



FCM Newsletter

Volume 59 - Issue 2
March - April 2025

Everything Must Change

by Benard Ighner

Everything must change
Nothing stays the same
Everyone will change
No one stays the same
The young become the old
And mysteries do unfold
'Cause that's the way of time
Nothing and no one goes unchanged



We are growing ...

We are maturing ...



We are changing ...

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Christy Howard-Steele Chair Circle of Directors

chairperson@FCMmail.org

Change

Christy Howard-Steele, Chairperson

As winter transitions into spring, I am reminded of a Quincy Jones' song, Everything Must Change. Q as he was affectionately known to his friends died at the age of 91 in November of 2024. In honor of his life I asked my music streaming service to play songs by Quincy Jones. I was pleasantly surprised to realize how many of his songs had accompanied me throughout my life. Anyway, I digress...

The first verse of the song is:

(A link to the song and the full lyrics are at the end of this article)

Everything must change,
Nothing stays the same
Everyone will change
No one stays the same.

FCM is in a season of change. As the rain or snow of one season provides the water needed to seed the growth in the next, we have outgrown our ability to function well in the ways of the past. Most of our membership is in full-time vocational employment. Some are raising young families. While we still need volunteers to lead, the day-to-day operations need paid staff to run effectively and efficiently.

Change is always accompanied by loss. Therefore, it is natural and expected that grief will be part of change. Even change we desire, hoped and prayed for involves letting go of that which was before. While this change in FCM may not have been one that you imagined, I invite you to feel and express your grief as you anticipate the new opportunities that unfold. I look forward to the new ways FCM will be a leader and partner in establishing, empowering, nurturing, and supporting expansive, inclusive ministries.

Source: Musixmatch

Songwriters: Benard Ighner

Reprise: Everything Must Change lyrics © Almo Music

Corp.

Everything Must Change by Quincy Jones

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pn9LPbFRQ>

Lyrics by Benard Ighner
Everything must change
Nothing stays the same
Everyone will change
No one stays the same
The young become the old
And mysteries do unfold
'Cause that's the way of time
Nothing and no one goes unchanged
There are not many things in life
You can be sure of, except
Rain comes from the clouds
Sun lights up the sky
And hummingbirds do fly
Winter turns to spring
A wounded heart will heal
But never much too soon
Yes everything must change
The young become the old
And mysteries do unfold
'Cause that's the way of time
Nothing and no one goes unchanged
There are not many things in life
You can be sure of, except
Except, (rain comes from the clouds)
(Sun lights up the sky)
(And hummingbirds do fly)
(Rain comes from the clouds)
(Sun lights up the sky) Ooh
(And hummingbirds do fly) Hummingbirds do fly
Um rain comes from the clouds (Rain comes from the clouds)
And sun lights up the sky (Sun lights up the sky)
And hummingbirds do fly (And Hummingbirds do fly)
I know rain (Rain comes from the clouds)
I know sun (Sun lights up the sky)
And music makes me cry



Christopher Breen Vice Chair

Circle of Directors

Exciting Changes Reflect a New Chapter for FCM

As FCM continues to evolve and grow, these bylaw changes align with the Strategic Plan we began to implement last year. Even in the face of the current political and cultural climate, we as a leadership team remain deeply committed to the mission of FCM: to respond to the sacred Call by empowering and nurturing those inspired for expansive ministries in the world.

Just as Paul wrote in Galatians 6:9, “Let us not grow weary of doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Our faith guides us through these changes, reminding us that our work is rooted in love, service, and justice.

As we continue to grow and evolve, FCM has made significant updates to our bylaws that reflect our commitment to adaptability, collaboration, and forward-thinking Spirit-led leadership. One of the most notable changes is the elimination of the Executive Committee and the office of President. This shift allows for a more streamlined governance structure, emphasizing collective leadership and shared responsibilities. In place of the former structure, we have introduced the office of Vice Chairperson, a role designed to support and enhance the work of the Chairperson and the Circle of Directors.

Additionally, in the coming months, the general membership (that's you!) will also be voting on updates to FCM's Constitution that follow and align with these changes. Keep an eye out for the electronic ballot to add your voice to the future of FCM.

I am honored to share that I have been elected by the Circle of Directors to serve as the Vice Chairperson. I will hold this role until Christy's term as Chairperson concludes in July, at which point I will step into the office of Chairperson.

Additionally, our updated bylaws now provide the ability to hire an Executive Director. This exciting change enables us to bring in dedicated leadership to manage the day-to-day operations of FCM, ensuring that our mission is carried out effectively and efficiently.

For more insights into these changes, I encourage you to read Tom's article in this newsletter, where he provides thoughtful reflections on the vacation of the office of President. We are also thrilled to share an article from Madison, who has graciously accepted the role of Executive Director. Her vision and passion for our community are sure to inspire us all.

These changes mark a new chapter for FCM, one filled with promise, collaboration, and continued service to our members and the broader community. We look forward to this journey together and are grateful for your ongoing support and engagement.

It is also my privilege to announce that Election Committees have been formed to guide the Southwest, Mid-Atlantic, and Lakes & Plains regions in their election of their respective Regional Vice Presidents. I want to thank members of each Election Committee in advance for their diligent work and contribution to this essential function for our community.

