

ACPE NEWS

of the North Central Region

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Gary Sartain, Regional Director

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Phil Finally Gets His Award!

Phil Olson was granted the North Central Region Distinguished Service Award in 2001. However, he was unable to attend our Annual Meeting to receive it. Knowing that, we decided to delay the presentation until 2002. When he was once again unable to join us, we went ahead and bestowed it in absentia. Lyle Greiner took the lead, making sure that he was both honored and duly “roasted”. Phil’s plaque from the Region and the antique pocket watch given him by Lyle on that occasion were given to the Dakota Sub-Region for safe-keeping, until a proper setting could be found at which to present them to him person. That opportunity arose at the Sub-Region’s recent July gathering at a lake cottage near Fergus Falls, MN. Presenting the items to Phil is Sub-Region Chair, Dixie Potratz Lehman, with Dean Meeter, Ron Mahnke, Jim Tonneson, and Peter Holland looking on. Phil was unable to attend the 2002 meeting because of his wife’s health problems. We are happy to report that that issue appears to be behind them.

NCR CPE Students offer a unique perspective on their experiences by paraphrasing H.W. Longfellow and the tune “Summertime” Enjoy...

**Minnesota Medicine Song
(With apologies to H.W. Longfellow)**

On the banks of the Mississippi,
Mississippi mighty river,
In the State of Minnesota
Buildded they a house of healing.
There they built a holy temple,
Staffed it with the finest doctors,
Each fulfilling priestly functions.
There dispensed they pills and potions,
Scanned and X-rayed all their patients.
There they cut and then dismembered
All necrotic, damaged tissue,
And with gift of high technology
These high priests extended life-span.
Acolyting stood the nurses,
Implementing priestly orders.
And with kindness and compassion
Supervised the medication,
Monitored the intravenous,
And applied the oils and unguents
Designated in a care plan
For the healing and relieving
Of the sick and suffering people
In the thriving, teeming city—
Minneapolis, river city,
On the banks of Mississippi.

But within this holy temple
Worked another holy order
To engage in holy healing,
Healing of the damaged spirits
Of the sick and suffering people.
These they called hospital chaplains.
Theirs a work of great discerning:
Present to both staff and patients,
Telling truth in sacred fashion,
Weighing ethical dimensions
Of both benefits and burdens
In the plans of care and treatment.
Then in meeting with the patients,
Listening to the painful stories,
Being present in the anguish,
Seeing where a heart is broken.
Theirs the voice, in greatest kindness,
Tells the truth with no dissembling.
Theirs the work to be a soul-friend
In the sacred place of dying,
In the fear and in the losses,
Holding up a grace filled moment.
Theirs the work of *anan charas**.

* Soul-friends-Gaelic



Zara Renander

2002-2003
Chaplain Resident
Allina CPE Program
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Summer Lament
To the tune of “Summertime”**

Linda Bets

Chaplain (& Former Resident)
Iowa Methodist, Lutheran & Blank Children’s Hospitals
Des Moines, IA

Summertime, when the accidents happen,
Cars are crashin’ and our census is high.
Oh the unit’s full and ED is a-jumpin’;
So run, little chaplain, don’t you sigh.

Summertime, when the chaplains are learnin’
Not to climb on the roof or pour gas on a fire.
Folks get kicked by a horse, or they’re rollin’ the tractor.
They’re getting in line to join the angel choir.

One in the mornin' and your pager is beeping,
So you leap from bed and dash for the hall.
But, when you reach the floor, nobody needs you.
So, cry, little chaplain, hang your head and bawl.

Summertime, and the hospital's busy.
We got trauma galore, from the bike trail or mall.
Oh, it's heavy now, summer is the worst season—
Except when it's winter, springtime, or fall.

Summertime, and your feet are a-swellin'.
Your eyeballs burn; you're suppressing a yawn.
Mrs. Smith talks on 'bout her warts and her bunions.
Sit up, little chaplain, two hours before the dawn.

Summertime, and I thought that God called me.
But look at me; won't you please change your mind?
Thought I'd visit folks, pray and make 'em all happy.
"Hush, little chaplain, seek and you shall find."

