



Christian educators recognize the importance of Scripture as foundational for Christian faith and practice. Although Christian educators continue to voice assertions regarding the authority of the Bible, in recent years the appropriation and use of the Bible within the church has tended to decrease in importance when one considers the church's formative practices of worship, Christian education, and discipleship, thereby relegating the Bible's role merely to the realm of Christian doctrine.

Scripture was written to function with the context of the church in terms of formation and transformation, rather than merely in terms of information. One of the Christian educator's primary tasks is to understand and develop how Scripture, within the context of the church, forms and transforms persons and communities into faithful disciples.

Dr. Eugene Peterson, an internationally known author and speaker on spiritual formation will explore how persons are formed and shaped in Christlikeness, and **Dr. Rick Yount**, a professor and author in

the field of Christian Education will focus on the role of spiritual formation in the discipline of Christian Education.

The 2011 NAPCE conference will explore the role of Scripture as formation and education. We invite research papers and professional workshops that focus on the formative and transformative aspects of Scripture within the context of the church. The following are examples of possible papers and professional workshop presentations:

- The Relationship of Scripture and the Social Sciences; *Scripture and Formation in Worship*; *Spiritual Formation Practices*; *Biblical Aspects of Christian Education*; *Transformative Bible Teaching*; *The Role of Scripture in Christian Education*; *Formational Practices in the Church*; *Biblical Foundations of Christian Education*; *Biblical Authority and Teaching*; *Historical Aspects of Spiritual Formation*; *The Role of Scripture in Small Groups*; *Inductive Bible Study Approaches*; *Postmodernism and Biblical Authority*; and *Neuroscience and Biblical Authority*.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2011 Conference
- 2010 Conference Report
- Parting Words
- President's Tribute
- Benson Distinguished Educator Award
- Board Elections
- Financial Report
- Articles Needed



A newsletter of the North American Professors of Christian Education professional society

Stan Hamm, Editor
stan.hamm@prov.ca

2010 Louisville Conference

Conference Report

This fall, the NAPCE conference was held once again at the Brown Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. Dennis Williams, our executive director was able to renegotiate the original contract (due to lower than expected numbers and without a significant penalty) which resulted in a return to the same location as in 2009. The facilities and staff were again exceptional as was the use of the ballroom. Numbers were similar to last year as many members of NAPCE continue to make the conference a priority.

This year's conference featured the debut of the **Research Mall**, which gave attendees the opportunity to browse displays of current research projects and speak with researchers in a casual context. Both presenters and participants enjoyed the opportunity to discuss current research in an informal manner.

Both **Scot McKnight** and **Mike Erre**

challenged participants to consider how to understand **Christian Formation** in the culture and church today. Comments ranged from "thought provoking", "challenging", and "engaging" to "really stretched" and "stimulated my thinking".

For many, the highlight of the conference continues to be the opportunity to network with like-minded people. People called by God to minister in the arena of **Christian Education/Formation**. People who have become friends and colleagues, and people who come from across the continent and a few from overseas to experience this community of educators.

Thank-you Jim Dekker, Conference VP, for planning and coordinating the event.



Executive Administrator

Parting Words

As announced in the *Newsletter*, I will be leaving the position of Executive Administrator of NAPCE effective December 31, 2010. My involvement in NAPCE has spanned four decades.

As a Minister of Christian Education in the 50's and 60's I knew about the Research Commission of the National Sunday School Association when I attended the NSSA national conventions. This Commission, under auspices of NSSA, was made up primarily of professors of Christian education in colleges and seminaries. I was involved with the National Association of Directors of Christian Education (NADCE) as they also met at the NSSA national conferences. In the early 1970's the Research Commission changed its name to NAPCE.

My first NAPCE conference was in 1973 in St. Paul, Minnesota when the group met with the Leadership Seminar in NSSA. Unfortunately there was no program for NAPCE and a few of us sat around the table discussing some thoughts regarding the future of this needed organization. NSSA was going to meet in Denver in 1974 so they asked if I would host NAPCE and develop a program. This conference celebrated the retirement of Mary and Lois LeBar from Wheaton College. Approximately 35 people were present and they elected me to serve a two year term as president. One of my first discoveries was that our checking account was overdrawn! Perhaps this is one reason

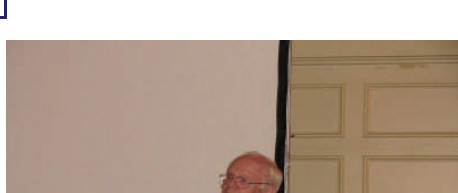
why I've tried to keep NAPCE financially responsible over the years.

