

SOUTHEAST REGION NEWSLETTER

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This quarterly Publication
of the Southeast Region
of the
Association for Clinical
Pastoral Education, Inc.
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Looking ahead---

CPE Day in Atlanta

Decatur United Methodist Church
July 9, 2014

Florida Consortium

Comfort Suites, Orlando, FL
July 17-18, 2014

Southeast Region Members' Meeting

Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simons Island, GA
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2014

25th Celebration of CPE at Tampa General

October 30, 2014

Southeast Region Invitational for Supervisors of Supervisory Education Students

Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simons Island, GA
January 11-13, 2015

Southeast Region Leadership Meeting

Administrative Board, Accreditation, Certification,
and Peer Review Committees
Hickory Knob State Resort Park, McCormick, SC
March 15-17, 2015

ACPE Conference and REM Invitational

April 29-May 2, 2015
Sheraton Hotel on Courtland Avenue, Atlanta, GA

Dates for Certification Reviews:

Regional: declare intent to Woody Spackman by July 25, 2014

Pay fee to Jap Keith by August 15, 2014

Materials postmarked by August 26, 2014

Materials to be received by August 29, 2014

Certification Committee meets Sept 30-Oct 2, 2014

National: declare intent by Sep 8; material postmarked by Oct 7;

ACPE Certification Commission meets Nov 15-18, 2014

2014

Administrative Board

Chairperson

Brenda Green

Chair Elect

Larry Wagoner

Secretary

Brenda Wallace

Treasurer

Olen Grubbs

At Large Members

Benson Thomas

Cora Saunders

Chrp Budget

Annual Conference

Stephen Robinson

Mission & Development

Harvey Rogers

ACPE Board of Rep

Amanda Jones

Committee Chairperson

Accrdttn: *Wayne Maberry*

Certfctn: *Elwood Spackman*

History: *Jonathan Ball*

Peer Rvw: *Tolly Williamson*

Cultural, Racial & Ethnic:

Robert Freeman

Rep & Nom:

Miriam Needham

Sem/Faith Groups:

David Nowlin

Standards:

James Taylor

SER ACPE BD LEADERSHIP MEETINGS at Hickory Knob, March 16-17, 2014

The following recommendations will be made to the members of the Southeast Region when we meet in our Annual Business Meeting at Epworth by the Sea in the fall of 2014. We are in the position of declaring our support of an ACPE Annual Conference being held in Atlanta, GA in the fall of 2015. The SER Adm Bd appointed Bridget Piggue and Jap Keith to serve as Co-Hosts for this ACPE conference, and thereby appointed them to the ACPE National Conference Committee.

Recommendations for Members to consider for 2015 (actions to be taken in Oct '14):

1) that the SE Region become a "presenting sponsor (\$20,000)" of the 2015 ACPE Conference [this \$20,000 is to be withdrawn from our "cash reserve fund"] with the understanding that this contribution to the ACPE, Inc will be reciprocated by
four complementary registrations,
four tickets to the closing celebration, and
a reserved table and dinner for 10 at the Presidential Dinner.

In return this remainder of this \$20,000 will underwrite the opening celebration of accreditation and certification achievements and the dancing celebration that may follow, and

2) that, in 2015, the SE Region will devote its designated income from the regional endowment fund (\$15,000) to lodging scholarships for Level 2 and SES students (who are clinical members of the ACPE, Inc. and have paid their registration fee for the 2015 Conference). This \$15,000 will be divided among those persons who make application to the SE Region by February 15, 2015.

[Note: if these recommendations are adopted by the members at the Annual Meeting at Epworth by the Sea in the fall of 2014, there will be no funds available from the SER Endowment Fund for the Florida, South Carolina, and the Interstate Consortiums in 2015. The intent in this shift of special project funds in 2015 is to solicit and support the SESs participation in a national conference that is happening within our region in the hope of fostering their understanding of what it means to be a dues-paying member of a professional accrediting and certifying organization. Also, in 2014-15, we recognize that many of our SESs are beyond the entry levels of certification and are soon to take on the responsibilities of being dues-paying, voting, certified ACPE Supervisor. Hopefully, the 2015 conference will facilitate and inform the next level of their participation in our professional educator association. If we are to continue our financial support of the SES consortiums in 2015, a sum will have to be withdrawn from our "cash reserve fund." We will have a clearer indication of all funds available by the time we meet in October.]

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At the invitation of David Johnson and with the blessing of the attending past presidents of the ACPE (Bill Baugh, Jo Clare Wilson, Jim Stapleford, Art Schmidt, Bill Scrivener, Sally Schwab, and Robin Brown-Haithco), the following charge was given by Jasper Keith at the Installation Service for the 25th President of the ACPE.

Installation Charge for David Johnson, 25th President of ACPE, Inc.

May 7, 2014 in Austin, TX

Reverend Jasper N. Keith, Jr., Th.D., 9th President of ACPE, Inc.

David,

We former presidents represent a "great cloud of witnesses"—servant leaders of the ACPE, Inc. since 1967. Each of us has the highest regard for the Office of the President, and we extend our best hopes to you as the elected choice of your peers.

Since you have afforded me the privilege of charging you on behalf of our colleagues, I pass on to you the consultations that were given to me as the ninth President of the ACPE, Inc.

1) Be thankful that you have been chosen by your colleagues.

After the closing session of a House of Delegates, one of the earliest presidents complained to me:
“This is a damn thankless job. Don’t ever aspire to it.”