Iowa Sub-Region holds annual CPE Retreat June 30 & July 1

NCR's Barbara Sheehan (ACTS Urban CPE Program, Chicago) presents from her book:
Partners in Covenant: The Art of Spiritual Companionship



The Iowa Sub-Region held its annual summer CPE Retreat June 30th and July 1st at **Pilgrim Heights Retreat Center in Tama, IA**. All Iowa CPE Supervisors and students were invited to participate in an event designed to allow participants to get away from their clinical settings, mix with peers from other programs, and “engage in thought/feeling processes that contribute to their formation”. There were 40 plus participants who were engaged by **Barbara Sheehan** (CPE Supervisor, ACTS Urban CPE Program, Chicago) around what it means to exercise “spiritual companionship”. Participants were invited to re-image power as “the ability to enter into relationship and be changed by them”.

Barbara led the group in a “Haiku” exercise in which participants were invited to first come up with a noun, then three adjectives to describe it, then a five word description of it. They were then asked to consider and write down God’s call or word to them about it, followed by their response to that Word. Some of the results are found on the next page...

Healing...
Churning, painful, releasing...
Feeling, experiencing past-present, changing...
God says: "Let go of these experiences, pain & memories that no longer serve you."
I respond: "If you want me to do your work, I need a body than can do it. Help me to heal—I have done my part. I am born anew."

Water...
Icy, cold, refreshing...
Wets my parched, dry mouth...
God says: "I will quench your thirst."
I respond: "Flow through me."

Transformation...
Healing, painful, passionate...
New, creative, redemptive, saving, sensuous...
God says: "Know the Truth and the Truth shall set you free."
I respond: "Amen—Be my helper."

Halo...
Light, brightness, glow...
Centered in on one's being...
God says: "My gift to you!"
I respond: "Thanks!"

Prayer...
Silent, pleading, eager...
Listen to hear...
God says: "Let God be God."
I respond: "I will be still and know."

Spirit...
Loving, powerful, defining...
Primal purity of and for creation...
God says: "Be a tree, be a rock, be a God-made person—just be!"
I say: "Help me to be!"

Bread...
Lifegiving, rising, sustaining...
Food that is more than food...
God says: "I am your bread."
I say: "Yes!"

Home...
Comfortable, loving, warm...
The place for me...
God says: "Everyone will have a home."
I say: "I will work and pray to make it so."

Recreation, skits and worship rounded out the Iowa event:



How would you like to meet this coming out of surgery,

or be the recipient of one of the

"10 Worst Things a Chaplain Can Say"

as reported by the NCR's version of David Letterman?



Although the judges ruled some presentations "a bit constipating" (you had to be there), others... brought out the farmer in a certain participant.

The closing Worship was led by the group from St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, Sioux City and their mascot, "GUS":

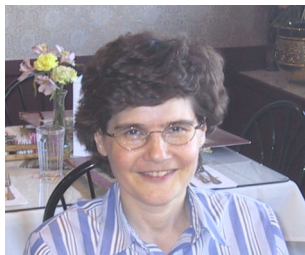


RD Ramblings....

North Central Region in Flux!

The landscape of the North Central Region is changing at a pace the seems unprecedented in our recent history:

We have had three Supervisors, **Walter Balk** (Mendota Mental Health, Madison, WI), **Sue Breiner** (recently closed Hennepin Country Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN), and **Don Stiger** (national office – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Chicago) leave the Region for Kalamazoo, Michigan; South Bend, Indiana; and New York, NY; respectively. And Janet Labrecque has made a move within the Twin Cities from North Memorial Medical Center to the Fairview CPE System.



Laura Kelley will leave Fairview immanently to go to Eau Claire, WI (Luther Middlefort Hospital), where she will initially join, and ultimately replace, Mike Carlson, who retires at the end of the year. And **Diane Greve** will leave City of Lakes Transitional Care Center in Minneapolis in October to fill the position with Fairview vacated by Laura.

Meanwhile, **Kathy Turner** is taking a leave-of-absence from Meriter in Madison, WI to accompany her husband to Paris, where he will serve a parish for a year.

There is some potential growth: **Linda Bronersky** reports that the Wheaton System where she is currently employed as a chaplain is likely going to actively pursue the creation of an ACPE accredited system-wide CPE program and Linda Campbell reports that the Minneapolis VA Hospital is entertaining the prospect of hiring a supervisor and offering CPE.

