

# Federation of Christian Ministries

## NEWSLETTER

September/  
October 2022  
Vol.56 No.5





# Federation of Christian Ministries



*Time to Renew  
your FCM  
Membership for  
2023*

Renewal begins on  
September 1, 2022  
See instructions on pages 3&4  
of this newsletter

### REMINDER

FCM members who celebrate/officiate  
a BAPTISM are required to register the  
Baptism at [www.fcmregistry.org](http://www.fcmregistry.org).

Marriages can also be registered at  
[www.fcmregistry.org](http://www.fcmregistry.org)

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## President Ron Davis

### Greetings FCM Members and Friends

It truly was a delight to be in person with (some of) you at the FCM Circle meetings and the Assembly last month. Being on zoom and all of the other platforms just doesn't compare with face to face in person fellowship. I truly want to thank each one who were there in person. And I must also say, thank you, all of you who participated on line. Being on line was the wisest and best option for some, I really get that. So, I give you a shout out for being with us for the Assembly in the way that worked well for you. It was a special time.

I really enjoyed hearing the stories from life and ministry that were shared over Friday evening and through the day on Saturday. Although each one of us walks along a different path, as I listened to the stories shared, I felt like there was more in common in our stories than not. I could really relate and identify with each storyteller. I was truly moved, feeling heartache and pain; joy and laughter; and the hand of God. I could tell that others were moved as well. For, when the gathered community was given opportunity to speak to what they heard, people had many things to say. Thank you FCM for giving me this memory from our 2022 Assembly. Thank you Peter Strenge for your leadership in making the Assembly happen.

As we move towards September, please remember that this is the time to renew your membership for 2023. Membership enrollment runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. There are several advantages to renewing early. First, those who renew early are able to renew at a reduced rate. Second, renewing early will keep your ministry faculties in good standing so that you can do the work of ministry uninterrupted. Third, it helps FCM to process renewal applications in a timely way, avoiding a rush of applicants in the later days of the renewal season.

There is one more thing that I would like to give comment on in this article—FCM Regions. At our business meeting in July, we talked about redrawing the regional map for FCM in order to make the work load more manageable for our Vice Presidents (VPs) across the country. Currently, the Southern, Mountains and Plains, and Pacific VPs are in situations where it is a great challenge for them to be effective pastors to the membership in their given region. I'm excited that we will be able to create the three new regions. I invite you to be prayerful with me that more leadership will rise up and share in the work of serving the new regions. Pray that this move will strengthen FCM and that this change will bear good fruit.

Appreciating You and the work of FCM,





Chairperson  
Christy Howard-Steele

## Changes for the Renewal Season

FCM's renewal season for 2023 begins September 1<sup>st</sup>. FCM dues have remained unchanged for many years. We continue to have a significant number of members renew well after January 1<sup>st</sup> even when a dues waiver could have been requested for a timely renewal. This year the Circle decided to increase dues for 2023 for those who renew after the Early Bird period which runs September 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>.

A modest increase occurs in Regular renewal fees which are in effect November 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. A more substantial increase will occur in dues for those who renew after December 31<sup>st</sup>. Early Bird Renewal rates are unchanged. In addition, dues waivers will no longer be available to those who renew after December 31<sup>st</sup>. Faith Communities can renew by submitting their annual report. No renewal fee is required.

Membership Type	Early Bird* September 1 - October 31st	Regular* November 1st - December 31st	Late** January 1st and after
General	\$ 50	\$ 60	\$ 65
Commissioned	\$ 145	\$ 175	\$ 275
Commissioned & Endorsed	\$ 235	\$ 290	\$ 390

\*Dues waiver available

\*\*Dues waiver unavailable

Renewal encompasses both completing your annual report and remitting the appropriate fee. While your current 2022 membership does not end until December 31, 2022, the renewal season runs September 1 through November 30, 2022, to avoid yearend busyness.

Please be mindful that if you do not believe you will have the money to renew by November 30<sup>th</sup>, it is more helpful to both FCM and you to contact your Regional Vice President to request a partial or full waiver of your dues. Renewing your membership well into 2023 perpetuates an unnecessary hardship. You will still need to complete your annual report within the established time frame to maintain your membership status. It is our policy and practice not to deny members renewal because of financial hardships.

**Ministry Listing:** When you renew, you are entitled to a free website listing of your ministry under three of the website's listed categories. Check up to three (3) categories. You will be listed by state, city, name, phone number, email address and personal website if you have one.



# 2023 Renewal

## Changes for the Renewal Season Christy Howard-Steele, FCM Chairperson

Page 2

To renew your membership for January 1 to December 31, 2023: follow the convenient method listed below. *Commissioning and/or Endorsement faculties end December 31, 2022, if you do not renew.*

**\*Please note** in order to renew, you need to sign into your profile on Realm. If you have previously signed in and created your unique password, you can just follow the steps below. **If you have not yet done this step, email [connect@fcmail.org](mailto:connect@fcmail.org) or the Vice President of your region, and they will be happy to send you an email link to get you started.**

If you forgot your password follow the "Forgot your password?" prompt at the login page as we are not able to do password resets.

### RENEW from your REALM Profile Account

- ❖ go to [www.onrealm.org](http://www.onrealm.org)
  - ❖ log into your Realm profile using your email address and a password you created
  - ❖ from your profile page, go to the Registration Events page
  - ❖ click on 2023 Early Bird Membership Renewal (by Oct. 31) or 2023 Regular Membership Renewal (by December 31)
  - ❖ type your name in the "Add Registrant" box
  - ❖ select the type of membership you are renewing (general, commissioned, commissioned and endorsed, faith community)
  - ❖ answer all the questions that follow and click Next
  - ❖ pay the registration fee (credit card, debit card, or electronic check)
  - ❖ Click "Register"
- ❖ Please note: The renewal process must be completed in one sitting as there is no "Save" feature within Realm events.

