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EAST CENTRAL REGION, ACPE

Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio & Pittsburgh, PA.

November 2003

Frankly Speaking

Transitions

Driving home to Indianapolis recently along the familiar Interstate 70 from Ohio, I had the urge to leave the highway with its 70 mile per hour plus speeds, its sterile landscape, and endless lines of tractor-trailers. I was in the mood for something a little less hectic and a little more personal. As I crossed the Ohio-Indiana border, I selected the ramp for U. S. Route 40 West. This would follow the same western path as Interstate 70, a few miles south of the Interstate, and would drive directly through a string of small and medium-sized towns along the way, beginning with Richmond. As soon as I got on the ramp, I knew it was a good decision—my body relaxed and my mind began to anticipate what the next ninety minutes would bring.

This is old, familiar territory for me. Route 40 and I go way back.

In the early sixties, I was a seminary student in Dayton, Ohio. Through a series of events that are too complicated to relate, I spent the last two years of my seminary career serving as youth pastor to a church in Terre Haute Indiana, nearly two hundred miles west of Dayton. With four days of classes and three-day weekends, a lot of us served churches at some distance. I had my choice about the trip: For \$18.00 I could buy a round trip ticket on the Pennsylvania Railroad and be in Terre Haute by mid-evening on Fridays; or I could drive out Route 40 (no Interstates in 1962) and get there in time for bed. "The Pennsy," as we called it, ran right along Route 40. In Indiana, it was just south of the highway, and most of the way the tracks were in sight from the road. I liked both ways of getting there: The Railroad had its own charm, and allowed me to study, sleep or just look out the window—and get there faster. Driving was less expensive, I could choose my own schedule, and I loved to drive (and I still do).

So as I drove down the ramp from I-70 to Route 40 on this recent occasion, you see that I was not only selecting an alternate way home, I was opting to indulge in nostalgia and a couple hours of rummaging through my personal history. As I drove along through the little towns: Centerville, Auburn, Charlottesville, Knightstown, ..., my mind drifted back over the many trips I had made along this corridor. From time to time I would look over to my left and see the straight level course of the railroad running along parallel to the highway. The railroad is gone now—most of the tracks have been taken up, and roads have been cut across it—in some places new construction sits on the roadbed itself. How sad it feels to me to know that this era is irretrievably gone. No more rumbling lines of dull red coaches will ever haunt those little towns and farms, except in the memory of those of us who once rode along that line.

By now, you can guess that my trip home on this old, familiar highway was bittersweet—somewhat melancholy. I know what is going on in me. In my heart I am wrestling with the emotional implications of the decision my head has made to set the date for my retirement. Around this time next year, I expect to be retired, both from the Regional Director's position I have held for well over a decade, and from my employment at the hospital where I have worked for more than twenty-five years. I still believe that choosing to retire at this time is a good decision, but as I approach the date, I become aware how much work it is. It is one kind of work to make the necessary plans for continuing insurance, the transition from work income to pension and social security. It is another kind of work to deal with the emotional adjustment to a new and strange segment of my life.

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It is my hope to carry off this transition with grace and dignity. I want to move with enthusiasm and energy into the possibilities of the years ahead. I have plans, hopes and expectations of interesting and exciting activities that are now possible. But Newton's laws of motion apply to the psyche as surely as to the physical realm. *For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.* The backside of my eagerness and anticipation is sadness and regret. I am tearing up the old tracks, the well-used coaches are being parked in a yard somewhere, and new people will build new structures where my roadbed has been home to the rumbling train of my work life and career. I think that it is essential to the process of moving into the next phase of my life that I pay attention to the grief of letting go of what has been. Taking Route 40 home is a part of that process. I just may do more of that in the coming days.

To switch metaphors for a moment, I am reminded of a quip my instructor gave us in flight training: *For every takeoff there will be some sort of landing.* This is as true of our careers as it is of airplanes. The sort of landing we manage will depend on our skill, our attentiveness and good planning. My experience as a pilot has been that people judge the quality of a pilot's skill mostly on the smoothness of that inevitable collision with the earth that awaits every flight. I have prided myself on my smooth arrivals as a pilot. I hope to do the same with my career.

