



We are Illinois Great Rivers Conference (IGRC) Chapter of The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts. The purpose of The Fellowship is to be a sharing and enabling fellowship that affirms the sacramental life, embracing preaching, music, drama, dance, architecture, and all the visual arts appropriate for the inclusive life of the Church. The Fellowship functions at the national (www.umfellowship.org) and conference (www.igrc.org/fummwa) levels.

April/May/June 2016 Newsletter

2016 Handbell Festival Report

We had 127 ringers signed up to be a part of the 27th annual handbell festival. We received great feedback from participants, and appreciated the leadership of clinician Sondra Tucker. We're also appreciative of Kidder Music Service for their work during the event!

Contemporary Worship Workshop

We're excited to share that the IGRC Fellowship Chapter will be hosting a contemporary worship workshop on September 24, 2016 at Calvary UMC in Normal, IL.

The cost to attend is \$30 if you are a Fellowship member or attending with a Fellowship member; and \$35 if you are not a Fellowship member, provided registrations are received by September 3. Any registrations postmarked after September 3 will have an additional \$10 cost.

Session topics will include planning worship for your context; contemporary expressions of liturgical forms; choosing contemporary music for your congregation; authenticity and accessibility; leading your congregation through change; and environment and experience.

The day will also include times of worship, fellowship, and lunch.

Please consider attending this worship workshop (9:00 am – 4:00 pm), bringing your pastor, worship team, or others who might be interested! Registration is available at <https://fumcpeoria.wufoo.com/forms/contemporary-music-workshop/> and you can access the workshop brochure [here](#).

We Need Your Help!

The IGRC Chapter is continually looking for volunteers to help us with our events. We meet quarterly for a 1 ½ hour conference call at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings. We also conduct business by e-mail and by an occasional additional conference call as necessary. We welcome your insight. Just contact Doug Grogan at dgrogan@fumcpeoria.org to let him know you are willing to help us. Your current chapter officers are:

Chair:

Doug Grogan dgrogan@fumcpeoria.org

Past Chair:

Marilyn Hirschman MJHir@aol.com

Chair Elect:

Aaron Schultz aaronschultz.1215@gmail.com

Secretary:

Arlene Dittberner dittberner1939@att.net

Treasurer:

Laura Drennan ladrennan@gmail.com

At-Large Members:

Jay Regennitter revjaynr@gmail.com

Carol McPherson cmcpherson@fumcpeoria.org

Danielle Rohrer des.rohrer@gmail.com

Mike Ebersohl mebersohl@outlook.com

Christopher Wise cwisestl@gmail.com

2017 Handbell Festival

The 2017 handbell festival will be held at Grace UMC in Salem, IL on Saturday, March 11. We are excited to welcome Jason Krug as our clinician. A number of you will recognize Jason's name as a talented young composer for handbells. He is a native of Indianapolis, IN, and has over 200 published compositions. In addition to composing, teaching, and conducting, Jason is an avid writer, father, and husband.

Can You Host?

We are working on hosting our events in different parts of the state. If you would like to host a chapter event, please contact [Doug Grogan](#).

Classifieds

Highland Hope UMC has a part-time opening for a worship and music coordinator. Application is available on the Highland Hope UMC website at www.highlandhope.org/employment. A one-page resume and two letters of recommendation are required and may be emailed or mailed to: Highland Hope United Methodist Church
Attention:

Rev. Dr. Beverly L. Wilkes-Null, Directing Pastor
12846 Daiber Road, Highland, IL 62249

Fairbury UMC has a part-time opening for a worship leader. Job qualifications include a high school diploma, musical capabilities (i.e. ability to play either a guitar or keyboard and the ability to lead singing), experience with worship, proficient use of PowerPoint and other software).

Please send a cover letter and resume, application and 3 completed employment reference forms to:

First UMC
200 E Maple St
Fairbury, IL 61739



Meet a Chapter Officer

Chapter Treasurer Laura Drennan has been a part of The Fellowship since the mid-1980s when she attended at Fellowship Jurisdictional Convocation at Illinois Wesleyan University. At the national level, she served a two-year term as national recording secretary.

Laura is an accounting executive with the Illinois Department of Human Services. She works with her colleagues at IDHS and other state agencies and with both state and federal officials to ensure that funds from various state and federal grants are in the proper accounts when needed. She also works to file mandated reports about each grant. She reconciles grant balances with IDHS records, the State Comptroller's records, and the granting agencies' records. Previously, Laura worked in the government relations arena. After a six-year stint working for the Illinois General Assembly, Laura spent twenty years working for a bank trade association

In her spare time Laura plays in the Springfield Municipal Band, Capital Area Concert Band (for which she emcees its concerts), and the University of Illinois at Springfield Concert Band and Pep Band. Laura volunteers at First United Methodist Church in Springfield by singing, ringing handbells, and playing reeds and keyboards.

Membership

Membership in The Fellowship is open to clergy and laity alike. Benefits of membership in The Fellowship include information sharing, networking opportunities, *WorshipArts* magazine and discounted registration rates for Fellowship. Read more about the benefits of membership at www.umfellowship.org. If you would like to speak with someone locally about The Fellowship, please contact Chapter Chairperson Doug Grogan at dggrogan@fumcpeoria.org.

Upcoming Events

June 8-11, 2016
June 19-24, 2016
July 13-16, 2016
September 24, 2016
March 11, 2017
July 24-28, 2017

Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference in Peoria, IL
Music and Worship Arts Week at Lake Junaluska, NC
UMC Jurisdictional Conference in Peoria, IL
Contemporary Worship Workshop at Calvary UMC, Normal, IL
29th Annual Handbell Festival at Grace UMC, Salem, IL
Awaken! National Convocation in Little Rock, AK