



Where Culture is Alive and Diversity is Valued

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Southwest Region, ACPE

Spring 2017



From the Regional Director:

As this edition of the region's newsletter is being published, the work of implementing the ACPE's new organizational design is well underway. Although you have not yet heard much publicly, the implementation team is well underway and beginning the arduous task of building the structure we approved last May. As the year progresses you will be receiving increased information on how the new structure is being implemented and formed. Already in this edition of the newsletter, you will see an article contributed by Sarah Knoll-Sweeney (Supervisor at CHI St. Luke's in Houston) who is a member of the implementation team.

Over the past several months, I've had the occasion to be in conversations in several different venues, but all related in one way or another to the implementation. I have been struck by the fact that planning for the new organization and actually putting it into existence are almost two different things. The first might actually have been the easier task; the second more difficult. The work of putting the new structure in place has confronted us with the reality that we will be giving up some very familiar ways of living and working together in the ACPE. Regions will no longer exist as we know them; familiar patterns of gathering for business, education, professional development, and relationship building will be replaced with new structures and patterns that are not yet known to us. In some ways, this must be what Abraham was up against when he was called by the Holy One to leave his home and go to a place that was unknown. He did not know where or to what he was headed, only that he was going.

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From the Director continued:

Leaving what is familiar for what is not yet known is indeed scary work. It's one thing to plan; it's quite another to begin the trek. Yet here we are; the boat has left the harbor. And whether we are willing to admit it or not, we are all on the boat **together!** There is no "they" or "them." We are all joined together in the work of finding our way to this new place.

If you haven't read Peter Senge's book, *The Fifth Discipline*, I commend it to your reading. Senge observes that the one mark of a successful organization is that it is a learning organization. AND the primary characteristic of a learning organization is its ability and capacity to *suspend disbelief*. By suspending disbelief, Senge does not suggest that we give up long held convictions or beliefs, or even doubts. He only suggests that we suspend these doubts and disbeliefs in such a way that allows us truly to see, hear and understand what is being proposed. Already in the early stages of this implementation process, I have heard judgments being made about why a proposed new structure or way of doing business will not work or how it will disrupt what is familiar to us, without asking inquiring questions or even attempting to understand the proposal from the perspective of the other. To use another language: in our anxiety about change, we seem reluctant to practice *appreciative inquiry!*

The truth is that as an organization, we are in the very same place that most of our students are in when they are confronted with giving up old ways of being and practicing their ministry; they are scared about leaving what is familiar to what is unknown! And in the middle of that we invite, ask, challenge, and even confront them to "trust the process," i.e. suspend their disbelief!

I issue both an invitation and a challenge to all of us - myself included! We are an excellent teaching organization! I observe;

From the Director continued:

however, that we are not a very good learning organization. We do not seem to have a well developed ability to suspend our disbelief in a way to hear and learn from others - especially those who may have a different idea about how the organization should be structured and organized. My invitation and challenge in this time of anxious transition is that each of us assume responsibility for ourselves to practice suspension of disbelief and/or appreciative inquiry.

As anxious as this moment is for many of us, and as much as we are grieving the loss of our regions and familiar ways of doing things, we are in a moment of opportunity to build on our strong tradition and create a new foundation and structure that will carry us into the future. We are in this together! Let's practice learning together!

Accreditation Update from Jim Duke

I'm the new guy here at Accreditation. Like many of you, perhaps, who have not served in Accreditation or on another team to keep our organization running smoothly, I did not realize how much time and effort it takes to do the job well. As I lean into this corner of the Vineyard and the vital work of Accreditation, I have become extremely thankful for those who went before me and blazed the trail (or just kept it open). I thank Ron Lovelace for inviting me into this place last year and helping to set me on the right path. I thank Wayne Menking for being patient with me as I have had a sharp learning curve in this arena. I have also come to recognize the great effort and commitment of our national leadership on Commissions and our regional people who give their best in Certification, Leadership, RANC, and a host of other thank-less and tedious tasks which others don't see. Thank you to you all.

My commitment is to lean forward in the foxhole (an Army-ism) and do my best. I have a great team of people, all of whom are also committed to assisting you in staying afloat accreditation-wise. We have taken on an informal motto of 'appreciating' you, wanting to be a collegial and helpful consultant in your work. We are in this together for sure, battle buddies if you will.

The State of Accreditation is good by my estimate. We entered 2017 with 36 System or Individual centers, 54 unique centers. Last year we added 2 new centers and welcome the Oklahoma VA and Terrell State Hospital centers to the family. We did 5 Five-Year Reviews and 1 Ten-Year Accreditation. We added SES training at Texas Health Huguley, the only center in the country to add a new SES program. In 2017, we will conduct 4 Five-Year Reviews, 1 Ten-Year Accreditation, 2 new satellites, 1 new SES program, and the addition of one new center at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa in San Antonio, which will join CHRISTUS Spohn (Corpus Christi) and CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances (Tyler) to form the CHRISTUS System. That is exciting news. Many of you know Mary Davis at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa who will probably be the system supervisor.

