

ACPE NEWS

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

2177 Youngman Ave., Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55116-3042

Phone: 651-696-0316

Fax: 651-696-0315

E-Mail: gsartain@good-sam.com

Gary Sartain, Regional Director

VOLUME XXXIV ♦ NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY 2001

RD Ramblings. . .

A Time of Change for ACPE



Gary Sartain

While in San Diego for the RD retreat the end of January I had opportunity to go whale watching. The pod of whales we found and followed around for the afternoon provide a good analogy of my current “sitz in leben” as your RD. They started out seeming to be on course for their

destination off Baja California, but soon seemed to be going in circles and floundering around!

I have been working hard to complete the regional office transition and to get our communication systems into a format that will serve us effectively, and I had hoped we would soon be at a juncture where we would have that behind us, allowing me to turn my attention to the more “pastoral” functions of the position. However, it has recently been confirmed that Good Samaritan’s Minnesota Regional Service Center (where I have had my office and out of which I have run our CPE program) will move from its current location in St. Paul to University Good Samaritan Center in Minneapolis by June 30 of this year. Many of my colleagues will home office, and our support staff structure will be completely revamped. In the face of those impending changes, my current support person with knowledge of CPE, our CPE program, and our NCR systems announced her resignation and has left to take a new position. So the attention to logistics will continue for some time! There will be Regional Office address and phone/fax number changes to which we will alert you well in advance.

There will be some positives. I will have significant say – even priority – in the choosing of a new support

person, as the majority of the person’s time will be spent serving the needs of our CPE program and the NCR. I will look for someone who has desktop publishing abilities and some knowledge and ability in the area of web site management, as well as some accounting ability – a person who could assist with the newsletter and the web site, and who could take over the treasurer function currently handled by Mary Langenberg in Kansas. Mary is willing to continue as our treasurer as long as necessary, but has encouraged me to bring the function back into close logistic proximity to the RD to make life easier for all involved.

The RD retreat was a very productive and informative time. I come away impressed by the professionalism, competence, and compassion of my fellow RDs. And my high regard for our Executive Director, Teresa Snorton, gets further elevated with each encounter. We are blessed to have her. And our congratulations for her successful completion of her Doctor of Ministry!

There were numerous topics discussed, including ACPE finances, Department of Education accreditation, strategic planning, professional ethics, the ACPE Exchange Visitor Program, the ACPE Directory, and the flow of information such as address changes and unit report forms. However, the majority of our time was spent on the issue of our potential collaborative relationship with NACC and APC. We discussed at length a draft form of the “Report to Members from Leadership Boards of ACPE, NACC, APC,” prepared by the Collaborative Steering Committee and authorized by the three groups.



Continued on Page 2

RD Ramblings

Continued from Page 1

Collaboration with APC & NACC

The final form of the Collaborative Steering Committee report (with supporting documentation) is now available on the ACPE web site and will be published in the March/April *ACPE News*. It was released simultaneously to ACPE, APC and NACC memberships. There is a hyperlink to it on the NCR web site. I will be happy to make it available by fax or hard copy to anyone who does not have web access. We will certainly want to discuss the issue at the convocation in Madison in March, as well as at the regional business meeting at the ACPE Annual Meeting in Vail in May. Being built into the Vail conference agenda is a slide presentation on the collaborative venture which will also be shown at APC and NACC annual meetings this spring. This will be followed by a "Town Hall" meeting prior to the ACPE annual business meeting which will give all participants opportunity to provide our ACPE Board of Representatives guidance about how to proceed.

As the discussion has evolved over the past several years, the ACPE Board of Representatives has seen a continuum of collaborative structures for our relationship with these two groups. They specifically asked the steering committee to show them what a complete merger might look like. It is this request that the steering committee report addresses.

The RD group raised several questions after studying the report:

- Do we need the full merger model to meet the mission, vision and values components (printed on next page) of the collaborative venture approved by the respective boards of our three organizations in 1999, or would an alternative

model be sufficient?

- Originally, one of the energizing factors for collaboration was to "save money". Does this model do that? If not, does a changing milieu dictate dropping that goal?
- There are major cultural differences between our organizations: one of us is primarily an educational organization, another a professional practice organization, and the third a faith-based organization. How will those interplay and co-exist?
- What are the implications for our ACPE regional structures, where so much of our ACPE work and sense of community is centered?
- What are the implications of the fact that APC and NACC have an institutional focus, while a large portion of our training is done for people who are focused on the parish or other non-institutional ministries...the fact that our focus is theological education linked to spiritual care, while the other two organizations are primarily concerned with the latter only?

