

**Association of Clinical Pastoral Education  
North Central Region  
Annual Conference  
October 10-12, 2010**

**Racial Ethnic Multicultural Committee**

The mission of the REM network is to 1) recruit, develop and empower ethnic, racial, multicultural persons in their formation and competence in ministry, and 2) to enhance, encourage and enable the practice of ministry in institutions, churches, and community through education, consultation, fellowship, networking and worship.

Because of the North Central Region's commitment to this mission, four persons received vital support to attend the 2010 REM conference held February 3<sup>rd</sup> – the 6<sup>th</sup> in San Antonio, Texas. The theme for the gathering was "*Living in a Post-Racial Society? Race, Ethnicity, Diversity and Empowerment in Clinical Pastoral Education*". The two plenary speakers were dynamic and impacted not only my perspective of what it means to be empowered by racial, ethnic and cultural diversity, but how to bring the same to CPE. **The Rev. Miguel A. De La Torre, PhD.** spoke from a focus on social and political ethics within contemporary U.S. thought, specifically how religion affects race, class, and gender oppression. **Dr. Namsoon Kang**, an Associate Professor of World Christianity and Religions at Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University brought a powerful presentation, as she introduced new concepts about identity and its meaning. The Rev. Dr. Claudette Copeland, co-founder and pastor of New Creation Fellowship was the keynote speaker for the banquet. Together, they challenged us, stirred our thinking and emotions, as well as, launched a healing journey for many. It was an experience to be remembered.

This year, REM explored another approach to the fulfillment of its goals. The committee has designed the continued education section for this conference with the hope of beginning a process that will further integrate attitudes and behaviors of respect for diversity, into the fabric of CPE. The theme "Creating & Sustaining Cultural Humility" has been selected with the desire to heighten awareness and strengthen our multicultural competence for the ministry of CPE as well as the enrichment of our lives. We are grateful to Dr. Maureen Walker, our plenary speaker for this conference. Her generosity has made some of our dreams come true. The rest is up to us, individually and collectively.

Brenda S. Jackson, Chair, NCR - REM