

Eastern Region, ACPE

Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania

Web Address: <http://www.eneacpe.org>

REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

Winter 2010



Co-Regional Directors

The Reverend Jo Clare Wilson and
The Reverend Nancy Anderson

FROM THE CORDS



The above picture is from a warmer climate – The Spiritual Care Collaborative last February in Orlando – or was it really that warm? We are convinced the cold follows us everywhere. The picture below is the Regional Director's Consultation we returned from at the end of January and it was **unseasonably** cold in San Diego. It was good to be with the other RD folks and to hear how our organization is doing

throughout the 9 regions. Jap Keith, Regional Director for the Southeast region, wrote the following words in a “reflection” about the consultation:

Historically, the relationship between the RDs and ED of the ACPE has never been defined by the governance manuals or the By-laws. That relationship has been fluid, and has been continually negotiated, almost annually, by the good will of the RDs and the ED. The ED is selected by, reports to, and is held accountable to the ACPE Board of Reps through its Personnel Committee. Regions establish the job descriptions, employ, and hold RDs accountable according to each region’s governance structure.

The above underscores the fact that RDs do not make decisions about the governance of ACPE or in establishing the objectives and goals for the organization. We do hear reports about the work of the Board, the national office, the changes in technology, the issues in different regions and strategies to intervene. One such project which the Board of ACPE Representatives directed was a Peer Assistance Program Task Force charged with looking at a possible structure that could provide treatment for supervisors as needed. Stu Plummer (RD South Central) along with several board members had drafted a proposal which will be going to the board. RDs were encouraged to explore and collaborate on what existing resources are within each region. ***Are any of you aware of such resources for treatment for impaired supervisors?*** We would be interested in hearing about them.

Most of you know by now that there is no longer a paper ACPE News – we have truly gone electronic. There was much discussion among the RDs about the current national website and whether it is “user friendly” when looking for an address or phone number. Some of us are old enough to remember (and occasionally wish for) the old “red books”!

The biggest news of the meeting is about the ongoing work of the FCPE – Foundation for ACPE. The ACPE Board of Reps has approved the beginning of a capital fund campaign in 2010. ACPE has begun the process of purchasing new property by establishing a contract with owners of a property in Decatur, GA. This report, coming from Stu, Teresa, Bill Scribner (past president) and Dennis Kenny (RD, East Central) have been involved in reviewing the property, the bid and in conversation with the Decatur City Manager about utilizing the Decatur Conference Center. Agnes Bourne, a member of FCPE Board and an experienced designer spoke about the possibilities for mutual collaboration in and around Decatur for the work of ACPE. It is an exciting venture and one that is in line with our Strategic Plan. If you remember at our last bi-regional meeting in October the presentation Teresa made about the ACPE Academy for Continuing Education is becoming a reality, to begin at the Kansas City national conference in April. The possibility of this location and our endeavors to bring this reality to fruition are exciting!

Please note that the registration for the Annual ACPE Conference in Kansas City, MO, have been mailed and you should have received yours. Please contact the national office if you haven’t. Speaking of the national conference in April, we are

delighted that one of our own will be receiving the *2010 ACPE Distinguished Service Award – The Reverend Denise Haines!* We hope to see as many of you there as possible to celebrate this deserving honor given. Also, of note - we have 7 Eastern Region students in attendance at the REM Invitational in San Antonio this weekend Feb 3 – 6. We look forward to reports from them in the spring newsletter!

If you have information for the next Regional Newsletter, the deadline for submission to the Regional Office is April 25, 2010.

AROUND THE REGION

On a pastoral note we ask that you continue to keep Jim Jeffrey in your prayers – he has made a strong recovery from having quadruple bypass and mitral valve replacement! We have been in touch with him weekly and if you would like to send him a note you can at bjjeffrey@optonline.net or snail mail to: 30 The Circle, East Hampton, NY 11937-2725. Other news that we are aware of is that Harlan Ratmeyer was out of commission over the holidays with gall bladder/pancreatic problems and we understand he is on the mend. Steve Dutton has resigned as Chair of the Accreditation Chair we are sorry to say but for reasons which help his good health and for that we are thankful. He is this week undergoing knee surgery and we wish him a speedy recovery. That is all the news that we know about. Hope all of you are well and staying warm!