Collegially,
Frank

Standards Committee Your Feedback Requested

Dear ECR/ACPE friends: Here is a summary of several issues currently being discussed by the national Standards Committee. Please review the information below and send your comments to Carol Green or me. Also, remember that there will be a professional ethics standards focus group at our national conference in Lake Geneva. Sincerely, Karl Van Harn, Regional, Chairperson, Standards Committee

I. What Are "Standards?"

At the national meeting in Atlanta, Anne Underwood challenged the accreditation and certification commissions and the standards committee to consider 2 possible definitions for "standards:"

(1) Standards are the 10-12 most important intrinsic ideas/values at the heart of the association or (2) standards are adequate and relevant measures of educational quality.

<p><u>Pro definition (1):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most professional associations define standards in this way. • This would reduce the number of standards. • Most of current standards can be moved into the manuals. 	<p><u>Pro definition (2):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national standards committee serves us by focusing discussion on issues that relate to several aspects of our association. • The standards contain much wisdom learned from our years of experience. • Such standards help us keep our focus on education
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<p><u>Con definition (1):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need standards that hold us accountable to educational quality. • This change would affect our structure by creating “silos” rather than “cross-currents” for discussing association issues. • There are no problems with current standards; current problems are related to the manuals. 	<p><u>Con definition (2):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are more than “standards” by specifying details. • The manuals are supposed to function to assure educational quality. • More streamlining is needed.
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Reformatting Standards

Anne Underwood proposed the following changes for our discussion:

1. 100 (Ethics) > reduce to pure “standards” and move to professional ethics manual
2. 200 (Accreditation) > reduce to pure “standards” and move to accreditation manual
3. 300 (Certification) > reduce to pure “standards” and move to certification manual
4. 400 (Complaints) > possible move to professional ethics manual
5. 500 (Appeals) > move to accreditation and certification manuals
6. 600 (Glossary)—create a consistent glossary

<p><u>Pro:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This reformatting would be consistent with redefining “standards” as mentioned above (I). • This would further streamline our standards and manuals. • This would limit redundancy and confusion between standards and manuals. 	<p><u>Con:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With this reformatting, there seems to be little need for standing “standards committee.” • Discussions about association issues would move to each respective commission and the board, with the potential for less dialogue across the association and with our constituents. • This would essentially “move the furniture” without really saving paper or other resources.
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Manual Steering Committee

The board appointed a Manual Steering Committee that will be chaired by a member of the Standards Committee and will be composed of the Executive Director of Associate Executive Director, two members from Standards, Accreditation, Certification, and Professional Ethics, respectively, one at-large member and a consultant. This committee will work on making the manuals more consistent both internally and with other manuals.

Elimination of the Appeals Manual

Regardless of the reformatting issue, the Appeals Manual will be moved to the Accreditation and Certification Manuals as appropriate.

Extend Discussion of Study Document Until Fall Meeting

Two proposed changes:

- A. Add 111.6 (Research): Follows established guidelines in the design of research involving human subjects and gains approval from a recognized Institutional Review Board before conducting such research.

<p><u>Pro:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This makes explicit sound principles and practices for conducting research.• This alerts our membership to the value of responsible research.	<p><u>Con:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The timing of a residency program and the meetings of an Institutional Review Board may not coincide well for conducting research.• Non-medical CPE centers may not have an Institutional Review Board, making research untenable.
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- B. Change 223.1 (Admission Policy) in two ways:

1. Add: An admission policy that clearly states that the ACPE Center does not discriminate against persons because of race, gender, age, faith group, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical disability.

<p><u>Pro:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is important for a center's admission policy to match the language of the standard so that there is no misrepresentation in our practice.• This change would express our value of non-discrimination and even be prophetic in some contexts.• Non-discrimination is a legal and regulatory matter.• This change would still allow supervisors freedom to select who will participate in the CPE program.	<p><u>Con:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The current wording is sufficiently clear.• A center's admission policy will need to be congruent with the policies of its organization.• This specified wording has the potential of putting some CPE programs at odds with the faith groups that sponsor them.• We want our inclusivity to also include faith groups and centers with whom we have theological differences.
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2. Delete: the word physical (above)

<u>Pro:</u> This would be more inclusive of disabilities that are not necessarily of a physical nature.	<u>Con:</u> (none)
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Background Checks for Those Entering Supervisory CPE

This is already being done by many centers. The issue has been referred to Anne Underwood to learn of any legal concerns.