I was shocked, appalled at his frustration. As I engaged his expectations and disappointments, I saw two things clearly:
1) he was frustrated that he hadn’t accomplished what he’d envisioned, and
2) his ego had been too attuned to anticipate accolades.
He had set himself up for his own frustrations. Don’t do that to yourself.

The thanksgiving for every presidency must reside in and find expression from out of your own heart. So, whatever you do, do it with thanksgiving for the privilege of having being chosen by your peers to be the servant leader of this Association. What a unique and special blessing given to a few. Give thanks for the trust of your colleagues; and do what you do out of a grateful heart.

2) Be careful in your use of the power entrusted to you.

When I moved from a similar podium back into the gathering of my peers after I’d received the Boisen cane, a rugged old codger grabbed my shoulders and shouted: “Keith: don’t you ever forget that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Be damn careful how you exercise the power of the Office of the President.”

At that juncture I didn’t know the power of the presidency. What I learned in those two years is that the President sets forth an agenda, secures supporters of that agenda, and the body politic enacts recommendations that may last in perpetuity or die in committee.

David, you have thought through your agenda: i.e., what you would hope to accomplish during your presidency. You wouldn’t be worth your salt among us if that wasn’t the case.

My plea with you is that you be very careful how you use the authority and power that has been entrusted to you in the pursuit of your agenda.

3) Be clear that the work of this Association is done by elected colleagues who serve on commissions and standing committees, both at the national and the regional levels.

Presidents and Executive Directors have never forged the future nor done the major tasks of this volunteer professional organization. Nope.

We all stand indebted to those who volunteer their time, energy, expertise, experience and knowledge in every dimension of our life together, but most especially in certification and accreditation. At the end of every presidency, only these words can be spoken: ***“Thanks, colleagues, for your collaboration and cooperation.”***

We all wish you well in a “most privileged position” given you by your colleagues. We trust that you will serve well with other elected colleagues, all of whom have been entrusted to be our servant-leaders.

My prayer for you, David, and for the rest of us is: Holy One, whose purposes we seek to serve, give us discernment, compassion and wisdom in choosing pathways by which we can participate in your ministries of love, peace and justice. Give us anticipation, imagination and empowerment at the crossroads so that the particular way taken will serve your ultimate ends. Along the way, give us a goodly sense of humor about ourselves, and strength enough for the daily tasks set before us. And grant, O God, the assurance that we are embraced in your steadfast love forever, we are redeemed, forgiven and reconciled in your merciful grace, now and always; and we are and will be empowered for loving service by Your Spirit. Amen.

A Declaration of Independence

Musings of Jasper Keith – toward July 4, 2014

On June 11, 1776 a committee of five was selected to draft a “declaration of independence” in order to place “before mankind (sic) the common sense of the subject, in terms so plain and firm as to command their assent” (aka Thomas Jefferson). On July 2 Richard Henry Lee’s resolution that “these united Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States” was passed unanimously with the New York delegates abstaining. A draft of a declaration, largely the work of Thomas Jefferson, was debated vigorously on the afternoon of July 2, all day on July 3, and for much of July 4 before the *Declaration for Independence* was adopted. The Liberty Bell rang from the State House steeple in Philadelphia, and that night copies were hastily distributed. Printed copies, with all the signatures, appeared in January, 1977.

That’s when, where and how the *Declaration* was given. The story of why it was written is too long and complex for this page. Who was involved in the writing, the debating, the approving and the propagation of it is also too long for this page. But in these days before another July 4th celebration, I find myself musing about the political philosophy undergirding seven principles set forth in *The Declaration*.

Ever too briefly stated, these are the principles:

- 1) All are created equal.
- 2) All are endowed with unalienable rights.
- 3) These rights include life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- 4) It was to secure these rights that governments are to be instituted.
- 5) Such governments derive their (just) powers from the consent of the governed.
- 6) When government becomes destructive of these ends, people may alter or abolish such government.
- 7) People have a right to institute new government designed to effect their safety and happiness.

Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Paine, et. al. institutionalized these principles into constitutional guarantees and formed a limited government (i.e., limited by written constitution, by bill of rights, by separation of powers, by checks and balances, and in time, by judicial review). While they championed the natural rights of people, they knew those rights must be secured by inalienable law for all (“cannot be taken away”) irrespective of station or rank. For them, government was a necessary evil that must finally be sanctioned only in the common consent of a social contract with the governed. The purpose of government was, and must remain, the benefit of the individual, never his/her exploitation. Government, therefore, must provide freedom of speech, thought, assembly, association, press, worship, education and enterprise.

May I suggest those were/are “prophetic principles” that are yet to be realized. Nevertheless, I prefer the perspective that our most noble rhetoric always is beyond our experienced reality. Our visions and dreams always exceed our practice. But, shouldn’t our reach always exceed our grasp? President Lincoln surely understood this perspective at Gettysburg in 1863. The test of every generation is the degree to which we “mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor” to preserve freedom and liberty based not on tribe or ideology, but on principle and law.

My beloved Association for CPE was founded on a declaration of principles, covenants of accountability and manuals adopted by the consent of the governed. Servant-leaders chose to affiliate, make alliances, combine resources, overcome divisions in order to establish standards for, accredited programs of, and certify persons to provide units of clinical pastoral education. I think of them as “patriots” who sacrificed self-interest and private investments for the sake of the common interest and public good. I remember them with much gratitude and trust that I have honored them in my devotion and love of that which they began. May I invite you to include them in your memories during the 2014 celebration of Independence Day?