UPDATE FROM THE BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

This is an update from your Eastern Region ACPE Board of Representatives, Greg Stoddard and Ken Hayden

We have significant celebrations to recognize in the Eastern Region. Denise Haines will receive the Distinguish Service Award at the ACPE Conference in Kansas City, MO. Peter Keese, Jim Corrigan and Dave Myler will receive the Helen Flanders Dunbar Award in Kansas City. Kathleen Davis, Ray Cooley, Emily Jean Gilbert, Glen Jantzi, Richard Bennick, and Jack Gleason were approved for Supervisor Emeritus. Keith Espenshade has begun his term as Chair of Standards and Ted Trout-Landen is the chair elect for 2010-11 will become the Chair of Personnel in 2011-12. ACPE gained 30 clinical members in 2009. The Clinical membership is represented by Claudia Meyer of the Eastern Region. We hope you will congratulate each of these honored men and women.

The Board voted to enter into dialogue with REM leadership to explore the feasibility of holding the 2012 national conference in conjunction with the 25th anniversary of REM in Washington, DC.

There were seven New Generations projects approved; the funding was for \$20,000. In a separate matter, The University of Louisville (CPE in East Africa), Care & Counseling Center of GA, Boggs Center for Developmental Disabilities and Methodist Hospital of Southern California (CPE at Recovery ministry- substance abuse) were awarded program grants.

The Board approved the proposal for ACPE Academy-Center for Management Studies. The Academy is offering these continuing education classes at the 2010 Annual Conference. Please sign up!!

The Board of Representatives voted to affirm the cost cutting measures as noted in the member survey (October); The Board voted to eliminate the past-president's position. This and other budget cuts enabled ACPE not to raise fees for 2010. One such budget constraint was to reduce the Leadership meetings in November, 2010 by one day and each region will send only one member. Greg Stoddard will be attend the November, 2010 meeting in Atlanta.

The Board voted to direct FCPE to initiate capital campaign. The Board and each member of ACPE are reminded to consider making a donation to the annual campaign of ACPE. The annual campaign is the life blood of the FCPE (Foundation for Clinical Pastoral Education). Members can contribute on line at www.foundationforcpe.org from your bank account or using a credit card (MC or VISA), then sending **information to** Glenda.Shipley@FoundationforCPE.org.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The following piece was written by our own Ken Hayden (Wellspan) regarding ACPE and International Students. ACPE has published this piece but not in the ACPE News. We hope you read this excellent reflection by Ken and engage with others in dialogue about this matter. Thank you Ken!

International Students: Blessings and Challenges for an ACPE Center
Rev. Ken Hayden, Manager Pastoral Care & Education
Wellspan Health
York, PA

ACPE has been supportive of international students for CPE for a number of years. Our emphasis on multi-cultural competency and diversity are principles which inform our spiritual care and our supervisory practice. At WellSpan Health, we have had a number of international students in our CPE programs for the last ten years. With the events of 9/11; the subsequent tightening of visa guidelines and the vastly narrowing of criteria from the department of State, we have noted the increasing amount of effort required from applicants, the ACPE and our Center. In the last four years, we have accepted seven international students, ranging from Nigeria, Slovakia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Korea, and Canada.

ACPE's web site gives details of the application process, types of visas, and obtaining international insurance. See "A guide for international students interested in CPE in the United States" http://www.acpe.edu/intl_info.htm. The international applicant must purchase insurance. The ability to understand and comprehend English is significant since they must be able comprehend health care nuances. For example, the applicant has to request doctor's office visit coverage or pharmaceutical coverage

for an additional cost. Many applicants miss this element. ACPE states, “the cost may be more than the international student can cover with a CPE Resident stipend.” Our experience is that is quite true. Through my relationships with the United Methodist Church, I was able to facilitate scholarship money for a resident who was a graduate of Africa University.

A striking aspect occurred in 2007 when the visa protocol indicated a face-to-face interview required. After consultation with ACPE Executive Director, the Associate Director, ACPE staff and our WellSpan legal counsel, we decided to produce a DVD/video. We made a DVD explaining our CPE center, its’ programs and included interview questions. The purpose of the DVD was to meet the criteria of an interview to assess their pastoral skill, formation, cultural awareness and ability to navigate through both the visa and healthcare systems. Upon receipt of the application (electronic or hard copy), we will send the DVD with written instructions. The applicant must make a DVD/video in response to our interview questions and return it to us. A follow up phone call to the applicant is then made after receipt of the DVD.

