



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](#) and [conference](#) levels.

October/November/December 2015 Newsletter

By-Laws

Your chapter officers have been hard at work preparing revisions to our chapter by-laws, and work is currently being done to place the current by-laws and proposed changes side-by-side. Later this fall, you'll receive the proposed changes by e-mail and asked to vote on their acceptance. Be on the lookout, and be sure to participate!

28th Annual Handbell Festival



Our 28th annual handbell festival will be here before you know it! Sondra Tucker will be our featured clinician. Sondra is currently the organist-choirmaster at Church of the Holy Apostles in Collierville, TN. She holds music degrees from the University of Arkansas and the University of Memphis. She holds the Associate and Choir Master certificates from the American Guild of Organists. In addition to her position at Church of the Holy Apostles, Sondra is the handbell editor for Alfred Music. Most of you will recognize Sondra's name as an active clinician and composer.

The 28th annual handbell festival is March 12, 2016, and will be held at First UMC in Springfield, IL. Registration forms are available on our website, and will also be sent by e-mail

Meet a Chapter Officer



Aaron Schultz (at-large member) is the Director of Worship and Arts at United Presbyterian Church in Peoria, IL. He received his Bachelor of Music degree with an emphasis in Music in Worship from North Park University (Chicago, IL) where he studied voice with Dr. Karen Bauer and conducting with Dr. Julia Davids and Dr. Tom Zelle. He graduated with a Masters of Arts in Music Ministry from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Evanston, IL) where he studied under Dr. Ron Anderson. Aaron enjoys composing/arranging, playing an assortment of instruments (his favorite being clawhammer banjo), and sharing meals with great friends. He and his wife Jenn reside in Peoria.

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 dgrogan@fumcpeoria.org.

2017 Handbell Clinician

Yes, we know that 2016 isn't even here yet, but we want you to know that the 2017 handbell festival clinician has been selected, and it is.....Jason Krug! Jason is from Indianapolis, IN, and is a full-time composer, arranger, and clinician. We're excited that he is coming to join us in March 2017!

On The Move

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](#).

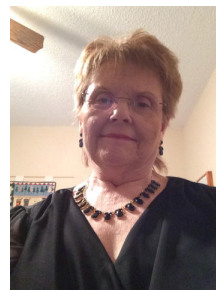
We Need Your Help!

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:

Doug Grogan, chair dgrogan@fumcpeoria.org
Marilyn Hirschman, past chair MJHir@aol.com
Arlene Dittberner, sec. dittberner1939@att.net
Laura Drennan, treasurer ladrennan@gmail.com
Jay Regennitter, at-large revjaynr@gmail.com
Carol McPherson, at-large cmcpherson@fumcpeoria.org
Danielle Rohrer, at large des.rohrer@gmail.com
Aaron Schultz, at large aaronschultz.1215@gmail.com

Meet Our Past Chair!



Marilyn Hirschman, immediate past chair, serves Farmer City United Methodist Church as the music director where she directs 2 handbell choirs and 2 choral choirs. While Farmer City is her longest "run" at 37 years, she has served as director and/or organist in several churches for 49 years.

Marilyn has been an active Fellowship member since 1980, holding multiple offices on the Conference Board, past at-large member of the National Board, and is presently serving on the National Scholarship Committee. She has served on the Worship Committee for Annual Conference and has chaired one of those worship experiences.

Quoting Marilyn, "Over the years, the Fellowship has literally changed my life and, therefore, has changed the life of our local church worship experience."

In addition to a life of music, Marilyn recently retired as the comptroller of her family retail business, enjoys 6 grandchildren, and serves as a certified lay servant.



Upcoming Events

February 12, 2016	Registration postmark deadline for Handbell Festival
March 12, 2016	28 th Annual Handbell Festival with Sondra Tucker at Springfield First UMC
June 8-11, 2016	Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference in Peoria, IL
June 19-24, 2016	Music and Worship Arts Week at Lake Junaluska, NC
July 13-16, 2016	UMC Jurisdiction Conference in Peoria, IL
March 11, 2017	29 th Annual Handbell Festival
July 24-28, 2017	Awaken! National Convocation in Little Rock, AK