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NAPCE 2007: San José, CA, October 18-20

**WHOLE PEOPLE
EQUIPPED FOR
MINISTRY**

Elaine Becker, Conference Vice-President

We are looking to Marva Dawn, Teaching Fellow at Regent College, to challenge us to rethink our task as Christian Educators as we seek to minister to the whole person. In the past few years we have paid particular attention to topics such as spiritual formation, leadership, and teaching skills. This conference will ask the broader question related to preparing whole persons for ministry. It is not a question of preparedness with appropriate skills and knowledge, nor a question of spirituality but one which asks how we are effectively tying all of the components together in the education process to create "educated" people who will serve God in a rapidly changing world with all of its technological advances. How do we prepare whole people who will serve in a world where technology has perhaps advanced beyond our ethical reasoning, in a world where community is endangered by individualism, and in a world where international boundaries are becoming even more blurred than in the past?

One of the advantages of our location in San José is the opportunity to hear from technology professionals who are working in this fast paced world every day. Some of the conference sessions will help us better understand how high tech developments are permeating and influencing the academic world. The technology-related sessions on Friday will offer something for both the beginner and the advanced.

There will be a special pre-conference session at 4 p.m. on Thursday afternoon with Kevin Compton, long-term team member of one of Silicon Valley's most successful venture capital firms. Some of you may remember his fascinat-

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**San José
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ing presentation at our 1997 conference held near Charlotte, North Carolina. Consider adding this early session to your schedule as you make your flight arrangements.

The question of equipping whole persons asks how are we in our individual academic, ministry settings encouraging people to be fully educated in order to be able to address current issues. It is our hope that in some intensive discussion sessions some of our own members will be inspired to take up the challenge in a new or innovative way. We would like to see these ideas posted and discussed through our website and some group writing projects when the conference is over.

In preparation for our discussions and in order to take full advantage of Marva Dawn's time, we are asking attendees to read the following book which touches on some of the things we will be examining.

Unfettered Hope: A call to faithful living in an affluent society.
Westminster John Knox Press

Other books by Marva Dawn related to our theme include:

Truly the Community: Romans 12 and how to be the church. Eerdmans Publishing

Is It a Lost Cause? Having the heart of God for the church's children. Eerdmans Publishing.

The setting for the conference is the wonderful Marriott hotel in downtown San José. The hotel itself is well laid out for our sessions and lends itself to group interactions and socializing with colleagues. I trust you will sense this is an exciting time in our organization. This is a conference you will not want to miss. So this October I invite you to "Find Your Way to San Jose." Come and bring your colleagues as well! ■

NAPCE Membership Benefits

Membership in NAPCE provides valuable benefits:

- You receive the NAPCE Newsletter
- A subscription to the *Christian Education Journal* (published by Talbot School of Theology) - two issues per year beginning with the Spring issue
- Free books and resources as they become available to us (most of these are given at the annual conference)
- Communication with others in the field through our website
- Outstanding fellowship opportunities with those who minister in the field of Christian Education

In March you are eligible to nominate one of your outstanding Christian education students to receive the Scholastic Recognition Award from NAPCE. Only members may make nominations.

Eligibility for NAPCE includes persons who teach Christian Education, including leadership and related subjects, those who taught these subjects in the past, professionals in the field of Christian Education, and adjunct professors.

Membership fee is \$65 per year and student membership is \$35 per year. The membership year runs from October 1 through September 30.

Make checks out to NAPCE (US Funds please) and send them to:

Dennis E. Williams
Executive Administrator, NAPCE
SBTS Box 1854
2825 Lexington Rd.
Louisville, KY 40280 ■

NAPCE Board Members

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A Newcomer's Notes on the 2006 NAPCE Conference

Halee Gray Scott

In the spring of 2006, I embarked on a whole new adventure in life when I enrolled in Talbot School of Theology's Ph.D. program in Educational Studies. Just nine months before, my husband and I sold our beautiful home in Frisco, Texas, to attend Fuller Theological Seminary for their Ph.D. program in Systematic Theology. One day I happened upon Talbot's website and after seeing the courses they offered and the training they provided, I decided that this school would best prepare me for my calling to "bridge the gap" between academia and the laity by learning how to facilitate true growth and transformation of individuals within the Church body.

So this past October, I found myself, thanks in part to a grant from the Lilly Foundation, in Denver, Colorado for my first NAPCE conference. As a newcomer to both NAPCE and the field of Christian education in general, I had no idea what to expect when I set foot in Denver City Center Marriott. All I knew at the time was that the theme of the conference was "Equipped Through Teaching" and that Robert Drovdahl, conference vice-president, had described the conference as embracing "the Great Commission's command to go make disciples of Christ through teaching obedience to Christ." But from the second I arrived, I was welcomed by the warm, familiar faces of my fellow colleagues and professors, and to my surprise, Eileen Starr, president of NAPCE, greeted me personally when I checked in. I instantly felt at home at NAPCE and was excited about the prospect of

learning more about my calling as a Christian educator through the teachings of Richard Osmer, the scheduled workshop intensives, and the opportunities for networking.

