

PASTORAL REPORT SPECIAL EDITION

Volume 1; Issue 1

Perry Miller, Editor

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Preface...

The Special Edition of the Pastoral Report of The College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy is an occasional newsletter that will occur following the various Council meetings of CPSP. It will help CPSP members to keep up to date with the latest news about CPSP from those meetings. It will also give you an added opportunity to hear about what is happening that is exciting and innovative that we should know about before the next plenary session. However, we do not want you to wait to share your events. Please share those quickly through the use of the Pastoral Report as they happen since The Special Edition will

only be out two to three times per year. Let's use our resources, The Pastoral Report and The Special Edition, to keep up with what is happening in the fast paced world of CPSP. ☺

Perspectives Of The President

by James Gebhart

Homiletics has undergone radical changes in the last fifty years, moving to creative rhetoric to Power Point on large sanctuary screens to rhythm and blues. But old habits do not die, and I quite naturally return to the "3 point" sermon, which seems to have served me well over an era. Three challenges. This, this and this: handles on each, and take them home please! So my sermon has three succinct points. Take them home!

First, and quite simply, we are having something called a Plenary at Raleigh, N.C. on March 28-31. This is the gathering of the CPSP Community. The word is simple: get there! Manage to get there! The meaning of all the rest of our activities radiates from this gathering. Each of us must solve the logistics of the gathering, but resolve to do so right now. We make it as inexpensive as possible: off-season, away from dazzling accouterments, and with the lowest possible registration fee. The Raleigh gathering will be exciting. Just decide, right now, to get there.

Second, and more discussed, is the decision of the Governing Council to now require each CPSP Chapter to secure the services of a Consultant in 2007. This is a strategic decision designed for the empowerment of CPSP Chapters in their increased responsibility for authority and autonomy. I have spelled this out in a previous communication on the Pastoral Report. Our critics (and enemies) admire and envy our Chapter structure, which is such an inviting alternative to the heavy, and alienating bureaucracy, which characterizes other associations. But they say our way cannot work, that local chapters cannot be entrusted with the wisdom and strength to make decisions about standards, certification and accreditation. The Governing Council believes that the utilization of a trained Consultant will provide CPSP Chapters with the ongoing "self study" that guarantees integrity in every Chapter.

And we are going to make this work! Persons who meet the criteria for Consultants will meet together on March 28 in Raleigh for orientation and role description. Some of these persons have already been identified because of their experience and thorough understanding of CPSP. If any others would be interested in serving in this capacity, please contact me.

Third, and more complex, is the proposal of the Governing Council to create and publish in 2007 a CPSP Proclamation. This will be a precise statement of CPSP history and identity, passion and function. Many persons in ministry or persons in health care administration hear of CPSP, but they do not readily appreciate its evolution, its corrective to the pastoral care/education field, and its passion for "the recovery of soul." All of this needs to be spelled out and carefully crafted in a publication which proclaims our calling, our place, and our future in pastoral care, counseling and education.

You will be hearing more of this Proclamation in the days to come. But I am soliciting the input of all persons in this endeavor. As we seek to define what we in CPSP hold true, and the values that brought us into existence and which brought you to our community, your expression and insight is needed. Contact me with your most cogent and heartfelt thoughts at this juncture. ☺
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Come to Raleigh for Plenary

by J. John Edgerton, III,
Coordinator & Host

March 28 – 31, 2007, CPSP will hold its Plenary Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina.

I hope that everyone in CPSP will be able to attend this event. That would be great! We have three outstanding speakers for this event. First is **Dr. John Kinney**, an African-American Baptist Minister, who has been Dean of the School of Theology at Virginia Union since receiving his Ph.D. from Columbia/Union in 1979. Dr. Kinney is an outstanding preacher, writer and theological educator. He will be speaking to us on "Recovering Our Goodness". **Dr. Esteban Montilla**, our second speaker at the banquet, is an outstanding writer, supervisor and counselor in the Latino community, and will help us understand how to supervise and counsel Latinos as they grow in population in the United States. **Dr. Carol Schweitzer** will address "Pastoral Wisdom: Understand the Relationship Between Loss and Personal Vulnerability in Conflict Situations." She is writing a book on this topic and she will present what she has been researching the last year at our conference. Dr. Schweitzer is known for being very pastoral herself, and is a wonderful speaker. She will be someone we can all enjoy.

