

Eastern Region  
American Association of Pastoral Counselors  
Fall 2017 Annual Reports

Report from the Regional Chair  
October 2017

To begin, I want to acknowledge contributions of the Executive Committee members:

I have served as Chair for the last three years.

Pamela Pater-Ennis is Vice Chair, but has agreed to become Secretary beginning with this meeting.

Jean Fitzpatrick is finishing her term as Regional Secretary. Thank you, Jean.

Thea Crites is retiring from her Leadership Development position after too many years to count of volunteer work with the Executive Committee in several positions. Our thanks, Thea.

Charlie Mayer is developing the Education and Training functions for the region.

Christopher Smith is just now taking over as Treasurer.

And

Doug Ronsheim has agreed to be our membership Chair.

Please join me in thanking them for their work during this difficult time in the life of AAPC and the Eastern Region.

Here is a review of some of what has happened in the last few years. Clearly, institutional transitions are always challenging. As with some physical challenges, we might wonder if the treatment has the potential of killing the patient. We are still hopeful that we can complete the AAPC transition in a way that will be valuable and supportive to a wide range of members. Some members have felt lasting sadness and anger about the necessary structural changes. I am convinced that AAPC stood no chance of surviving without closing the main office and dropping the certification process, so while those feelings are understandable, AAPC needs us to focus that energy in creative and hopeful ways.

These chances did not become necessary because someone screwed up. The main reason for the changes in the association structure was the result of declining membership and, therefore, declining revenue.

The main cause of both the declining membership and the cessation of our certification process was the advent of state licensing. Before the advent of state licensure, attaining AAPC Certification was necessary for many of us to practice, and it was at least ethically responsible for many others. That is no longer the case. State Licensure is now the required credential for clinical practice. AAPC attempted to structure Certification as a kind of "Board Certification," like is done with physicians, but economics did us in. It was simply too expensive for new therapists to get the degree for licensure and then engage in a four year certification process. In the last few years before the cessation of the program in June 2016 there were only a handful of applicants for certification.

The Board of Directors rightly determined that we did not have the revenue to support a central office, so much of the responsibility naturally fell to the regions. The leadership of the Eastern region has worked hard with the help of many volunteers over the last two years to develop a regional business plan and as of June 2016, we have taken over management of the Eastern Region's funds. At the moment, the region has between \$85,000 and \$90,000 available to us.

For those of us who continue to believe in the value of AAPC, we now have the job of making our continued existence economically feasible. We in the Eastern Region are fortunate that we have funds to help us continue

the transition, but we need lots more participation from the membership in order to develop a sustainable regional program.

I hope you will consider what you can do, either as a regional leader or in your local community. Meanwhile, here is some of what we have already done.

- After a couple of tries that did not work out, in February 2017, we contracted with Arlene Muzyka to be our Regional Administrator. Arlene got a good orientation when she and I attended the Association Leadership Meeting before the AAPC Conference in Decatur, GA. We met the staff of RMK Productions, the company that functions as our financial agent and that has helped us develop the association on-line presence with YourMembership. Arlene has jumped right in, participating in Executive Committee meetings and working with the Regional Conference planning team that we share with the Northeast Region. I don't know what we would have done without her. She has also been a part of several of the Regional Chairs meetings.
- We have recruited Doug Ronsheim to be our Membership Chair with the task of improving communication with the existing members and developing a workable approach to recruitment.
- We have been developing a co-sponsor relationship with the Psychology and Spirituality Institute in Manhattan. In his role as Education and Training Chair for the Eastern Region, Charlie Mayer is exploring what that relationship could entail.
- We set up a new format for conference planning by creating a joint planning committee that not only plans the upcoming conference, but also looks ahead at other venues and future programs and speakers.

At the Association level, the Regional Chairs meet monthly by videoconference, attempting to discern those activities that are best handled at the regional level from those that are best handled collaboratively. Here are some examples:

- All regional meetings will be advertised to the entire Association and cross-regional attendance will be welcomed.
- A resource bank for Pastoral Care Specialist Training Programs is being assembled so more trainings programs can be developed across the Association.
- Some members of the Southeast Region are trying to develop a training program with standards that could be a replacement for the now-defunct certification process.
- By the way, Joshua Jong from the Eastern Region serves on the AAPC Board of Directors

More about membership, finances, and planning for the future.

