

JULY/AUG

FCM Newsletter

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A WORD FROM THE CHAIR



Are You Connecting with the Organization that Supports You and Your Ministry?

by Antoinette Marold

In just a few weeks, FCM will hold its Annual Assembly, and the program planned for us is nothing short of fantastic!

Will you be there? Will you support FCM? What would your ministry be without FCM?

Each of us supports various organizations and causes, as well we should. Yet, let's not forget about the organization that supports *us* and our ministries. Please join us at the FCM Annual Assembly in Washington, DC.

Many thanks to Southern Region VPs **Virginia and Bob Graf, and their team.** They have done a superb job of planning this assembly for us.

The Circle of Directors will meet on Thursday and Friday prior to the Assembly, which opens Friday evening. We are hopeful that enough members voted in favor of the Constitutional changes that the measure passed, enabling us to move toward our goal of changing FCM's IRS status. If you have any questions about these changes, please contact Treasurer **Tom Cusack**. If you still have not voted, please email FCM Secretary **Joyce McFadden** at secretary@FCMmail.org.

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Tired of the same-old same-old?
Don't miss *Ministering in One Biosphere*,
FCM's annual assembly.

- It's not about history;
- Not about, power
- Not about changing church structures.

Rather, it's about growing relationships,

- the essence of ministry
- issues of our time: inclusion, health care, justice
- the marriage of science and religion
- good friends, good food, good times. great city.

CEU credits are available.



Ministering in One Biosphere
Vision + Ecumenism = A Better
Tomorrow

FCM Assembly July 22-24
Holiday Inn – Dulles VA

www.federationofchristianministries.org



Regional News

GREAT LAKES REGION

by Tom Stricker

I am excited about the upcoming National Assembly in Washington D.C., July 22-24. During the assembly, each Region will have a scheduled meeting. For the Great Lakes Region, I have several items for us to talk about. Please feel free to e-mail me and let me know if there are any other items we need to discuss:



- Welcome **Amy Simpson Bennethum** as the new co-vice president of the Great Lakes Region, (*see page 10*).
- Discuss ideas for setting up regular meetings within the various parts of the Great Lakes Region
 - Introduce the Great Lakes area team leaders.
- Identify people who would be interested in writing articles for the *FCM Newsletter*.
- Discuss a Great Lakes Regional Gathering in 2012
 - Set up a team to plan and schedule our regional gathering
- Hosting the 2014 FCM National Assembly is the responsibility of The Great Lakes Region .
 - Discuss ideas and themes for the National Assembly
 - Set up a planning team

If you have any other items for discussion, please e-mail me: great-lakesvp@fcmmail.org

MTS & PLAINS REGION

by Michael Keefe

Greetings! There's a lot going on with FCM these days.

On the day of Pentecost,



many FCM members participated in the American Catholic Council in Detroit. See the article on the ACC in the September issue of the *FCM Newsletter*.

The FCM annual national assembly, "Ministering in One Biosphere" is fast approaching outside of Washington, D.C. July 22-24. It's looking to be an exciting conference on crucial current events. Hopefully you will be there. For more information, see this issue or contact Ginny or Bob Graf, vice presidents of the southern region, which is hosting the assembly.

Here in the Chicago-area we are continuing planning for the July 20-22, 2012 National Assembly at the O'Hare Ramada Inn. The theme has been decided: "Who Do You Say I Am? ' Ministering Outside the Box."

At the last Chicago meeting, we identified various speakers and put out a request for proposals due June 15. The planning committee continues meeting in person and via e-mail.

The Mts. & Plains Region will meet during the National Assembly in Washington, D.C. Watch for info on meeting place and time.

Hopefully, you've sent in your vote on the changes to the FCM constitution, which will better equip us for living out our ministries. If you have any question, please see the March issue of the *FCM Newsletter*, contact me, or Tom Cusack.

Various FCM members in Mts. & Plains continue gathering in various places, including St. Louis, outside of Milwaukee at Jesus Our Shepherd, as well as other locations. I hope everyone in the region is connected so he or she can be nourished and be able to empower others. If you would like to publicize your community and/or events, contact me or the Newsletter editor at newsletter@FCMmail.org

Mark your calendars for the CTA National Conference November 4-6, 2011. in Milwaukee. FCM members usually meets during the event.

So, as you can see, there's a lot going on. Hope you are energized, renewed, and on-fire with God's Spirit!