As usual we will have lots of time for our small consultation groups. We have great meals planned for this event. When you make reservations at the Holiday Inn-Brownstone in Raleigh, you will be near a lot of attractive components in the Raleigh community. We will be next to North Carolina State University and Pullen Park, which is the premiere park in Raleigh. Two blocks from us, in front of the Holiday Inn-Brownstone is Cameron Village, the first original shopping district built in the Raleigh and has over fifteen restaurants. It has unique shops, stores, as well as an outstanding city library. When you walk out of the Holiday Inn-Brownstone and you go to the right, six or seven blocks away, you will discover the State Capital, the Museum of Natural History, the North Carolina Legislature, other government buildings, and many art museums. Also, we are only five blocks from Raleigh's premiere restaurant district.

As the host of the 2007 CPSP Plenary in Raleigh, NC, I welcome the opportunity for you to contact me if you have questions. I look forward to seeing you in Raleigh. I hope the weather will be warm and we will enjoy our gathering. A bit of Camelot in March should rejuvenate all our spirits. ☺
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Report from the General Secretary

by Raymond Lawrence

For most of CPSP's history we numbered fewer than one hundred persons. For about the first decade we all knew most members of the community personally. Communication was relatively easy. The burden of maintaining standards and enforcing ethical standards was a much simpler matter than it is today. From a hundred we have more than quadrupled our numbers, and are growing at a fast pace. With this expanding membership, the nature of our community is changing. Even in my role as General Secretary I see that there are many persons in our community, even some Chapter conveners, that I have never even met, much less do I know them in any significant way. A consequence of this new situation is the evolving need to find better ways to be informed about each other so that we both uphold one another more effectively, and also work at upholding our standards and our ethics.

One of the tools that the leadership has invented to assist in the task of communication and disclosure is the Chapter Annual Report. This report is asked of Chapters each January, and is designed to provide an overview of each Chapter's life and activity. It is essential that the task be completed well before the March Council meeting.

One of the chief ways that CPSP works at maintaining standards is its process of annual recertification, both of Chapters and of individual certifications. Peer review is a cornerstone principle in CPSP. Persons seeking recertification must be viewed by the Chapter meeting the personal and professional criteria as set forth by the CPSP Standards including active and committed participation in Chapter life. By the same token, Chapters that do not report in on an annual basis will be dropped from the official list of CPSP Chapters and its member's credentials will lapse. We have committed ourselves in our Covenant to mutual accountability.

We believe that on-going peer review is a more thorough method of determining the competence and integrity of individuals than the typical process of a single once-in-a-lifetime hearing before a certification committee. In one meeting of an hour or so it might be easy to misjudge a person. The continuing life in a small group – the Chapter – makes a difficult place to hide for someone who is incompetent or unethical. In this respect we are different from our collegial communities, none of whom have any significant peer review process at present. Thus, the significance and importance of the Chapter Annual Report form should not be minimized.

The Chapter Annual Reports should be sent to our administrative assistant, Krista Argiropolis cpspadmin@gmail.com. (This form is in digital form, and can be returned by email attachment. It can also be sent by postal mail.) Her task is to sort the forms and note any missing data. If she finds missing data, she will notify the convener so that corrections can be made. When the forms are complete Krista will forward them to the Executive Committee for review. The Committee will review the information and provide feedback to any Chapter that may show evidence of needing improvement in any respect.

In the early years this kind of process occurred around a table where a dozen or so Chapter representatives reported on the activities of their respective Chapters. With fifty or more Chapters there is no way to continue this intimate, informal process. There is not enough time or energy to listen to fifty reports. Thus the Executive Committee will preview the reports and note any areas of concern to be addressed to a particular Chapter. Finally, at the Council meeting representatives from each Chapter have the opportunity to address larger philosophical and policy issues, even if we do not have the time to focus on every individual Chapter.