Thank you and blessings for your commitment to ministry and to FCM.





Chairperson  
Christy Howard-Steele

## CIRCULAR MOVEMENT

### COMINGS...

#### Chair, Faith Community Committee



FCM has appointed **Mark Bernecker**, Chair of the Faith Communities Committee. Mark has been a member of FCM since 2014. He is a former Lutheran pastor.

After trying this thing called a prayer gathering, Mark became more active in FCM. Since his ministry is focused on providing resources for small faith communities and families that don't want to be part of a larger church, he became a member on the Faith Communities Committee. Serving on the committee helped me see that the definition of faith community with FCM is much broader than he originally thought. He also learned the importance of faith communities to the ongoing ministry of FCM. Mark's goal is to grow the ministry of faith communities in FCM by supporting existing and new ones through seeking and developing resources for them. Welcome Mark! We are excited to journey with you.

Mark's contact information is:  
Email: [faithcommunity@fcmail.org](mailto:faithcommunity@fcmail.org)  
Phone: 216-744-7704

#### Vice President, Southern Region

FCM has appointed **Beth Knight**, Vice President of the Southern Region to complete the remaining term of Don Morris. Beth has been a member of FCM since 2019. She is a spiritual director and pastoral counselor. Beth says, "My prayer is that as a leader and representative of FCM that I would live into and nurture FCM's values of Belonging, Compassion, Empowerment, Equity, and Mindful Living.



Beth's vision for our Southern Region is for members to feel seen, heard, encouraged, supported, and cared for. Beth sees pastoral care, for our members, as being paramount. She also envisions...

- \*Fostering and nurturing connections both in person and by Zoom.
- \*Enhancing communication via phone or email.
- \*Facilitating Regional Spiritual Gatherings for fellowship and celebrations of the gifts and graces of members.
- \*Encouraging small faith community formation.
- \*Identifying and raising up emerging leaders as area representatives.
- \*Collaboration, among other members and leadership, for the greater good and future of FCM.

Beth's contact information is:  
Email: [southernvp@fcmail.org](mailto:southernvp@fcmail.org)  
Phone: (352) 978-8180

# GOINGS...

## MUCH GRATITUDE FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SERVICE

### Marita Grudzen - Chair, Faith Community Committee



**Marita Grudzen** has been a member of FCM since 1970. In 2019, she joined FCM's Circle of Directors again to serve as Chair, Faith Community Committee. Under her leadership, the Faith Community Committee provides 5 topical zoom calls annually. Marita has been an influential voice of wisdom, history, and practicality on the Circle. We will miss her gifts. Marita will continue serving FCM as a member on the Faith Community Committee. Thank you, thank you, for your service Marita!!!

### Peter Strening - Co-Chair, Committee on Specialized Ministries National Assembly Chair 2020-22



**Peter Strening** has been a member of FCM since 2010. He joined FCM's Circle of Directors in 2019 as Co-Chair, Specialized Ministries. We will miss Peter's thoughtful contributions to the Circle. Peter intends to continue serving as the Mountain & Plains Committee on Specialized Ministries liaison. Peter, thank you so very much for your perseverance in planning such a wonderful and meaningful National Assembly and for your service on the Circle!!!

### Don Morris - Southern Region Vice President



**Don Morris** has been a member of FCM since 2020. He joined FCM's Circle of Directors in 2021 as Co-Vice President, Southern Region. Sadly, Don has been unable to fulfill his responsibilities as the Southern VP. We are grateful for Don's willingness to serve and hope that he will be able to serve at some point in the future.

# AND STAYING...

## Congratulations - Pacific Region Vice President - Dan Windham Congratulations Mountains and Plains Vice President - Mary Vidas

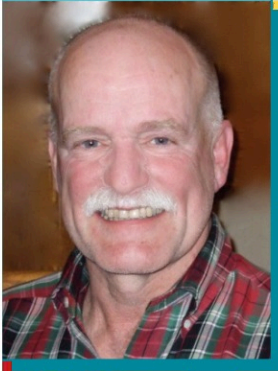
Both Dan and Mary had been appointed to complete the remaining terms of their predecessors. They have now been elected to their own three-year terms as Regional Vice Presidents.



Dan can be contacted at  
Email: [pacificvp@fcmmail.org](mailto:pacificvp@fcmmail.org)  
Phone: 760.845.4378



Mary can be contacted at  
Email: [mts\\_plainsvp@fcmmail.org](mailto:mts_plainsvp@fcmmail.org)  
Phone: 651.303.6005



# Endowment Fund Report

Tom Stricker, Committee Chair

## Report/update to the FCM Membership from your FCM Permanent Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee is deeply grateful for the generous support of our members. We believe transparency is important and that is the reason for this report.

Because of the turndown in the Market, your FCM Endowment Committee could not distribute a percentage of the accumulated funds this year. Our Permanent Endowment Fund Policy dictated this for two reasons: (Cite Article VIII Accumulated Appreciation Distribution)

- Our FCM Fund is experiencing the impact of the downturn in the global markets, which has temporarily depressed the Fund below \$100,000. The funds must be above \$100,000.00
- “When the S&P 500 Index has gone down by more than 10%”. This is a trigger for not allowing distributions. This Index has declined over 20% this year.

To date we have invested \$87,555.00. The value of the investment at close June 30, 2022 was \$91,089.68. We have not lost any of our investment, only some of the interest we have accrued.

As of June 30, 2022, the Fund stood at:

- Value of Vanguard investment : \$91,089.68
- FCM Endowment Checking account: \$765.00
- Total of the Endowment Funds: \$91,854.68
- This is the report of fiscal year end value, as required to be reported to the Circle by the Endowment bylaws.