NORTHEAST REGION

by Paul and Patricia Stubenbort

Four FCM members were ordained as Women Priests near Baltimore in



June. The two from the Northeast, **Patti LaRosa** (*below right*) and **Caryl Conroy Johnson** (*below left*), were



presented with stoles from FCM. **Pat Stubenbort** sewed the FCM logo into the stoles as an FCM "congratulations." We welcome these women to FCM and to the priesthood and ask God's grace on their ministries.

Northeast get-togethers continue. Two commissioning ceremonies will be held in the summer, one in Philadelphia and another in White Plains, NY. We hope to have another ceremony on Long Island. Dates and locations to follow. **Stu O'Brien and John Gallagher** are hoping to repeat their spring get-together this coming Fall.

The FCM Assembly in Washington DC this month promises to be very interesting and exciting. For those of us

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in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, it is only a few hours drive. So let's do it! See you there!

PACIFIC REGION

by Mary and Nick De Los Reyes

FCM member

Ron Exley, a former Marist priest, lives in San Francisco.



Ron holds degrees in Theology, American History, Marriage, Family and Child Counseling, and Psychology (PhD). Although he says he is semi-retired, Ron is 100 percent committed to youth ministry. He works with the California Police Activities League (See website: www.calpal.org).

CalPAL is the premier law enforcement-based, non-profit youth agency in the state of California. Although it offers a variety of programs, Ron is particularly involved in Life After High School, the Leadership Academy, the Junior Giants, and one-on-one counseling and mentoring. The Life After High School program takes at risk teens to Fresno State University for an intensive four day experience to help them develop a focus for their lives once they leave school. The Leadership Academy offers middle and high school students training in leadership skills and character development and promotes com-

munity service. Junior Giants is a youth baseball program that provides training to develop self-esteem and such values as integrity, confidence, teamwork, and leadership. It also offers baseball equipment, uniforms and instruction to boys and girls 8-13 years old who cannot afford to play organized baseball. Ron has provided leadership and inspiration to CalPAL and, over the years, has been a blessing to tens of thousands of young people. Thank you, Ron.

FCM member **Roberta Meehan** resides in Phoenix, where she serves as a teacher, writer, chaplain and counselor. She earned academic degrees in English, Education, and Biology (Ph.D.). This July, she will complete a Doctor of Ministry degree from Global Ministries. Roberta works as a science writer; she is often hired to clean up messes in already published texts. She has taught microbiology and other courses in the Maricopa County Community College District. She contributes homilies to several websites including the website of FCM member and former president, RCWP Bishop Bridget Mary Meehan (same last name but not related).

Roberta is a volunteer non-denominational chaplain at Banner Estrella Hospital in Phoenix where she presided at services on Ash Wednesday, Easter, and Pentecost. Having completed a four year program at Denver's Catholic Bible School, she conducts a bible study in her home. A

project that has been delightful for her was to write and perform a play with her students. The play, *The Trial of Judas Escariot*, addresses many issues, dealing with Judas both in the Biblical context and beyond. Roberta's brilliance, enthusiasm, compassion and deep humanity is a spiritual oasis in Arizona. Thank you, Roberta.

FCM member, **Ronald Gadrinab**, lives in Reseda, CA. Formerly a diocesan priest in the Philippines, he earned a Licentiate in Systematic Theology from Santa Croce University in Rome. He taught theology and was Vice Rector in a major seminary in the Philippines until 2005, when he undertook parish work in the Archdiocese of Newark and the Diocese of Metuchen.

After meeting FCM member **Archbishop Patrick Trujillo**, Ron joined FCM and became a member of the Archdiocese of Our Lady of Guadalupe. He married Christine in 2010. Since 2008, Ron has been a hospice chaplain, working for California-based Silverado, an organization that specializes in dementia, offering a full continuum of care through Home Care, Assisted Living, and Hospice services. Ron finds ways to meet the spiritual needs of people with dementia and Alzheimer's and he ministers also to their families. Ron says that there is little written about the care of such people, and through his experience and creativity, he continues to develop new ways to minister to them. Thank you, Ron. ¶

A Word from the Chair, *continued from page 1*

Congratulations to **Tom Stricker** and **Amy Simpson Bennethum**, (see page 10), who have been elected co-vice presidents of the Great Lakes Region. Their term will begin after the July Assembly. Thank you to **John Schultz**, chair of the nominating committee and the committee for their excellent work on the election of Great Lakes VPs.

Thank you to **Joe Ruane**, chair of certification/commissioning who will be leaving his position on the Circle at the close of the July Assembly. Many thanks to Joe who once more answered the call of FCM when he was needed. We

wish him many blessings as he continues in his ministries. Based on Joe's work at this position, we will also replace "certification" with "commissioning" from now on.