The Chapter Annual Report is not simply for exposing Chapter weaknesses. It is also an opportunity to share information about new directions or innovative procedures that a particular Chapter may have undertaken. The Report is an instrument for community communication. Given that Chapters now have the primary responsibility for certification of candidates and accreditation of training centers, it is important that the Chapter Annual Report Form reflect how the Chapter conducts these important functions. This component will be shared with the community for dialogue and edification.

We want to remain open to suggestions from the entire community for possible better ways to do things. If you have a thought about how to address these issues more directly and more humanely, please let me or someone else in the leadership know about it.

I look forward to meeting you all at the Plenary Meeting in Raleigh. ☺
raymondlawrence@cpsp.org

A Glimpse at the Future Of the NCTS

by Francine Angel

For the first time this year, we will take the National Clinical Training Seminar (NCTS) on the road. We are in the initial planning stages of going to San Antonio and North Carolina. The NCTS has enjoyed phenomenal success. CPSP has been blessed to have so many scholars, theologians and well-trained clinicians. Those who have attended are aware of the well-prepared seminars from our presenters, the learning and growth experience from the small group settings where rich clinical cases are presented and the camaraderie that reflect who we are as a community.

"Given the growth of the CPSP community, it is time for the clustering of chapters to take shape. The NCTS could very well be the conduit for this evolution..."

At this juncture in our organization with the influx of so

many innovative persons who have joined CPSP; it is time to not only be more inclusive but more creative. I solicit from our community ideas that you have that will make our seminars even more creative without compromising the learning opportunities.

My vision is to empower more of our members to be "Regional Coordinators" for the NCTS. There are those who have already volunteered and I want to say thank you. Forging this new direction for the NCTS will foster the connections and relationships between various chapters within the regions where we meet.

Given the growth of the CPSP community, it is time for the clustering of chapters to take shape. The NCTS could very well be the conduit for this evolution. As we pursue the NCTS regional meetings, we want to plan seminars in a centrally located place so that our members/chapters from the surrounding cities can participate.

Lastly, as we stated in our last communication, the NCTS has grown exponentially and we want all our members to be able to participate in the most cost effective way. We plan to share more about this vision by way of flyers during the plenary, so be there! And those who want to become regional coordinators please sign up and let's move CPSP to the next level together! [✉ fra9010@nyp.org](mailto:fra9010@nyp.org)

CPSP CPE in Israel

by John DeVelder

This past summer the very first CPE unit was offered in Israel. This historic accomplishment was the outcome of joint initiatives of the National Association of Jewish Chaplains (NAJC) with Cecille Asekoff, as Executive and Rabbi Shira Stern, President and the Schechter Seminary in Israel. The CPE Supervisor was Rabbi Zahara Davidowitz-Farkas, a CPSP Diplomate (member of the NY/NJ Chapter). Zahara speaks and writes Hebrew and has significant experience in New York City with disaster response – particularly with the Red Cross response to 9/11. She was the ideal person to take on this historic first of doing CPE in Israel. Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, through its Pastoral Care Department, which I direct, provided the accreditation and Certificates that the Seminary required to do the CPE program.

There were unique challenges to doing CPE in Israel. For example, there is no concept of "chaplain" in Israel. There are Rabbis in the army but they are not chaplains as we have in the US armed forces. The hospitals do not employ chaplains and so there was no word to call the CPE students that we would recognize. Also, the Orthodox Rabbis do not recognize the Conservative and Reform Rabbis thus there were challenges for Rabbi Zahara to navigate with the first CPE unit done in Israel. Moreover, that summer was dominated by the war with Hezbollah in Lebanon. While the seminars were going, on missiles were whistling overhead and sirens were whining to announce attacks. It is difficult to imagine what the CPE students might have been thinking

while doing clinical cases and Interpersonal Relations Seminar while a war was going on around them.

Other challenges were that the students were assigned to various clinical settings apart from the seminary and coordination had to be done by Rabbi Davidowitz-Farkas as well as site visits to monitor the program. At each site there was a mentor and willing professionals to present didactics to the whole group. One of the benefits of doing this program in multi-sites is that Zahara has developed contacts for the next phase of CPE that will be conducted during the summer of 2007.

