

AAPC Eastern Region Spring 2017 Update

Greetings AAPC Eastern Region Colleagues:

The time is now for us to move with vision, energy, and resolve into the future of the Eastern Region of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. An enormous amount of work has gone into this time of transition, and frankly, those who have been offering leadership are getting worn out. If we are to have a robust, responsive, and useful professional association around the work we all value, then we need broad participation in the life and leadership of the Region. And, of course, that means you.

It is not necessary for leadership to be burdensome. There are many ways to be involved, and they are all important. I have identified several modes of participation that I would like you to consider (And not all of them are big commitments). This update letter also includes some of the latest news about the development of our Association and our Region.

Please consider how you can participate in **YOUR AAPC**.

First of all,

If you haven't already done this:

Go right to the new aapc.org website: (Do not pass go...etc.)

Hopefully you received an email introducing the new website and instructing you how to log in so that you could update your information and change your password.

Your user name is the email address you use for AAPC and the initial password is Password1

You will not be able to access the member section, including where you pay your dues, until you log in the first time and update your information.

Pay your annual dues:

You will soon get a notice that you can find your dues invoice at aapc.org.

Please pay as soon as you can. Your dues are essential.

The new dues structure is less costly for many of us and not more costly for any of us. \$175 per year for Members, \$100 for retired Members, and \$25 for students should not be onerous, but if our membership holds steady or even grows a bit, we will have enough to function well.

For those of you who were not able to pay your 2016-17 dues for any reason, you might not be able to get into the site.

To correct this, write an email to info@aapc.org with your name, mailing address and email address. The office will change the setting so you can access the member section and pay dues. If you encounter any problem, send that to info@aapc.org, also.

Put the Eastern/Northeastern Regional Conference, November 3-5, 2017 at Wisdom House in Litchfield, CT on your calendar.

The conference theme is: "**Breathing Space: The Spiritual Art of Balance and Bounce**"

Several of our colleagues from the regions will lead us in a creative approach to self-care in difficult times.

Consider a leadership position (this is one of the big responsibilities).

We particularly need a Treasurer and a Membership Chair as soon as possible, and we will be looking for a Leadership Development Chair when Thea Crites finishes her term in the fall.

If not a leadership position, consider participating in one of the working teams.

Once again I encourage you to fill out the Regional interest survey that you can find at:

<http://entospress.com/limesurvey/index.php/456814?lang=en>

In the survey you can indicate your interest in leadership positions and working teams.

- Finance Team - development of budgets and regional financial policy (with the Treasurer)
- Leadership Development Team - development and recruitment of leaders (with the LD Chair)
- Communications Team - Website, Newsletters, Social Media, etc. (with the Secretary and Webmaster)
- Education and Training Team - Training and Educational Programs, Standards, Theological Concerns, etc. (with the E & T Chair)
- Member Relations Team - Recruiting members, responding to member needs, creating clusters, etc. (with the MR Chair)
- Institutional Relations Team - Academia, Centers, Cognate Groups, etc. (with Regional Chair)
- Regional Conference Team - plan the annual regional conference (with the Conference Coordinator and Vice Chair)

Please note: Finding people to carry on the necessary business of the association and region can be a difficult task in two ways. Either you are one of those “lucky” people who gets asked to do everything, or you would really like to participate, but somehow no one ever approaches you. The interest survey is your opportunity to state your preferences and then to be connected with others who share your interests.

Also, leadership positions are not just for people with many years of experience in AAPC. We are creating a new professional vessel, so we need fresh vision and energy. So, be bold! Get involved!

A Special Request – Connecting with Denominational Offices

I am looking for volunteers who will develop a working relationship between the Eastern Region and their denomination. We would like to be an association that supports the care and education of clergy and others in ministry. We would like their help in disseminating information about our conferences and the other educational opportunities we offer. And we would like to know about denominational events and programs that are relevant to the integrative work of AAPC members. Already, we can send brochures and emails to those offices, but unless they fall into to the right hands, they go no further. Healthy relationships with judicatories might even help us increase our membership.

Please let me know if you are willing to contact your denominational conference, district, synod, diocese, or other appropriate judicatory office to develop this essential relationship.

Association News

As I wrote before, the Association Board has determined that many of the processes previously employed by the Association office were in need of significant revision. (For more details, see my Winter Letter on the Publications page of aapceast.org) When the staff was together in the office, these hands-on, labor intensive processes were manageable, but when the office closed, the part-time staff, who worked from their homes, could not keep up with the necessary functions. The management company contracted with by the Board is helping us revise our processes and streamline the whole membership and dues process. It's making a huge difference.

The Association has enough money to get us through the transition, and we have every expectation that the per-member administrative cost will continue at a manageable level. This is very good news, indeed.

Eastern Region Finances

As I have written before, out of the \$175 for regular member annual dues, \$80 is covering the Association functions and \$95 remains in the region for our local administrative and program costs. We also have in the neighborhood of \$80,000 in the region's coffers, so we have the means to be creative in developing useful educational, training, and collegial structures.

Above all, please participate in the life of your AAPC Eastern Region, and if you get a chance, go to the membership directory at aapc.org, see who is in your area, and make plans to get together.

Blessings on you and your work,

Wayne Gustafson, Chair
AAPC Eastern Region

PS. For information about regional membership, licensure, conferences, and training, etc., go to aapceast.org.

You will also find more details on the transition process in my Winter Letter in the Publications section of aapceast.org