AAPC is facing a growing financial challenge.

The Association membership has dropped to less than 1100, about 300<sup>+</sup> fewer than the year before. Some of this may be due to the online process of paying dues that has been confusing to some of our members. Whatever the reason, this membership level is not sufficient to pay for the necessary Association costs at the present assessment of \$80 per member. The Association is presently losing about \$40,000 per year. At this rate, they will be out of funds in about three years.

Lately, we have received the updated Regional Membership data, and are disturbed to learn that our regional membership is now about 105 currently paying members, a drop of about 35 members in the last two years.

The Association Leadership will be meeting in Baltimore in February to decide how to deal with the crisis. It is possible that the present incarnation of AAPC will end, but I remain hopeful that we can still find ways to come out the other end of the crisis. Arlene Muzyka, Regional Administrator, Christopher Smith, Regional Treasurer, and I will represent the Eastern Region at that meeting.

For your part, please consider how you can be a part of the future of AAPC and the Eastern Region. We're in this together.

Wayne Gustafson, Chair  
Eastern Region

Eastern Region, Secretary's Report  
November 2017

This year more members have joined and participated in our private Eastern region Facebook group, a great place to share resources and news. Come be a part of it, and invite your member friends and colleagues.

A Facebook page aimed at the general public is our next social media goal. A Facebook page is used to promote interest and inform non-members about our organization. Am wondering whether we would want this to be from our region only or for all the combined regions.

In light of our diminishing numbers, Thea Crites and I recently did a little brainstorming on new, more accurate ways to identify our organization. For many in the general public, the word *pastoral* is identified with a specific religion and with the clergy. One idea we've come up with is "Interfaith Community for Soul Care." This could be added as a tag line to our current name, for starters. Eager to hear your feedback and ideas as we seek to strengthen our organization for generations to come.

If you are ever considering becoming the regional secretary, know that the job description has been greatly lightened thanks to Arlene Muzyka, who now does the minutes. Thank you Arlene!

Peace,  
Jean Fitzpatrick

Annual Report--- Chair, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
Thea Crites  
November, 2017

As AAPC goes through its latest set of changes, I'm glad to report an encouraging note. Three new members of our organization are committed and enthusiastic enough about our mission to agree to serve in leadership in the Eastern Region. We have a new "class" of leaders bringing new energy to our mission of integration of spirit and psyche. We are also extremely fortunate to have hired Arlene Muzyka for our Administrator. Terms for officers is 2 years, renewable once. For committee chairs it is three years, also renewable once.

So our slate this year is:

Vice Chair: Joanne Heaney-Hunter  
Chair (continuing to mentor new leadership): Wayne Gustafson (through Nov. '18)  
Secretary: Pamela Pater---Ennis (through Nov. '19)  
Treasurer: Christopher Smith (through Nov. '19)  
Membership: Doug Ronsheim (through Nov '20)  
Training/Formation: Charles Mayer  
Leadership Development: open

ASSOCIATION Board of Directors: Joshua Jong

Many thanks to all who have served this past year, and especially to Jean Fitzpatrick, who finishes her term as secretary this year. This November also marks the end of my work as Leadership Chair, and I wish the ongoing leadership a year filled with creativity and fulfilling sense of community.

### Report of the Training and Formation Chair

This year's programming has been limited to our shared Regional conference, largely because the Executive Committee has been very busy managing the transitions taking place in the life of the Association. Going forward, there are several priorities:

- Identifying 2-3 persons who would like to be part of a Training and Formation Committee;
- Educating ourselves about web-based models being used in other Regions to provide webinars, live streaming of local events, distance supervision, theological discussion groups, and other offerings;
- Identifying and building relationships with academic programs in pastoral care and counseling that do not currently have ties to AAPC;
- Identifying and building relationships with other organizations engaged in training and education that could have mutually beneficial relationships with us;
- Building bridges to other professional organizations whose interests overlap with ours.