The good news is that the program will be run for a second time next summer with Rabbi Zahara Davidowitz-Farkas as supervisor. The even better news is that Rabbi Zahara has deepened her knowledge of how to adapt CPE to a national and cultural context different from the United States. She has been a pioneer of what CPSP is becoming well known for and that is "Indigenous CPE." We in CPSP commend our partners the National Association of Jewish Chaplains (NAJC) and the Schechter Seminary in this historic program of CPE. We particularly commend Rabbi Zahara for her trail blazing work of bringing CPE to new settings around the world. [✉ john.devellder@rwjuh.edu](mailto:john.devellder@rwjuh.edu)

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SUMMARY OF CPSP GOVERNING COUNCIL ACTIONS

November 30-December 1, 2006

Washington, D.C.

By James E. Gebhart, President

The CPSP Governing Council met for two days in Washington, D.C. on November 30 through December 1, 2006.

The following represents a brief summary of this very active session:

1. A reminder that every CPSP Chapter is to have a representative at the Governing Council (GC). Chapters are further encouraged to interface with another chapter to form a cluster for joint activities. Chapters are further reminded that each member must have at least three professional peers.
2. It was agreed that the Executive Committee shall function as an administrative agency between meetings of the G.C.
3. Steps were taken to improve and strengthen the relationship between CPSP and the Association of Religious Endorsing Bodies (AREBS).
4. Francine Angel was duly elected as the CPSP President-Elect.
5. The CPSP Code of Ethics is to be reviewed and reported to the next meeting.
6. A CPSP Newsletter will be featured at least twice each year on the Pastoral Report.
7. A search will be made for a CPSP representative to the International Pastoral Care Congress.
8. CPSP will match funds given by the New York-New Jersey Chapter for scholarships.

9. It was voted that every CPSP Chapter will engage the services of a Consultant during 2007. In addition each Chapter will be required to submit an Annual Chapter report prior to the Plenary.
10. A full committee will be assembled to manage the editing and updating of CPSP Standards.
11. It was agreed that the work of the Accreditation and Ratification Committee will be assumed by the Executive Committee.
12. Jim Gebhart will edit the CPSP Proclamation to be created and published in 2007.
13. A new category called "Chapter In Formation" has been created.
14. Two new chapters, Metro New York and Schenectady, were fully recognized.
 - a. A lists of persons ratified by the Executive Committee and presented to the Governing Council were fully approved.
 - b. Attention was given to the management of CPSP public relations across the country.
 - c. It was agreed that a file be created where the digest of G.C. actions are kept.
 - d. Raymond Lawrence will create a Convener's Handbook.
15. Persons serving as Chapter Consultants will be identified and arrangements made for their orientation at the Plenary in Raleigh on March 28, 2007 & JGebhart@wowway.com

Rocky Mountain Joint CPSP/AAPC Fall 2006 Conference

By Foy Richey, Joint Conference Chair

The fall 2006 joint American Association of Pastoral Counselors and the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy Conference hosted by the Iliff School of Theology, November 4th, was hailed as the best yet of the five previous joint annual conferences between these two Colorado Pastoral Cognate Groups.

The Conference featured the Reverend Henry Simmons, Ph.D., of Union Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, speaking on the topic "Choosing Life on the Journey Called Aging." The all-day Friday conference was preceded by a Thursday evening special event with Reverend Simmons where he addressed the topic "Imagining a New Old Age" with a group gathered at the Washington Park United Methodist Church of Denver. Thirty people were in attendance, including Pastor Dick Evans, retired ACPE Supervisor, who gave the opening meditation.

The Friday, all day conference was attended by approximately

fifty conference participants made up of the CPSP and AAPC professional membership as well as invited community guests and Iliff School of Theology students. The conference was jointly sponsored by the Colorado Council of Churches, the Iliff School of Theology, the Rocky Mountain Center for Education and Training, the AAPC Region, local CPSP Chapters, and the Washington Park United Methodist Church.

This subject on "Soulful Aging" was well received by both the AAPC and CPSP community. A joint effort will be planned this year between AAPC and CPSP professional supervisors initiating an Elder Care Specialized Ministry CPE Training program for chaplains, clergy and laity located in the Denver area.