All of this is fraught with potential technological challenges to us and the applicant. We were aware of potential cultural issues relating to the availability of this technology (DVD/video) to the applicant and us. We also noted this was an additional cost and time involved to the applicant. We changed our deadline for international applicants to September 1, of the year prior to their potential entry to our CPE Residency. This assumes the international applicant has a previous unit of CPE or can demonstrate their ability to give and receive pastoral care in a manner similar to a Level 1 CPE student. All of this information is on our web site: <http://www.wellspan.org/body.cfm?id=232>

A dramatic change occurred in 2007 when the Department of State’s guidelines dictated that ACPE would sponsor international students for Residency programs on the J1 visa. While the J1 visa was available to international applicants, we encouraged applicants toward the R1 visa. In December, 2008, the Department of State, changed its policies regarding the R1 (religious worker) visa program: http://www.bracewellgiuliani.com/index.cfm/fa/news.advisory/item/82e05159-55ea-45fe-83b5-d8981cb3e713/US_Citizenship_and_Immigration_Services_Issues_Final_Religious_Worker_Visa_Rule.cfm.

From these requirements, we note the amount of time to process and applicant was going to increase from six months. The financial cost to the applicant was going to be significant, the energy expended and anxiety was higher and the ability to speak with clarity and comprehension to navigate a visa process was essential.

As CPE Supervisors, we found ourselves developing assessment skills for English comprehension (verbally and in writing), becoming familiar with Visa regulations and developing relationships with various lawyers and members of Department of State. We are blessed by WellSpan Health to have an immigration lawyer who also advises our Medical Residency programs. His expertise and knowledge of the immigration and visa process has been extremely valuable.

We have been supported every step by ACPE. We are grateful for their candor, honesty, kindness and expertise. Our international students have expressed both gratitude for the opportunity and the frustrations. One key issue is cultural expectations. Every student expressed their frustration at cumbersome visa approval

process. In spite of our admonitions to apply no less than eight months prior to a scheduled arrival date, all did not. Six months was not enough. We placed an arrival deadline to York, PA. of August 15 to facilitate last minute issues (housing, transportation, etc.).

In spite of being well educated on cultural and language issues, we underestimate the impact that culture has on international applicants and our ACPE programs. Issues of community networking, local language idioms, differences in US faith groups, housing expectations, food, and transportation were just a few of the struggles to navigate.

The international students are a part of our educational and spiritual care at WellSpan health. One resident wore a button on his coat that said simply, SING. One day, a nurse manager spoke to me about her joy of having “Rev. Sing” assigned to her nursing unit. I smiled and gave thanks.

We do not know all the answers to the issues of getting international applicants into our CPE Residency program. They are a welcome component and add immensely to our education and spiritual care. There is also significant anxiety created when they are unable to arrive in a timely fashion and when we underestimate the cultural impact to them. While we have been able to manage this aspect, we have experienced increasing pressure to have all chaplain residents present at employee orientation. This has created additional anxiety for both us and hospital staff, and required us to have more than one back up plan in place since we provide spiritual care through education. If, for visa reasons, a chaplain resident cannot arrive on time for the program, we are then challenged to cover those areas of the hospital.

We welcome additional dialogue with other CPE Centers, ACPE and Department of State.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **March 14-15 SOS at Stony Point, NY Registration was sent out and is on website!**
www.eneacpe.org
- February 19 Regional Accreditation Meeting – HealthCare Chaplaincy, NYC

JOB/EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

[Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, Phila. PA](http://www.einstein.edu) Five **residency** positions, year-long, beginning Aug. 30, 2010. \$34,000 stipend. Healthcare benefits, generous paid time-off. Apts. nearby. Committed to multi-cultural care, teaching network with an historic Jewish identity in an ethnically diverse urban setting. Collaborate with professional chaplains in a supportive department. Level 1 Trauma, Critical Care, Transplant, Rehabilitation, Psychiatry, Neo-Natal Care. Diverse peer group. Prior CPE unit required. Info at www.einstein.edu. Contact Rabbi Leah Wald. 215-456-8979, WaldL@einstein.edu, Albert

Einstein Healthcare Network, 5501 Old York Rd. Philadelphia, PA. 19141. No application fee. **Extended** positions also. (0068)

OFFICERS OF THE REGION

Chair: Paul Steinke
Chair Elect: Martin Montonye
Secretary: Angie Van Hise
Treasurer: David Stickley
Board Representatives: Greg Stoddard and Ken Hayden
Accreditation Chair: Vacant
Certification Chair: Maureen Mitchell
Standards: Peter Kuhn
Nominating: Jay Cooke
Ethics: Ray Cooley
Clinical Members: Claudia Landau
Annual Conference: David Fleenor
Strategic Planning: Martin Montonye

REGIONAL BUSINESS OFFICE

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