At this point, we are in a holding pattern. Investments such as we have in Vanguard are long-term investments. We are assured that there will be an upturn in the market, at which time we will recoup our present losses.

We believe that this is not the most opportune time to ask for funds, however ministry doesn't stop with difficult financial times. If anything, these times call for more sacrificial giving, even at a minimal level. We know many of our members are experiencing the same financial concerns with their own retirement savings.

We would like to close by saying that a small amount can make a significant impact. If every member of FCM gave \$5.00 a month, totaling \$60.00 a year, given we have 550 members, we could raise \$33,000 in a year. A small donation to your Endowment Fund will make a measurable difference.

Thank you for your understanding,

Your FCM Permanent Endowment Committee

Please email Tom Stricker at [Tomstricker2009@gmail.com](mailto:Tomstricker2009@gmail.com) if you have any questions or visit <https://www.federationofchristianministries.org>, Select the drop down for the FCM Permanent Endowment Fund







# Endowment Fund Report

Tom Stricker, Committee Chair

## Thank You

VALUE AS OF 8/22/2022  
**\$101,478.00**

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

### Regular Donation

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

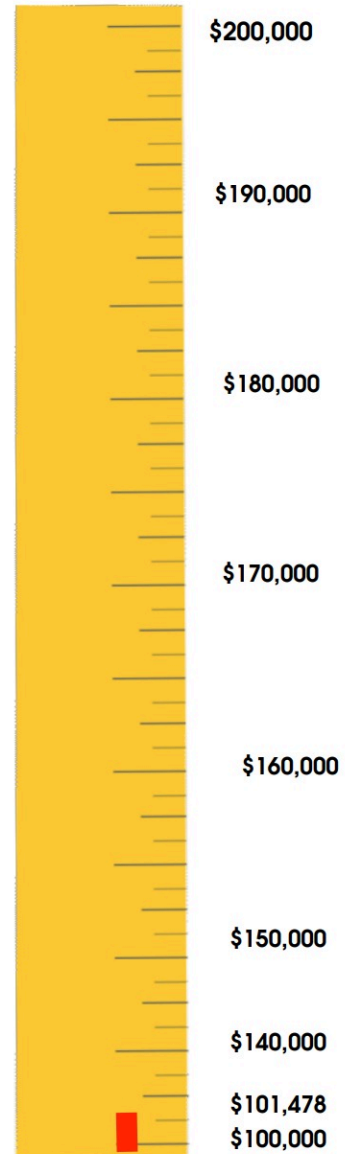
### Tribute Gift

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](mailto:endowment@fcmmail.org)



## Measuring Our Success



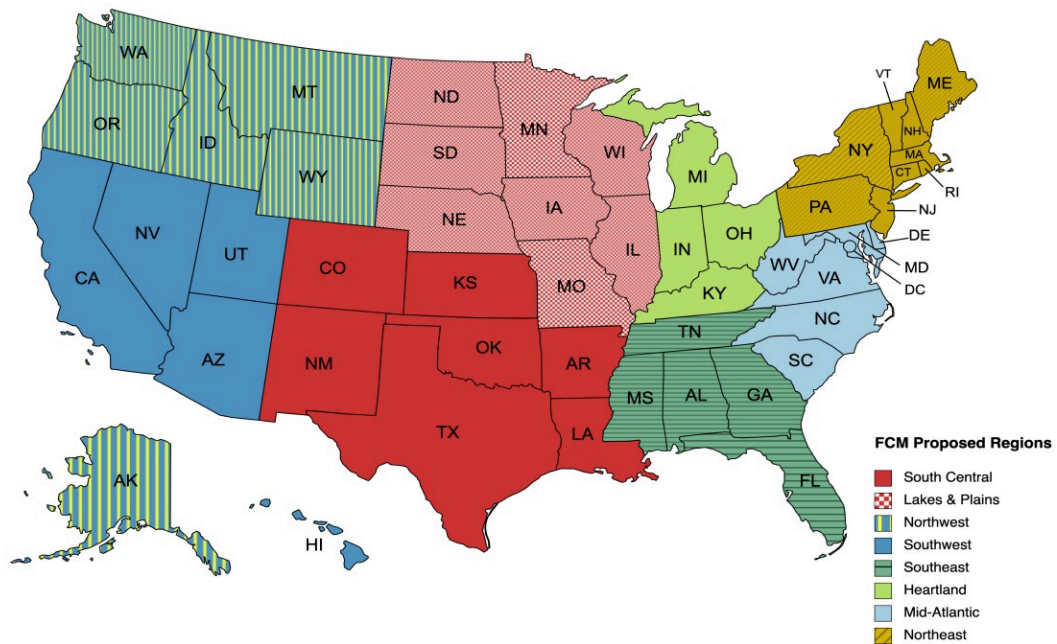
# New Regional Configuration

Christy Howard-Steele

In FCM's business meeting, one of the initiatives FCM is developing is a new geographical configuration. This initiative is in response to feedback the Circle received in its last membership survey. It also responds to the growth that has occurred in FCM that has increased the responsibility of the regional vice presidents due to the increase in membership.

The purpose of the new regional configuration is to create geographically smaller, more easily accessible/drivable regions. The new regional configuration creates 3 new regions (Northwest, South Central, Mid-Atlantic) which of course requires 3 new regional vice presidents. It is anticipated that this new configuration will go into effect January 1, 2023.