The core conference workshop activity was small discussion groups where AAPC and CPSP members had the opportunity to sit at small tables of six to seven participants and share dialogue and ideas about how to work together on the subject of Aging. Post conference feedback and evaluation clearly demonstrated the positive experience of its participants. Both the CPSP and AAPC leadership community plan yet another (seventh) joint conference next Fall. & foyrich@earthlink.net

The COMISS Network

by John deVelder

The COMISS Network is a national organization of organizations whose members provide pastoral/spiritual ministry in specialized settings. The specialized settings include a wide spectrum of ministry outside of congregations that includes healthcare facilities, correctional institutions, mental health settings, pastoral counseling, clinical pastoral education, hospice, the military chaplaincies, business and industry as well as community agencies. Besides the major pastoral care and counseling organizations COMISS Network membership includes the faith groups that endorse military and civilian chaplains across the country. Our constituent members are the leaders of the professional pastoral care community, and they represent tens of thousands of professional chaplains and pastoral counselors. Our Religious Endorsing Body Representatives represent millions of members of the faith groups that endorse chaplains for ministry in specialized settings.

COMISS Network member organizations include those that certify chaplains from all faith groups such as the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy, the Association of Professional Chaplains and the National Institute of Business and Industrial Chaplains. The National Association of Catholic Chaplains and the National Association of Jewish Chaplains train and certify chaplains of their own faith group. In addition to these organizations there is the American Association of Pastoral Counselors which both trains and certifies pastoral counselors/psychotherapists. The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education provides training but does not certify chaplains.

Religious Endorsers who are focused on the process of endorsing chaplains for their work in specialized settings, both civilian and military, work with the organizations that train, and certify chaplains. The training and certifying organizations do not assess the fitness for ministry that the Religious Endorsers do. The Religious Endorsers do not train and certify and so there is a division of labor as well as some measure of “check and balance” between these two groups which work together in COMISS Network.

COMISS Network is the one place that all groups can come together to discuss, share, and talk about common concerns of ministry in specialized settings. COMISS Network is needed because there is no other place for all the groups to come together around the big round table to talk about mutual concerns. Thus, we take as our logo the Round Table. Sometimes the talk leads to real accomplishments such as our two initiatives, CCAPS and Pastoral Care Week. CCAPS or COMISS Commission for Accreditation of Pastoral Services has demonstrated how common standards for accreditation for pastoral/spiritual care departments were developed. Pastoral Care Week also demonstrates how COMISS Network can collaborate and share resources to promote the mission of all of our member organizations.

Sometimes the talk around the Round Table has not lead to joint action on needed common concerns. One such need was for common standards for the training and certifying of chaplains. For almost twenty years members talked about the need for such standards but nothing was done until several organizations that are members of COMISS Network took it upon themselves to work on this task outside of COMISS Network. This development outside of COMISS Network was the formation of the Council on Collaboration which is now the Spiritual Care Collaborative. This new organization made up of some of the

above named cognate groups focused on producing common Standards for the training of chaplains. This work might have been done within COMISS Network but the participants chose to self-select. Some member organizations felt left out. This illustrates some of the tensions within COMISS Network. Some members fear that the “real work” may be done by self-selected groups while the main organization becomes merely the table around which organizations and religious endorsers gather to talk but not work together on matters as important as common standards for the training of chaplains. Recently the Religious Endorsers have developed their own organization. Just how this affects the work of COMISS Network remains to be seen.

Despite the tensions that exist within and without, COMISS Network is enthusiastic to play out its role as the Round Table for conversation for all those organizations interested in pastoral/spiritual ministry in specialized settings. At present, COMISS (according to its 2006 Guidelines) can only be a place to talk together. It cannot be “a unified voice” of all the groups for advocacy and to speak to power (as do organizations such as the AMA, APA, NASW etc) but it can be a vehicle for common interests and concerns. Out of dialogue and mutual planning some voice may come (but it has to be first approved by the Boards of the cognate organizations) to speak to powers outside of our own cognate and faith groups. We need to learn how to speak with each other before we can speak to those outside of our own circle.