Bill Manseu, in addition to his position as FCM director-at-large, has agreed to serve as interim chair of commissioning. Bill will put into place a organized procedure for identifying a permanent chairperson for the position. Thank you, Bill, for accepting this additional responsibility.

I hope everyone considers supporting FCM by attending the upcoming Assembly, (see pages 5-6). I look forward to seeing you all there. We'll have a great time! ¶



The Endorsed Community



An Endorsement Ceremony

by Christy Howard Steele,
co-chair Endorsement for Specialized
Ministries Program

Editor's Note: This endorsement ceremony, developed by Christy Howard Steele, was adapted from the UCC Book of Worship.

Leader: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

People: There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

All: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service

Leader: Endorsement is our way of recognizing those who have been called by God to serve in the specialized ministries of institutional chaplaincy, clinically-based pastoral counseling, or clinical pastoral supervision. It is our official declaration that these persons are in good standing with the Federation of Christian Ministries, have a relationship of clear accountability, and have met certain ethical and competency standards to serve in a specialized ministry. The following people have accepted their call and will stand before us in witness to their willingness to serve. Will the following members please come forward to stand?

(Read aloud the names of people and their respective area of specialized ministry.)

Friends, it is an honor to be entrusted with the responsibility for ministry in specialized settings. You are called to love and care for God's people in times of loss and sorrow, in times sickness and brokenness, in times of loneliness and isolation, in times when some may feel most forsaken by God. You are called not to persuade them but to be God's unconditional ever-present love lighting the way out of darkness. Do you accept your call and are you prepared to serve in your specialized ministry?

Endorsee: Having prayerfully considered my call, the duties and responsibilities of my ministry, with the help of God I am prepared to serve. I will exercise my ministry diligently and faithfully showing forth the love of Jesus relying on God's grace.

People: We celebrate with joy our partnership with you in service.

Leader: Please extend your hands toward those standing before us to be endorsed as we send our blessings and pray in unison that God will empower them for the service to which they have been called.

Prayer (Leader & People in unison): Eternal God you have called these people to serve you in specialized ministry settings. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve you with honor and faithfulness. May they love and serve others as you do. May they prosper and glorify your Church. Amen

Leader: Congratulations. Go forth in faith, in strength, and in peace. ¶

FCM ENDORSEMENT APPLICATION PROCESS

The FCM application process for endorsement involves...

- FCM Commissioning
- Documentation
- Meeting with a regional FCM interview committee (selected and organized by the candidate)
- Submission of the interview committee's report.
- Recommendations to FCM's National Committee on Specialized Ministries
- Final approval by the FCM Circle of Directors.

Recommendation is based on a thorough review of the candidate's application materials, other documentation, letters of recommendation, verifications, and the written report from local/regional interview committee.

For Additional Information

Christy Howard Steele: 708.285.5845

Carl R. Yusavitz: 215.257.6551 ex. 231

email: specmin@FCMmail.org

Prophetic Vision
Plus
Ecumenism =
A Better Tomorrow



July 22-24, 2011
Holiday Inn
Washington-Dulles
Sterling VA

“Ministering in One Biosphere”

2011 FCM National Assembly

Religion and Science: The Dynamic Duo

How can Science and Religion partner effectively and contribute to a better world?

The Southern Region of the Federation of Christian Ministries (FCM), an ecumenical international organization, invites you to dialogue about this dynamic duo at its July Conference, near Washington, DC.

Keynote Speakers and Break Out Sessions

“The Marriage of Science and Religion,” Michael Dowd, M.Div., author of *Thank God for Evolution*, a book endorsed by 6 Nobel Prize-winning scientists; hosts acclaimed evolutionarychristianity.com free teleseries.

“The Struggle to End Health Injustice,” Dr. Margaret Flowers, M.D. Congressional Fellow, Physicians for a National Health Program; Dr. Flowers represents PNHP who proclaim health as a right.

“The Just Third Way: A Strategy for Activists Committed to Green Growth, Widespread Prosperity and Global Peace,” Norman G. Kurland, J.D. President, Center for Economic and Social Justice, Washington D. C.

“Living in a Changing Climate,” Dr. James Lochner, Ph.D. NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center; Dr. Lochner, interested in science all his life, loves the outdoors and scientific facts. His topic pursues those ends.