If you live in one of the new regions named above and are interested in being considered for the regional vice president position, email [chairperson@fcmmail.org](mailto:chairperson@fcmmail.org). Below is a map of the new proposed regions



South Central	Lakes & Plains	Northwest	Southwest	Southeast	Heartland	Mid-Atlantic	Northeast
Colorado	North Dakota	Alaska	California	Tennessee	Michigan	West Virginia	Pennsylvania
Kansas	South Dakota	Washington	Nevada	Mississippi	Indiana	Virginia	New Jersey
New Mexico	Nebraska	Oregon	Utah	Alabama	Ohio	Delaware	Rhode Island
Oklahoma	Minnesota	Idaho	Arizona	Georgia	Kentucky	Maryland	New York
Arkansas	Iowa	Montana	Hawaii	Florida		Washington DC	Connecticut
Texas	Missouri	Wyoming				North Carolina	Massachusetts
Louisiana	Wisconsin					South Carolina	New Hampshire
	Illinois						Vermont
							Maine



# FCM Grant

## Grant Committee Members

Shannon Queenan - Heidi Tierney - Mary Vidas

THE FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES  
IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE 2<sup>nd</sup> ROUND  
OF GRANT SUPPORT FOR FCM MEMBERS  
AND FCM FAITH COMMUNITIES  
FOR PROJECTS THAT ALIGN WITH FCM'S MISSION!

FCM recognizes there are many pathways in which to support FCM's mission and values. The establishment of FCM's grant programs is to support the rich diversity of ministries, projects, and activities led by FCM Members and FCM Faith Communities that lead to the renewal and transformation of the communities we serve.

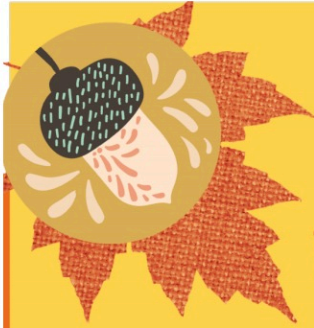
Given the success of the previous grants awarded and number of applications received, a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of grant support (totaling \$4,000) has been approved by The Circle. FCM Members and FCM Faith Communities are invited to submit an application for projects and outcomes that align with FCM's mission to empower and nurture inclusivity and support FCM's values of belonging, compassion, empowerment, equity, and mindful living.

Applicants can only receive one grant per calendar year.

Application deadline is March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, with grant awards to be distributed by June 2023.

If you are interested in applying for a grant and/or would like to more information and application guidelines, please send an email to [grant@fcmmail.org](mailto:grant@fcmmail.org) and/or contact Mary Vidas at (651) 303-6005 c/o of FCM's Grant Committee.

NOTE: The Grant Committee will also be sponsoring a complimentary Grant Writer's Seminar (via Zoom) to take place on Saturday, October 22, 2022, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Central Time. Your RSVP of attendance for the workshop is appreciated! Please send an email to [grants@fcmmail.org](mailto:grants@fcmmail.org) along with your grant writing background and level of experience.



# The FCM Faithful Major Anniversaries of Membership

Carolyn Horvath

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](http://WWW.ONREALM.ORG)) OR ON THE REALM APP. NOT SIGNED IN TO REALM? ASK YOUR REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OR [CONNECT@FCMMAIL.ORG](mailto:CONNECT@FCMMAIL.ORG) FOR AUTHORIZATION.

## September/October 2022

### 15 Years

Jack Geracci 10/15/2007 Northeast

### 10 Years

Bill Appleton 10/4/2012 Northeast

Pamella Starbird Beliveau 9/5/2012 Northeast

Rebeca Cartus 10/24/2012 Northeast

Melissa Vela 10/22/2012 Northeast

Zac Willette 10/25/2012

### 5 Years

Kevin Correll 9/1/2017 Northeast

Gretchen Daniels 10/8/2017 Pacific

Michelle Mehan 10/20/2017 Southern

Daniel Pagliuzza 9/16/2017 Mts. & Plains

Eileen Pappalardo 9/14/2017 Great Lakes

Frank Shipman 9/21/2017 Northeast

Linda VanPutte 9/1/2017 Southern



## The Living Beatitudes Community, a FCM Faith Community, was a BIG WINNER at the July 2022 DignityUSA National Conference in San Diego, CA



**The Living Beatitudes Community**, a FCM Faith Community, also received a Presidential Award for their work in anti-racism through the Sacred Grounds program and discussions on racism, discrimination and white privilege, together with the Black Lives Matter banners in the front of Christ Episcopal Church. These banners were developed through a grant from Corpus. In addition they developed the "Did You Know, We Say BLM" weekly historical facts educating the readers of social media of discrimination.



**Patty Stricker, FCM** presently the president of the LBC Board, was also a recipient of the Michael Bushek Award for service to the DignityUSA Board for her exemplary work on the development and HR committees. She was a key faculty member in the newly launched Leadership Academy which took place before the July 2022 DignityUSA Convention in San Diego.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

### Additional Awards.....

**Bob Butts** a member of the Living Beatitudes Community won the Michael Bushek Award for service to the DignityUSA Board. His work as the National Secretary and in Chapter, Community and Caucus Services was recognized, along with his efforts on behalf of the Nominations and Elections Committee.

**Dick Young** received a Presidential Award for his lifelong work as a presider with the Living Beatitudes Community and Dignity/Philadelphia. His work on the DignityUSA pastoral team, Breath of the Spirit publication, nominations committee, conference planning, and chaplain to the Defenders were mentioned in the award.





# FCM Faith Communities

Mark Bernecker, Chair

## Stories of Community

On the Friday of our National Assembly, members of the Faith Communities Committee presented important information about FCM's initiative to develop and support Faith Communities. Here is a summary of that evening.

The evening's presentation began with the story of how FCM became a Convention of Churches. FCM was a 501-3c organization of ministers and churches authorizing ministers to continue in public service. Several FCM leaders sought to clarify FCM's original intent with the IRS. After months of hard work, they were able to obtain the IRS status of "Convention of Churches."

Our session continued with a panel of three current FCM Faith Communities lead by Marita Grudzen. In this, and the next two newsletters, I will share their stories.



