

Announcing NACSW's 65th Annual Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 2015!

NACSW is pleased to announce that our 65th Annual Convention and Training Conference, focused on the theme, *"Pursuing Shalom: Serving Our Neighbors Locally and Globally,"* will be held in Grand Rapids, MI at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel from November 12-15, 2015. We are confident that you will not want to miss it, especially if you have yet to attend an NACSW convention! An outstanding line-up of plenary speakers and pre-convention institutes will be presenting at Convention 2015. For example, our three pre-convention institute presenters on November 12th will be:



- **Bethany Christian Services**, leading a full-day workshop on *"Trauma Focused Care – One Christian Agency's Work to bring Shalom to Refugees"*
- **Inner City Christian Federation (ICCF)**, leading a half-day morning

workshop on *"Respect, Opportunity and Beauty: The Three Currencies of Shalom Communities"*

- **Dr. Terry Wolfer and Dr. Mackenzi Huyser**, leading a half-day afternoon workshop on *"Grappling with Faith: Teaching with Decision Cases."*

In addition, this year's exciting convention plenary speakers include:

- **Dr. Michelle Loyd-Paige** presenting *"Pursuing Shalom: Moving Forward While Thinking Backwards"* at the Thursday evening keynote session

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NACSW's February 23rd, 2015 Audio Conference Webinar

NACSW is pleased to announce that it will be offering its next audio conference workshop entitled "When Helping Hurts: Key Ideas and Issues for Poverty Alleviation" on Monday, February 23rd from 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm Eastern Standard Time. This audio conference workshop will be presented by Steve Corbett, MA, Assistant Professor of Community Development at Covenant College in Covenant, Georgia.

In this session, Steve will present that in responding to Christ's call to, "Open your hearts and hands to the poor among you," we often mobilize and act with good intentions. But good intentions are not enough. It is possible in our efforts to help, we actually do harm to the very ones we seek to help. This session will look at the importance of defining poverty appropriately and will explore 3 key principles for engaging in effective poverty alleviation.

Steve Corbett is an Assistant Professor of Community Development at Covenant College and serves as a Community Development Specialist for the Chalmers Center. Previously, Steve served as Director of Field Operations and Training for the Chalmers Center. Prior to coming to Covenant College, he worked for Food for the Hungry International (FHI) as the Director of Staff Training, and then later as the Regional Director for Central and South America. Steve has a B.A. from Covenant College and a M.Ed. in Adult Education from the University of

Georgia.

Audio conference webinars have been designed so that any

person or group can participate simply by calling a telephone number provided by NACSW from any telephone in the US or Canada. In addition, interested participants may simultaneously log into these sessions via their computers to follow the presenter's PowerPoint presentation on-line, see the presenter on screen, and engage in interactive chat during the session.

For additional information (including session learning objectives), and/or to register on-line, you can go to NACSW's website at <http://www.nacsw.org>, or you can contact the NACSW office tollfree at 888-426-4712 to register on the phone.

Current NACSW members and staff working for NACSW organizational members may participate in this audio conference and earn CEUs at no cost. Friends of NACSW may participate in this session for just \$26 (or \$16 for fulltime students), or in groups for \$80. Participants are eligible to earn 1.25 continuing education contact hours approved by the Association of Social Work Boards by receiving a score of 80% or better on a short twelve-question quiz based on the material covered in the conference.

We hope you are able to join us on February 23rd for this important audio conference workshop – we encourage you to register today!



NACSW E-Publishes Its Convention 2014 Proceedings

For the 12th year in a row, NACSW has published convention proceedings comprised of representative papers and materials from workshop and poster sessions presented during its Convention 2014 in Annapolis, MD from Nov. 6-9, 2014. Online access to these proceedings are now available at no cost to NACSW members and friends by clicking on the "Convention Proceedings 2014" link at: <http://www.nacsw.org/cgi-bin/publikio.cgi>. A wide range of materials from full-length papers to detailed presentation outlines were submitted for inclusion.

Since NACSW's goal is to make these materials available as quickly as possible, except for some very basic formatting, submissions have not undergone a formal editing process. NACSW's hope is that this will significantly extend the impact and reach of the materials presented in Annapolis at Convention 2014!