It is hoped that both North Memorial and Mendota Mental Health will continue their programs, though neither has yet acted to advertise their positions. **Clyde Burmeister** has been supervising the Residents at North Memorial. However, they have chosen to hire contract chaplains for the next year, rather than try to start a new residency year without having hired a permanent replacement for Janet. (We are happy to report that Clyde's recovery from serious back surgery seems to be going very well, with physician—but not necessarily Pat—permission to resume golfing projected for September.



Diane Greve's move to Fairview was precipitated in part by an opportunity to “go home”—she started out as a Resident at what is now Fairview-University Hospital—and in part by the reality that her current employer, City of Lakes Transitional Care Center, was likely unable to sustain their commitment to their CPE program at a level that would allow employment of a full-time Supervisor, given the current funding restraints imposed on such facilities by the State of Minnesota.

Meanwhile, Alexian Brothers, Rush Presbyterian St. Lukes, Advocate, and Resurrection Health Care are all seeking additional Supervisors in the Chicago area, as are Allina in Minneapolis and Aurora in Milwaukee. Aurora has just learned that Janis Blain-Kachigan has decided not to continue with her ACPE certification and to focus on spiritual direction, pastoral counseling and direct service chaplaincy. Allina has met their shortage and helped further CPE in Iceland by arranging to have **Gunner Mathiason** come back and do a summer unit. Gunner will present the unit as he seeks ACPE Supervisor Certification. He is currently an Associate Supervisor.



Your RD is committed to working with all of these programs to try to fill the vacancies and/or find creative solutions. Fortunately, there seems to be one on the horizon with City of Lakes. Diane Greve and several chaplains from other long-term care institutions in the area have elicited support from their administrations to form a consortium that can pool resources to continue to offer CPE through the City of Lakes accreditation by employing contract Supervisors and using their various facilities as placement sites. It appears likely that one of the chaplains will enter the supervisory training process in hopes of ultimately becoming certified, thereby guaranteeing the continuation of training in the Twin Cities in the diverse milieu the consortium is able to offer. Meanwhile, Jim Tonneson is being contracted to do an extended unit beginning in October.

I remain very concerned about our current inability to provide CPE on the I94 corridor west of St. Cloud, MN, with the demise of the programs in Fergus Falls, Fargo, and Jamestown. We have several willing and able Supervisors in the area, but no accreditation mechanism by which to easily utilize them. And our two Supervisors in northern North Dakota are rapidly approaching retirement age.

Condolences...

Our condolences to Jack Kouth on the death of his mother, Mary Backus, on June 13th

And to the family and acquaintances of Ralph LaFontaine who died on April 11, 2003 at a Care Center in Bismark, ND of complications from leukemia. Ralph went to Bismark Hospital and set up the CPE program in 1974. He retired in 1986.

And to Ruth Currens and her family on the death of her husband, long retired NCR Supervisor Bill Currens. Bill died in Zephyrhills, FL, following a long illness and stroke. There was a funeral service in Florida, with an internment service planned at Fort Snelling in Minneapolis later in the month of August.

Bill served as pastor for Warrenville Lutheran Church, Warrenville, IL 1941-1943; as chaplain in the US Navy 1943-1946; and as a missionary in Liberia, W. Africa, 1946-1953. After taking CPE he served as Chaplain and Supervisor of CPE at Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, 1953-1969. During those years he gave the first NCR advanced unit of CPE in Marriage Counseling. He was also the first ACPE supervisor to conduct CPE in Africa, on special assignment in Liberia, 1969-71. He then was at Lutheran General Hospital from 1971 until his retirement in 1980.

Health Updates...

I am happy to be able to announce that all of the parties mentioned as having health concerns and being in need of our prayers for healing over the last while are reported to be doing well. These include Gene Lefingwell, Sue Breiner, Clyde Burmeister, David Middleton, and Edith Finsaadal's husband, Eric.

Personal Transition Update...

Several of you have inquired about how it is for me now that I have left Good Samaritan and am temporarily only doing "the RD thing". My response to Barb Sheehan's "Haiku" exercise at the Iowa CPE Retreat this summer probably says it all:

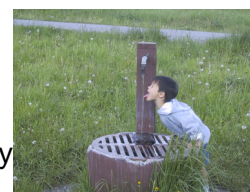
Noun: alive!

