



The Global Notebook

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GMU Holds Graduation at FCM Assembly

We have held our graduation ceremonies during the FCM Assemblies throughout the last fifteen years and this year it will be held on Saturday, August 6th of their Assembly. Mike Conley, Provost, and Jean Conley, VP for Operations and Development will be coordinating the ceremony, as well as representing GMU and presenting a workshop. Because our students reside all over the country and even outside the country, it isn't possible for all graduates to attend the ceremony. This year we have three who are planning to participate: Gail Schultz, our Registrar, from Wisconsin, who has earned a Master of Theology degree. Dan Lee from Texas, who has completed the Joint Th.D./Ph.D. degree program, and has joined FCM, and Donnieau Snyder, Ph.D., California, who has earned a Master of Theology degree, has also become a member of FCM, and will be serving on the FCM Circle of Directors as Vice-President of the Pacific Region.

Global Ministries University has been affiliated with the Federation of Christian Ministries since GMU's inception in 2001. In fact, many of our faculty was drawn from the Federation of Christian Ministries. Throughout the years there has been a reciprocal relationship between the two organizations. FCM members enroll in Global Ministries University programs and GMU students become members of FCM. FCM provides support and connection for ministers and also offers commissioning to legally conduct wedding ceremonies, which is also beneficial for ministers and students of our Celebrant Training Program who intend to marry couples.

GMU Graduation Ceremony Held at FCM Assembly in 2014



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Recent events in Dallas and Orlando here in the USA and events in Turkey and Bangladesh on the international stage, have highlighted the danger of violence occurring almost anywhere in the world motivated by those caught in the endless cycle of hatred and intolerance toward those whom they perceive as their "enemies." Our Global Ministries University team of Frank Pisciatto, GMU graduate, and my wife, Marita, and I will travel to Kenya in August for a series of interfaith and intercultural seminars in Mombasa and Lamu Island near the border with Somalia. We are working with Christian and Muslim teachers in Kenya who are interested in inspiring the youth of this country to seek understanding and dialogue with each other and the other minority groups within Kenya. The work of Global Ministries University is unique among educational organizations in that we are on the cutting edge of many of the key issues facing humanity and religious institutions today. Two of these issues on which GMU has focused are the education and empowerment of women in ministerial roles and the importance of the interfaith and intercultural movements to bridge the divides today that have separated people by race or religion. Part of our work in Kenya has been to initiate a training program in Mombasa in which we are providing scholarships for Christian and Muslim women in Mombasa who are studying with us at the Bishop Haddington Theological Institute, a partner also working with GMU in our training of Christian and Muslim teachers in interfaith and intercultural skills. We are starting our fifth year of work in Kenya and we will also meet with officials of Pwani University in the coastal region of Kenya for development of a partnership with this institution for online instruction in interfaith related courses. We will be posting new material on the Kenya project at [Paths to Peace Kenya](#) on our Facebook site.

-Gerald Grudzen, Ph.D.



Cindy Yoshitomi - Dr. Grandma

Following is a message from one of our recent graduates. Her testimony demonstrates that it is never too late to accomplish your goals.

I am a Grandma with a Doctorate!

I would like to announce that I received my Doctorate in Ministry from Global Ministries this past week. This Doctorate was begun in the summer of 1976 at the University of Oregon in the field of Education. I only had 12 credits left to finish this work so I decided four years ago to begin my work at GMU. I changed my emphasis from Educational Administration to Ministry. I began my GMU studies with classes in the Scripture, Paul, Women in the Bible, World Religions, and Nonviolence. All my professors were delightful to work with and challenged me beyond what I thought I was able to accomplish. Their critiques of my work were honest, thoughtful and extremely helpful to my professional and personal development as an activist in children's well being.

-Cindy Yoshitomi, D.Min.

GMU Students are Empowered to Create Their Own Learning Experience



Global Ministries University draws adult students who typically enroll in a program later in life. These individuals already have an abundance of ministerial and life experience and therefore have a good idea of what courses will benefit their academic goals. Consequently, we give our students a great deal of freedom in the selection of their courses. We also award them credit for their valuable well-earned prior learning and life experience.

Understandably, there is a definite need for structure and a particular direction when earning a degree such as a Bachelor of Science or a Master of Chemistry, but in the area of theology, more flexibility is possible. With the guidance of the dean of the program, Global Ministries University students are empowered to design their own program. As a result, they are more invested in and able to channel their studies in a direction that will give them a more meaningful learning experience.

The teacher who is indeed wise does not bid you to enter the house of his[her] wisdom but rather leads you to the threshold of your mind.

-Kahlil Gibran



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