

The ACPE Eastern Region Newsletter

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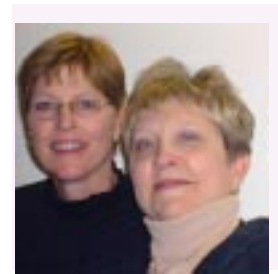
Issue 3

August 2006

Greetings from the co-regional directors

The past several weeks have been difficult times for the Eastern Region with the news of Joan Hemenway's medical condition. We have spoken to many of you and have appreciated the care and concern that have been expressed by everyone. In moments such as this we all appreciate so much the ACPE family and community.

We have been in close touch with our Chair Beth Glover and she offers her perspective through *Chair Chat* found in this edition. We know that some of you have seen Joan and we are indeed so grateful to Emily Jean who passed on the information



Eastern Region Co-Directors,
Rev. Nancy Anderson
& Rev. Jo Clare Wilson.

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Eastern Region Hosts 19th annual REM Invitational

The Eastern Region was host to the 19th Annual REM (Racial Ethnic Multicultural Network) Invitational Conference in New York City Feb 2 – 5, 2006. The theme of the conference was “*Engaging Our Stories Through Streams of Race, Ethnicity and Culture*”.



From left: Rev. Cameron Wells Byrd, Rev. Richard Stewart, Rev. Benson Thomas.

The site of the conference was the Marriott at LaGuardia in New York City.

Over 200 persons were in attendance to hear speakers and participate in workshops of interest.

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Greetings from the CORD'S (cont'd)

about Caring Bridges. This has enabled all of us to stay connected and feel as though we have a “bridge” to reach out through. Jennifer and Marion appreciate all of the outpouring of care and concern as well as the respect and sensitivity for their privacy. We visited briefly with Joan, Jennifer and Marion this past week and they expressed how much it has meant for them all to have the care of the ACPE Community.

In this edition of the newsletter you can read about the 2006 REM Invitational hosted by our Region in February. There is also news of the Spring EastxNE Conference in April at Stony Point in addition to much information about happenings in the Region. The Administrative Board has a retreat July 6-7 at Stony Point and there was much work and effort to strategize for our Region's future.

In June Steve Dutton and Nancy traveled to Atlanta for a Conference sponsored by the National Association of Adult Children of Alcoholics. This meeting was initiated by The Rev. Fred Smoots who chairs a taskforce to explore how ACPE can address issues of addiction in the core competencies of our ACPE standards. The day and a half meeting was represented by two people from each region. At the end of the meeting it was affirmed that more intentional work needs to be done around addiction issues as well as raising our awareness of how addiction issues have changed over the years. Programs and workshops will be conducted both at our national meetings as well as on the regional level. Steve and Nancy will be working closely with the two attendees from the Northeast region, Martin Montonye and Pat McCoy in order to introduce opportunities to bring this information to the two regions.

We offer continued support to all of our Supervisory Candidates and students as they keep at the process and especially those who are anticipating meeting committees in the fall. ***Good Luck to Alfred Kambaki who meets a Certification Committee August 7 for Associate (Pilot Project) as well as to Leah Frankel Wald, Kitty Garlid, and Dan Mena (Pilot Project) who will meet the Certification Commission in Tampa in November. Congratulations to Jay Cooke – his papers passed!***

Please continue to keep Corne Rempel in your prayers for the loss of his brother several weeks back. We are happy to report that Don Stiger and Bill Reynolds are both back in the saddle after heart problems. Carl Yusavitz has been going through treatment for cancer and we keep him in our thoughts. We joyfully send congratulations and good wishes on the recent marriages of John DeVelder and David Elseroad as well as congratulations to Rev. Dr. Cathy Bickerton who received her D.Min. this past May.

We are finishing this newsletter as July winds down and the summer heat turns up. Like many in Connecticut we don't have central air-conditioning. As persons raised in the sweltering heat and humidity of the south we didn't really think central air was necessary but we are about to be convinced otherwise! So we hope all of you are staying cool and either enjoying an opportunity to relax on vacation or working hard with students.