We begin with **Oscar Romero Inclusive Catholic Church**. Here Chava Redonnet shares four things that FCM members should know about St Romero's.

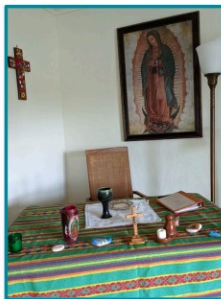


**We are a church on the margins.** We began in 2010, holding services in the dining room of the Catholic Worker; and in June 2011, began celebrating Mass out in the country with migrant farm workers. What began as an outreach became the focus of the church, and in 2017 we bought an old farmhouse that is now where we worship, and a refuge for farm workers who need it.



**Being on the margins is a blessing.** The "excommunicated heretic" label has meant, for me as a priest, that I must find my ministry. I have discovered spiritual synergy in a place in which the congregation is undocumented in the country, and I'm undocumented in the church. A perfect fit!

**The learning and the blessings go both ways.** My message to those who come to church is, "You are not alone." In turn they have taught me much about hospitality, how little one actually needs, the centrality of family and the Spanish language. Having to ask for help with a word in the middle of a homily is humbling - and one of the ways we grow as a community of equals.



**There was no plan. There was a yes to a call.** I said yes to priesthood, and to that insistent inner nudge, when I met a group of farmworkers in 2010. I let them know that I am a Priest and would celebrate Mass for them. Then I said yes to the voice that insisted we get a house. Another great blessing of being on the outside is that it has forced me beyond Catholic boundaries. Our circle of support includes all kinds of Protestants. What a blessing it is, being on the outside!

**I am SO GRATEFUL for the great blessing of being a part of FCM.**

Chava Redonnet, RCWP

Chava is offering to send anyone a copy of their bulletin who sends her an email to stromerosbulletin@gmail.com.

In a future issue we will feature “**The Living Beatitudes Community**” of Dayton, Ohio. We congratulate this community, and one of their leaders and FCM member, **Patty Stricker**, who was honored at the July 2022 DignityUSA National Conference.



After highlighting faith communities came an informative presentation by **Judy Lorenz** based on Charles Vogl's concepts of belonging and community. Her outline in the handout (<http://files.fcmfc.org/Handout.pdf>) provides excellent insights for everyone, most importantly that a sense of belonging is critical for a healthy life. You may also want to follow the links in the handout to purchase Charles Vogl's book and access other resources.



**Bob Graf** then facilitated an opportunity for attendees to share their stories of community in small groups. I encourage you to consider the questions discussed: What significant community in your life have you impacted? How have you impacted that community? How has that community impacted your life, faith, and spirituality? You'll also find these questions in the handout (<http://files.fcmfc.org/Handout.pdf>).



One thing I learned is that some communities we already belong to are actually faith communities and other faith communities begin with an invitation by you to others or an invitation to you. The Faith Communities Committee invites you to reach out to us to be part of FCM's initiative to develop and support FCM faith communities. Watch your email for new and inspiring information.





COMMUNITY GEMS: Social justice,  
equality at heart of Jefferson Twp. pastor



COMMUNITY CONTENT

By Diane Erwin, Dayton Daily News

July 7, 2022

**“He never says no to anyone who needs help.”**

Tom Stricker would like to see the people of the community sit down and talk, with understanding and without judgment.

“I believe that the more we understand who we are as individuals, the more we understand our unity with other people and how important diversity is,” said Stricker, 71, of Jefferson Twp.

Stricker is devoted to helping people in the Dayton area, in particular those who are marginalized or underserved, according to Edward Lehman, who nominated Stricker as a Dayton Daily News Community Gem.

Stricker is tireless when it comes to promoting equality and social justice, Lehman said.

“I think he’s extraordinarily generous with his time. He never says no to anyone who needs help,” said Lehman, of Beavercreek.





Lehman pointed to many examples of Stricker's dedication, including almost 35 years assisting at the Dayton Correctional Institution.

He started there as a contract chaplain after being ordained as a Catholic priest and eventually became a volunteer. Stricker, who has been married to wife Patty for nearly 30 years, now does his ministry work through his affiliation with the **Federation of Christian Ministries**, which he said began as an organization of married priests who wanted to continue to do ministry. The group has since broadened its membership.

He now visits the correctional institution twice a week.

"I find it a real ministry because many of the people are really struggling there and they need to have people with a listening ear," he said.

Stricker, who grew up on the west side of Cincinnati but has lived in Dayton for more than 40 years, has worked with people in poverty, others who are homeless, as well as those who are re-entering the community.

Lehman said that Stricker also helped to create the Dayton Peace Bridge, and through Stricker's role as a pastor in the **Living Beatitudes Community** he has worked on a Black Lives Matter public awareness campaign that included large signs at Christ Episcopal Church, 20 W. First St. A new set of signs celebrating Pride Month were later mounted at the church.

Stricker said that the nonprofit faith community also is planning a program next year that focuses on intersectionality and unconscious bias. Stricker is concerned about equality for everyone, including all minorities, the LGBTQ+ community, the poor and the incarcerated, Lehman said.

Lehman met his friend about 30 years ago, through Dignity/Dayton. That group was the precursor to the Living Beatitudes Community, which both are now involved in.

Stricker is a leader in turning faith into action on social justice issues, Lehman said, and he also shows concern for the environment, conserving resources by doing such things as avoiding plastic straws and bottled water.

"He truly lives his values. A lot of us talk about that and don't really follow through, but he does," Lehman said.

Stricker said that the community can transform as we are together more and understand each other better, including the struggles that others face.

"Understand that we are all different, and that's a good thing," Stricker said. "That's something we want to hold on to."