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Tom Cusack Treasurer

treasurer@FCMmail.org

Strategic plan

The FCM Circle of Directors conducted one of its most significant meetings February 6, 7 and 8. They acted on new governance proposals for FCM in accord with our strategic plan. The most significant change for FCM is acquiring a part-time, paid Executive Director. This has been accomplished. Here is how it happened.

Search Committee I made a request to FCM members to volunteer to form a Search Committee for an executive director. 7 FCM members stepped forward. Our thanks go to them. They are Mike Corso and Kathy Schuck of Northeast, Dorie Griggs and Tom Doyle of Southeast, Dianne Haulcy and Anitta Milloro of Lakes and Plains, and Zack Wheat of Northwest. The committee drew up a job description. Then 2 calls went out to FCM membership asking for candidates. Ten members came forward plus a friend of FCM who learned about the opening. Then the Search Committee allocated the interviews to Mike, Dorie, Tom Doyle, and Diane, plus myself as an observer. This group interviewed all 11 candidates. The interviewers used the same questions for each candidate, asked by the same interviewer. Then the interview committee assessed the written and spoken responses of each candidate using an objective assessment document. The interviewers chose Madison Jones McAleese of the Southwest region as their executive director candidate to present to the Circle of Directors. Madison then spoke with the entire Circle for 2 evenings so everyone could get to know her and one another. The Circle accepted her at their meeting. Welcome, Madison to this new and unique leadership position for FCM. We are here to support you and help you to help FCM.

New Bylaws During this productive Circle meeting, new Bylaws were voted in by the Circle. These Bylaws provide the foundation for the new FCM governance structure with an executive director. The entire text of the FCM Bylaws is available on our website at <https://fedcm.org/resources/bylaws/>

For me the new governance structure eliminated the office of President. I have been President in my current term for 2 years. And I held the office for two 3-year terms from 2014 – 2020. It is evident to me that FCM leadership must be executed now by other members. Our strategic plan has accomplished this goal. Of course, I was ready to write my farewell to FCM leadership here, but a resignation by our hard-working Treasurer, Tammy Davidson, left that position open. Because I was Treasurer years ago, I have become Treasurer on an interim basis till our new treasurer is found. FCM always has surprises for us. Please let us continue to pray for each other and for FCM. Please apply my formula of 2 X 2 4 FCM. That is 2 minutes of prayer, 2 minutes of meditation, each day for the benefit of FCM. Blessings toward you as we go forward.

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Madison McAleese Executive Director

Greetings, Fellow FCM Members!

I am honored and excited to join you as FCM's first Executive Director. First, a little about me. My background is in nonprofit management, faith leadership, and academia. I've spent years as a consultant working directly with nonprofit organizations to help them grow and achieve greater impact in their communities. My work has spanned churches, civil rights groups, arts organizations, youth development groups, and more. In my ministry and my academic work, my calling is rooted in the intersection between faith communities and social justice. As a Queer woman pastor, the mission of FCM is also deeply personal to me. As someone who does not fit in with traditional religious environments, I had to forge a way to both find and create spaces that are safe, inclusive, innovative, and filled with loving community. This is the exact spirit that FCM embodies – encouraging and empowering ministries that seek to unite us through faith, rather than divide us based on difference.

My hope for FCM is to help foster deeper connection among our members, expand opportunities for growth, and ensure that FCM continues to be a welcoming home for ministers serving in diverse faith settings. It's also very important to me to recognize the diversity in our own membership by tapping into the rich expertise and wisdom of our members - chaplains, ministers, and spiritual leaders - who bring diverse experiences and gifts to our shared mission. Through this particular time in our own nation's history, the need for strong, unifying, inclusive faith leaders is critical. We need faith leaders who will sit with humanity in our shared lament, who will rejoice with us in our gladness. We need ministries to provide spaces for questions, fears, anger, and doubt. We need chaplains to stand by families, communities, and service-members in their need. We need a bold spirituality – a spirit that embodies the expansive and diverse wisdom within our own FCM community.

I'm excited to join you all on this journey. My "door" is always open for feedback, questions, ideas, or creative collaboration.

Many Blessings,

Madison Jones McAleese



Tom Stricker Endowment Chair

tomstricker2009@gmail.com

Are You Thinking of Writing Your Will?

Preparing a will is a loving and responsible act for the sake of your family and friends. It may help ease the confusion about how to distribute your assets after your death. Dying intestate (i.e., dying without a will) is difficult for family members and will cause them stress about honoring your wishes. And, because tomorrow is not promised to us, it is never too early to draft a will even though you may change it over the course of your life. Below is guidance on how to prepare to write your will.

BEFORE SEEING A LEGAL ADVISOR:

To save time and expense and to assure that you achieve your goals through your will, take time to do the following:

- Make a list of everyone to whom you are responsible (e.g., children and pets).
- List everyone you would like to remember in your will including charities and causes that are meaningful to you.
- List all of your material assets. This list may be more extensive than you think, such as:
 - Home Equity
 - Real Estate and Land
 - Savings
 - Life Insurance
 - Business Assets
 - IRA / Retirement Funds
 - Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds
 - Automobiles / Vehicles
 - Furniture
 - Jewelry
 - Collectibles
 - Antiques
 - Expected Inheritances
 - Other Properties

AFTER SUBTRACTING THE AMOUNT OF YOUR DEBTS:

Match the names of persons or organizations you would like to remember in your will with the assets you would like them to have or consider giving a portion of your total assets to each individual or organization.

