



**"STAYING CONNECTED"**  
**Free Methodist Chaplain**  
**Newsletter June 2020**  
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**THANK YOU!!! Chaplains, Chaplain Families, & all who Pray/Praise for Free Methodist Chaplains, Pastors, Missionaries, all other CHRIST-Followers!**

In the middle of October our Bishops met at our World Ministry Center and overlapped with the BOA Board of Administration, and your FM Chaplain Association leaders conducted our meetings in the same location for parts of three days. We mixed our planning meetings with participating with the Bishops and BOA times of worship, prayer, reports, and testimonies – all of which was very inspirational, candid, and loving! Some of the highlights included each of our new Bishops presenting their passionate ideas and asking BOA members to share the targets of their love. **Evangelism and prayer** are on the front burner and **racial reconciliation** is also high on their list. The Light & Life Magazine September issue has excellent articles introducing each of them. They expressed deep appreciation for **Bishops Matt Thomas, David Kendall, and David Roller** and their great job as a team and how well they led the denomination. Bishop **Matt Whitehead** is the new lead Bishop after 17 years serving as the PNW Pacific Northwest Conference Superintendent. He will focus on the western part of United States and the world area of Africa. Bishop Linda Adams will focus on north eastern U.S. – from North Central and Great Plains to Keystone and Genesis and the world area of Latin America. Bishop **Keith Cowart** has east coast and most conferences east of Texas, and world areas of Asia and Europe. We are fortunate that he is our liaison Bishop for giving leadership to the Free Methodist Chaplains. In his nearly two decades of being Lead Pastor of Christ Community Church, Columbus, GA he had a vital ministry to soldiers & Chaplains from Fort Benning and he has a special care for us and our fields of ministry: military, hospital, prison, etc!!

Last October I asked our WMC Chief Operating Officer (COO) **Mark Dowley** for a place to hang a plaque honoring our Chaplain Medallion recipients – only 20 since 1983. He offered an excellent spot off to the left side in the main entrance room. On Friday Oct. 11 at the end of my briefing to the BOA we unveiled the plaque and Bishop **Keith Cowart** offered a heartfelt blessing for the service of the FM Chaplains. At the top of the plaque are these words: King Jesus: “Whatever you did for one of the least of these ... you did for me.” Matt 25:40. Is there a higher commendation on your ministry than these amazing words of Jesus? Perhaps “Well done thou good and faithful servant!” **Mark Dowley** noticed on first day the plaque was placed, that the setting was a little too dark. Next day he tasked an electrician to mount a light from above the plaque. How appropriate: Chaplain Servants under the light from above!

**Looking Back & Looking Ahead!**



Another high light at our WMC is that **Bishop Cowart** interviewed **Wing Chaplain, Lt Col Tim Porter** for taking my place as Endorsing Agent when I step down in June 2020. **Tim and Patricia** are ordained Elders in the Oregon Conference and pastored several churches in Oregon before answering the call to active duty in the Air Force Chaplaincy. Tim and Pat are outstanding Christ-followers and people leaders. Pat has a Master of Theology from Fuller Seminary. She has held leadership positions in every Chapel where Tim served throughout his career and he has served as a Wing Chaplain at four different bases. Their people skills draw people to the chapel and to becoming Christ followers. Tim has served every office position on the FMCA Executive Committee. Bishop Cowart made it official:

**Tim and Patricia will serve as Co-Directors of Chaplain Ministries with Tim serving as Endorsing Agent beginning July 1.**



## FREE METHODIST CHAPLAIN MINISTRY

### Your Free Methodist Chaplains are:

- called to serve Christ the King and the Church in Matthew 25:31-46 places and situations,
- ordained FM Ministers who are endorsed, approved or certified to serve in military and civilian places,
- accountable to their annual conferences and depend on them for prayer support/encouragement,
- endorsed by Bishop Cowart for the Board of Bishops after an application process, interviews and recommendation by the Chaplain Endorsing Agent to serve others on behalf of the FMCUSA.

### Your FMCUSA Chaplain Endorsing Agent (EA)

- recruits, screens, visits, encourages, mentors, prays for and corresponds with your chaplains;
- provides an annual professional training conference and a regular newsletter to encourage chaplains.

### Your Free Methodist Chaplains Association

- advises and assists the EA in this ministry to enable quality ministries beyond the local church

Your **Prayers** help a lot! Ask at [rex.carpenter@fmcura.org](mailto:rex.carpenter@fmcura.org) for our "Staying Connected" newsletter.

### Your Contributions in support of this "ministry of connection" may be sent to:

FMCUSA Finance Dept. ATTN: Chaplains Account, 770 N High School Rd, Indianapolis IN 46214

marked "chaplain's account" in the memo line

Your **Estate gift planning** may designate "Free Methodist Chaplains Account" or the "Randall Tucker Endowment Fund for C.P.E. Free Methodist Chaplains."

For a fuller understanding of FMC-USA Chaplaincy get a 2010 copy of **E. Dean Cook's** book **CHAPLAINCY: Being God's Presence in Closed Communities** (A Free Methodist History 1935-2010) from Rex Carpenter or Dean Cook. Chaplain Cook has published three other inspiring and challenging books: one on [Jonah the man whose heart and God were too small](#) and [Where Have all the Prophets Gone?](#) & most recently [Global Warming and End-Times](#) - a spiritual and scientific issue.

