Fellowship of Christian Military Ministries (FCMM)
The Purpose of the Annual Conference

Purpose of the Conference

The primary purpose of the conference is to provide associated ministry leaders an annual opportunity to spend time together for networking, partnering, fellowship, support, and inspiration.

The FCMM, and its annual conference, are first and foremost about building relationships with other like-minded spiritual leaders for mutual encouragement and collaboration.

Since the annual conference is planned for leaders of FCMM-associated ministries, it is not promoted publicly but rather in-house and by word of mouth. Guests are welcome to attend at the invitation of involved leaders from associated ministries.

The conference begins on Monday and ends by noon on Wednesday. The standard start date for the conference each year is the first or second Monday in March. Host ministries determine the conference dates with consensus of the Executive Directors of the nine host ministries. Conference dates are generally announced a year in advance. Host ministries are encouraged to consider Easter and spring break dates when planning their respective conferences. Additional pre- and post-conference meetings can be added with approval from the Conference Planning Team (CPT). The conference is held each year in a strategic military location in the U.S.

Associated ministries are engaged in both national and international military ministry, all with a view to see God's heart to reach all nations with the gospel and fulfill His Great Commission. As such, consideration with some application should be made each year to both a national and international focus by the CPT.

Purpose of the Community Dinner

Normally each year in conjunction with the annual conference a Community Dinner is held in the same local area. The purpose of the Community Dinner is to provide opportunities for networking among the military, military ministries, churches, chaplains, and other like-minded ministries. Host ministries not only plan the event as a session of the annual conference but also as a gathering which is open to interested individuals from the community. Specific purposes for the Community Dinner include:

1. To provide introduction of FCMM associated ministries in general, recognize sponsor ministries of the dinner, and to convey in spirit the benefits of partnership and collaboration in military ministry.

2. To inspire and challenge ministry leaders from FCMM associated ministries.

3. To encourage military believers regarding the calling to serve Christ through military life and society.

   Indigenous military believers are the most powerful component of gospel-centered movements among military people and communities.

4. To increase awareness of the importance of the local region in terms of U.S. and international military presence and strategy.

5. To cast vision to churches regarding the strategic nature of gospel-centered ministry to military people and Great Commission impact through military believers.

   The military sub-culture or "people group" is a dominant presence in the particular region and thus missional military ministry provides a primary avenue for the church to strategically advance the gospel within and from the region.

6. To promote a greater mission-synergy through intentional collaborative efforts between military chaplains, military believers, military ministries, and gospel-centered churches.

   So much more could be accomplished in this important arena if like-minded parties worked together in a more purposeful way!

The Structure of the Conference Planning Team (CPT)

The Conference Planning Team (CPT) oversees the Annual Conference. The CPT consists of the Executive Leader of the immediate past, present, and future conference host ministries and the FCMM Coordinator. The CPT meets each year at the Annual Conference.

For each given year the CPT is expanded with duly selected individuals who actually do the work of planning the Annual Conference and will contain the following individuals:

1. Host ministry conference planner(s) for the current year's annual conference **(Lead/Decision Maker role)**. Additional reps from the host ministry will often join the CPT for their given host year.

2. Host ministry conference planner(s) for the forthcoming year's annual conference **(Observation role, pre-planning phase)**.

3. Host ministry conference planner(s) from the previous year's annual conference **(Advisor role)**. Participation on the CPT for this individual(s) would involve the initial planning meetings and then on an as needed basis for advice and assistance.

4. The FCMM Coordinator (FC) will initiate and participate in CPT meetings and related conversations throughout the planning process. The FC will record, retain, and make available all meeting minutes to CPT Members. (**Coordination/Admin/Support role**).

5. Additional rep(s) from other FCMM associated ministries or other experts in the field may be invited to participate on the CPT by the host ministry of the current year **(Partner role)**. Additional reps serving on the CPT for a given year are utilized for planning and leadership but do not attend the CPT meeting at the annual conference or participate in related administrative decisions relating to the CPT.

The FC will initiate communication for the CPT planning process for each given year and regarding the planning meetings for the annual conference. Soon after the annual conference, the FC will initiate contact with any CPT members who are new to FCMM and the annual conference for an orientation discussion.