Leadership of the Network are proposing that COMISS embrace its identity as a Round Table for talk and encourage all members to talk more seriously than in the recent past. Instead of yearly talk at the annual Forum we are proposing “Interest Groups” to be organized so that delegates may talk together during the year in a more intentional way. Leadership will facilitate the following: communications; military chaplaincy; disaster response; standards for certification/accreditation; research; publications (such as JPCC); international (to connect with the ICPC); religious endorsement and any other interest group that the membership wants. Time during the Annual Forum will be devoted to meeting in interest groups and email communication will be encouraged during the year.

Leadership will take on the task of communications among the members. Chaplaincy organizations from a wider spectrum of faith groups will be invited to join the Round Table. Efforts will be made to get the COMISS Network message to the grass roots state and local chaplain groups. An email newsletter will be developed and the COMISS Network website will be upgraded.

We in the CPSP community support the COMISS Network. We send three delegates to the annual forum every December. Last year the delegates were Jim Gebhart, our President, Charles Kirby, our Treasurer, and George Hull. At that meeting in December, I was elected chair elect and Dave Plummer was elected secretary.

CPSP is heavily involved in the Leadership of the COMISS Network. We hope that with our people in the COMISS Network Leadership team, CPSP will have a strong voice in what COMISS Network plans for the coming years. Your ideas and input for what you would like to see attempted through this Round Table organization of organizations is critical to the growth and development of the COMISS Network and for the continued development of the whole clinical pastoral movement.

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Pastoral Consultation & CPSP: Moving Beyond the Hierarchy of Certification & Accreditation Commissions & Committees

by Perry Miller

Abstract: Following the CPSP decision not to pursue affiliation with the Department of Education (DOE), the Governing Council (GC) at its spring 2006 meeting moved to abolish the Accreditation Commission and also placed on hold the activity of the Certification Committee. This paper argues that the critical matters of certification of members and the accreditation of CPSP training centers becoming the sole responsibility of Chapters without the necessity of review by external committees and commissions represents a wise move by the CPSP. Instead, what will be requested of Chapters is that they share with the CPSP community their way of conducting these important functions. This is also a return to CPSP roots of honoring the autonomy of CPSP Chapter life. It is a move to an active, dynamic and relational pastoral consultation model as a central feature of CPSP Chapter life. The proposed model avoids the pitfalls of bureaucracy and hierarchy that were the primary forces that gave birth to the establishment of the CPSP community. The suggested model is consistent with CPSP's commitment to "travel light" and not be encumbered by excessive rules, regulations and layers of bureaucracy while maintaining the profundity that is often found in simplicity.

Introduction

A unique feature of the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy is its Chapter life. CPSP Chapters are largely autonomous small group communities who share life together where members are both supported and challenged as they live out their personal and professional lives together committed to the clinical practice of ministry. Matters such as certification and accreditation are the responsibility of Chapters, not external committees and/or commissions.

Excerpts from the CPSP Covenant describe Chapters and their members as those who "...place a premium on the significance of the relationships among [themselves]... value personal authority and creativity...make a space for one another...stand ready to midwife one another in [their] respective spiritual journeys...believe that life is best lived by grace... guard against becoming invasive, aggressive, or predatory toward each other.... persons are always more important than institutions..."

CPSP believes in the transformative power of relationships within community. The integrity of our covenant communities we call Chapters are empowered by the spirit of the CPSP Covenant to embrace the quality of clinical practice as set forth in the CPSP Standards as they strive for "... Recovery of Soul..." in the clinical pastoral movement.

CPSP recognizes the value, even necessity, of continuous pastoral consultation. This is true for CPSP Chapters as well as individual members. All CPSP Chapters are expected to utilize an active consultative relationship with an outside consultant. The consultative relationship as understood and promoted by the CPSP is designed to be relational and transformational. It is akin to the spirit of the dynamic pastoral consultation model as set forth by O. L. Delozier's article *Consultation* found in the *Dictionary of Pastoral Care* edited by Rodney Hunter:

The consultant and consultee are unique individuals, each

developing in its own way. This means that, in the strictest sense, no one knows what is best for another person. With this understanding and a commitment to this kind of freedom, the consultant and consultee are free to participate in a relationship in which all the human factors can be viewed. This process may be unpleasant and uncomfortable, but where it is understood that the consultant does not know best, compassion and trust support the relationship. Freed from the burdensome task of knowing what is best for another, the consultant is able to open his or her own person and offer a variety of responses and impressions with the confidence that the consultee can pick and choose what is useful. Similarly, the consultee when freed from the illusion that someone else knows what is best, is able to accept numerous responses from a variety of people with the confidence that his or her own person will utilize the feedback advantageously and select a course of action out of an inner wisdom.