# FCM 2022 Assembly

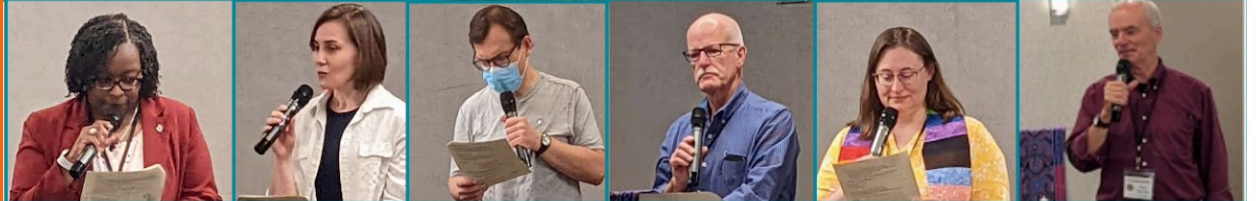
Peter Streng, Assembly Chair



September/October 2022  
Vol.56 No.5

Federation of Christian Ministries

# 2022 Assembly cont'd



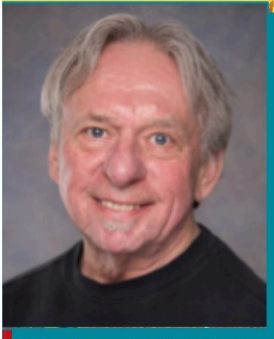
## Next Assembly 2024

Until then attend: Regional in person and Zoom meetings,  
Committee meetings, Thursday evening Prayer meeting.

Federation of Christian Ministries

September/October 2022

Vol.56 No.5



# Northeast Region

Carl Yusavitz, Vice President



## Greetings from the Northeast Region

**Congratulations to Elrica Adams-Finney, Gina Mercurio-Brown, and Rodney Morrow**, FCM Northeast Commissioned members, who were granted FCM Endorsement at our recent Circle meeting in Chicago! May the Holy Spirit continue to inspire their ministry and vocational discernment.

**Seven FCM Northeast Region members joined us in Chicago** for our recent National Assembly. It was good to catch-up in person and collaborate with other Northeast Region members on Zoom. By all accounts, our "small" Assembly was a success – we celebrated community and were moved by the stories shared.

Small? With only 40 "live" participants and 25-35 Zoom participants, I was reminded of the loaves and fishes story in **Luke 9: 10-17**. The disciples were doubtful there would be enough food to feed so many people – but Jesus told them to trust that the small amount of food would be enough. And it was! Compared to other churches, FCM is small, but Jesus' command "Feed them!" applies to all his disciples. Jesus asks us to trust what we have to feed our spiritually hungry world. May we continue to trust the confidence that Jesus places in us and believe in miracles!

At a recent monthly Northeast Region Zoom call there was a lot of interest in two things: **small in-person gatherings at people's homes** and **a 2023 FCM Northeast Region Fall gathering** at Eddy Farm Christian Retreat Center on the Delaware River in New York. If you would like to host a fall gathering in your home, please let me know. The areas we are looking at are Boston, New York City, Upstate NY, Southern NJ, the Lehigh Valley (PA), and Philadelphia. Please stay tuned for further details.

**Our next Zoom gathering** will be September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. A Zoom invitation was sent to you in August. If you did not receive an email Zoom invitation, please contact me. Carl Yusavitz  
cyusavitz@comcast.net





# Southern Region

Beth Knight, Vice President

Greeting Friends !

First and foremost I want to truly thank those who have served before me in recent years. It's been my privilege to support outgoing VPs: Rev. Diane Dougherty, Chaplain Linda Van Putte and Rev. Don Morris. Their gifts and graces, and even challenges, teach us all in FCM a lot about servant leadership.

As we orient ourselves now to a change in leadership, in which I step forward to serve our region, I pray that Spirit will bless us with deeper connections and new ways to be in fellowship together. My heart is to serve pastorally and I look forward to supporting our region in that way.

If you would like to talk or need assistance with something FCM related please contact me at: Email: [southernvp@fcmmail.org](mailto:southernvp@fcmmail.org); or by phone at #352-978-8180.

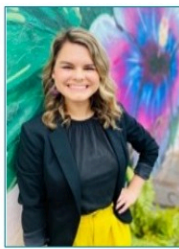
I look forward to our shared ministry endeavors. Peace, Rev. Beth Knight

### FCM Assembly...

...What a blessing it was in mid-July to be able to be in community online by Zoom and attend the FCM National Assembly. It was a privilege to hear all the beautiful poignant story sharing, celebrate new ordination-commissions and endorsements, learn more about the Global Ministry University and hear important news and updates. The FCM core value of "equity" became a highlighted matter. In the spirit of personal accountability many members felt convicted to ask themselves "where in my ministry could I do better regarding equity"? May the Holy One guide us into active answers that we live out regarding this question.

...Our next FCM National Assembly is in 2024. Let's invite ourselves to think about attending either online or in person.

...**CONGRATULATIONS TO: five of our region members for their recent Endorsement approved in July. May the Divine richly bless your ongoing ministries.**



VANESSA FLETCHER



MIA HUTCHINS-CABIBI



MARY MURPHY



DONALD RETMIAH

RODNEY MARROW - PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

...and **WELCOME to one new member: Norman Jeune.**

... News!!! In person gatherings slowly are returning. In our Southern Region three of us met recently in central Florida to enjoy connection over a meal and dream of more gatherings as well (see picture). If gathering, or being a part of a FCM small faith community interests you, then please let Beth Knight know at [bethknight@bethknightministry.com](mailto:bethknight@bethknightministry.com)

LEFT TO RIGHT:  
REV. JENNIFER CARPENTER  
REV. BETH KNIGHT  
REV. SUE LEVY





# Mountains & Plains Region

Mary Vidas, Vice President



## News from the Mountains & Plains

*Autumn leaves don't fall, they fly*

*They take their time and wander on this, their only chance to soar!"*

*D. Owens, Author*



While it has been hard to say goodbye to summer, nature's palate has changed again as the woods near my home welcome me with their outstretched branches and brightly colored leaves of red, orange, and yellow. What is it about the Fall season that feels so comfy, warm, and inviting?