In 1984 at the Kansas City meeting Bill Bynum was elected president and I was elected to the board. Unfortunately, Bill passed away about a month later and the board asked me to take his place as president. I completed the two year term and then Warren Benson, for whom we have named our Distinguished Educator Award, was nominated to serve as president. He said that he would not accept the position unless Dennis Williams would agree to serve as administrator for NAPCE. Thus, a new position was created and my 25 year term of service began.

It has indeed been a privilege to serve the association and to work closely with board members and officers. One of my greatest memories will be the times served with so many Christian brothers and sisters whom God has provided over the years through NAPCE. They have become close friends in the ministry.

A personal and sincere "thank-you" is given to all of you for the opportunity to serve the association as administrator.

Dennis E. Williams



Michael Anthony

President's Tribute

After 25 years of faithful service to our fellowship of professors we are truly indebted to the faithful service of Dennis Williams. I was at the meeting when Dennis was selected to serve as Executive Administrator. At our annual meeting in Chicago (1986) the board asked Warren Benson to serve as president, however Warren was a bit overwhelmed with the load of starting a new doctoral program at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (TEDS). He told the board that he would serve under one condition. Dennis Williams would have to agree to serve in a new paid role as Executive Administrator.

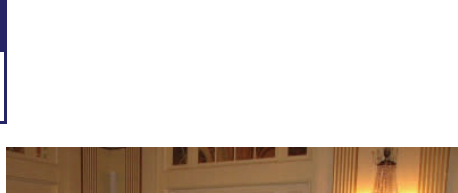
Our association had grown a great deal in the 80's and the business of sponsoring an annual conference in a different city every year was taking a huge toll on the role of the president. By having many of the critical responsibilities over to someone who could facilitate it every year meant that we were guaranteed quality conferences with fiduciary oversight. Dennis was just the right person for the job.

If you have had to plan a conference with Dennis (I have done two of them), I can attest to the fact that no one watches a dime as closely as Dennis. Hotel contracts are printed on legal size paper and often comprise 50 pages of detailed descriptions of room set-ups, catering menus, and special needs requests. Any one page can

cost the association thousands of dollars of contractual obligations. When a single dinner can cost over \$75 per plate, it doesn't take many over-billed meals for the cost to get pretty high. This year alone, Dennis found \$4,000 in contested charges from our conference. Dennis has earned his salary many times over in saving alone.

But beyond his obvious financial savvy, and far more important to us who have served alongside him on the board, are his wisdom and organizational history. Dennis' transition will be felt by all of us—especially by me. His inspiration, intellectual acumen, southern hospitality, and friendly smile have made such a contribution to our "Fellowship of Allies" and for this we owe him a debt of gratitude. Thank-you, dear friend for all that you have meant to us!

Editor's Note: The board is pleased to announce that **Freddy Cardoza** has been appointed to the position of Executive Administrator, and that **Dennis Williams** will serve as Senior Consultant to the Board.



NAPCE Membership

Membership Benefits

NAPCE has developed into a major professional organization for professors of Christian education in colleges and seminaries, and for leaders in related Christian education organizations. Membership in NAPCE provides valuable benefits such as:

- receiving the NAPCE Newsletter
- a subscription to the *Christian Education Journal* (two editions)
- free books and resources as they become available (most are given at the annual conference)
- communicating with others in the field through our website (www.napce.org).

Outstanding professional growth and development with those who minister in the field of Christian education.

- nominating an outstanding Christian education student to receive the Scholastic Recognition certificate from NAPCE. Information on this award is sent out the first week of March.

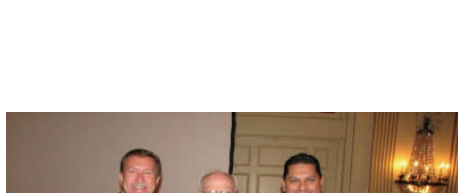
- receiving information about the annual NAPCE Conference, usually held in the third week of October and a highlight of the year for all members.

The membership is \$65 per year and grad student membership is \$35 per year. The membership runs from October 1 to

September 30. This way the membership can be included with the conference registration. Those who apply for membership will receive a free book from **Jim Baird**, publisher at **B&H Academic**. The book is titled, *Recovering the Real Lost Gospel*. More information about the book can be seen at the website: <http://www.bhpublishinggroup.com/academic/books.asp?9780805464658>. To receive the free book, registration must be received by February 15, 2011.