<u>Pro:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This will protect us from liability for neglect if a supervisory student was charged with misconduct.• This is already being done by many centers, so this standard will reflect responsible practice.	<u>Con:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This can be handled at the center level and a new standard is not necessary.• There are different kinds of background checks and states vary in how they process background checks, so it is difficult to specify what kind of background check is meant in this standard.
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Send your comments to: Carol Green, green8@bellsouth.net [3108 Sunny Lane, Louisville, KY 40205] or Karl VanHarn, kvanharn@wedgwood.org [Wedgwood Christian Y & FS, 3300 36th. St., SE, PO Box 88007, Grand Rapids, MI. 49518 0007]

Regional Certification Deadlines

Certification deadlines for our next Regional Meeting which will be held at College Corner, Ohio at the Hueston Woods Resort and Conference Center February 19, 2004.

- Application deadline: January 1, 2004
Materials Due: Monday, January 19, 2004

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by e-mail saxtonm@sjmc.com or by phone at 574-282-8904 or mary.burks-price@nortonhealthcare.org by phone 502-629-3152; FAX 502-629-3125

Job Opportunities

- The Cleveland Clinic Foundation has **five positions for the 2004-2005 ACPE Residency**, and **six for the Summer 2004 ACPE program**. Residency stipend is \$22,000-\$22,600. Apply by 2/28/04; The Rev. Patrick M. Persaud, Pastoral Care, H19, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, 9500 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH. 44195. (Ph: 216-444-2518; Fax 216-445-9678). Visit Web Site <http://www.clevelandclinic.org/pastoralcare> for more information.

Calendar of Events

- **November 12-15, 2003** – ACPE Annual Conference-Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, Lake Geneva, WI.
- **February 5-7, 2004** – REM (Racial, Ethnic, Multicultural) Invitational Conference, Chicago (Oak Park) IL.
The theme will be "Making Connections in an Age of Multiculturality." Reverend Jeremiah Wright is the guest speaker. For more information contact Rev. Delois Brown-Daniels at Illinois Medical Center, Mission and Spiritual Care Department, work phone (773) 296-5002; fax (773) 296-5010.
- **February 20-21, 2004** – East Central Region, Annual Meeting – Hueston Woods, College Corner, OH.
- **April 21-25, 2004** – ACPE Leadership Meeting (Board Commissions, Committees) Fairmont Hotel, Dallas, TX.
- **July 2004 CPE Day**-Earlham School of Religion – Mike Saxton, Coordinator – more details to follow.

Supervisory Education in the Region

Regional Associate Supervisors

Rhonda Gilligan Gillespie
Lonnie E. Long

Regional Supervisory Candidates

Ruth Alpers
Ed Bastien
Carrie Culleen
Donald Harris
James Mitchell
Jon Paulus
Joe Roberts
Pat Shelden Ward
Tim Waits
Frank Woggon

Officers of the Region

Frank Ciampa, Director
Katherine Nininger, Chair
Lin Barnett, Vice Chair
Rhonda Gillespie, Accreditation
Carol Green, Board of Reps
_____, Board of Reps
Larry Brandon, Budget & Investment
Mary Burks-Price, Certification Co-Chair
Michael Rice Saxton, Certification Co-Chair
BJ Myers-Bradley, Clinical Members
_____, History
Earl Hoppert, Long Range Development
Urias Beverly, Nominations
Carl Buxo, Professional Ethics
Billie Beverly, REM
Celia Thurston, Research
Karl VanHarn, Standards

Information for the December newsletter must be received by November 29, 2003. Send to:
Regional Business Office, 7672 Cottonwood Lane, Dexter, MI. 48130 Telephone: 1/800-336-5099; or E-mail lykbyl@aol.com