There was concern that the proposed full merger model might appear threatening enough to our membership on first encounter that we might be moved to reactively jettison any form of collaboration. We committed ourselves to appealing to our constituencies to continue to approach this with openness and objectivity. We need to be very clear about what it is to which we are saying yes or no and very careful about why we are saying yes or no. Do we continue to embrace the mission, vision and values? Do we embrace the proposed structure? If not, what are our constructive suggestions for change or our rational reasons for discontinuing the dialogue?

Continued on Page 3

Congratulations!

Orwoll Osmund (Oz) Anderson, Bryn A. Carlson and Peter L. Steinke were recipients of "Christus in Mundo" Awards for distinguished service at The Eleventh Triennial Inter-Lutheran Conference for Ministries in Specialized Settings in San Antonio, TX, February 1-4.

RD Ramblings

Continued from Page 2

ASSOCIATION MISSION

Respectful of our diversity, history, and traditions
as an association of spiritual leaders, we

Educate, Certify and Accredite

as we promote the competence of our members.
We provide the forum that nurtures, supports
and sustains our members in their professional
development. We advocate for services in the fields
of spiritual care, counseling and education.



ASSOCIATION VISION

We will be known as the Association which:

- proclaims the vital role and authoritative voice of spiritual care in healing.
- works to maintain spiritual values in our diverse settings.
- advocates for attention to the disenfranchised.
- builds alliances with other professional groups and organizations.



ASSOCIATION VALUES

- Spiritual care for individuals, systems, and communities.
- Professional competence.
- Prudent use of human and material resources.
- Transformative wisdom of diverse religions and cultures.

Medicare Pass-through

Medicare pass-through funds will continue to be available for CPE programs. We are specifically referenced in new documentation as an example of legitimate usage of funds.

Student Loan Deferment

Student loan deferrals will no longer be granted unless a number assigned by the government to the educational institution is placed on the deferral form. The ACPE national office is attempting to get us a number that can be used by all ACPE Centers. However, it is not yet clear whether the government will allow that. At present, each Center needs to apply individually for a number.

Professional Ethics

There will be a professional ethics training workshop for regional ethics committee chairs in Vail prior to the start of the national conference. RDs are also being asked to attend.

There was a request that the ethics section of our ACPE Standards be looked at because it places student and supervisors together. Are there differing nuances between the two groups that are ignored by doing this? Should there perhaps be a core set of ethics applicable to both, followed by a sub-set specifically applicable to each group?

Exchange Visitor Program

We are limited to the J-1 18 month visa for students coming in under our sponsorship program. J-1 students under our sponsorship must only do CPE training. They cannot be involved in a degree program, including taking CPE for credit at a seminary. The J-1 visa cannot be extended. Students not finished with their training must leave the country and re-apply. While we cannot be directly involved in advocating for other visa categories, we can encourage people who are qualified to do so to work with their denominations to come in under religious workers visas (R-1). This should probably be reserved for supervisory students only.

Department of Education Approval

We have been advised that we have satisfactorily responded to the concerns of the DOE and our interim report has been accepted.

Toward a Wholistic Curriculum: *Using Artistic Expression and Retreats*

By Rev. David F. Carlson, ACPE Supervisor,
and Rev. Betty Glynn Carlson, Artist, Director,
Hidden Spring Ministry

The experiential learning method of CPE is uniquely constructed to create a learning environment that addresses all the personal levels of engagement: body, mind, heart (emotion), and soul/spirit. Inviting the learner at multiple levels can greatly enhance the full-person integration for health and healing ministries.

Most of the learning in this culture is characterized by a verbal, linear, conceptual approach, even in theological education. Since people learn at the visual, auditory, kinesthetic and olfactory levels, it makes sense to utilize these possibilities in our experiential curriculum.

For more than fifteen years I have used some form of a retreat as part of CPE programs. In the earlier years, we would do final evaluations in a retreat setting.



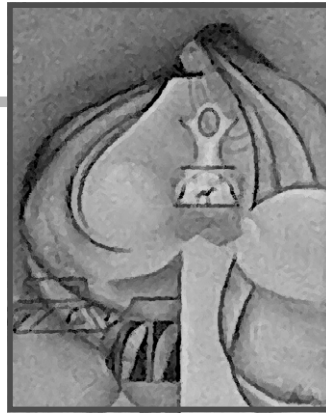
David Carlson addresses participants during his workshop, "Toward a Wholistic Curriculum," at the NCR Annual Meeting last October.

When I experienced what an artist can do using a variety of mediums in learning pastoral care while ministering through the hospital's Art Therapy Department, I began to wake up to the possibilities of using art and retreats as a core experience in all units of CPE. It is now my practice to begin a unit with a retreat.

A retreat is different than a seminar, workshop or conference. Ideally retreats invite multiple levels of engagement and learning through this time of withdrawal for privacy, safety, refuge, or seclusion for the purpose of reflection, meditation, building community, spiritual exercises or nurture, rest and refreshment. To effectively use retreats, attention is given to these components: scheduling at appropriate time, duration/length, pace/rhythm, esthetics of place and hospitality. Then you can plan the specific focus for a retreat with an artist so that it is integrated into the CPE Unit theme and goals.