Take care of your family first. Also consider assets or money from your estate you would like to give to special friends or your faith community.

Consider establishing a trust if your estate is large or if doing so is appropriate for your family. If your total assets are substantial, your estate may be subject to federal or state taxes and your family may be subject to inheritance taxes. Consult with a financial planner or the trust department of your financial institution if you want to explore creating a trust.

Ask a trusted family member or friend if they would consider serving as the executor of your estate. An executor is responsible for carrying out your wishes as outlined in your will.

If you have minor children or other dependents at the time you write your will, consult with people you trust to serve as guardians of your children or dependents. Make sure they are willing to serve as guardians.

Explore charitable organizations that you may want to give a gift to with your pastor, priest or faith leader ministries.

Continued



WRITING YOUR WILL:

Simple language for including the people or organizations you would like to remember in your will might be: "I give, devise and bequeath (state the amount, asset or percentage of your estate) to (name, address and telephone number of the person or organization). **Be sure to consult with a legal advisor licensed in your state to help you write your will because every state has specific laws that govern how you may write your will.

AFTER YOU MAKE YOUR WILL:

Make sure that someone knows where your will is located. You might place a copy in a secure file cabinet at home and leave a copy with your legal advisor, the person you have chosen to serve as your executor or a trusted family member or friend.

Do not place your will or funeral instructions in a safe deposit box. Generally, your executor may not have access to your safe deposit box until they can show that a document (such as a will or a court order) names him or her as your executor.

Review your will from time to time with your legal advisor. Laws, assets, family members and personal interests often change over time. You probably have not written your last will, only your latest will. Your will declares your final legacy.

* Adapted from "Writing Your Will" published by the Episcopal Church Foundation.

** Be sure to consult with a legal advisor licensed in your state to help you write your will.

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

¶

¶

1. → **Introductory Clause**¶

I, _____ [TESTATOR NAME], of _____ [COUNTY] County, [STATE], make this my Will, and I revoke all Wills and Codicils previously made by me. ¶

¶

2. → **Identification**¶

A. **Children**¶

I have _____ [NUMBER] children, _____ [CHILD ONE NAME], _____ [CHILD TWO NAME], and _____ [CHILD THREE NAME]. All references in this Will to "my children" are to them and to all children hereafter born to or adopted by me. In addition, all references in this Will to "my Descendants" are to my children (as defined above) and to all of their respective Descendants. ¶

I DO NOT have children. All references in this Will to "my children" must be left intentionally blank by the testator in case such testator does not have any children or descendants. ¶

¶

B. **Charitable Organizations**¶

I have included _____ [CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION NAME] as a beneficiary in this Will. The address, phone number, and federal tax identification number of _____ [CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION NAME] are as follows: _____ [ADDRESS], _____ [PHONE NUMBER], _____ [FEDERAL TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER]. ¶

¶



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.

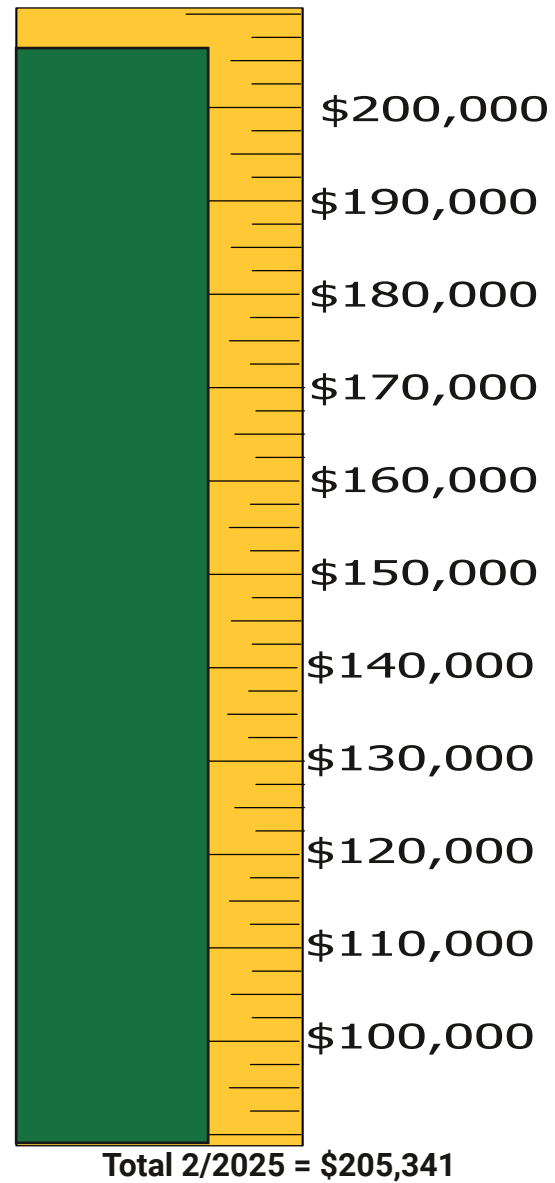
1. Sign in to Realm or, if in the FCM Website, use the "Donation" button to get there.
2. Click on "Giving" (left hand column) and this will take you to donation page
3. Click on the "+ Give" button
4. You will see a pull down (FCM General Account); click on the pulldown arrow
5. Click on the "FCM Endowment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