Three adjectives: energized, optimistic, happy

Description: feeling free amid awesome responsibility

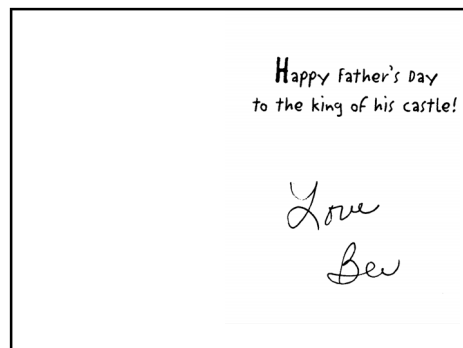
Word from God: "Blessed to be a blessing!"

Response: Hurry home to...



The Blessing!

Of course, there is my wife's perspective, captured by my Father's Day card:



Bev, Adam and I had a wonderful week out in Montana with our son, Nathan, and we have enjoyed having my father with us for a part of the summer, along with a steady stream of other guests. At one point we had three people from Canada and four people from Norway staying with us! We will be north of the 60th parallel in Yellowknife, NWT, Canada for a week about the time you get this newsletter. I will be attending a working retreat for the staff of "On Eagle's Wings", the current incarnation of the ecumenical ministry I was part of in my pre-CPE career. We are exploring the possibility of my working for them part-time in the area of development, specifically with major donors and planned giving. It seems like an easily augmenting fit to my position as your RD.

Twin Cities Programs Hold Joint Education Session for all Chaplain Residents July 30th The event was hosted at Methodist Hospital

Two topics were addressed by two different speakers in the half-day session:

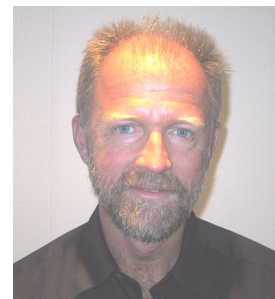
“Perspectives On Suffering”

Scott Hinrichs



“Leading With Integrity”

Al Watts



CPE Supervisor Scott Hinrichs (HealthEast, St. Paul) outlined eight different perspectives on suffering that he has identified in his experience and research. He then assisted the group to understand how this knowledge could be used for spiritual assessment and the provision of pastoral care.

The perspectives identified were”

- Fate/karma Perspective
- Reaping/Sow Perspective
- Purifying Perspective
- Learning Perspective
- Counterpoint Perspective
- Broken World Perspective
- Mystery Perspective
- Evolution Perspective

Scott described each perspective, gave ministry examples or showed film clips for each, and provided Biblical references and references from literature and other sacred writings that support them. He then listed the comforts each provides, as well as the spiritual dilemmas they can create.

He talked of the importance of careful listening and of affirming people in their journey to find meaning in suffering; noted that it was important to remain non-judgmental when meeting people whose perspective differed from one’s own; urged people to assess how the comforts and hazards of the person’s identified perspectives were impacting them; suggested it was acceptable to offer alternatives when the hazards were getting in the way; and reminded all present that Chaplains are God’s representatives as companions on the journey.

Scott gave each participant opportunity to identify their own preferences, using a simple survey.

Al Watts is a consultant and coach with *inTEgro, Inc.*, a company he founded to help business people and organizations function with integrity, under the premise that this is key to success and longevity. There is much from his work that translates to and augments our work.

Al contends that Integrity is built on four interfacing factors for both individuals and institutions:

- Identity
- Authenticity
- Alignment
- Accountability

In regard to Identity, he talked about how important it is for us to know our stories, key values, purpose or calling, and strengths and “shadows”. He quoted Parker Palmer, who said: “I know myself to be a person of weakness and strength, liability and giftedness, darkness and light. I now know that to be whole means to reject none of it but to embrace all of it.”

Authenticity refers to “being truth-tellers”, “walking the talk”, and both acting and empowering others to act. He quoted Hawthorne, who said: “No one man can, for any considerable time, wear once face to himself and another to the multitude, without finally getting bewildered as to which is the true one.”

Alignment involves being in tune with self and environment while integrating differences, being congruent while engaging in dialogue.

Accountability involves keeping promises, paying attention to what matters, and practicing good stewardship. Here he quoted Paul Tillich: “Man is asked to make of himself what he is supposed to become to fulfill his destiny.”



Mark your calendars and make your plans to attend ACPE 2003, as it will take place in the heart of our Region! Information about the Conference has appeared in the recent editions of ACPE News. A Special Edition with program information and registration material will be in your hands shortly. Meanwhile, there are numerous details on the NCR website.