I have been fortunate to be married to an artist who is very familiar with CPE through her own experience in multiple Units. Rev. Betty Glynn Carlson has established a specialized ministry of creativity and contemplation within the United Methodist Church. She offers spiritual direction, and provides leadership for retreats that incorporate various artistic mediums to explore and celebrate one's spiritual gifts and journey.

In planning for a retreat, I begin with my sharing of my observation/perceptions of the individuals and the group that I use to prepare myself for teaching and supervision. Betty listens with her artistic ear/eye and shares how she sees a particular artistic modality addressing these aspects. It is critical that the retreat facilitator/artist understands the basic learning processes



of CPE, in order to build on the engagement principles that make CPE effective. Thus, whatever medium is being explored, the significance of the action/reflection dynamic of CPE is always being used. Because the retreat has an artistic focus, the language and arena of the participants' expressions tend to be full of images, symbols, and metaphors that assist the learner to push-out the edges of awareness and articulation.

In a watercolor retreat called "Trusting the Process," participants explore with water and colors the dynamics of rigidity and fluidity, control and trust, light and darkness in their life patterns or experiences. During one retreat, "Donna" was working with black sumi ink, when she blurted out, "I don't do black very well." After the retreat she began to deeply invest in facing her multiple losses of unresolved grief. "Dick" was working with the three primary colors of red, yellow and blue, focusing on his image of God. At the end of the retreat when it was time to choose one painting to mat, "Dick" chose this particular painting because it disturbed him. When he went home, he put it on his wall. As the unit progressed he saw the angry eyes of God in his painting. By mid-year, after embracing his history of shame, the angry eyes had become the loving eyes of God. The transformation of "Dick" and his painting continued, and eventually he became aware of those eyes as "my loving eyes."

When participants have an opportunity to express themselves in an artistic modality, one's inner life and experience may be seen in the "mirror" of one's creation. Because it is an external and visible expression of oneself, it has the potential of be in dialogue with its creator. Thus the painting of the "eyes of God" mirrored back to "Dick" his past experiences, as well as the changes in his perceptions during his CPE education.

Another example of the power of these visible symbols in the CPE process is evident in a retreat that uses

circular weaving. At the beginning of a Unit, "Weaving Our Life – Hearing Our Story" invites people to tell their story by choosing yarns of various colors and textures that reflect something of their life experience. Each person creates a weaving on a small hoop that embodies a piece of their reality. Building on both individual and communal reflections, the group begins to know and experience each other in ways that move beyond words.

During the retreat, participants are asked to chose a strong yarn for the warp which becomes the foundation for their weaving. When "Ed" started to warp his loom, he became frustrated because he kept breaking his thread. He continued his efforts even after the invitation to chose a different yarn. He spent the entire retreat warping his loom. When it came time to share with the group their reflections of the day, "Ed" shared how his weaving was just like his life. Even when things were no longer working in his life, he continued to do the same things, believing he only needed to try harder. Toward the end of his reflection, he exclaimed in controlled anger, "Look, this is a mess! Just like my life – the harder I try, the worse things get! I didn't want this to look like my life!"

We are students of "the living human document" and the artist that lives within each of us has much to say about our living, learning, and growing personally and professionally. I am convinced of the power and validity of these approaches to enhance and vitalize the CPE methodology. We owe it to our students to offer multiple ways to "touch their own living human document."

For further information, contact . . .

Dave at 612-273-6459 or
e-mail: dcarlso3@fairview.org

Betty is at 651-583-2355 or
e-mail: bgchspring@aol.com

News About Supervisors & Centers

David Middleton has now moved into his home in Shelbyville: Rt 4, Box 102D, Shelbyville, IL, 62565; phone 217-774-2834.

Larry Ulrich is no longer with University of Chicago Hospitals due to downsizing. His address is 600 Rochdale Circle, Lombard, IL, 60148; phone 630-620-4044.

Susan Gullickson is now supervising with Lutheran General (Advocate System) in Chicago.

Susan Thornton is now interim CPE Supervisor for Health System Minnesota (Methodist Hospital) in the Twin Cities: 6500 Excelsior Blvd., St. Louis Park, Mn, 55426; phone 952-993-6164.

Prayers are sought for **David Carlson** (Fairview Systems, Twin Cities) who will undergo elective surgery March 13 to arrest the onset of paralysis from his scoliosis, and for **Shelly Hartsook Bergstrom** (Edward Hospital, Naperville, IL) and her husband. Eric is on dialysis and a recent complication almost took his life. The crisis has past and he is home from the hospital.

Gunderson Lutheran CPE Program, LaCrosse, WI, has a new fax number: 608-791-6334.