Gary Anderson



Lisa Sharon Harper



Michelle Loyd-Paige

Convention

continued from page 1

• **Dr. Gary Anderson** speaking on: "*Building Resilient Professionals and Organizations: Christian Principles and Workforce Development*" at the Friday morning Alan-Keith Lucas session

• **Lisa Sharon Harper** presenting on the convention theme: "*Pursuing Shalom: Serving Our Neighbors Locally and Globally*" at the Saturday evening banquet

Once again, NACSW plans to offer over 100 workshops and poster presentations, including two brand new tracks this year: Congregational Social Work and Practical Applications of Shalom. The Practical Applications of Shalom track was specially recommended by this year's

convention planning committee to support the convention theme and will focus on services to individuals and communities that emphasize promoting a deep sense of wholeness, justice, healing, peace-making and reconciliation that support a prophetic vision of God's reign "on earth as it is in heaven." Please consider submitting a workshop proposal in any of our thirteen tracks by going to: <http://www.nacsw.org/Convention/Call2015.html>.

We encourage you to mark your calendars early and plan to join us for Convention 2015 in Grand Rapids, Michigan next November. We look forward to seeing you there!

CATALYST

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Catalyst is published four times a year for members of the North American Association of Christians in Social Work. The purpose of *Catalyst* is to communicate with the NACSW membership about association news, events, activities and developments. It includes statements of opinion by a variety of members and friends, which do not necessarily represent the views of NACSW.

Publication in *Catalyst* in no way implies endorsement or certification of the authors' qualifications, ability, or proficiency to practice social work, or to integrate faith and practice. Similarly, publication of an advertisement in *Catalyst* does not imply endorsement by NACSW of any services or products advertised. *Catalyst* articles may be copied or reproduced for personal use, but appropriate credit to *Catalyst* should appear on all copies made.

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CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS NACSW Convention 2015 Grand Rapids, Michigan November 12-15, 2015

NACSW invites you to submit a proposal for a workshop proposal for its Convention 2015 in Grand Rapids, MI. Proposals may be submitted for the following tracks:

1. Direct Practice: Individuals, Couples, Families and Children
2. Human Development, Diversity, and Behavior in the Environment
3. Direct Practice: Groups and Communities
4. Administration and Work with Organizations
5. Public Administration and Policy
6. Professional Relationships, Values and Ethics
7. Social Work Education
8. Social Work Research

9. Technology & Social Work
10. Student-Focused
11. Research and Practice with Ethnically Diverse Populations
12. Congregational Social Work (New Track)

13. Practical Applications of Shalom (New Track)

For additional information about how to submit a proposal, you can either go to <http://www.nacsw.org/Convention/Call2015.html> on NACSW's website, or contact the NACSW office at: info@nacsw.org, or call tollfree at 888-426-4712.

Please note that proposal submissions are due by March 1, 2015 (this is a firm deadline).

What Is Present to Me Has a Hold on My Becoming

In a recent reflection posted on the “Sacred Space” website (www.sacredspace.ie), the author quoted

the traditional saying, “What is present to me has a hold on my becoming.” The phrase caught my attention, in part because I believe that each of us continues to grow and develop throughout our



Denis Costello

lives. Moreover, I also believe that the direction of our growth is influenced by our life experiences, but even more importantly by how we reflect on those experiences – what we allow to be present to us.

We all have times in our lives when we experience failure and loss. How we reflect on and integrate these experiences into our lives will have a profound influence on our resulting development. It is all too easy to become angry and bitter at times, but we know that this has the potential to corrode our soul. All too easily, we can become cynical and withdrawn; our lives shrink and we become diminished as persons.

However, failure and loss can also open us up to growth, albeit painfully. If we are blessed, we will have met exemplars that have grown in love through painful life experiences. Such people give us hope and encouragement in difficult times. By being present to us, we find, through God’s grace, a way to grow through our present

On a less dramatic scale, the folks we live with, work with, and socialise with have a subtle but important influence on our becoming. Equally, the movies we watch, the books we read, and the social media with which we engage also influence our becoming. Nothing is ever really neutral – we are continually growing.

suffering; they call us to hope, this great cloud of witnesses.

On a less dramatic scale, the folks we live with, work with, and socialise with have a subtle but important influence on our becoming. Equally, the movies we watch, the books we read, and the social media with which we engage also influence our becoming. Nothing is ever really neutral – we are continually growing. And, while it is true that “It’s hard to soar like an eagle if you hang around with turkeys,” it is also true that if we hang around with eagles, with might soar a little, even if we

are a bit turkey-like!

In a circuitous way, this brings me to reflect on how each of us might allow NACSW to be present to us in the coming year. We engage with our association in many different ways. For some, the key ingredient is the annual convention, when we meet face-to-face. For others, engagement is primarily through NACSW’s print or social media. For others again, it is the audio conference webinars, podcasts, or online CEU trainings programs that our association offers. NACSW offers a wide range of ways in which it can be present to us and so shape our becoming.

