaplain, Commissioned and Endorsed member. Members continue to meet online and invite others to join them. To receive information about upcoming gatherings and future meetings, contact: **Marybeth McBryan** at 314-277-3212 or **Paul Vincent Reithmaier** at p.reithmaier@att.net.

Texas/OK Area – A special thank you to **Reverend Dr. Heike Ward**, Wylie, TX, ACPE Educator, Chaplain, Commissioned and Endorsed member, who offered to serve as an Area Representative for the Texas/OK group. Given the large geographic region of this group, there is an opening for additional FCM Area Representatives.

Area groups are also being formed in Colorado/Montana, New Mexico, Minnesota/Dakotas, Iowa, and Wisconsin.

Connecting via Realm: Check your **REALM** profile! Listed are your assigned FCM groups. This is another great way to connect with FCM colleagues in your area and receive news about upcoming events. If you have moved, be sure to update your Realm contact information.



PACIFIC REGION

Dan Windham, V.P.



CONGRATULATIONS DAN WINDHAM

We are pleased to announce that **Dan Windham** has been elected to serve his first term as the Pacific Region Vice President.

Dan's new term will begin after the July 2022 Circle meeting and continue until July 2025. Congratulations Dan!

Dan can be reached at pacificvp@FCMmail.org

Election Committee
Drusilla McLeland, Committee Chairperson
Puanani Lalakea
Nick De Los Reyes

DAN'S ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the FCM Pacific Region as Vice President. It is an honor and a privilege. FCM has played a tremendous role in my journey into professional chaplaincy, when mainline denominational ordination was incongruous with my unfolding spiritual direction.

I look forward to developing stronger connections within the Pacific region, and between regions, over the next three years. Welcoming new members into the Commissioning and Endorsement processes for specialized ministries, and facilitating new church communities throughout the region will certainly contribute to stronger connection.

As restrictions diminish around Covid transmission, the possibility grows for in person Commissioning ceremonies and other kinds of regional gatherings. The gathering this summer in Chicago will be a wonderful experience after so much time in smaller circles.

Many blessings on the journey; we will see each other soon.

Peace,

Dan





NEWSLETTER EDITORS
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.

FCM Central Office



COORDINATOR
Carolyn Horvath
Email: centraloffice@FCMmail.org
NEW PHONE NU. 216.571.7698
1709 W. 69th. St., #1
Cleveland, Ohio 44102-2957

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, 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

FCM Circle of Directors

Chairperson: Christy Howard-Steele
Phone: 708.285.5845 | Email: chairperson@FCMmail.org

President: Ronald Davis
Phone: 513.262.2210 | Email: president@FCMmail.org

Treasurer: Heidi A. Tierney
Phone: 908.217.8981 | Email: treasurer@FCMmail.org

Secretary: Sarah Lindberg
Phone: 712.249.3410 | Email: secretary@FCMmail.org

Commissioning Chair: Salvador Leavittt-Alcantara
Phone: 831.277.8828 | Email: commissioningchair@FCMmail.org

Co-Chairs, Specialized Ministries:
Jeanne Hale Phone: 919.350.7853
Peter Strening Phone: 970.817.1409
Email: specmin@FCMmail.org

Chair, Faith Communities:
Marita Grudzen Phone: 408.674.0343
Email: faithcommunity@FCMmail.org

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

Pacific: Daniel Windham
Phone: 760.845.4378 | Email: pacificvp@FCMmail.org

Mountains & Plains: Mary Vidas
Phone: 651.303.6005 | Email: mts_plainsvp@FCMmail.org

Great Lakes: Shannon Queenan
Phone: 502.568.2174 | Email: greatlakesvp@FCMmail.org

Southern: H Don Morris
Phone: 864.526.9878 | Email: southernvp@FCMmail.org

Northeast: Carl Yusavitz
Phone: 215.248.2140 | Email: northeastvp@FCMmail.org

FCM ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

FCM Endowment: Tom Stricker
Email: endowment@FCMmail.org

Ethics Committee: Joseph Ruane
Phone: 215.387.7998 Email: j.ruane@uscience.edu

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

FCM Administrator: Bill Appleton
Email: connect@FCMmail.org