As numerous researchers have noted, the dominant zeitgeist has landed us in the middle of a theological desert where the theological and biblical literacy rates of even self-proclaimed evangelicals remains questionable. This cultural reality made Richard Osmer's teaching sessions all the more timely and relevant. In these three sessions, Osmer, Thomas Synnott Professor of Christian Education at Princeton Seminary, discussed the three tasks of Christian educators: passing on Scripture and the Christian tradition to future generations, encouraging moral formation through exhortation, and searching for the will of God through discernment. I thought that Osmer provided valuable insights on the practice of Christian education, and I particularly appreciated his exhortation to remember that as Christian educators, we are practical theologians who are continually impacting and influencing the way our learners know and perceive God.

The newly launched intensive workshops and the networking groups were both extremely helpful for a few other newcomers. Susan Payne, a Ph.D. student at Talbot School of Theology, noted that the intensive workshop put on by Norma Hedin and Shelly Cunningham equipped her with new teaching approaches and practices that she felt would enhance her performance in the classroom. Dale Hale, Director of Distributed Learning at Asbury Theological Semi-

nary, added that the networking session with Rick Yount was a particularly good learning experience because it provided clarity on some of the issues he faced in his administrative duties. Hale further commented that the conference encouraged him in his own writing pursuits and prepared him to give presentations at conferences similar to NAPCE. Shirl Schiffman, resident faculty at Columbia International University Seminary and School of Missions, stated that the NAPCE conference was a "crash seminar" that familiarized her "with colleagues, the literature of our field, and what is on the heart of Christian educators around the world."

Last, but *definitely* not least, was the availability and affordability of a plethora of solid, fresh resources. Both Schiffman and I were impressed with the number of resources that were freely distributed during the conference. Schiffman, like so many others, purchased so many discounted books from the publishers that she had them shipped home in a separate package.

Overall, I believe the 2006 NAPCE conference not only equipped newcomers with resources that will enhance our work as Christian educators, but it also showcased for us the incredible body of work being done by our colleagues and introduced us to the exceptional kindness of our peers. ■

President's Message: Winter Board Meeting

The Winter NAPCE Board meeting was held January 26-28 in San José, site of the 2007 NAPCE conference (see Elaine Becker's article in this issue). Our work focused on planning for the 2007 and 2008 conferences, but we also spent half our time thinking "beyond the next conference."

The recent troubles at Ford Motor Company and General Motors teach us how quickly change comes and provide a cautionary tale for any organization. *Anticipate and adapt* or suffer the consequences in a rapidly changing world. To insure NAPCE remains a healthy, adaptive organization our weekend together focused on a strategic planning process—under the banner of "NAPCE 2013". Over that past four years Eileen Starr led our organization's effort to create new mission and purpose statements. This process concluded with the membership's adoption of the new statements at the 2006 Denver business meeting. We now must translate those statements into a strategic plan—one that will build on current strengths, respond to challenges, take advantage of opportunities, and provide substantial member benefits. The board worked diligently on identifying strengths, challenges, and opportunities NAPCE faces and tried to envision what NAPCE will look like in 2013.

As the new statement reminds us, our basic mission is to enhance the teaching ministry of the Church. NAPCE members have a *ministry of identity* in serving this mission. In addition to *doing* the Church's teaching ministry in a variety of ways, NAPCE members have the professional respon-

sibility to *shape* the teaching/learning/forming dimensions of the Church's identity and mission. Through leadership education, teacher training, research and writing we lift up the essential value of Christian education and shape its formative practices.

Your board is convinced "business as usual" will not produce a healthy organization in 2013. Our ideas for change range from building bridges to other organizations similar in mission and purpose to redesigning the conference program. As your representatives, we would welcome your feedback. Let me offer two questions board members considered in January:

- *What will be three improvements to NAPCE in the next six years?*
- *What member benefits will NAPCE provide in 2013?*

If you would like to respond to these two questions please email me at bdrov Dahl@spu.edu. ■



NAPCE Annual Conference 2008

Michael Anthony has been selected the Vice President for the 2008 NAPCE conference. The theme is *The Changing Face of the American Family*. Currently, speakers are being lined up and the program developed. The location is still under consideration, but will most likely be somewhere in the southeastern United States, possibly in the Atlanta area. ■

Grant Money Available

Through the generosity of Cook Communications Ministries, a grant of up to \$5,000 is available through NAPCE for research projects related to the Church's teaching ministry. Funds may be used for any research related expenses: supplies, stipends for release time, data analysis needs. The project must have an intended benefit for local congregations' teaching ministry. See the NAPCE website for more information.

Results of the Straw Poll on a Name Change

by Paul Bramer

Organizations' names are important: they indicate who we are and what we do. At the NAPCE '06 conference, the board presented a revised mission statement.

We also had a straw poll to gauge the members' opinions on a name change for the organization. The poll was somewhat informal and so there are some limits on the statistics and interpretations which could be developed; for example, some people gave up to five choices for preferences while some only chose one, and it is probable that there was some "lobbying" as there appeared to be considerable similarity in voting patterns within table groups (or else like-minded people were sitting together!).

The results are interesting though and the most obvious observation is that we are far from consensus on a preference for a name for our organization.