Perhaps it is the activities during this season such as harvesting the garden's bounty, apple picking, biking and nature hikes or ending the night with an evening bonfire. Even more, it is the friends, family, and dear ones I look forward to gathering with on these crisp, cooler days. Yet, with reality often at the rudder, I know there are those whose lives have been deeply disrupted by unexpected events who will be using this time to regroup, heal and regain their footing as best they can.



Nature plays an integral part as metaphor, story and more throughout inspired writings. Some of my favorites include, "...autumn rains will cover you with blessings." (Psalm 84:6) to "For everything thing there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1) and this well-known call to action, "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" (Mathew 9:37).

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the song "Turn, Turn, Turn" by The Byrds, a hit in my earlier days. Many are the biblical versus and songs (psalms) that have inspired and sustained me through the changing seasons in my life – from young to older, grief to joy, confusion to peace. For I truly agree that 'every season has a reason'.

During this new autumn season, I hope you take that chance to soar! May you be open to that which informs and calls you toward discovery and wonder.

And as we gather in person (when possible) and/or online (as probable)... know that we, your FCM Community continues to keep you in our heart, mind, and prayers.

Happy Autumn Everyone!

Blessings and peace, Mary

### New Member

We welcome the following new member to FCM and our Mountains and Plains Region!

**Christopher Breen, Elgin, TX**

### Recently Commissioned

Congratulations to the following Commissioned Members:



**Reverend Tillmon Barker III,**  
Fort Worth, TX  
Chaplain, Texas Health  
Methodist Hospital  
Fort Worth, TX



**Reverend Shane Ward,**  
Arlington Texas  
Chaplain, Pediatric Intensive  
Care/Trauma  
Children's Medical Center  
Dallas, TX



**Reverend Tiffany Thorne**  
Boulder, CO  
Chaplain, Centura Health/St.  
Anthony North Hospital  
Westminster, CO

### Assembly Commissioning - Ordination Celebration!

It was with great joy that the following Mountains and Plains Members were recognized and their call to ministry affirmed at the 2022 National Assembly Commissioning Service held this past July. Blessings to them and family members and friends in attendance.

*Photo follows on next page.....*

**Assembly Commissioning - Ordination Celebration!**



Pictured from left to right:  
**Sarah Goodloe, Charlotte Hoffman, Michal Lewon, Eric Robbert, Annetta Lansdown with VP Mary Vidas**

**The Gift of Gathering! Regional Zoom Meeting Schedule**

We look forward to gathering once again via Zoom. Regional Zoom Gatherings will continue to take place on the 1st Wednesday of each month during the upcoming fall and winter months. Monthly gatherings include regional guest speakers addressing a variety of spiritual, personal and professional ministerial topics, faith journeys and stories shared, as well as exploration of the many ways we live out our commitment to FCM's mission and values.

Additional information & reminder notices will be sent prior to each meeting date & time. See below for our upcoming schedule.

**Mts & Plains Regional Zoom Schedule**

Recurring Meeting: [Regional Zoom Link](#)  
 DATE: Wednesday, **Sept. 7th, 2022**  
 TIME: 7:00 PM Central Time

**Oct. 5th, 2022** 7:00 PM Central  
**Nov. 2nd, 2022** 7:00 PM Central  
**Dec. 7th, 2022** 7:00 PM Central

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



**Introduction to Complimentary Healing Modalities – ZOOM Panel Discussion**

**Monday, October 24th, 2022**  
**7:00 pm Central**

Our Mountain and Plains Region is extending a special invite to FCM Members interested in learning more about complimentary healing modalities and their role in ministry and/or chaplaincy. Members who are certified as healing modality practitioners or have had previous experience working in a clinical, therapeutic, or spiritual care settings providing Aromatherapy, Breath Work, Drumming, Healing Touch, Reiki, Sound Therapy, and other will be our special guests. Panelists will share their use and integration of complimentary healing modalities as part of their ministerial work, as well as related research and acceptance of a wide variety of complimentary care practices by APC – Association of Professional Chaplains, SCA - Spiritual Care Association, CAPC – Center to Advance Palliative Care, and additional medical associations.

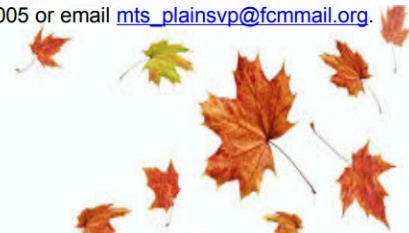
We hope you can join us for this interesting and educational panel discussion to be held on **Monday, October 24th at 7:00 PM Central Time.**

Your RSVP of attendance is always welcomed and can be sent to VP Mary Vidas at [mts\\_plainsvp@fcmail.org](mailto:mts_plainsvp@fcmail.org).

A general notice will also be sent prior to event date and time.