REM 2006 (cont'd)

The speakers included: Dr. James H. Cone, Briggs Distinguished Professor of Theology at Union Seminary in NYC; Dr. Ada Maria Isasi Diaz, Theologian; and, The Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister at Riverside Church in NYC.

The opening luncheon, sponsored by The Healthcare Chaplaincy, Inc. of NYC featured several persons from multi-faith perspective responding to the morning keynote by Dr. Cone. Thursday evening the conference traveled to Riverside Church for dinner along with some incredible entertainment and a powerful sermon by Rev. Dr. Forbes.

On Friday attendees were able to choose from a variety of tours into Manhattan for learning, sight-seeing and experiencing the multi-cultural reality of NYC. Friday evening the **Eastern Region** hosted the banquet which featured local entertainment and inspiring remarks from Dr. Ada Maria Isasi Diaz. Co-regional Directors Anderson and Wilson brought welcome and greetings at the banquet from the Eastern Region. The Certification Commission met at REM in order that persons could be reviewed for associate and CPE Supervisor. Nine (9) persons made Associate and five (5) CPE Supervisor. A total of 18 candidates met the commission.

Cokesbury Bookstore participated offering conference attendees the opportunity to purchase books by the speakers, as well as other relevant titles for pastoral care and multi-cultural concerns.



**Rev. Richard Stewart
and other attendees**



**Above photo: Sr. Ramona Cecille,
Bishop Jose Cedillo;
Photo to the right: Jacob A.
Atuahene-Nsowgah, Rev. Joan
Hemenway.**



**Chaplain Jacqueline Kelley,
REM President; Rev. Johnny
Bush.**

The Annual REM Business Meeting affirmed REM's relationship to ACPE and the continuance of the national offices' management of finances. The suspension of by-laws and annual REM fees was accomplished in order to promote the election process at REM 2007.

The Eastern Region is proud to have hosted such an event in the city of New York when many thought it could not be done. Congratulations to The Rev. Johnny Bush and The Rev. Carolyn Fleming-Sawyer, Co-Chairs for the Conference as well as their planning committee members: Carlos Alejandro, Victor Algarin, Sam Bryant, Gwen Garnett, Barbara Pennant and Podres Spencer. Their work made this conference a spectacular reality.

East by Northeast Spring Conference in Stony Point

Thinking from the Heart – The Art and Practice of Theological Reflection in Pastoral Care and Education was the theme for the EastxNortheast Spring Conference at Stony Point Conference Center in New York April 3–5.

We heard from The Rev. Dr. John DeBeer, author of *The Art of Theological Reflection, Congregation as Sacramental Community* and *Until We are Free: A Study Guide to South Africa's Moment of Truth.* John is the Interim Priest at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Weston, MA.



The other keynote speaker was The Rev. Dr. Robert Jingen Gunn, author of *Journeys into Emptiness – Dogen, Merton, Jung and the Quest for Transformation.* Bob is a UCC (United Church of Christ) Minister at a congregation in Manhattan, a psychotherapist in private practice; a lecturer at Union Theological Seminary, and, a Zen-Buddhist practitioner.

Prior to this meeting was the spring Seminar on Supervision which enabled many supervisory students to attend the Regional meeting. The hope is to repeat this practice in the spring of 2007.

In attendance at this meeting was ACPE Presidential Candidate Ted Hodge who briefly addressed the bi-regional meeting. Many thanks to Ute Schmidt and her committee for an outstanding conference.



Top photo: Ute Schmidt speaking to the EastxNortheast Group.

Second photo, from left: Rev. Ken Hayden (Eastern Region Certification Chair) and Rev. Patrick McCoy (Northeast Regional Director).

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The 2007 Spring Conference will be coordinated by John Bucchino and Kitty Garlid. We will once again be at Stony Point in New York.



Mark your calendars for:
April 23 – 25, 2007!



Top photo: Rev. Dr. John Bucchino; Middle photo: Rev. Dr. Robert Gunn.

Announcements of Interest:

Tom Summers, a retired CPE supervisor, has had a new book published. Its title is: "WANT A FROG? Memories, Sports and Other South Carolina Tales." Colored by humor and reminiscence, the book paints a lively picture of southern culture as known directly by Summers's seven decades of living in South Carolina. A former president of the American Booksellers Association has indicated that: "...you will love this book! It's a 'must read' for both young and old anywhere."