Judy Lorenz Faith Communities Chair

faithcommunity@FCMmail.org

~ Mark Bernecker

How often do you witness the divine at work in your life? Even if we don't believe in dualism (sacred vs secular), we go about our lives as if it were so. We may see divine presence when we interact with patients or parishioners, but do we see it outside of those interactions and not in times of prayer and meditation. Following is an experience of Judy Lorenz, FCM Faith Communities Chair that she shared on Facebook at the end of January. Was the divine present in, around, and through this connection/interaction?

Yesterday morning I was sitting in the dentist's office waiting to be called. Unfortunately, I looked at my phone one too many times and saw a picture of the president signing yet another executive order - this one to ban transgender care for minors. My eyes filled up, my heart sank and my name was called by the hygienist. She asked how I was doing and I could barely reply: "Not great". She was very sweet and as I settled into the most anxiety-provoking chair known to humankind, I muttered that I just read about another executive order from that idiot. This was a huge risk considering the tools she was about to put into my mouth. Thankfully, her response indicated that she understood me. We shared a few of the things that are so upsetting to some folks right now and then she went on to her work. Midway through, tears welled up again and she said: "It's okay, we can take a break." I divulged some more information and she talked about a website that she goes to for positivity called Upworthy. She told me a story about herself and showed me a book titled Upworthy which is filled with short stories about the best of humanity. We resumed the teeth-cleaning process and afterwards I asked her if it was okay to give her a hug and she complied. I went to Barnes & Noble and I sat down and read several stories. It is not religious or preachy; just stories that show the best of us. I realized that the young dental hygienist had done for me what countless people across the country do for each other every day. So, I bought the book, went to the nearby Safeway, picked up a small bouquet of flowers and drove to the dentist office to drop them off with a note. The young woman called later that night to thank me. We had a short back and forth, and she knew she made a difference for someone.

~ Judy Lorenz



At the core, the work of the FCM Faith Communities Committee is to help members find connections through FCM faith communities. There are a variety of types of communities in FCM which you can see in the event invitation near the end of the article.

One type, some of which were formed about 2 years ago, are Support Communities. Below, Gina Mercurio-Brown shares some thoughts about her FCM Support Community.

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I've done a couple of other support groups. When I did them, especially after my residency during Covid, because I had very bad PTSD from being a Covid chaplain, and I was just really looking for someone because I wasn't just over it and looking for a place where I could still talk about it because people really wanted to move on. And also some groups weren't in the healthcare system. They were having a completely different experience. I still didn't find what I needed even after trying other professional chaplain organizations. Our FCM community was the 1st time I ever felt as safe and loved as I did. Our community members still have the call. How can we do this ministry, we asked? Because things have been so bad in the past for so many of us, we've really helped each other through some horrible things. I think the reason we work is the shared values of FCM, we already know how eclectic FCM is, and we already know that we don't all think the same things. So we don't have to do the additional legwork on all of that you would have to do basically any other time.

~ **Gina Mercurio-Brown**

Join Gina and other members of different support communities for our March 24th event when they'll share their experiences with their support communities of FCM. Also, consider attending the April 28th event about the Rainbow Railroad. Find descriptions of both events below. Register at register.fcmfc.org. All events begin at 8 PM Eastern Time and last for 1 hour and 15 minutes.

March 24: Joining/Forming FCM Faith Communities

FCM has a variety of Faith Communities: Liturgical, Support, Spiritual, Service, and Ministry Focus. Like the early Christian communities, FCM believes that the people of God, whenever and wherever they gather, are church. Several chaplains will share their experience as part of a support community of FCM during this event. In addition, members of the FCM Faith Communities Committee will offer support in joining and/or forming a Faith Community of FCM.

April 28: Rainbow Railroad Ministry

In countries around the world, LGBTQI+ people face violence and oppression simply because of who they love or who they are. The Rainbow Railroad helps them get to safety. The Sophia Inclusive Community was originally founded in NJ, but is open to all, as it has provided virtual liturgies since the covid era. Sophia is currently providing help to a refugee by giving them security and a chance to start a life free from persecution. A Sophia member will share their experience with this ministry including how they became part of the Rainbow Railroad.



**RAINBOW
RAILROAD**



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Jeanne Hale Chair Specialized Ministries

specmin@FCMmail.org

Greetings friends from the Committee on Specialized Ministries (CSM)

The Committee meets monthly via zoom and volunteers their time as agents for FCM in supporting the important process of endorsement of those who seek professional status of endorsement. We have noticed a few areas that need to be highlighted and reminded among our body in general, and we offer some reminders in this article. If you or someone in your region may be contemplating beginning the endorsement process, below are the persons who will assist you.