Speaking for myself, NACSW is only one of a number of positive influences in my life. However, it is a unique presence in my life, in part because I meet up with social workers from a wide range of fields of practice. I learn so much when I listen to the work that my NACSW colleagues do in the diverse fields of practice. In my day-to-day practice, I find I don’t stray far from those who do similar work. Meeting my colleagues in NACSW breaks me open a little, and that is good.

I get further opened up when I meet with folks whose Christian faith finds expression in ways that can be very different from my own, and who may think differently from me on many issues. The Christians in NACSW are not a homogenous lot! This very diversity can be a strength for us when we see it as gift and receive it in love.

As we begin a new year in NACSW I hope that our association will be significantly present to you and that it has a hold on your becoming in ways that are grace-filled, fruitful and joyous.

Call for Board Nominations for 2015 - 2017

Current members of NACSW are invited to propose candidates to run for NACSW’s Board of Directors for terms starting 2015. Board members are primarily responsible for setting NACSW’s future goals and direction, developing policies to guide the organization’s efforts to meet those goals, and ensuring that the organization has and

uses effectively the resources required to accomplish its mission. Nominees will be evaluated and prioritized in accordance with current Board needs for expertise and diversity.

Board candidates must be NACSW members who are committed to the mission of NACSW. They must be willing and able to attend the six semi-annual

meetings of the Board that occur in various locations over the three year term. Board members are responsible for their own travel, lodging, and meal expenses.

To propose a nominee, you can download a nomination form from NACSW’s website at: www.nacsw.org/BoardNom3.htm, or contact the NACSW office for a copy.

Concerning the Discipline of Sabbath-Keeping

God saw all that he had created, and He saw that it was all good, even very good (Gen. 1:31):

light; the seas and the dry land; the sun and the moon and the stars; the birds of the air and the creatures of the sea; cattle, creeping things and beasts of the earth; and humankind, female and male. There were evenings and there were mornings, six days.

But God was not finished yet, for on the seventh day he created rest—*menuha*—tranquility, serenity, peace and repose. He took delight in His creation. While all that He had created was good, the first of His creations to be deemed holy was a period of time (Gen. 2:3)—the seventh day.

It seems to me that references to the discipline of Sabbath-keeping have increased in recent years. I was excited to see that the NACSW annual convention included a workshop on “Sabbath as Self-Care” by Rebecca Smith. Of course, with this increasing awareness of discussions on Sabbath, I got curious and began to collect readings, starting with Walter Brueggemann’s “Sabbath as Resistance”



David Fritz

(2014), and Abraham Joshua Heschel’s “The Sabbath” (1951). In fact, I would recommend that every home have a copy of Heschel’s classic—what a brilliant, inspiring work!

What have I learned so far? Sabbath rest is created by God. It is holy time. It is a time in which we remember the God who created all things, and a time when we observe the fact that He took delight in His creation. A time in which we recognize that God will supply our need. A time in which all are equal, and equally in need of rest—humans, beasts, and the land. A time for worship and for the reading of Scripture. Sabbath is not to be seen as another burden to endure, but as a time for joy. Sabbath is described as The Queen, a Bride, and the day of preparation as the anticipation of the coming of the Bride.

Sabbath is, among other things, a cessation from work. It is stepping back from the need to be always productive. I don’t have to carry the largest caseload. I don’t have to be available to my clients (or my superiors) on a 24/7 basis. I don’t have to answer e-mails and text messages while I’m off the clock. Yet Sabbath is not simply a way to provide for my self-care, or to get more sleep, or to re-charge my batteries for the week that is coming. Yes, it is all of those things, and yet it is so much more.

Finally, Sabbath is not optional (Ex. 20:8, Dt. 5:12). Someone might say that the New Testament teaches that the law

of the Spirit has set us free from the law of sin and death. I would reply that Jesus came not to abolish the Law but to fulfill the Law. In Jesus, we find our rest.

One of my favorite passages in Scripture comes in the sixteenth chapter of Exodus. The people of God had been rescued from their bondage. They had been brought through the Sea. Yet, it wasn’t long before they complained to Moses and Aaron for lack of food. God provided quail that evening. And God provided manna from Heaven the next morning, as well as every morning during all of their wilderness wanderings. Each morning, they were to gather as much they could eat that day, and there were to be no leftovers. Those who gathered much did not have too much, and those who gathered little did not have too little. On the sixth day, they were to gather twice as much as on the other days, in order that they would have enough for the seventh day. They could not gather on the seventh day, for that was a Sabbath, a day on which they were to remember the God of creation, and to observe that He took delight in His creation.

