

GMU Board Appoints Two New Members



Global Ministries University recently invited two new members to their board: Carl Yusavitz and Olivia Doko. The purpose of adding these two new members was to provide a way for key groups connected with GMU to give input and also for these organizations to be informed as to the ongoing functions of GMU.

Carl Yusavitz is the representative for the Federation of Christian Ministries. GMU provides continuing education for members and training for those individuals who wish to be commissioned by FCM to legally perform wedding ceremonies but need more background and training. Olivia Doko is the representative for Roman Catholic Women-priests. GMU prepares many of the RCWP candidates for ordination.

The GMU Board met this month via a conference call and the members, particularly the new members, were given an overview of the background and history of GMU activity, which included the enrollment status, administrative staff responsibilities, purpose and function of the board and a financial report.

Technically, board members are a part of Global Ministries University's parent corporation, the Federation of Community Ministries of California board. FCM of California gives GMU a non-profit status and allows it to function as a university.

In compliance with the State of California not-for-profit corporation status, FCM of California is required to have a board whose members are listed in the Federal Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax form annually sent to U.S. Department of Treasury and State of California Franchise Tax Board.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In August of this year my wife, Marita Grudzen, and I travelled to Kenya to take part in series of workshops, seminars and meetings with a variety of Church officials and missionaries working in Kenya. One of my wife's lifelong friends, Judy Walter, is a lay missionary working in the Bangladesh Slum of Kenya located in the city of Mombasa, Kenya. Through Judy's efforts we were able to arrange seminars with several groups that are engaged in interfaith dialogue in Kenya and other parts of Africa with substantial Christian and Muslim populations. One of the groups was the Damietta Peace Initiative which is sponsored by the Franciscan religious community and has now spread to various parts of African including Kenya. I was invited to facilitate a seminar with Christian and Muslim faith leaders in Nairobi who work extensively in the impoverished areas of Nairobi. They are also working to avoid a repeat of ethnic and religious violence that took place in 2007 during a national election. The Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers provided hospitality for us at their regional center in Nairobi.

Marita and I met at Maryknoll over 40 years ago and it was a kind of homecoming for us to feel part of the Maryknoll family in Africa. After several days of meetings in Nairobi, we travelled to Mombasa which is on the coast of Kenya and which has a large Muslim population. With Judy Walter's assistance, I had made contact with Father Wilybard Lagho, Vicar General of the Catholic Archdiocese of Mombasa, and was invited to lead a seminar for the interfaith organization that Father Lagho chairs, the Coast Inter-Faith Council of Clerics. This organization includes Christian, Muslim and Hindu religious leaders in the Mombasa region. We also met and spoke to the priests of the Mombasa Archdiocese about some of the latest development in the Islamic/Christian dialogue that faculty of GMU have spearheaded over the past four years in Bangladesh, Egypt, Turkey and the USA. We have been invited to return to Mombasa next summer by the Coast Inter-faith Council to lead a training program in interfaith dialogue with the staff of the Coast Inter-Faith Council of Mombasa.

After several days of meetings in Mombasa, I returned to Nairobi for a faculty interfaith seminar at St. Paul's University in Nairobi and arranged by the director, Fatih Akdogan, of a new interfaith center sponsored by the Gulen Movement in Nairobi. We hope to also have GMU co-sponsor an interfaith seminar in Nairobi as part of our trip to Kenya in the summer of 2013. It was a demanding but very exciting trip to Kenya which provides GMU a very concrete link into the center of the African continent. We hope to continue our collaboration with various faith communities in Kenya in the coming year.

For a more detailed report on our time in Kenya, go to: www.globalministries.blogspot.com.

Gerald Grudzen, PhD

MEET OUR FACULTY

AbdulMawgoud R. Dardery, Ph.D., one of the many competent instructors on the Global Ministries University staff, is proudly featured in this publication.

AbdulMawgoud R. Dardery, Ph.D., teaches two courses for Global Ministries University: *Islam: Religion and Culture and Globalization and the Meanings of Islam*. He also teaches these courses at Metro State University in Minneapolis, MN where he is Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies. Dr. Dardery received his Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburg, PA, in the Cultural Studies Program. He has spent close to thirty years teaching and administering programs in Cultural and Islamic studies in Arab countries and the United States and has functioned as visiting scholar at numerous universities. He earned a Peace Fellowship for his Ph.D. Program. He also served as the President of the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh and the Director of the Islamic Information Center, Pittsburgh, PA.



Doctor Dardery has been elected to the Egyptian Parliament from his home area of Luxor and returned to Egypt this past year to take part in the revolution taking place in his native country. He serves on the Foreign Relations Committee both in the Egyptian Parliament and the Freedom and Justice Party, the ruling party in Egypt post the revolution. He also teaches courses on Cultural Studies and Literary Criticism at the university in his hometown, Luxor, and has served as a Fulbright Scholar of explaining Islam to the American Academia. GMU will be co-sponsoring a lecture tour for him on the West Coast in the spring of 2013.

STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Global Ministries University student body includes a variety of outstanding individuals with diverse and notable backgrounds and ministries. Martha Sherman is highlighted in this edition.



Martha Sherman holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology and English from St. Louis University and is currently earning a Master of Theology degree at Global Ministries University. Upon completion of her program, she plans to be ordained through Roman Catholic Womenpriests. Martha looks forward to completing her program this winter and her ordination to the Catholic priesthood next June.

Previously, Martha taught theology at the secondary level. Today she resides in rural Salem, SD., where she and her partner of 18 years, Marie, own and operate a campground. However, the campground is not merely a business for her... it is also a ministry of hospitality, which affects the way she approaches the park and their many guests. She has a small faith community which gathers for worship every Sunday and many of the campground guests take part in the service.

When they sell the campground, she plans to pursue further units of CPE and seek employment as a chaplain. In this way, she can have a full-time, year-round ministry. She quips, *“Who knows, in a couple years I may be ready to work on my DMin through GMU!!”*

CLASSROOM SHOWCASE

Students of Global Ministries University submit outstanding coursework. This paper was submitted by Tony MacCarthaigh, a Doctor of Ministry student residing in Dublin, Ireland. In this assignment, he is to answer the question below. We have included an excerpt of his response, which is thought-provoking as well as articulate.



What do you understand ‘salvation’ to mean and what role does Jesus play in it?

A motley bunch of very ordinary people experienced in Jesus a man who lived what he preached. They experienced hope and were invited to follow his example, to trust in his Father, and to accept the Kingdom of God that is already here, to see life differently and to be aware of the wonder and grace of life all around them – ordinary life. He came among them so that they could become aware of God’s enduring presence and love. Their experience of the integrity of his life and his faith led them to trust in God’s ultimate goodness in overcoming death and ultimate destruction and to experience Jesus among them in the midst of the community after his death. It is the experience of encountering this ‘real Jesus’ in the lives of others that also moves us and reveals to us God acting in Jesus now. This real flesh and blood encounter of a saving and healing experience becomes a revelation to us of God’s continuing presence, acceptance and healing. It opens up the wonders and deep mystery of the on-going creation of God... I see salvation very much in terms of the healing process of creation and revelation is the process of becoming aware and conscious of it.

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Send feedback, comments, and/or questions to Jean Conley, editor and Vice-President for Operations and Development, at GMU5053@aol.com.