Your planning committee is excited about the four plenary speakers, banquet entertainment, worship opportunities, and 18 in-conference workshops, including six done by people from our own Region:

Beth Burbank: “Theological Reflection: An Experience of Story Theology”

Bob Petite: “Re-memembering the Cognitively Impaired:
Theological and Practical Imperatives of Memory in a Ministry with Cognitively Impaired Adults”

Karl Andersen & Steven Melby: “Telling the Story: CPE in the Hospice Setting—Partnership & Mentors”

Reg Hislop, Chuck Weinrich & Kate Sullivan: “Ministry in an Aging Society: A Framework for Pastoral Care”

William R. DeLong: “Images of God and Self-Object Longings in Supervision”

Barbara Sheehan, S.P.: “Transforming Theory and Practice: Educating for Ministry and Embracing Justice”

Our newly instituted annual **Mary Wilkins Lecture on Supervisory Theory** will be inaugurated in a special way, as Mary, herself, will present **“The Evolution of Theory Paper Writing: A Thirty Year Perspective”**.

And the play we have commissioned for the occasion on the history of the CPE movement is coming together beautifully. Entitled **“Traveler to a Distant Country”**, it will take us on a short journey into the remarkable life of ACPE founder, Anton Boisen. **JoAnn O’Reilly** has been working closely with our writer, **Barbara Tomko**, to assure that our Region’s contribution as host of ACPE 2003 will be memorable and special.

This is a Conference that will be of educational benefit to Clinical Members and CPE students, as well as CPE Supervisors. **We strongly encourage CPE programs to invite their students and chaplain colleagues to attend.** Students can access all education events for \$60.00. Lake Geneva is within commuting distance of Chicago and Milwaukee and surrounding areas, and there are a good number of reasonable motels in Lake Geneva, for those who might want to stay in the area, but are unable to consider the Grand Geneva’s rate.



Official Meeting Announcements:

The **North Central Region** will meet at the ACPE National Conference in Lake Geneva, WI at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 13th. Two items of business—the proposed budget and proposed changes to the NCR Governance Manual were published in the last edition of this newsletter.

The NCR Board will meet that Thursday evening following the Regional Meeting.

Please contact Regional Chair, **Tim Thorstenson**, with any agenda items.

Address Changes:

Walter Balk can be reached at the following address and email:

2415 S Rose Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
mcallisj@wmis.net

Dick Gerber has a new summer address and phone number:

195 E. 5th Street, #2503
St. Paul, MN 55101
651-224-0728

Bill Derstine has a new email address:

wderstine@frontiernet.net

Edith Finsaadal has a new email address:

etfinsaadal@lakeforesthospital.com

Wilber Hughey has a new email address:

whughey@mchsi.com

Dates to Remember

September 12, 2003	NCR Certification Committee Alexian Brothers Med. Center Elk Grove Village, IL
September 14-15, 2003	NCR Accreditation Committee Copa Cabana, Wis. Dells, WI (conference call instead?)
September 21-23, 2003	Wisconsin Supervisors Door County
September 27-29, 2003	Minnesota supervisors North Shore
November 12-15, 2003	ACPE Annual Conference Lake Geneva, WI (Grand Geneva Resort & Spa) Commissions meet Nov. 8-12
February 5-8, 2004	REM Conference Chicago, IL
April 21-25, 2004	ACPE Leadership Meetings Fairmont Hotel 1717 North Akard St. Dallas, TX 75201 Reservations 214-720-2020 ACPE rate \$125.00
May 2-4, 2004	NCR Annual Meeting Chula Vista Resort Wisconsin Dells, WI
July 6-7, 2004	Iowa CPE Gathering Tama, IA
November 10-13, 2004	ACPE Annual Conference Portland, Maine Commissions meet Nov. 6-10



A talented observer will readily discern how peer review benefited these wise NCR Supervisors.



Don't delay—make Kate's day—arrange to do yours now! Guidelines are on the NCR webpage.





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Watch for the Special Edition of ACPE News that has the program and registration for the ACPE 2003 Annual Meeting hosted by the NCR in Lake Geneva, WI, November 12-16. Your Regional Planning Committee has done a wonderful job in planning a conference brimming with excellent continuing education opportunities!