FCM regional liaisons to help you navigate endorsement are:

Northwest Region, Southwest Region & Heartland Region: Jeanne Hale, email: specmin@FCMmail.org

Lakes & Plains Region: Claudia Dorsch, email: Claudia.Dorsch@UnityPoint.org

South Central Region: Peter Strening, email: PeterStrening@comcast.net

Southeast Region: Beth Knight, email: dbethknight@hotmail.com & Patrick Whiteford, email: frpatrick27@gmail.com

Mid-Atlantic Region: Lisa Koch, email: dalikoch@aol.com

Northeast Region: Ingmar Ludwig, email: iludwig@fordham.edu

Chair of CSM: Jeanne Hale, email: specmin@FCMmail.org

Two Important Reminders the CSM wants to highlight:

- 1) a candidate needs to first be commissioned with FCM and in community relationships with FCM prior to application for endorsement.
- 2) a candidate must connect with their CSM regional liaison and also be known by their area VP before moving forward with endorsement.

FCM is committed to our endorsement process being a caliber process and one of integrity. Our FCM website states that Endorsement is an official declaration by a faith body that a person is in good standing with that religious body, has a relationship of clear accountability with that religious body, and has met certain ethical and competency standards to serve in a specialized ministry – such as chaplaincy, pastoral counseling, or clinical pastoral education.

FCM Endorsement also means that the endorsed person can represent our religious body in a specialized ministerial setting. It also serves as a means of accountability, as the individual is expected to uphold the standards and values of FCM.

Ecclesiastical endorsement is a formal process through which an individual receives approval and support from their religious organization for pursuing a ministry career. This endorsement serves as a testimony to the individual's moral character, spiritual maturity, and adherence to the beliefs and practices of their faith. In many cases, ecclesiastical endorsement is a prerequisite for certain religious positions, such as chaplaincy or religious education, ensuring that the individual possesses the necessary qualifications to effectively serve in their chosen capacity.

Additionally, the endorsement process often involves an assessment of the individual's theological and pastoral competencies, helping to guarantee that they possess the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their role. Ultimately, ecclesiastical endorsement is a means of promoting excellence and integrity within faith-based organizations and ensuring that their representatives are equipped to effectively serve others.

If you have interest in FCM endorsement, please contact your regional liaison. Or, if you would like to volunteer in support of others pursuing endorsement, please contact our CSM Chair, Jeanne Hale.

Link to the FCM Endorsement Polity Manual: <https://fedcm.org/membership/endorsement/endorsement-polity-manual/>

~ Rev. Beth Knight, MAPC, SE Regional Liaison for CSM

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Congratulations to our very own Federation of Christian Ministry Secretary

Rev. Dr. Michelle Joachim-Brathwaite

To God be the glory for the great things He has done! As part of the 2nd Episcopal District of African Methodist Episcopal Church Norfolk / Eastern Shore Community, we take time to recognize Rev. Dr. Michelle Joachim-Brathwaite for her dedication, drive, compassion, encouragement, and her wisdom in ministry being a comforter to others. She is a beacon of light specifically within the Pastoral Care Chaplaincy for Hospice and Bereavement Ministry. Journeying side-by-side with those at the end of their lives. For the past 4 years, she has served as a Chaplain with various nursing home facilities ministering to those who are in crisis and are facing grief, loss, anticipated loss and terminal and mental health illness. In general, Clergy members provide the necessary tools that are needed within the body of Christ to remain faithful while carrying out compassionate care to the least of these. Dr. Joachim-Brathwaite is a retired 30 years, commissioned United States Naval Supply Officer; and has dedicated her second career to being of service not just to her country but to her community. She continues to be a bridge that gaps the space of tender care and trust with her patients. A true servant leader within the clinical setting, and a great helper throughout the community. Rev. Dr. Michelle Joachim-Brathwaite has been taking the lead in the ecumenical ministry by also providing spiritual and emotional support to not just the patient, but to the families and their care team, guiding each family with comfort and solace. We are all familiar with the scripture "Faith without works is dead! Her faith is big, and she is certainly alive doing what she was destined and ordained to do.

February 1st, 2025



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FCM Anniversaries



5 YEARS

Brianna Capre	3/22/2020	South West
Danielle Cummings	3/11/2020	South West
Michael John Cusick	3/16/2020	South Central
Terra Epps	3/06/2020	MidAtlantic
Kristy Goodwin	4/11/2020	Lakes and Plains
Kelly Gray	4/03/2020	South Central
Ethan Halliday	3/05/2020	South West
Joselyn Jones	4/23/2020	Lakes and Plains
Michelle LaGrone	3/03/2020	Lakes and Plains
Evan Owoc-Edwards	3/07/2020	MidAtlantic
Daniel Windham	3/21/2020	South West

15 YEARS

Judy McBride	4/8/2010	Heartland
Ann Penick	3/22/2010	MidAtlantic
Cheri Sadler	4/17/2010	South West