Sabbath rest for Christians in social work—what does that look like for you? For me, it is a work in progress, and an exciting one. I look forward to joining others on the journey of learning more about the discipline, and invite you on that journey with me.

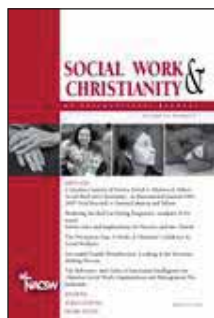
Guidelines for Authors of Book Reviews for *SWC*

NACSW’s quarterly, peer-reviewed journal, *Social Work and Christianity* (*SWC*), welcomes book review manuscripts for the Reviews section of the journal. Submit book review manuscripts electronically to the Book Review Editor, James Vanderwoerd, at jwoerd@redeemer.ca.

Book review authors should follow these guidelines:

- Reviewed books should be relevant to *SWC*’s readership and therefore should include content pertinent to Christians in social work.
- Ordinarily books should be fairly recent (published within 2 years); if

later, reviewers should provide some justification for why an older book has current relevance.



- Reviews should be about 600-800 words in length.
- Reviews should include an overview of the book’s main points, especially those pertaining to Christians in social work.

• In addition to a descriptive summary of the book’s content, reviews should provide some

assessment, critique, and analysis of the book’s strengths and weaknesses, and its contribution to the field of social work practice, especially to specific audiences such as subfields of social work practice,

students, academics, administrators, and church leaders.

- Reviews should adhere to general guidelines for formatting and writing described in the general Instructions for Authors.
- All submitted book review manuscripts, whether invited or not, are subject to editorial review and acceptance by the book review editor, in conjunction with the editor-in-chief, who will make final decisions regarding acceptance for publication.

Please contact James Vanderwoerd, the Book Review Editor of *Social Work and Christianity*, at jwoerd@redeemer.ca with any questions or for additional information.

DIVERSITY COLUMN: THE INTERSECTION OF RACE AND FAITH

On Mastering the Ability to Hear the Voice of Those We Serve

“Only one who devotes himself to a cause with his whole strength and soul can be a true master. For this reason mastery demands all of a person.”

– Albert Einstein

There is a great deal of excellent information available about teaching, perhaps as much about teaching as ministry. In addition, as Christians in social work, we often think of social work as ministry. Lately I’ve often found myself thinking more and more about teaching as a unique ministry within social work practice.



Jennifer Shepard Payne

I teach advanced mental health practice for masters of social work students. My teaching philosophy is heavily influenced by my desire to increase the number of social work mental health practitioners who enter the workforce with a solid foundation in culturally competent assessment and intervention. My goal is to move students I teach toward clinical mastery.

Mastery, which is defined as “possession of consummate skill”, is a dynamic process that is only attained through on-going skill building. I have been a LCSW many years (too many to count!), and I took the LCSW exam in California back during the time when they had both a written and an oral examination. In those days, one of the clinical domains that required proof of mastery was called “use of self”. Those who obtained an LCSW back then had to prove that they had knowledge of their use of self in the therapeutic relationship.

That term is not used as much these days, but it is still vitally important. To use self appropriately in the therapeutic relationship, one must be clear about one’s own experiences, paradigms, culture, and views and how they are similar or different than those that one serves. Having clarity of mind about “who I am” and “who I am

not” is extremely important. Sometimes, social work students question why they have to engage in self-exploration exercises during their classes, but the ultimate goal is for them to achieve self-insight and self-awareness in relation to their clients.

As humans without a sense of self (what we bring to the table), we make erroneous assumptions. For instance, I had a student who felt uncomfortable, even confidentially, exploring details about who she was as a person (her race, her gender, her economic status, her upbringing, views she received from her parents). “Why do we have to talk about race and religion so much”, she said. “Aren’t we all just human beings?” She felt uncomfortable facing who she was as a Caucasian woman in her mid- twenties brought up in a well-to-do non-practicing Catholic household. As a result, she often made assumptions during mock therapeutic exercises. She made connections such as: “My client is female... so am I!” or “My client is Christian... so am I!” Without self-exploration, she assumed similarities and assumed knowledge of differences without gathering more information

from the client. In reality, her client was female but the client’s views about family roles based on gender were extremely different from the student’s views. Yes the client was Christian, but her client was of a denomination that expressed Christianity in ways foreign to what the student had been exposed to. The client had a dark skin tone, so the student had assumed that the client possessed certain race-based characteristics. However, the client was actually an immigrant and some of the race-based assumptions that the student had did not apply to the client. If the student felt comfortable with self-exploration, she would have more easily been able to empathetically and skillfully ask questions of the client and to seek information about the client’s differences and similarities. Masterful self-use aids in establishing relationship and rapport and sets the groundwork for effective treatment planning.