### DIRECTING BISHOP FOR CHAPLAIN MINISTRIES

Bishop Keith Cowart [Keith.Cowart@fmcura.org](mailto:Keith.Cowart@fmcura.org)

### DIRECTOR/ENDORSING AGENT Rex Carpenter

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These are our 2019 – 2021 FM Chaplain Association officers, left to right, **Larry Lyons** member and Manager of Spiritual Care at St Mary Mercy Hospital Livonia MI, **Sam Cabrera** secretary and Indiana U. Healthcare Chaplain, **Rex Carpenter**, FMC-USA Chaplain Endorsing Agent, **Tim Porter**, past President and Lead Chaplain Lt Col at Tucson AZ Air Force Base, **Daleasha Hall**, Vice President and Systems Director of Hospice & palliative Care for OR, WA, & AK, **Kathy Petteys**, member and Chaplain for Heritage Ministries Rolling Fields Elder Community Conneautville PA and Orchard Grove Assisted Living Jamestown NY, **James Demaray**, member and Chaplain at St Joseph Hospital Bluegrass Care Navigators, and Army Chap LTC **Ray Leach**, FMCA President & 377 Theater Sustainment Deputy Command Chaplain, Belle Chasse LA.

I am indebted to this marvelous team of chaplains: Tim Porter, Ray Leach, Daleasha Hall, Sam Cabrera, James Demaray, Kathy Petteys, and Larry Lyons for making this ministry a blessing to me and the Board of Bishops, the Free Methodist Church and the United States! They help a lot by praying and recruiting, excelling in their respective fields of ministry, giving a tithe of a tithe, participating in our monthly conference calls, helping with the newsletter, and assisting with our annual professional development meetings at various places around the country. A bit of history reveals that this team and earlier teams are responsible for endorsing 130 Free Methodist Chaplains.



Southern Atlantic Conference Elder (2012) **Robert D. Rushworth** is seeking to become a Hospital and Hospice Chaplain under the Endorsement of the Free Methodist Church – USA. He and his wife **April** live at 430 Loch Devon Drive in Lutz FL 33548

and they have two adult daughters. Robert is a 1974 Graduate of SUNY @ Albany with a B S Degree in Math and Computer Science. He worked for 27 years in data, software and computers. In 1995 a new pastor **Glenn Finch** came to the Lutz suburb of Tampa and ushered them into a new awareness of the love of Christ. Robert became very involved in various ministries: music, youth, mid-week prayer, etc. And he took an early retirement and enrolled in Asbury Theological Seminary in the Spring of 2004 and graduated in May 2009. He was a highest honors graduate and was the recipient of the Servant Leadership Award. During seminary he served part time as a Youth Pastor and had a full year of CPE at Tampa General Hospital where he earned 4 CPE Units and was hired as PRN Chaplain in 2008 at Gulfside Regional Hospice and TGH! Asbury's academic advisor was a big influence on Bob and they were part of the Orlando Fellowship (FMC) gathering monthly for worship, fellowship, encouragement, and accountability. In 2009 he enrolled in the conference ministerial training LMC, CMC and was

ordained as Elder in 2012. By 2013 Robert had completed an Associate of Science Degree at the Breckinridge School of Nursing and Health Sciences and was their Valedictorian and member of Alpha Beta Kappa - Honor Society Member. He has been one who others seek out for employment and he has ministered at OAK Hill Hospital ER, Advent Health Tampa medical surgery, bedside RN and case manager in ICU in the spring of 2017. The following spring he covered hospice admissions at LifePath Hospice. In recent times he has joined April more often in church ministries of praise band and singing in the choir and he also assists the pastor with hospital visits and home visits with shut-ins with communion and prayers. He is 67 and April is considered immuno-compromised. They are following the protocols for avoiding the virus. Pastoral care and servant leadership are at least 2 of Robert's spiritual gifts. His intention is to use his gifts as often as possible. He has engaged in continuing education in order to renew his RN license. Hospice and Hospitals present opportunities to meet people and listen to their story and validate that their life has meaning and they are usually grateful to have a chance to talk about their faith and share in prayer.

**Bishop Cowart** you can see why **Daryl Smith** and **Darrel Riley** have so much confidence in him and his fit for his chosen field of ministry. I am pleased to recommend **Robert Rushworth** to you for the Endorsement of the Free Methodist Church as Hospital and Hospice Chaplain!

#### **April 21 Endorsed by Bishop Cowart**

Thank you for your support for the Free Methodist Chaplains! And your appropriately brave leadership with **Bishop Adams and Bishop Whitehead!** You all hit the issue head-on that we must listen to our African America sisters and brothers. In our May "Staying Connected" newsletter I mentioned Psalm 90:12, "teach us to number our days that we might gain a heart of wisdom." And praying and hoping for a nation-wide/world-wide Spiritual Awakening, not imagining the pain, bad deeds, etc. and the growing number of good deeds sprouting up all over.

These weeks of lawlessness, death, and looting are horrible and unmatched on this scale in America! Praying hard that we, as a nation, will turn the corner soon from bad deeds to good deeds and in Jesus' name pray for God's Kingdom to come and his will to be done on earth as it is in heaven!!!