“The Nuts and Bolts of Inclusion,” Carl R. Yusavitz, D. Min. Director of Pastoral Services, Penn Foundation; Dr. Yusavitz will explore the challenges of inclusion from a systems perspective. The “disabling” label excludes.

Making It Special Just for You

- CEU Credits available
- Conference opens Friday at 6:00 pm with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar
- Special Surprise Speaker 7:30 pm Friday
- Musical Entertainment with Brian Whaley, Friday night
- Musical Entertainment with Jubilant, Saturday night
- Networking opportunities ...Similar ministry groups...Singles • Informational Exhibits
- Reading Materials • Reflection Spaces • Prayer Celebrations
- Artistic Renderings • Art Auction
- Special hotel rate \$69.00 per night with extended special rate for DC touring
- Courtesy shuttle to & from hotel and Dulles Airport
- Register online www.federationofchristianministries.org
by mail — Robert and Virginia Graf, 2054 Kabletown Road, Charles Town, WV 25414
- For more information call Virginia and Robert Graf 304-728-2829

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“Ministering in One Biosphere”

FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

July 22-24, 2011 . . . Sterling, Virginia

Holiday Inn Washington Dulles, 45425 Holiday Dr. -703.471.7411

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS _____

FEE ENCLOSED

Mail registration to:
Virginia & Robert Graf
2054 Kabletown Rd
Charles Town, WV
25414-4613

Donation you'd like to make to help others attend? _____

Would you care to volunteer to help with the Conference? _____

Conference begins Fri. July 22, 6 pm; continues to Sun. July 24, 1 pm

- Register by mail or at the FCM website www.federationofchristianministries.org
- Registration fee for conference is \$ 179 per person, includes all meals
- Registration for Saturday only, (with lunch and dinner) \$159 per person
- Registration for Sunday only (with brunch) \$65 per person

Separate Hotel Reservation is Needed

Hotel Registration: \$69 per room per night with extended privilege at same rate 3 days before and 3 days after the conference. Double Bedroom, King Bedroom. Register for your hotel room at **703-471-7411** or **800-HOLIDAY**. Be sure to mention "Federation of Christian Ministries, ROOM BLOCK CODE FCC," at the time of your registration, to receive the special rate. Please reserve your room early.

Hotel reservations must be made no later than June 29, 2011.

CONFERENCE AND HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN JUNE 29, 2011.

Any Questions? Please Contact
2011 Conference Coordinators
Bob and Ginny Graf
2054 Kabletown Rd
Charles Town, WV 25414-4613
Phone: 304.728.2829
Email: southernvp@FCMmail.org

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Denominational Concerns

Editor's Note: Occasionally, articles in support of various denominations within FCM will appear. FCM has a Roman Catholic Faith Community Council created to be supportive of its Roman Catholic members' ministries. This article also refers to two other FCM's communities: The International Society of the Apostles, Sts. Peter, Thomas and Mary Magdalene, in which Bill Manseau serves as president, and the St. Barnabas Mission, in which Bill serves as Secretary. The second article on the IFRCM is also related to Catholic concerns.

Long-time FCM Member Consecrated Bishop

by Paul Stubenbort

Long-time FCM member Rev. Dr. William J. Manseau was consecrated a bishop in the Roman Catholic Church on Saturday, June 11, 2011, the eve of Pentecost, in the St. Barnabas Chapel at the Cathedral of St. Anthony in Detroit, MI

Archbishop Peter Paul Brennan was the presiding consecrator. He was assisted by Bishop Christine Mayr-Lumetzberger, RCWP, from Austria, Bishop Andrea Johnson, RCWP and Archbishop Dr. Karl Rodig, ECCC, the Cathedral's pastor.

About 20 FCM members attended the ceremony; at one point, each FCM member laid hands on William to invoke the power of the Holy Spirit upon him and to signify their assent to his consecration as bishop.

Bishop Manseau intends to devote much of his episcopacy in efforts to extend nationally the reach and influence of the St. Barnabas Mission, an FCM community member.

"This is the culmination of a multi-year process of discernment and guidance," Bill said.. "Upon the call of God and the International Society of the Apostles, Sts. Peter, Thomas and Mary Magdalene, and after a lifetime of priestly service through the Federation of Christian Ministries and CORPUS, I felt comfortable and compelled to take this step."

He did this, he said, to be in solidarity with the bishops of the Roman Catholic Women Priests Association (RCWP), and to make available the support of episcopacy, in particular, to married Catholic priests, Catholic women priests and other faithful and spiritual seekers.'