Dick Gerber and the **Fairview-University Medical Center** CPE Program (Fairview Systems, Minneapolis) have new phone and fax numbers: phone 612-273-6457; fax 612-273-6111.

Address Changes

Routine address changes are made on the ACPE web page on the first and fifteenth of the month, with major changes such as a change in Center name or phone number posted immediately.

When you have any changes for your Center, please notify the regional office and the national office immediately. It is helpful if you confirm in your correspondence to both of us that you have contacted the other.

Wisconsin Retreat Explores Failed Supervision Issues

The Wisconsin sub-region Supervisors met for their annual winter overnight educational retreat at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Oshkosh, WI, Jan. 17-18. **Charles Weinrich** led the group in discussion of the topic of "failed supervision" using a three piece set of articles out of *The Journal of Supervision and Training for Ministry* as the catalyst. The group identified common factors from the articles that they recognized in their own supervision. Often these were experiences of impasse, where the supervisor was ultimately able to make an intervention that opened things up. However, there was also sharing of current experiences where situations remain unresolved. An atmosphere of openness, trust and immediacy prevailed to make this academic discussion excitingly dynamic.

The group's annual fall educational retreat will again be at St. Joseph Retreat Center, Door County, Sept. 16-18, 2001.



The Twin Cities SIT group meets behind bars every so often to experience the clinical venue of SIT **Susan Allers Hatlie**, Director of Chaplaincy for the Hennepin County Correctional System in Minneapolis.

Cross-Cultural Considerations Topic of Meeting

The Minnesota sub-region Supervisors met at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis on January 26 for their winter educational event. The presenter was former CPE Supervisor, **Okokon Udo**, who is currently Executive Director for The Center for Cross-Cultural Health. His topic was “Cross-Cultural Considerations in Supervision.”

Okokon pointed out that the clinical rhombus includes the interface of numerous cultures, including those of the student, the Supervisor, the Organization(s) involved, and CPE. Each have unique histories, language, values, goals, etc. that may mesh or clash and that must be addressed. He called us to “cultural competency” in that milieu, defined as “the ability of individuals and systems to respond respectfully and effectively to people of all cultures, in a manner that affirms the worth and preserves the dignity of individuals, families, and

communities” and “the (sometimes painful) awareness that other people, other races, other voices, other habits of mind, have as much integrity of being, as much claim on the world as each of us does.”



Okokon Udo speaks to the Minnesota sub-region Supervisors about “Cross-Cultural Considerations in Supervision.”



Supervisors John Serkeland and Larry Murtagh at Dakota sub-region gathering.

The Dakota area Supervisors met December 16 in Fargo, ND. They continued their work on their research project into ways to better predict readiness for CPE in prospective students, receiving and discussing data and updates to the instruments they have developed. They were led by Vic Lehman, spouse of Dixie Potratz Lehman (Meritcare, Fargo). The group concluded the day with a catered holiday dinner for supervisors and their spouses hosted by Dixie and Vic at their home. Sadly, inclement weather precluded the attendance of several who had planned to be there.

2001 Distinguished Service Award Nominations Sought

The History and Research Committee is requesting nominations for the 2001 Distinguished Service Award. Nominees should be from within the NCR and have made a considerable contribution to CPE and the Region over a significant period of time. Send your nomination, along with a summary of the rationale for your choice, by March 9, 2001, to the chair of the History and Research committee:

F. Larry Shostrom
 University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
 200 Hawkins Dr. C102GH
 Iowa City, Iowa 52242

Student Unit Reports / Fees

The Student Unit Report Form has been revised. Look for it on the ACPE or NCR web sites or contact the national or regional office for copies. Student Unit fees for 2001 are \$100. **Please submit reports and fees quarterly, immediately upon completion of units.**

ACPE

Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc.
North Central Region
2177 Youngman Ave., Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55116-3042

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 697
Sioux Falls, SD

DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| March 3-7, 2001 | Association of Professional Chaplains Annual Conference, Denver, CO |
| March 11-13, 2001 | NCR Committee Convocation, Madison, WI (Edgewater Motel) |
| March 21, 2001 | 2 p.m. - Reception in Honor of ACPE Center Accreditation,
City of Lakes Transitional Care Center, Minneapolis |
| May 2-5, 2001 | ACPE Annual Conference, Vail, CO (Vail Cascade Resort)
(Commissions meet April 28-May 2) |
| May 16-20, 2001 | National Association of Catholic Chaplains Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD |
| September 15-17, 2001 | Minnesota area sub-regional retreat, Anderson complex north of Grand Marais, MN |
| September 16-18, 2001 | Wisconsin area sub-regional retreat, Door County, WI |
| October 14-16, 2001 | NCR Annual Meeting, Wisconsin Dells, WI (Chula Vista Resort) |