25 YEARS

Raymond Gurney	3/07/2000	Lakes and Plains
Nicholas Mosunic	3/27/2000	MidAtlantic

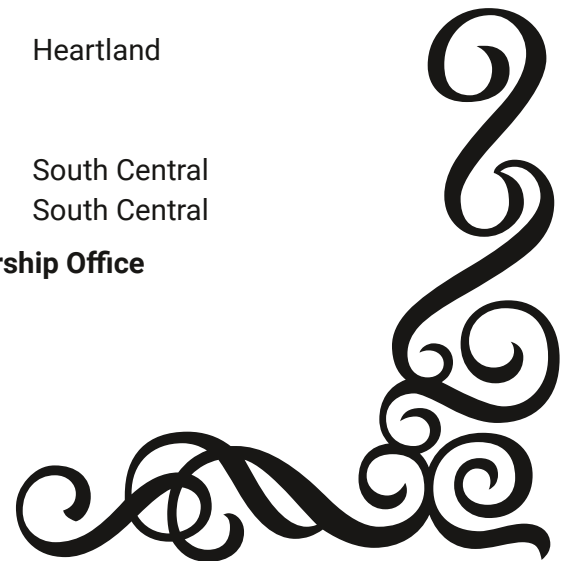
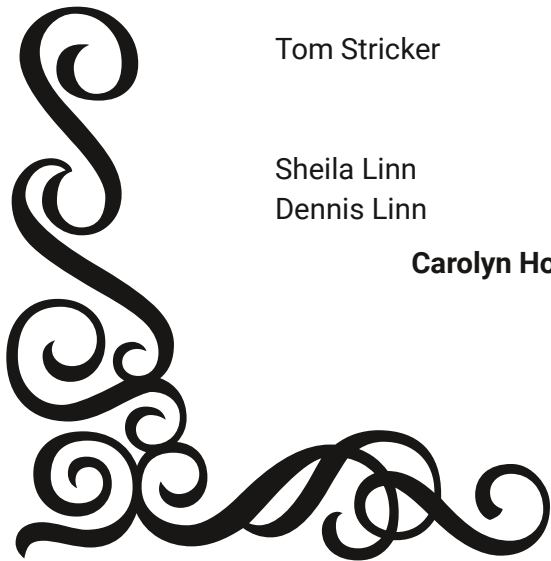
30 YEARS

Tom Stricker	3/25/1995	Heartland
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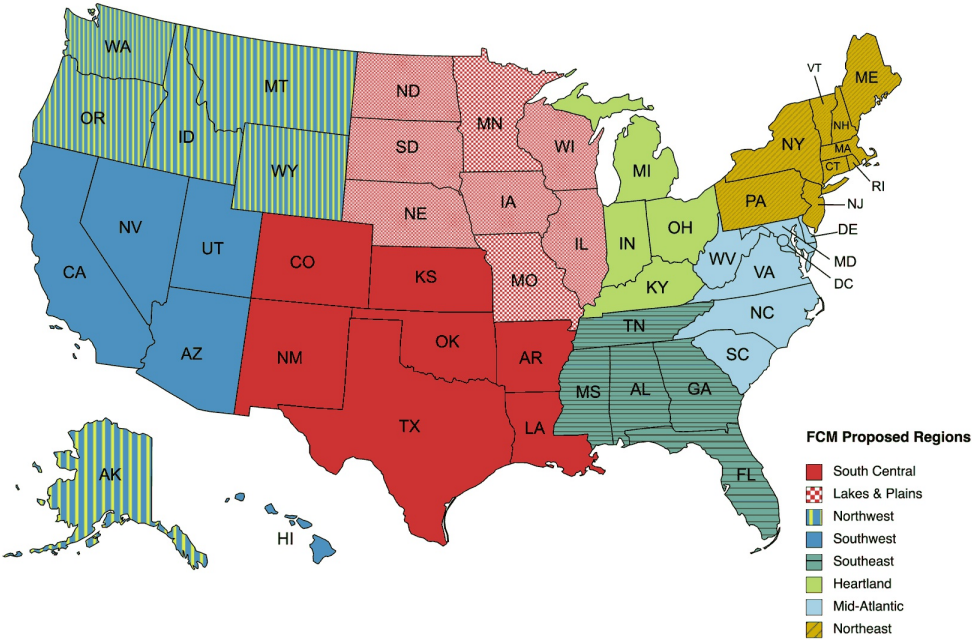
35 YEARS

Sheila Linn	3/01/1990	South Central
Dennis Linn	3/01/1990	South Central

Carolyn Horvath, Central/Membership Office



FCM Regions



Created with mapchart.net

Northeast

- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey
- Rhode Island
- New York
- Connecticut
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- Vermont
- Maine

Mid-Atlantic

- West Virginia
- Virginia
- Delaware
- Maryland
- Washington DC
- North Carolina
- South Carolina

Southeast

- Tennessee
- Mississippi
- Alabama
- Georgia
- Florida

South Central

- Colorado
- Kansas
- New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- Arkansas
- Texas
- Louisiana

Heartland

- Michigan
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Ohio

Lakes & Plains

- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Nebraska
- Minnesota
- Iowa
- Missouri
- Wisconsin
- Illinois

Southwest

- California
- Nevada
- Utah
- Arizona
- Hawaii

Northwest

- Alaska
- Washington
- Oregon
- Idaho
- Montana
- Wyoming



Mike Corso VP Northeast

northeastvp@FCMmail.org

Announcements

Please join me in congratulate Commissioned members Erik Burling and John Kearns. And, let's applaud Kimberly Ann Borin, Osita Ehiabhi and Mikhal Heil on receiving their Endorsement.