"I will serve in each of those communities now as a bishop who is Roman Catholic and minister through those communities to Roman Catholics who are no longer attending Roman Catholic churches as well as others who might benefit from my ministry," he said.

FCM extends its congratulations to Bill Manseau.



Consecration of William Manseau as bishop. From left, Archbishop Karl Rodig, Archbishop Peter Paul Brennan (FCM), Bishop Christine Mayr-Lumetzberger, and Bishop Andrea Johnson (FCM).



FCM members congratulate Bishop William Manseau, following his consecration as bishop. Left to right, front row: Dagmar Celeste, William Manseau, Evelyn Hunt, Andrea Johnson; second row,

Peter Paul Brennan, Michaelita Quinn, Paul Stubenbort; back row, Carl Yusavitz, Thomas Quinn, William Wisniewski, Shane McCarthy.

FCM Roman Catholic Faith Community Council

FCM's International Involvement Grows

by Michaelita Quinn

The Second General Assembly of the International Federation for a Renewed Catholic Ministry (IFRCM) was held on June 10, 2011. Delegates and observers of member groups from several countries attended, with most attendees representing groups in the United States since the Assembly was held in Detroit, MI.

The FCM Roman Catholic Faith Community Council is a member group of IFRCM. Voting delegates for FCM were **Paul Stubenbort, Michaelita Quinn, and Tom Quinn.** Several other FCM members attended this General Assembly.

One of the agenda items was the election of officers. Three FCM members were elected to the Executive Board which now includes: Simon Bryden-Brook (United Kingdom), Christine Mayr-Lumetzberger (Austria), **Michaelita Quinn** (U.S./FCM), Liam Deaton (Ireland), Anthony Padovano (U.S.), James Noonan (Canada), **Tony MacCarthaigh** (Ireland/FCM), **William Manseau** (U.S./FCM), and Kate Conmy (U.S.).

A full list of follow-up actions and proposals for the next phase of the IFRCM will be the work of the Executive Board over many months in preparation for their next meeting in London in October 2012. FCM is actively involved in this international initiative. ¶

Science and Religion: The Language of God

by Leo McIlrath

Televangelist Joel Osteen, began a recent program with the story of a child asking her parents where she came from?

Mother: “From God who created you on the 6th Day as in the Book of Genesis.”

Father: “From monkeys.”

Little Girl to Mother: “Dad said I came from monkeys.”

Mother: “Well, that was his side of the family. Our side came through creation.”

While quite humorous, Osteen only reveals a partial truth in this story. Some people see a conflict between Creationism and Creation, just as there is an unbridgeable gap between Atheistic and Theistic Evolution. The terms we use can be quite misleading.

I am a Christian who disagrees with two popular theories about the beginning of life in the universe: materialistic evolution (without God) and “creationism,” (a God made in man’s image.) I find each misleading, both biblically and scientifically. I think that many adherents to these conflicting philosophical views including Atheists, Scientists, and Biblical Fundamentalists—though having the best of intentions—totally miss the mark.

Dr. Francis Collins, a formerly avowed atheist and head of the National Genome Project. became inspired by C. S. Lewis’ book, *Mere Christianity* and, as a result, made a 180-degree turn towards faith in God. His book is *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*.

Collins sees no conflict between belief in God as Creator and the science of Evolution, i.e., as long as we are speaking of Theistic Evolution (TE). I’d like to quote an excerpt:

“There are many subtle variants of TE, but a typical version rests upon the following premises:

1. The universe came into being out of nothingness, approximately 14 billion years ago. (my emphasis)
2. Despite massive improbabilities, the properties of the universe appear to have been precisely tuned for life.
3. While the precise mechanism for the origin of life on earth remains unknown, once life arose, the process of evolution and natural selection permitted the development of biological diversity and complexity over very long periods of time.
4. Once evolution got under way, no special supernatural intervention was required.
5. Humans are part of this process, sharing a common ancestor with the great apes. (sorry Joel!)
6. But humans are also unique in ways that defy evolutionary explanation and point to our spiritual nature. This includes the existence of the Moral Law (the knowledge of right and wrong) and the search for God that characterizes all human cultures throughout history.”

If one accepts these six premises (and I do) a logically consistent synthesis emerges, entirely compatible with everything that science teaches us about the natural world and with the great monotheistic religions of the world.”