With 80 members participating in the poll, the most popular was our current name "North American Professors of Christian Education" (NAPCE) with 28% of 1st place, 35% of 1st and 2nd place, and 43% of 1st-5th place choices of the votes cast and placing first in each of these three statistical categories. Next most popular was "Professors of Edu-

cational Ministries" with 19% of 1st's, 29% of 1st-2nd's, and 36% of 1st-5th's place votes cast. "Professors of Christian Formation and Education" (PCFE) and "Association of Professors of Educational Ministries" (APEM), obvious variations on each of the two names leading the poll, were roughly tied for 3rd place. One possible interpretation of the results is that while a majority preferred a different name from our present one, there was a wide variety of opinion in what that name should be. There were a number of write-ins, and while these only received 1-6 votes, they should still be considered if we are ever to change our name, a possibility which the board wants to ascertain to a greater degree.

Regarding words important to include in the name, "Christian" (29), "Professors" (27), "Education" (15) and "Educational Ministry/ies" (13) were the most popular write-ins; each of the other 27 received fewer than 10. It should be noted, however, that there were write-ins that overlapped (e.g., 9 wrote in phrases that included the term "Christian"). These results will serve as a guide to the board as it gives direction and definition to our organization.

Special Appreciation to Cook Communication Ministries

We do want to express special appreciation to Cook Communication Ministries for printing and mailing out our newsletter. In particular, we thank Charlene Luna-Powilleit for coordinating the project over the last few years at Cook. They have provided this service to NAPCE for many years and we appreciate their support for our organization.



2006 Financial Report

Balance 1/1/06	\$38,168.09
Net deposits	\$54,980.71
Disbursements	\$56,376.16
Balance 12/31/06	\$36,772.64

NAPCE board members or the administrator will be happy to respond to questions concerning the financial report.



Contact Information

It is important that we maintain up-to-date contact information on each of you. Using the update form found on our website is an easy way to keep this information current. Just complete the form and email it to mail@napce.org.

Exhibits at the Annual Conference

Publishing house representatives and other ministry resource people contribute a great deal to our annual conference by exhibiting and in some cases by providing meals or breaks. If you know of organizations who might like to exhibit at our conference, please ask them to go to the exhibit link on our website. This has a copy of the current exhibitor's contract. Specific questions can be addressed to our administrator, Dennis Williams (mail@napce.org or 502 649 3726). ■

San José Conference Information

Since we are meeting at the San José Marriott Hotel, it will be important that you secure your reservations early in order to be sure you get into the hotel for the conference. For the past three years we used up our room block and some had to look for rooms in other hotels.

Make your reservations with the San José Marriott, 301 Market Street, San José, CA 95113 (408 280 1300 or 800 228 9290). Indicate that you are with NAPCE to receive the rate of \$100 for single or double occupancy. Cut off date is **September 17**. Thereafter reservations will be accepted on a space available basis and also at the prevailing rate of the hotel. In recent years we

have run out of rooms so please make your reservations early. Links on the NAPCE website take you straight to online hotel reservations.

From the San José airport to the San José Marriott we suggest that you use a taxi as the distance is only 3-4 miles. You may want to wait around in the taxi area and find other NAPCE members to share the ride.

*Rates: (hotel room not included)
NAPCE membership and conference registration:*

\$260.00

Student membership and conference registration:

\$150.00

*Spouse conference registration:
\$150.00*

Please go to the NAPCE website for more details on the conference and for any last minute announcements.

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AYME Offers San José Conference Addition

NAPCE members are invited to participate with the AYME (Association of Youth Ministry Educators) conference to hear Dr. Fraser Mustard Saturday afternoon, evening (10/20) and Sunday morning (10/21). Dr. Mustard will present current neuroscience research from early childhood through adolescence. In particular, he will discuss interdisciplinary implications for those focused on adolescence.

Cost for this special opportunity is \$65 and will include Saturday afternoon and evening sessions including dinner and Sunday morning including a break. You may register for this opportunity on the NAPCE registration form. Please include the extra \$65 with your NAPCE registration. ■

Current Research Presentations

Call for Papers

Please consider sharing your research projects or special studies at this year's conference. Our theme is **Whole People Equipped for Ministry**. *The emphasis is on ministering to the whole person in our Christian education endeavors.* We encourage you to collaborate with colleagues to present a paper or lead a workshop. The research can be empirical in nature or fit more of a historical/theological model. A high quality of research workmanship is expected.

Proposal Submission: We invite proposals that address the conference theme and its strands, but also other topics of general interest to NAPCE members. Proposals should demonstrate a clear focus or statement of the problem, a coherent argument, a statement of the implications for Christian education. Please limit your proposals to a maximum of 300 words.

Proposals must be submitted via email to Jonathan.Kim@Biola.edu and CEPraxis@Gmail.com no later than **August 15th, 2007**. Notification of acceptance will be emailed to authors by **September 15th, 2007**.

This is a great opportunity to share what you have been working on, receive feedback from others, and stimulate others to extend your work into new areas. We look forward to hearing from you through the proposal submission process. If you have any questions, please contact:

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