Looking to Make a Difference

As we navigate through these challenging times, we recall that Jesus lived in similar challenging times. He stood up to both the religious and political leaders of his day with a message of inclusive, welcoming love. Jesus was especially welcoming of those excluding by the community; the sick, those deemed possessed, and the sinner. Jesus welcomed them back into the community and thereby made them whole.

Jesus was especially open to women. This was a truly enlightened attitude in his day given the religious and cultural restraints of his day.

We who are his followers take from his example and are similarly inclusive to those who are marginalized in today's society; the BIPOC community, the LGBTQIA community, the Disabled community, the refugee, and immigrant as well as the widow and orphan both at home and abroad.

I draw strength from a 2014 speech by Rev. Dr. William Barber titled the Moral Lens of Justice. His closing invigorates me and I hope that it invigorates you too!

<https://youtu.be/1PASIMPsqwl>

To repeat Rev. Dr. Barber's words, "If you ever wondered why you were born, you were born for this season. If you ever struggled with, why am I here, you are here for this season. If you've ever wrestled with why has God given me the opportunity and the intellect and the ability to go to places that I go, it is for this moment to stand up and raise a moral dissent against the forces of injustice. It is our time! All those have stood before. But it is our time now!"



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Christopher Breen VP South Central

southcentralvp@FCMmail.org



Embracing the Changing Seasons in the South Central Region

As the seasons change across the South Central region, we are reminded of the beauty and renewal that each new chapter brings. This time of transition mirrors the vibrant growth and evolving ministries within our FCM community. Just as nature embraces transformation, so too do we, as ministers and leaders, continue to adapt, serve, and inspire.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your Regional Vice President and to witness the incredible work being done across our region. This newsletter provides a perfect space to celebrate and recognize those who have been Commissioned and Endorsed since our last edition.

Commissioned:

- Chaplain John-Michael Stovall, Texas
- Rev. LeeAnn Wendell, Texas
- Rev. Trish Horkan, Texas
- Rev. Chorong Kim, Texas
- Rev. Christine Ahlen, Colorado



Endorsed:

- Elder Ruth Aondona, Texas
- Rev. Joshua Wright, Oklahoma



As we step into this new season together, may we be guided by the words of Isaiah 43:19: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Let us continue to support one another, grow in our ministries, and remain steadfast in our shared mission.

As chaplains and ministers, our work often happens quietly, yet powerfully, in the background. Rooted in the social justice commission given to us by Jesus, we continue to challenge and transform systems of oppression and hatred in all its forms. Our calling echoes the historical legacy of faith leaders who have worked for justice, equality, and love, often unseen but always impactful. Let us remember that our ministry is not just about service, but also about advocacy and transformation, bringing hope to those marginalized and voiceless in our society.

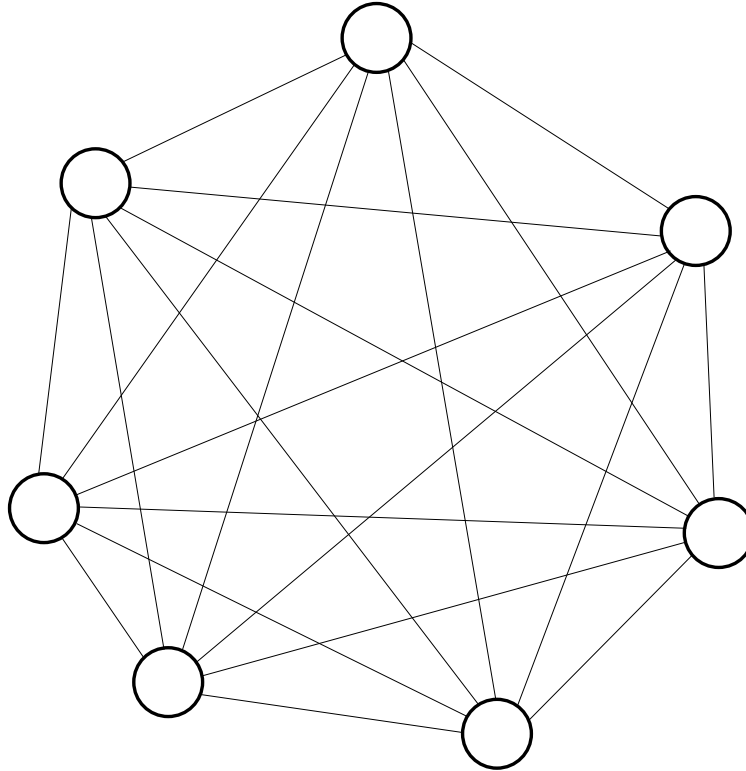
Thank you for your continued commitment to FCM and for all that you do to bring light and love to your communities. I look forward to walking this journey with each of you.

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Peter Wolf VP Heartland

heartlandvp@FCMmail.org



Mark Feldbush, a Heartland Region member of FCM is proposing a fantastic opportunity to strengthen the network of members in central Ohio but not limited to the geographic radius of Columbus, Ohio.