Scientists (Biologists, Chemists, Geneticists and Physicists, etc.) who are also serious believers, are very much at home with theistic evolution. This view is espoused by many Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, Moslems and Christians of all persuasions and people who inspired my own personal thinking in this matter: Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (*The Phenomenon of Man* and *The Divine Milieu*) Astronomer,

Galileo Gallilei, C.S. Lewis, Dr. Francis Collins as well as the Dalai Lama and recent bishops of Rome.

Scientist, Stephen Hawkings speaks to a godless approach in the genesis of the universe, giving no personal acknowledgement to the cause behind the effect or a mover propelling the motion. Hawkings has no equal in answering the “what” questions of physical matter but his empirical science lacks the needed wisdom to solve the “why” queries. These defer to people of faith – through God-centered spirituality, Sacred Scripture, theology and its handmaid, philosophy.

One theory put forward by certain adherents of theism is that of Intelligent Design (ID,) based on earlier scientific arguments pointing out the statistical improbability of the origins of life. Its major focus is on the perceived failings of evolutionary theories to account for life’s subsequent complexity.

Admittedly, this theory was originally quite attractive to me. But I mistakenly equivocated Intelligent Design with one of the arguments posited by St. Thomas Aquinas (1225 - 1279) in his famous *Quinque Viae* (five ways) to prove the existence of God. Having majored in Philosophy during the undergraduate portion of my seminary training, I was quite familiar with Aquinas’ *Uncaused Cause* and *Unmoved Mover*.

Soon, however, I realized that ID exhibited a number of theological and scientific flaws, thus discrediting it both in the main stream scientific community and in the faith-belief community. I encourage interested readers to add Dr. Collin’s book to your reading list. This scientist truly inspires!

The Reverend Leo E. McIlrath is an Ecumenical Chaplain at The Lutheran Home of Southbury (203) 270-0581 lionofjudah56@hotmail.com. He is a FCM member in the Northeast Region. ¶

QUINNS ELECTED TO FIRST TERM AS FCM PRESIDENTS

by Deborah Burke

It will probably surprise many FCM members to hear that Michaelita and Tom Quinn—who have served for the past three years as co-presidents—have just been elected to their first full three-year term, as of July 24, 2011.



Long time “filler-inners” for other FCM positions, the Quinns first began their co-presidential duties in July 2008 when the Executive Committee asked them to complete the two years left on the presidential term of Clem DeWall and Eileen Mackin. When elections had to be held for president, treasurer and chair in July 2010, the Executive Committee asked the Quinns to extend their “filler-inner” status for one more year so that FCM did not have to hold elections for three positions on the Executive Committee in one year. The Quinns agreed, which brings them to July 2011, and their first elected three-year term as co-presidents.

In order to accept the July 2008 position as co-presidents, Tom and Michaelita, had to relinquish their position as elected co-vice presidents of the Northeast Region, a position they held for six years. But they were filler-inners there too, serving one year left on the term of former Northeast VPs Eleonora Marinaro and David Gaboury who moved south. So their time as filler-inners has been extensive: one year as co-VPs and three years as co-presidents. For nearly ten years, the Quinns have been in a position of leadership in FCM.

“If someone is on the Circle as a vice president and then assumes the

role of president, that is a big change,” Michaelita says. “I was conscious of going through that shift. We needed to think ‘big picture.’ We had to shift our thinking from the needs of a region to encompass the needs of the national organization.”

Now that they are *elected* presidents, what, if anything, should FCM expect?

“Watch out!” Tom said.

“We haven’t even started yet!” said Michaelita.

What They’ve Managed So Far

During the past three “filler-inner” years, Michaelita has spearheaded a long-term strategic planning process that she and Tom have shepherded the organization through. The Strategic Plan, which was developed over a two-year period beginning in March 2007 using direct input from FCM members, has given FCM an internal framework from which to assume a pivotal leadership role in the growing national and international ministerial movement. What did they learn from this process?

“We’ve learned about the capability of FCM,” Tom said. “There is an incredible capacity in our members. And we began to appreciate FCM’s ministerial perspective, which is very much in tune with the times and with what is happening in the country with the burgeoning growth of smaller communities of faith. FCM is a real part of that. We all need to recognize how in tune FCM is with what is happening throughout the country.”

“The Strategic Plan gives us a focus to address a broad range of ministries and to support groups and individuals in their ministries,” Michaelita said.

With the Circle of Directors, Michaelita and Tom have been implementing the strategic plan over the past two years. As if that was not enough of a challenge, the Quinns have also developed a program to train new regional vice presidents, and they have become a sounding board of support for the regional VPs.

What Now?