The future of Accreditation and just how it works is in the hands of the national Task Force, but I am told that it will be more efficient and more responsive to supervisors and centers. One thing I do know is that everyone I know attached to this endeavor is committed to the task and the mission of providing first class education in first class centers with first class supervisors. As Audie Murphy said often, "Follow Me."



Certification Update from Robin Booth

The Certification Committee met on March 10, 2017 and discussed the business of this committee. There will be four people appearing in May at the National Certification Commission meeting requesting CPE Supervisor status. They are: Bicri Hernandez, Michael Cohen, Ron Cooper, and Joey Rivera.

The Certification Committee celebrated the success of three Supervisory Candidates whose papers passed. They were: Christinah Kwaramba, Bisser Ovcharov, and Alicia Po Ching.

The Certification Committee affirmed the decision of the sub-committee who met with Alicia Po Ching who requested and was granted an Extension of Supervisory Candidate status.

The Certification Committee has received a request to meet an individual in April, 2017 who is requesting a Regional Readiness Consultation and there are two individuals who are requesting to meet with a sub-committee in the summer as they seek Supervisory Candidate status.

The Committee was updated on the changes within the Certification process of ACPE and was encouraged to attend the pre-conference workshops that will focus on the changes within this process.

Currently there are 5 Supervisory Candidates, three individuals who have met for readiness and are moving towards Supervisory Candidate status and one who has requested to begin the certification process. We would encourage centers to consider creating positions for Supervisory Education position, in order for this region to be educating future leaders within our organization.



News from the Hispanic Task Force

Thanks to the work of Carlos Sanchez, the region's Hispanic Task Force is now expanding its outreach into Venezuela. On a trip to his home country some time ago, Carlos heard and recognized the need that spiritual care givers in that region have for more training in spiritual and pastoral care. This is especially the case in light of that country's tragic and devastating political and economic situation. Carlos returned with a proposal to the Task Force to financially support future trips to Venezuela to implement a basic training curriculum. The Task Force agreed, and Carlos is now working on implementing that training and curriculum.

This endeavor along with the Task Force's work at CHRISTUS MUGUERZA in Monterrey, Mexico has gained the recognition of many in the ACPE organization as an integral part of the ACPE's efforts to create more international partnerships with persons and organizations seeking to create programs of spiritual care training. Congratulations to the Task Force for their commitment and efforts!



Around the Region

Our thoughts and prayers go with **Linda Wilkerson** and **Mark Grace** at the death of Linda's mother. Velma Gillen Wilkerson died on March 18 and her funeral was held on March 21 at First Baptist Church in Mauldin, SC. Our prayers go with Linda and Mark in this time of grief.

Welcome to **Tom Carter** who returns to the Southwest Region. Tom is now at Texas Health Resources in Fort Worth with Oliver Lee.

Spring Leadership Meetings Held

The 2017 Spring Leadership meetings of the Southwest Region were held at the Embassy Suites Dallas Love Field, March 10-11. The gathering included meetings of the Accreditation Committee, Certification Committee, and the Leadership Council.

Reports for the Certification Committee and the Accreditation Committee appear in this newsletter. Minutes from the Leadership Council will be posted on the region's website as soon as they are available.



ACPE National Conference Meets in Minneapolis, May 3-6

The 2017 Annual Conference of the ACPE will convene May 3-6 at the Minneapolis Marriott City Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The latest reports indicate that registration is now well over four hundred with the possibility that registration may reach five hundred. As you know this will be the 50th anniversary celebration of the ACPE, and the conference will focus on celebrating the organization's rich history as well as its transition into its new organizational structure and design! Keynote speakers will include Parker Palmer, Carrie Newcomer, Gregory Clark Ellison II, and Matthew Sanford.

With the transition and implementation into the new organizational structure underway, workshops, among others, will include :Communities of Practice, what they are, how they get started, and how they will be funded; and the new Certification Process. This is important information that you will not want to miss.

The hotel is now full and arrangements for housing in other nearby hotels has been arranged. For registration and housing information, go to the ACPE website at www.acpe.edu.

Regional SES Day, April 21

The Southwest Region's SES Day will be held on Friday, April 21 at Houston Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas. All SES and their supervisors in the region are invited and encouraged to attend. Susan Buchanan, current SES at Houston Methodist is coordinating the day. If you haven't already, please notify Susan if you are planning to participate. Her email is:

slbuchanan@houstonmethodist.org

SAVE THE DATE!!

OCTOBER 26-28, 2017

SOUTHWEST REGION ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

gathering under the theme:

BLESSING OUR TRADITION;
EMBRACING OUR TRANSITION

Embassy Suites Hotel - Albuquerque, New Mexico

Hotel reservations can now be made at the following link:

http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/A/ABQEMES-ACP-20171026/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

More information to come!