The book costs \$16; and can be ordered from these places: www.edistopress.com;
(803) 788-6950; Edisto Press, 3017 Kilkee Circle, Columbia SC 29223;

or

www.amazon.com.

Chat from the Chair

The Rev. Beth Glover, Eastern Region Chair

Dear Friends,

Much has happened since we met last April for our annual regional meeting at Stony Point. The saddest thing, of course, is the tragic illness of our dear friend, colleague, and leader, Joan Hemenway. Just over one month ago, we learned that Joan has a very progressive form of terminal brain cancer. As I have spoken with many CPE friends and colleagues, all have shared a sense of shock, pain, and sadness regardless of how “close” they would have described their relationship to Joan. Several persons have commented to me that even though they work regularly with people who face these kinds of situations, they feel so unprepared when it happens to someone they know and for whom they sincerely care. As pastoral caregivers, we know that no one is ever prepared for life changing news, even though we see it happen all the time. It is our willingness to wade into the waters of the unknown in faith that characterizes what we do and what we teach our students to do. But the waters are far murkier and troubled when they are stirred by something so “close to home.”

I have spent quite a bit of time recently thinking of what Joan means to me and all of the ways that she has challenged, supported, angered, intimidated, taught, inspired, and ultimately befriended me over the last few years. I’m sure that each of you has thought of these kinds of things also in response to the news of her illness. Joan is a very strong presence in our region and nationally as ACPE president. Her presence, ideas, and vision have helped shape the regional and national culture of ACPE. Whether people agree with her or not, she has always been willing to speak her mind and has often served as a lightning rod for ideas, beliefs, and feelings. Perhaps one blessing of this time is the opportunity we have to reflect on what Joan means to us and to find various ways to express our feelings and gratitude either to her directly or in honor of her presence among us. During the coming weeks we, her Eastern Region family, will continue to keep vigil – to accompany her and her family in various ways through this part of her journey. Some of you will be more physically present while others will be with them in thought and prayer.

At the Administrative Board retreat in early July, we spent some time sharing our thoughts and feelings about Joan’s illness and our anticipatory grief. I encourage you to do that with one another. I’m sure that many of you have sent greetings and shared your thoughts with Joan, Jennifer, and Marion either personally or through the Caring Bridges website. I found talking with my CPE colleagues and friends very helpful. For our retreat group, our sharing became a catalyst for us to devote ourselves more strongly to working on our vision for the Eastern Region and for implementing some of the national ACPE strategic initiatives – the project that Joan led as our President-Elect. For me, participating in the ministry of supervision and the mission of our organization, about which Joan has been so passionate, is one way to express my gratitude for who she is and the ways she has shaped my life and work.

On that note, I also want to tell you about the Administrative Board retreat. We met for an overnight retreat at Stony Point and worked hard to explore how some of the national ACPE strategic initiatives might best be implemented in our region, according to our needs. We worked specifically on envisioning creative ways to enhance our multi-cultural competency within the region and becoming more aware of the needs of various cultural, religious, and socio-economic groups in our areas, as

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well as how we might make CPE programs more accessible to these communities. We also discussed developing a regional website for multicultural students to be able to connect with other students from their own or other cultures who are doing CPE at other sites. Another of our desires is to figure out how to “pool” the resources of the region. Many people are already doing extremely creative work in this area and have curricula and programs they might be willing to share. In the area of certification, administrative board members also came up with some very creative ideas to address some of the problem areas in the certification process—such as the lack of unified criteria for writing theory papers. In addition, we looked for ways to encourage more people to enter the supervisory training process, as we are facing a shortage of supervisors. One of the more immediate goals is to add continuing education opportunities for training supervisors and those who are interested in becoming training supervisors at SOS and the regional meetings. Two other strategic initiatives that we worked with dealt with diverse settings and accreditation. Since so many of our centers are located in hospitals, we recognize the need to continue to create bridges to other areas and to utilize our resources to make CPE accessible to persons in other forms of chaplaincy, such as police chaplains and prison chaplains.