“What has been done to date in FCM and by its members is preparation for what is going to happen in the future,” Tom said. “It’s exciting to know we have so many committed people who are leaders, who have the capability to meet the needs of the members. We want to encourage and build on that.”

“In addition,” Michaelita said, “we’ve never had a strategic plan before so it has helped us get more clear about our goals, what we want to achieve. This month, July 2011, we will finish the second year of implementation. Then next year, we will evaluate what we’ve done and determine what’s next. The Strategic Plan is the foundation for expansion and growth in FCM.”

As part of the Strategic Plan implementation, FCM is updating its ByLaws and Constitution and has asked for member response. In addition to welcoming new individual members of any religious tradition—or none—FCM has also opened the organization to groups of ministers of any religious tradition—or none—who wish to join.

“It is mutually beneficial to invite groups to join us,” Tom said. “They have much to teach us and we can support their ministries.”

“FCM has moved forward in its goals and has gained clarity of purpose,” Michaelita observed. “We have a very strong Circle of Directors and they have been serious in terms of our mission and the successful implementation of the Strategic Plan because it focuses on our strategic goals, internal organization and membership.”

Tom has also completed a survey of FCM members that revealed that many members belong to small, local communities of faith; more than 60 in all.

Michaelita and Tom have accomplished this work in FCM while working full time. Michaelita is a consultant for colleges and universities across the country and Tom is a psychotherapist.

How Do They Do It?

The Quinns believe that if one accepts a leadership position, then one has to allocate time and energy to do it.

“Loving what you do is important,” Michaelita said, “because it *is* a lot of work. You have to want to do it. If you cannot make time for it, then don’t accept the responsibility.”

The Quinns have a large group of friends they enjoy see-

ing at parties and events for relaxation and fun. They enjoy seeing long-time friends from their days in Philadelphia and New Jersey, and, they enjoy spending time with each other.

How We Can Help Our Presidents?

“Attend local FCM gatherings,” says Michaelita, “and invite someone along who might become interested.”

“Encourage people to explore FCM,” Tom said “Let people know that FCM is right on the cusp of what is happening in the country. Share your experiences. Tell people that FCM is moving in a new direction. We are in tune with what is needed in our age.” ¶

MEET THE NEW GREAT LAKES VICE PRESIDENT

by Deborah Burke



The Great Lakes Region has elected **Tom Stricker** and **Amy Simpson Bennethum** (at left) as co-vice presidents; they will begin their terms July 24, 2011.

Tom has been at the helm of the Great Lakes since 2008. Now Amy will join him as co-VP.

Amy Simpson Bennethum has been a staff chaplain in the Pastoral Care Department of Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center for the past nine years. She worked for more than two years in the Fetal Care Center; currently, she is chaplain in the Hematology/Oncology Unit.

Amy has lived in Cincinnati for 22 years with her husband, Bill, and their three children.

She has been a Children’s Minister in the United Methodist Church, and Wedding and Funeral Pastor and Coordinator of Outreach Ministries for a local mega church.

She holds an undergraduate degree (BCC) from The Ohio State University and a Masters of Divinity degree through Bethel Seminary in St. Paul.

Amy became aware of FCM as she sought to become a board-certified Chaplain through the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC).

“The church I attend is a large non-denominational church,” Amy wrote, “and it is not recognized as an endorsing organization by APC.” Amy joined FCM and became a commissioned and endorsed member.

“It was a long process,” she wrote, “but I believe that what I have found in FCM not only meets my professional needs, but it also connects me with a group of like-minded people who place the same value on spirituality, diversity, peace and justice.”

Tom Stricker led her commissioning ceremony, which was held at the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center.

“I really appreciated Tom’s commissioning service,” Amy said, “and I look forward to working with him. I see us working together to bring members together, to be in community *together*—even if it is only once a year.”

Tom welcomed Amy as his co-VP. “I am very excited to be working with Amy and all that she brings to FCM,” Tom said. “Her election is a shot in the arm for our region as she brings creativity and a deep sense of ministry and service.”

Amy has already been talking to her APC colleagues about FCM. “What I love about FCM and why I wanted to join is the inclusiveness,” she said. “If we want to do ministry, we can do it and it doesn’t matter that I’m a woman or that my church doesn’t say I can, or whatever. That’s what people are looking for—to be part of an organization that stands for inclusivity and diversity. That’s huge.” ¶

GET WELL SOON!

Roger Fecher

Shoshanna Porter

Fran Salone-Pelletier

Louis Goia

WANT TO TALK ABOUT AGING?

