



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.

January/February/March 2015 Newsletter

Membership

Membership in The Fellowship is open to clergy and laity alike. Members include persons from churches of all sizes throughout the United States as well as the Bahamas, Canada, and Singapore. Benefits of membership in The Fellowship include information sharing, networking opportunities, *Worship Arts* magazine and discounted registration rates for Fellowship events. 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.

Upcoming Chapter Events

March 14, 2015 – 27th Annual Handbell Festival, at First UMC, Peoria, Illinois. Our featured clinicians will be the Agape Ringers, and they will host a wide variety of workshops followed by a concert that afternoon. Registration forms will be mailed soon, and more information is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

August 15, 2015 – Choral Reading Session. Get ready for your upcoming season of choir. Kidder Music will be providing a packet of music for you to read through. More information about this workshop, including time and location, will be available in the next newsletter.

2015 National Convocation Indianapolis, Indiana — July 20-23, 2015



[Pathways 2015](#) is a gathering for musicians, dancers, visual artists, preachers, and all those who seek to serve God's people by designing and leading participatory worship experiences. Though we come from many places and from different perspectives, our common dream of creating worship that expresses God's preferred future for creation provides us with pathways to play and dream together on our common ground. Come to the Circle City in July of 2015 to be inspired, to sharpen your skills and to experience the great community that comes from being a part of The Fellowship! The website and registration are already available to you – don't delay, as early registration deadlines are rapidly approaching.

This year's Convocation is right in our chapter's backyard, so you'll want to try to attend. In addition, chapter members Doug Grogan and Jay Regennitter will be presenting seminars.

Chapter Scholarships

The IGRC Chapter will offer \$200 scholarships to Fellowship members from IGRC who attend the 2015 national convocation in Indianapolis. Recipients must not have attended a Fellowship convocation before. Contact Laura Drennan at ladrennan@gmail.com.

We Need Your Help!

The IGRC Chapter is continually looking for volunteers to help us with our events. We meet quarterly for a one-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.

27th Handbell Festival

We are excited to host the Agape Ringers as clinicians for our 27th Annual Handbell Festival. This year's festival is March 14 at 1st United Methodist Church in Peoria.

Our schedule is as follows:

9:00-9:30 am	registration and set-up
9:30-10:30 am	mass ringing/reading session
10:40-11:30 am	Session I
11:35 am-12:25 pm	Session II/lunch A
12:30-1:20 pm	Session III/lunch B
1:25-2:15 pm	Session IV
2:20-3:10 pm	Session V
3:10-4:00 pm	break/tear-down
4:00 pm	Agape Ringers concert

You can read more about the Agape Ringers [here](#). They will be presenting sessions on change ringing, shelly ringing, four-in-hand ringing, bass bells, bell trees, ringing basics, beyond beginning ringing, bell changes, rhythms, chimes, weaving, the seven P's, and conducting 101.

Registration forms will be e-mailed out soon, but you can also find the form on our website, www.igrc.org/fummwa.

Chapter Officers

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 jregennitter@igrc.org
Carol McPherson, at-large cmcpherson@fumcpeoria.org

Meet a Chapter Officer!

Doug Grogan,
chapter chairperson



Douglas Grogan serves as the Director of Music Ministries at the First United Methodist Church in Peoria, Illinois. In addition to his position at FUMC Peoria, Douglas directs the Chamber Choir at Illinois Central College. His volunteer involvement includes serving as the Chairperson of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference Chapter of The Fellowship, a member of the Alumni Board for the Mercer University Townsend School of Music and a member of the Board of Directors for the Peoria Symphony Orchestra. Douglas holds Bachelor's degrees in Music and Biology from Mercer University in Georgia and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Mississippi College.

Interest areas are: choral, handbells, instrumental conducting

Classifieds

Position available: Lebanon First UMC has a position open for keyboardist, approximately 10 hours per week. Contact [Peter Wehrly](#) to apply.

Position available: St. John's UMC in Edwardsville has a part-time director of contemporary music position open, approximately 10 hours per week. Contact [Sheryl Palmer](#) to apply.

Position available: Robinson First UMC has a position open for director of music. Visit www.robinsonfumc.org for position description and application details.

Position available: Mattoon First UMC has two positions open, one as accompanist for choirs, and the other as a contemporary service pianist. Contact [Kim Decker](#) to apply.