Membership dues can be paid online by credit card on our [Online Registration Page](#) or by sending checks (U.S. Funds) payable to NAPCE. Send them to:

NAPCE
Attn. Dr. Freddy Cardoza
Biola University
13804 Biola Ave. La Mirada
CA 90639



Cathy Stonehouse

Benson Distinguished Educator Award

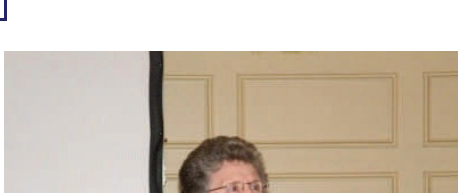
This fall, the Warren S. Benson Distinguished Educator Award was presented to Dr. Cathy Stonehouse. Cathy's professional life began with the vocational dream of being a missionary. Convinced that she needed more than two Bible courses in her undergraduate nursing degree to be an effective missionary, Cathy enrolled in seminary. It was in seminary where she realized the importance of equipping laity for ministry, and so earned her Master's degree in Religious Education at Asbury Seminary.

After graduation, Cathy moved to Toronto, Canada where she served as Director of Christian Education for three Methodist churches. She soon conducted lay teachers workshops, and then began to write new curriculum for various age levels. Soon thereafter, she earned a Ph.D. from Michigan State University, became

Executive Editor for the Free Methodist denomination, the first woman, outside of the women's missionary society to ever hold a senior executive post in the denomination.

A few years later she was hired as professor of Christian Education at Asbury Seminary, eventually named to the Orlean Bullard Neeson Professor chair of Christian Discipleship, and eventually became Dean of the School of Practical Theology. Her books, *Joining Children on the Spiritual Journey*, *Listening to Children on the Spiritual Journey*, and *Children Matter* shed light on her heart for children's spirituality.

The guild of professional educators, colleagues and students who have benefitted from her work, thank her and applauded her for her faithful service.



New Board Members

Board Elections

At the NAPCE Conference this fall, members elected five new people to serve on the Board of Directors. The individuals were selected to keep a balance that reflected NAPCE's membership in geographical location, type of school, nationality, ethnic background and gender. These nominees were current and active members of NAPCE with a vision for the organization and a willingness to work. This year the following people were nominated: Michael Anthony, Orbelina Eguizabal, James Flynn, Chris Kieseling,

and Scottie May.

Current board members whose terms expired were Holly Allen, Michael Anthony, Clair Budd, Freddy Cardoza, and Dennis Fledderjohann. Michael Anthony will continue as President until the Fall, 2011 Seattle conference. We would like to express our appreciation to the departing board members for their faithful service these past four years.

Executive Administrator

Financial Report

Balance 1/1/09	32,230.83
Net Deposits	41,987.93
	74,218.76
Disbursements	-43,665.82
Balance	30,552.94

subject to about \$20,000 in attrition. By the time of our conference in October we had rented 172 additional room nights and met our commitment. NOTE: You can help your new administrator rest well at night if you secure your hotel reservations early for the conference in Seattle, October 21-23, 2011.

Board members and the administrator have copies of the detailed financial report.

Again this year we faced a similar situation because the economy had not recovered. At one time (September 10, 2010) we were

The Journal of Family Ministry

Articles Needed

Professor at Southern Seminary and NAPCE member Timothy Paul Jones is now editor of *The Journal of Family Ministry*. This publication is a re-launched recension of a widely-respected journal that was first published in 1987. *The Journal of Family Ministry* is now a peer-reviewed academic and professional journal, and NAPCE members are urged to submit articles to the journal for consideration. Feature articles should be fewer than 10,000 words in length, with a preference for articles around 7,500 words that explore some specific aspect of family ministry from a conservative-evangelical perspective. Recent doctoral graduates are encouraged to submit 500-to-700-word summaries of their doctoral research, with

a focus on the ministry implications of their research, for the Research Briefs section of the journal. Doctoral students as well as professors and other NAPCE members might also consider contributing 500-to-700-word book reviews to the journal. All articles, briefs, and reviews should closely follow the style guidelines of the *Journal of Biblical Literature*. To receive a free copy of *The Journal of Family Ministry*, email editorial assistant Derek J. Brown at DJBrown@sbs.edu.

Timothy Paul Jones, Ph.D.
Editor of The Journal of Family Ministry