Mark's credentials and experience highlight the importance of care for others. He notes that ministry "...can also be a lonely experience for the minister." Therefore developing a network of like-minded ministers is a vital component for self care which in turn heightens the quality of ministry.

As a chaplain Mark has connections with others but is wanting more time to be strengthened in community support, worship ideas and direction of the faith compass from the FCM community.

Mark's invitation which is supported by me the VP of Heartland extends to a 60 mile radius of Columbus but definitely beyond to the moon and back! For further details Mark's email is markfeldbush@gmail.com.

His vision for the logistics of the group are "...TBD as we gauge interest and availability of folks for such a group. I will share that I'm envisioning this group to be one that meets 2-4 times per year. I love the idea of joining in person and would be open to discussing meeting by videoconference as well. Perhaps we do a mix of both!"

Mark is open to ideas and suggestions for what this group could do with this group.

This is truly an opportunity that I would encourage members to consider. My support to you Mark and the FCM membership

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Jo Brenneman-Fullwood VP Lakes & Plains

lakesplainsvp@FCMmail.org



Lakes & Plains

Greetings & Salutations,

I do hope you are staying warm in this unexpected winter season. I've enjoyed watching my southern nieces, nephews, and Godchildren enjoy playing in the snow for the first time. This winter season calls for hot cider, hot chocolate, and a nice warm fire. It's a new year filled with possibilities. Some members embrace joyful moments while others face hardships. Will you join me in the celebration of some and sit with me in the loss and unexpected changes of others? FCM is embracing a new change this year with new leadership roles that impact the CIRCLE and the position of the president. We no longer have a president but have moved towards hiring an executive director. I voted with all members in mind and remain hopeful that the executive director will be someone who represents all the members of FCM.

Additionally, we have added another new position called the vice-chairperson. This person will move into the chair position once the chairperson's term expires. The CIRCLE of Directors chooses the chairperson. The vice-chairperson voted in for the next term is Christopher Breen. Please join me in lifting him and all other leaders in prayer as they work to fulfill the calling of FCM.

Welcome, and congratulations to our new members and newly endorsed member!! Please join me in welcome new members while celebrating the progress of members in Lakes & Plains. When you have a moment, please send them an email to wish them well!

Let's Celebrate with our Member(s):

Name	Area	Occasion	Email
Laurel Crusinberry	MN	Endorsement	laurelcrus@gmail.com
Renée Cunningham	IL	New Member	renee.cun@gmail.com
Jennifer Brandt	WI	New Member	jenniferbrandt1124@gmail.com
Delwin Todd Hubbard	IL	New Member	vicardelwin@gmail.com
Lisa Ellwoods	MN	New Member	lisaellwoods@aol.com
Tammy Louise Houts	IA	New Member	thememoirchoach@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities:

If you're great at planning events, hosting, or just looking to give back some of your time Lakes and Plains Regional Conference Committee is looking for you! We need volunteers to assist with planning and hosting a regional meeting in the fall. We are looking for representatives from each area. The time dedicated will be twice a month on Wednesday at 12:00 CT. Together, we can do it! Contact me at lakesplainsvp@fcmmail.org to express interest!

Chat with the VP monthly zoom will be the first Monday of each month at 12:00 CT and 8:00 CT. Through this recurring link. Just copy and paste the link in your browser or use the Meeting ID and Passcode below! Looking forward to meeting you soon and sharing updates and prayer request!

Link:<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87595770893?pwd%3D3c5tvK2tSxVuGbVPqnOFuBywSW9wjT.1&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOVvaw1eXJDCmdpNgkEOcIAIORri>

Zoom Meeting ID: 875 9577 0893

Passcode: 028163

Final Thoughts: I celebrate all who are rejoicing and sit with all who mourn. May this upcoming season bring you respite and care. Below, you will find a poem for the winter season and love shown from a father to a son.

Below, you will find a poem for the winter season and love shown from a father to a son.



Those Winter Sundays

By Robert Hayden

Sundays too my father got up early
and put his clothes on in the blueblack cold,
then with cracked hands that ached
from labor in the weekday weather made
banked fires blaze. No one ever thanked him.

I'd wake and hear the cold splintering, breaking.
When the rooms were warm, he'd call,
and slowly I would rise and dress,
fearing the chronic angers of that house,

Speaking indifferently to him,
who had driven out the cold
and polished my good shoes as well.
What did I know, what did I know
of love's austere and lonely offices?

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Publishing Corporation, 1985)

Peace Be with You All,
Rev. Jo



FCM DIRECTORY

FCM 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 4th 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

Phone: 216.571.7698

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FCM Additional Contacts

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Ethics Committee:

Currently Vacant - Phone: / Email:

Prayer Support Leader/Coordinator:

Anthony Capone - Prayer support button on the website or: Email: prayersupport@FCMmail.org

Realm & Membership Administrator

Emails: connect@FCMmail.org - membership@FCMmail.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 Baptism and Wedding Registries

are now on www.onrealm.org Sacramental Registry - Click EVENTS and follow directions for additional help. Email: registry@fcmmail.org or connect@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.fedcm.org. Inquiries may be made by email at: specmin@FCMmail.org

FCM Circle of Directors

Chairperson:

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

Interim Treasurer:

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Chair: Specialized Ministries:

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