...Pastoral consultation, in contrast with the usual understanding of that term, places authority in the consultee rather than the consultant. When the pastoral consultant offers consultation, trusting the authority of the consultee, and when the consultee accepts consultation, trusting his or her own inner wisdom, then the personhood of both parties is not only affirmed but enhanced. Confidence is built in the inner authority and mutual respect is experienced. Where each person is seen as having his or her own competent inner authority, intradependency takes on an enjoyable quality where give and take flow freely. Vulnerability is non-threatening and the richness of one's emotions is experienced.

... the pastoral approach to the consultation process is creative by virtue of being unlimited and unpredictable.

(The Dictionary of Pastoral Care, Rodney Hunter, Editor. Pages 223-224.)

After several years of thoughtful and intensive investigation by CPSP on the matter of becoming affiliated with the Department of Education (DOE), CPSP determined that doing so would endanger the redemptive and transformational culture of the clinical pastoral movement and CPSP in particular. John Edgerton, a CPE Supervisor and Director of the Department of Spiritual Care at WakeMed in Raleigh, NC voiced his concerns about the DOE:

*"A lot of people in our movement assume that the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education has that respectability because they are recognized by the Department of Education. This external source of respectability is supposed to win the hearts of seminary professors, but it will, I contend, cost us the very thing we sought to preserve, which is soul in the ministry of supervision and counseling.... Soul is connecting more closely to the creative, the imaginative and the instinctual, than it is to the prescribed, predetermined and behaviorist forms of education supported by the Department of Education. Soul has kinship with what is liberating rather than what is restrictive. Soul is full of grace and is not punitive..." ("U.S. Department of Education and the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy," John Edgerton, *Pastoral Report*, The Newsletter of the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy, http://www.pastoralreport.com/the_archives/2005/10/us_department_o.htmlpastoralreport.org; October 14, 2005)*

Jim Gebhart, President of the CPSP, in his article, *The Federal Government and Pastoral Care Organizations*, points out how all the pastoral care organizations, with the exception of the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE), have wisely chosen not to link their destiny to the federal government. Furthermore, he exposed the myth that only ACPE, because of its Department of Education affiliation, can receive Medicare pass through monies. Regrettably, the ACPE leadership has often promoted this myth. The truth is that CPSP training programs can and do receive Medicare pass through monies. The DOE has no jurisdiction in this matter. (*The Federal Government and Pastoral Care Organizations*, James Gebhart, *Pastoral Report*; January 19, 2006, http://www.pastoralreport.com/the_archives/2006/01/the_federal_gov.html)

Increasingly, many within the clinical pastoral movement are suspicious of alliances with the federal government and the resulting control it demands over organizational structure and practice. Equally true, many are becoming appreciative of CPSP's wisdom and the wisdom of other clinical pastoral organizations, with the exception of the ACPE, to steer clear of the DOE lest it contaminate the integrity of its clinical pastoral mission. CPSP, unlike the ACPE, knows it does not need nor desire the external validation of the federal government and its DOE.

Given CPSP's decision to embrace the pastoral consultation model for Chapter life, the following is offered for consideration and further discussion within the CPSP community.