At the retreat we addressed three other areas of importance for our region. First, we made some changes in the way that the Administrative Board and Executive Committee will function in the future. Our overall sense was that we have become bogged down in meetings that get too focused on simply attending to the ongoing business of the region. We have learned that we can do that work by conference call and that much of that work can be handled by the Executive Committee, as needed. This will free the Administrative Board to function not only in a business capacity, but also as a creative leadership team. To accomplish this goal, the Board will meet annually for a two-day retreat. The current leaders on the Board and the ones who will take office the following year will be part of this retreat to provide for more creativity and continuity. Second, we made a plan for how we will spend the surplus in our budget over the next three years on regional projects that are approved by the Administrative Board. More on that process will be forthcoming. Finally, we explored in depth the decision by the national ACPE Board of Representatives that mandates that ACPE centers can no longer be dually accredited as CPSP centers. The ER Administrative Board is deeply aware that this decision impacts several centers in our region and that it presents a difficult situation for dually certified ACPE/CPSP supervisors. Our overwhelming desire is to be pastoral and sensitive to our colleagues and friends while we are all working towards putting the Board of Representatives decision into action. We sincerely hope that those centers which are dually accredited will choose to stay with us in ACPE.

Jo Clare did an excellent job putting together the minutes of this retreat and I invite you to read them to understand the fuller picture both of what happened during the gathering and the decisions that we made. We welcome your ideas and input and I hope that you will feel free to share your thoughts and ideas about how we as a region can work creatively to envision our future and how we can best utilize these initiatives to accomplish our goals. Our next regional business meeting will be held at the national ACPE meeting in Tampa, Florida, in November. We hope to use a significant portion of that meeting time to discuss this vision together.

As I said earlier, there is a lot going on in our region, and I’m sure this is only the tip of the iceberg. In this time of change, impending loss, and possibilities for new growth, I urge all of us to stay connected, to keep talking, and to utilize our peers for support, encouragement, and challenge. This is the foundation of what we are as a region.

Blessings to all of you,

Beth Glover

Board Rap

(From the Eastern Region Representatives to ACPE Board of Representatives):

The ACPE Board of Representatives oversees the business and policy making process for our organization. As everyone knows, the Board has in the last year or so undertaken to focus more on the future with the Strategic Planning Initiative, led by President Joan Hemenway. Starting with a survey of the membership, the Board sought to clearly define the direction and goals of ACPE for the next few years. There has been good energy around this project and the effort has dovetailed well with work already underway in the Certification and Accreditation Commissions, as well as other task forces.

Obviously, right now everyone's attention is focused on Joan and her family. The Board will have a conference call soon to talk about how we are all dealing with this terrible news and about the future. Our prayers and concerns meanwhile are all directed to Joan and Jennifer at this difficult time.

We have also as a Board initiated a dialogue with the Board of the Association of Professional Chaplains. This effort that is explicitly identified in the Strategic Plan became more concrete with our May meeting in Atlanta where the APC had their annual conference at the same time as the Board meeting. We will meet again as two Boards next spring in Burlingame, California after the APC annual conference. The first question asked at this gathering was "what can we do together that will serve both organizations?" We brainstormed a number of ideas, but that discussion will continue. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please let me or Greg Stoddard know as we will be representing you at that meeting.

Peace,

Jeffery Silberman,
Eastern Region Representative

jeffery.silberman@norwalkhealth.org

Calendar of Events

**Regional Accreditation Committee Meeting:
Healthcare Chaplaincy, NYC
September 15, 2006**

**ER Certification Committee: Stony Point
September 20 – 22, 2006**

**Seminar on Supervision: Stony Point, NY
"Get a Theory - Get a Life"
October 22-23, 2006**

**National Pastoral Care Week
"Healing Humor"
October 22 – 28, 2006**

**National ACPE Conference, Tampa, FL
"When Lightning Strikes: Risk and Awe
in Supervision"
Nov 15 – 18, 2006**

**REM Invitational XX
Feb 1 – 3, 2007
Indianapolis, IN**