**Become an FCM Area Representative!**

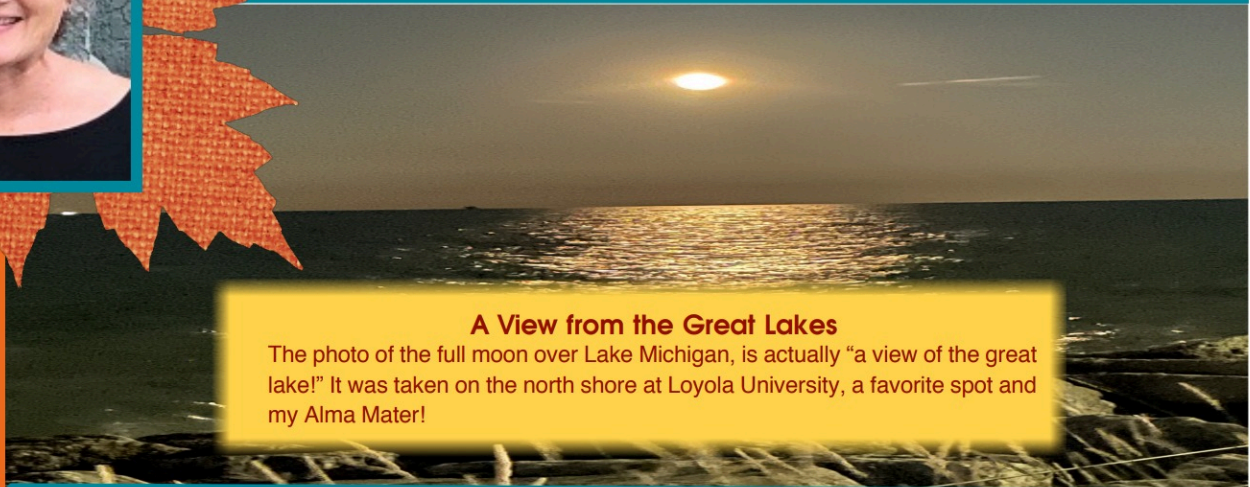
Becoming an FCM Area Representative within a particular geographic or local area is just one of the ways you can become an active FCM member while expanding your network! FCM Area Reps share their gifts and talents in support of our local FCM communities by welcoming new members, facilitating online or in person gatherings and/or special events. 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](mailto:mts_plainsvp@fcmail.org).





# Great Lakes Region

Shannon Queenan, Vice President



### A View from the Great Lakes

The photo of the full moon over Lake Michigan, is actually “a view of the great lake!” It was taken on the north shore at Loyola University, a favorite spot and my Alma Mater!



### National Assembly, July 15-18, 2022

in Chicago was amazing! It was wonderful to be together and share our stories of triumph and woe! The photo of **Tom Stricker** was taken as he gave his report on the Endowment Fund to the group. The Endowment Fund is an exciting project developed to provide long-term stability for our community by securing the future for inclusive ministry that transforms society. If you'd like to make a donation, please do so on Realm. Tom and his team continue to provide fantastic leadership for this work.



**Sarah Lindberg, Amy Simpson and Bill Appleton caught in a spontaneous moment.**

**Fellowship** Recently a new-ish member asked me to suggest some ways to get involved with FCM. I was delighted and surprised at the many ways I was able to suggest:

- Attend the Thursday night Prayer Gathering, 8-9 pm EST (Zoom link via email)
- Join the Regional Connect and Reflect Zoom meet ups
- Gather a small group of FCMers in your area
- Participate in the Regional Retreat at Maria Stein Oct 14-16
- Start a Faith Community
- Become a leader (being a VP has some amazing benefits!)
- Be a regular donor to the Endowment
- Join a committee

**Connect and Reflect** is what we call our regional Zoom meetings. There are a couple scheduled for the remainder of the year: Wednesday, September 28, and Tuesday November 15. We meet at 7:30 for ONE hour. We share prayer and reflect on our lives.

**Grant Committee** was so successful that we are going to offer grants again this year! Watch for the invitation that will be coming out soon!!





# Pacific Region

Dan Windham, Vice President

## Growth and Connection

I learned a hard lesson in geography and time zones last weekend when I attempted to hold my first, official, Zoom gathering as Pacific Vice President. To my dismay, here were several things I failed to consider, and there were some people who were unable to connect. I lament the errors I made in the preparation - or lack thereof - and I anticipate positive growth from the experience.

Those who were able to attend provided rich conversation around what has been happening in their lives since we last Zoomed together. Our conversation hovered around some of our VA chaplains and Moral Injury. One of our members recently wrote an article on the subject. There are others for whom this seemingly elusive idea has surfaced again, and there is interest in a deeper exploration of Moral Injury.

If there are others who find this subject interesting, please email me your thoughts and be on the lookout for Zoom invites. We will gather again soon.

## Community

One of the FCM goals and action items for this year is to strengthen and grow our communities of faith as the FCM is federally recognized as a convention of churches. In a similar way as chaplains, therapists, and spiritual directors engage care seekers and create community together, I wonder how we can strengthen our bonds within the region and the nation. I wonder how we can more effectively become a convention of churches that supports and facilitates the various ministries and ministers who find their way to the FCM.

May that same Spirit that was in Jesus Christ lead us on to the deeper understanding of our faith in action and the ways we can come together as a region a nation to become all the things God helps us to become.



*Anyone with an interest in facilitating intraregional connection please call, email or text me. I would like to hear from y'all about how our connection can be more helpful to you in your life and work.*

*Peace,  
Dan*



**NEWSLETTER EDITORS**  
Carole duBois  
Sandy Tracy

**Newsletter** Email: [newsletter@FCMmail.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

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FCM Blog: [fcmblog.org](http://fcmblog.org)

FCM Registry: [fcmregistry.org](http://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](mailto:connect@FCMmail.org) - [membership@FCMmail.org](mailto: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](http://www.federationofchristianministries.org)  
Inquiries may be made by email at: [specmin@FCMmail.org](mailto: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](http://www.globalministriesuniversity.org) Email:  
[info@globalministriesuniversity.org](mailto:info@globalministriesuniversity.org)

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**Ethics Committee: Joseph Ruane**

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**Prayer Support Leader/Coordinator: Anthony Capone**

Prayer support button on the website or:

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