Please join the discussion on my web site: www.bianchibooks.com. Short articles offer insights on spiritual aging. My goal is to support, even delight you as we take this journey together. — *Gene Bianchi*

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ENDORSEMENT FOR SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES PROGRAM

Qualified FCM members may apply for "Religious Body Endorsement" for the specialized ministries: 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 twice yearly. Endorsement application materials are available for downloading on the FCM website at www.federationofchristianministries.org. Inquiries may be made at specmin@fcmmail.org

Global Ministries University: GMU offers degree completion programs and individual courses online. FCM members are eligible for a 5% discount on degree programs.

For more information, visit web site: www.globalministriesuniversity.org

Email: GMU5053@aol.com

Phone: 866 419-8020 toll-free

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 Central Registry

The FCM Central Registry for **Baptism, Marriage and Holy Union** is managed by Paul Reithmaier, 7415-K, Triwoods Dr., Shrewsbury, MO 63119. **All Baptisms must be registered.** Forms are now available on line at www.federationofchristianministries.org. Register online or download a PDF file, complete it and mail it to Paul.

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(pages 5-7 for more info)

Washington Dulles Airport Holiday Inn
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How can Science and Religion partner effectively and contribute to a better world?

Religion and Science: The Dynamic Duo
2011 FCM National Assembly
“Ministering in One Biosphere”



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMING UP!

LOOK WHO'S SPEAKING AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY!

By Virginia and Robert Graf



In just a few weeks, the Southern Region will host FCM's annual assembly. The overall catalyst for our assembly, *Ministering in One Biosphere*, is Jeremy Rifkin's book, *Empathic Civilization*. Rifkin urges new economic models in a context of new social ideas. His historic overview demonstrates that social and economic models based on power, aggression and competition are foreign to ministerial service.

COME to the Assembly and you will be empowered with new ideas for your ministry because each speaker is an expert in his or her field. Along with expert input, there will be time set aside to engage with FCM members who have similar ministries. To whet your appetite, we want to entice you with some highlights.

Our Friday evening speaker is a **surprise**. We can only assure you that you will be delighted. She is an articulate visionary who cares about our future and the future of our children.

Michael Dowd, the first speaker on Saturday, hosts conversations about science and faith with people from around the globe. He calls himself an "itinerant evangelist compelled to speak of God in the wonders of the universe." Dowd found Jeremy Rifkin's book to be both a challenge and an inspiration. He speaks of how the evolution of his own faith has been the most remarkable part of his life. Be inspired. For a preview of his spirituality, get involved in his conversations: evolutionarychristianity@evolvingwisdom.com

Norman Kurland, JD serves well those confronted with economic injustice in our country as well as across the world. Kurland's books are *Capital Homesteading for Every Citizen* and *Curing World Poverty*. Even China is translating Kurland's books, trying to raise awareness of how capital is already being controlled by the elite, even in emerging economies. He will help us engage those who pursue profits at others' expense, at those who balk at reforms that are against their vested interests. Based in Washington, DC, Mr. Kurland opened the Center for Economic Justice. Ministry is, after all, about justice. Come and be inspired. You can learn more about Mr. Kurland through his website: thirdway@cesj.org

Dr. Margaret Flowers has been arrested for her belief that healthcare is every citizen's right. She gave up her own practice and chose to become a lobbyist who represents physicians who believe it is time for a national healthcare program. The United States is the only democratic country that allows money to be the determiner of whether a person will or will not receive healthcare. As a result, 45,000 Americans die unnecessarily each year because they were denied or could not obtain adequate healthcare. This is information you can use. Are you confused about health care reform? Come and be inspired, and use what you learn to enhance your ministry.

Dr. James Lochner, of the Goddard Space Flight Center, will wow you with his presentation on climate change. Like Rifkin, who reminds us that our choices will impact our future, Dr. Lochner will get right to the heart of your ministerial efforts to protect life as we know it. His love of the outdoors, his dedication to science, and his honest research to know the facts will inform any confusion you may have about climate change. Come and be energized.

Dr. Carl Yusavitz, an FCM member and co-chair of the Endorsement for Specialized Ministries Program, will help us deal with the nuts and bolts of ministerial inclusion. Too often too many people are systematically excluded. Come and understand the dynamics of inclusion (and by necessity, exclusion) and inclusion's challenges from a system's perspective. Dr. Yusavitz will draw from his own ministry, from people disempowered when labeled "disabled," "abnormal," and "problems to be fixed."

Don't miss out. There's so much more. Our motto for this assembly is, "It's up to us." Come and be inspired.