During it's years as a certifying organization, training and formation were built in to the life of the Association in a way that is no longer the case. Thinking creatively about the above priorities can be an important part of revitalizing our Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Mayer

November 4, 2017  
Litchfield, Connecticut

**Eastern Region AAPC Financial Report (YTD September 2017) – Christopher Smith, Eastern Region Treasurer**

	<b>Eastern Region YTD Sept 2017</b>	<b>Budget 2017-18</b>	
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
<b>50000 · Operating Activities Income</b>			
<b>5000A · Dues Income</b>			
5002M00 · Association Dues	16,925.00	20,000.00	Budget stated
<b>Total 5000A · Dues Income</b>	<b>16,925.00</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>	that amount is hopeful
<b>5020M00 · Conference Income</b>			
5032M00 · 1st Timers Breakfast	0.00		
5035M00 · Regional Annual Conference	0.00	1,000.00	Only net conference income
<b>Total 5020M00 · Conference Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	was budgeted
<b>5020M03 · Contributions and Donations</b>			
5021M00 · EDUCATION INCOME			
5021M03 · CEU's	0.00		
<b>Total 5021M00 · EDUCATION INCOME</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
<b>Total 50000 · Operating Activities Income</b>	<b>16,925.00</b>	<b>21,000.00</b>	
<b>50000a · MAP Grant Allocation</b>			
50001 · Income/ Losses from Investment			
5051 · Change in Market DR - Regions	916.43		
5101P20 · Change in Market DR - Assoc.	0.00		
<b>Total 50001 · Income/ Losses from Investment</b>	<b>916.43</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
<b>520000M · Income - Other</b>			
5000M01 · Interest Income	0.00		
5099M01 · Fiscal Agent Fee Income	0.00		
<b>Total 520000M · Income - Other</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>21,841.43</b>	<b>21,000.00</b>	
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>8801 M · Conference Expenses</b>			
8801M01 · Venue Rental	0.00		Only net conference
8801M04 · Photographic & Video Services	0.00		income was budgeted
8801M05 · Speaker Honorariums	0.00		
8801M06 · Airfare/Hotel/Meals (comped?)	1,578.43		
8801M07 · CEU's- Costs	106.00		
8801M10 · Printing and Supplies	0.00		
8801 M · Conference Expenses - Other	0.00	2,250.00	Cluster meetings 1500,
<b>Total 8801 M · Conference Expenses</b>	<b>1,684.43</b>	<b>2,250.00</b>	Conf Coordinator 750
<b>8900M00 · Administrative and Finance</b>			
8225M02 · Leased Equipment	0.00		
8900M01 · Fiscal Agent Fees	7,520.00	9,200.00	Per member (except student)
8900M02 · MAP Grant Expenditures	0.00		payment to AAPC (@\$80)
?????? Formation Programs		500.00	Not sure where this would
8900M03 · Bank Service Charges	0.00	50.00	go in new categories

8900M04 · Credit Card Fees	548.32	100.00	Cash basis - usually
8900M06 · Web Exp (Websites,computer,etc)	0.00	700.00	Administrator 500,
8900M09 · Bonding and Insurance	0.00		Expense 200
8900M10 · AAPC Management Service (RMK)	0.00		
8900M11 · Accounting Services (RLM)	0.00	1,700.00	Audit
8900M13 · Volunteer/Board/Leadership Cost			
8901M01 · Administrative Support Costs	1,899.99	8,000.00	Region admin 3K, travel 1K
<b>Total 8900M13 Volunteer/Board/Leadership Cost</b>	<u>1,899.99</u>	<u>8,000.00</u>	Region chair 4K,
<b>Total 8900M00 · Administrative and Finance</b>	<u>9,968.31</u>	<u>20,250.00</u>	Exec committee
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>11,652.74</u>	<u>22,500.00</u>	
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>10,188.69</u>	<u>(1,500.00)</u>	
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>10,188.69</u></u>	<u><u>(1,500.00)</u></u>	

YTD September 2017- CASH basis

MAP Grant Summary

July 2016 MAP Grant Funds Carry-forward	0.00
June 2017 MAP Grant transfer from SE to FA	0.00
July 2017 MAP Grant Funds (August 2017)	4,000.00
Total MAP Grant Expenditures to Date	0.00
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Remaining MAP Grant Funds	4,000.00

Bank Balances

CapOne	25,866.07
Wells Fargo	29,448.91
*RBC Investment Accounts	34,678.68
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Total Bank/Investment Balance	89,993.66

Total Owed (to)/from FA- for August-Completed	(328.33)
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Total Owed (to)/from Fiscal Agent- for September	(492.65)
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Bank and Investment Balance at Month End	<b>89,501.01</b>
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