Pastoral Consultation and the College of Pastoral Supervision: Moving Beyond the Hierarchy of Certification and Accreditation Commissions and Committees

- *Chapter Life Committee:* The Chapter Life Committee remains a consultative, educational, supportive and administrative resource for Chapters and their consultants. It exists only to serve Chapters. It will not function as a gatekeeper. It will have no power or authority over Chapters, their members and the Chapter's consultants. The Chapter Life Committee will remain committed to an important but limited mission. It's mission is to facilitate the empowerment of Chapters and their creative and dynamic life together as they use a valuable clinical resource--pastoral consultation.
- *Autonomy of Chapters:* Chapters will be uniquely responsible for certification and accreditation reviews. These functions are to be fulfilled in accordance to CPSP Standards. There will not be accreditation and certification committees or commissions.
- *Pastoral Consultation:* Chapters are to maintain an active consultative relationship with their chosen consultant(s).
- *Pastoral Consultants:* The Governing Council will establish a list of pastoral consultants. The list will be posted and continuously updated on CPSP's website, CPSP.ORG.
- *Notification:* Chapters are to apprise the Governing Council and the Chapter Life Committee who it has selected as their pastoral consultant(s) and to notify each body of any changes.
- *Chapters Choose Consultant(s):* Chapters will choose an outside consultant of their choice. Pastoral consultation is a dynamic relational process. The freedom of the

Chapter and the consultant to choose to enter into a consultation relationship is critical to the enterprise. Although a long-term consultative relationship is desirable, it is not required. Chapters are free to terminate their consultant relationship and seek a consultant who might be a better match. In addition to a Chapter's primary consultant, consultation might be sought from those with special expertise in order to address specific Chapter issues.

- *Active and Dynamic Consultation:* Chapters and their pastoral consultants will engage via face-to-face contact, phone, email, blogs, E-groups and other forms of electronic media such as the free voice-over-Internet in order to insure an active and substantive consultative relationship.
- *Certification, Accreditation and Pastoral Consultation:* Matters related to certification of members and accreditation of CPSP training centers require the on-site presence of the Chapter's consultant.
- *Sharing Individualized Certification and Accreditation Processes:* Chapters, in accordance to CPSP Standards, are to establish their unique certification and accreditation process and report their procedures for such in the Annual Chapter Life Ratification Report. The CPSP Executive Committee will vet the reports before sending it to the Governing Council. Each Chapter's certification and accreditation procedures will be shared with all Chapters as a means to stimulate a cross fertilization of shared expertise and dialogue amongst Chapters around these two critical functions within the CPSP community.
- *Certification and Accreditation Reporting:* Basic information about candidates recommended by their Chapter for certification and/or training centers that have undergone a site review for accreditation and also approved will be sent to the Administrative Assistant, Krista Argiropolis, a non-member of CPSP who will not evaluate content but insure that the requested information has been provided. The Executive committee will review the work and provide its recommendations to the Governing Council for consideration. As with all matters related to the life of the CPSP community, the Governing Council has the final word.
- *Chapter Clusters:* In order to connect, be informed and challenged by a broader community, Chapters will from time-to-time gather in clusters to seek and provide consultation, educational events, engage in the flow of ideas and be nourished by the larger cluster community.
- *A Consultation and Communication Internet Forum:* A private and protected Internet Forum dedicated to CPSP Chapter Life is available to all Chapter Conveners, their consultants and any designated Chapter member. It will become a central communication center where ideas, questions and CPSP issues can be addressed amongst CPSP Chapters from all parts of the world. The mission of the forum is to be informative, supportive, educational, and consultative while fostering better communication and community amongst CPSP Chapters. Members of the Chapter Life Committee and pastoral consultants will be active participants. The blog will become a valuable archive of information that will be easily searchable.

- *Equipping Pastoral Consultants and the Chapter Consultative Process:* Resources of the CPSP community will be utilized to provide training, education and support for those who provide pastoral consultation to Chapters.

Summary

All Chapters will engage a pastoral consultant(s) and enter into an active consultation relationship and process. CPSP will no longer have Accreditation and Certification Commissions or Committees. All matters related to accreditation of training centers and certification of members will be the responsibility of Chapters and their consultant(s).

CPSP Chapters and the dynamic and relational process of pastoral consultation engaged in by Chapters will insure that the spirit of the CPSP Covenant will be honored and the CPSP Standards will be upheld, including matters pertaining to accreditation and certification.

Once again, CPSP's Chapter model now coupled with its innovative consultation model as central to its most valuable resource --Chapter life-- represents CPSP leadership in its mission to provide "Recovery of Soul" within the clinical pastoral movement. ✉ perrymiller@cpsp.org

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