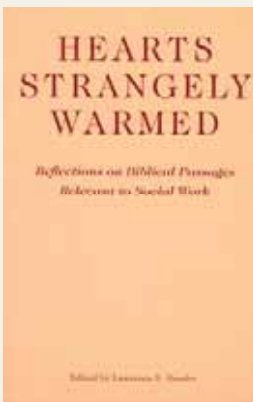
I do research primarily with disenfranchised populations. More specifically, I do research with pastors and congregations in low income urban areas, often primarily African American

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PUBLICATION AVAILABLE FROM NACSW

HEARTS STRANGELY WARMED: REFLECTIONS ON BIBLICAL PASSAGES RELEVANT TO SOCIAL WORK

Lawrence E. Ressler (Editor). (1994). Botsford, CT: North American Association of Christians in Social Work. \$9.25 U.S. (or \$7.50 for NACSW members or for orders of 10 or more copies).



Hearts Strangely Warmed: Reflections on Biblical Passages Relevant to Social Work is a collection of devotional readings or reflective essays on 42 scriptures pertinent to social work. Written by social workers and pastors engaged in social ministry, the passages in this book demonstrate many ways the Bible can be a source of hope, inspiration, and conviction to social workers.

The title of this book comes from the words of John Wesley about a particular moment in his Christian pilgrimage. After struggling for a number of years with questions about his faith, while hearing someone read Luther’s preface to Romans Wesley states, “I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for my salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away *my* sins, even *mine*, and save *me* from the law of sin and death.

Newest Trainings Added to NACSW's Online Continuing Education Program

NACSW is pleased to announce that since the last issue of Catalyst, we have added several new trainings to our online continuing education program at www.nacsw.org/CEU.

New trainings recently added include the following:

Practitioner-Identified Barriers to Outreach to Black Churches

Kimberly Hardy, MSW, Ph.D.; video-based training; 1.0 CEU

Practitioners have identified a number of barriers that affect their willingness and ability to successfully engage with the African-American faith community. Most significant were issues of race and a personal lack of religious knowledge. This hesitance to engage with the Black Church can have devastating consequences for practice with African-American clients and communities. This workshop presents various strategies to support social work practitioners' engagement with the African-American faith community.

Lobbying Against Poverty: School Breakfast as a Political Case Study

Jason Sabo; video-based training; 1.0 CEU

This session examines the politics of poverty and hunger at the Texas Capitol and beyond. It utilizes the 2013 expansion of school breakfast by the Texas Legislature as a case study of building bi-partisan and broad support for anti-hunger public policies. This session's presenter, Jason Sabo, works for the hunger advocacy organization, Children at Risk, which lobbies the Texas and other state legislatures for children's rights and advises numerous foundations on advocacy grant making.

Ethics and the Office: Swimming in Deep Waters

Amber Residori, MSW; video-based training; 2.0 CEUs

As social workers we are called to



Kimberly Hardy



Dennis Myers



Amber Residori



the helping profession because we are compelled to action, to seek justice, and to speak for those who have no voice. This seminar is designed to evaluate the stereotypes of our profession, the power of personal self-care, and the longevity of our careers.

We will examine the NASW Code of Ethics related to teamwork, collaboration, respect, resolving disputes with colleagues, and preserving the integrity of our profession.

HIV, AIDS and a Christian Social Work Response

Allison Tan, Ph.D., et al; text-based training; 3.0 CEUs

Social workers find that clients who have HIV/ AID are often discriminated against and stigmatized by secular society, the Church and by social workers themselves. More education, training and supervision are needed in order to teach Christian social workers how to overcome some of their own bias so that they may become more confident, competent practitioners who are able to compassionately and effectively assist clients with HIV/AIDS.

Congregational and Social Work Responses to Older Adult Vulnerability

Dennis Myers, Ph.D., et al; text-based training; 3.5 CEUs

In a society which has traditionally valued youth and individualism, the growing number of Americans over 55 is creating a new paradigm of awareness of the mutual value gained through the interplay between older adults and that of faith-based organizations.

Through discussion of collaboration across psycho/social/physical and spiritual disciplines, these articles address issues related to how faith-based groups have embraced not only the mission of caring for the holistic needs of seniors, but the value provided to the organizations through this engagement

Using Family Circles

to Promote and Understand Family Connections

Dexter Freeman, DSW; audio-based training; 1.0 CEU

The family circle method is a brief pictorial diagram that is used to help individuals and families describe, acknowledge, and discuss her family as she experiences the family. This interactive presentation yields a wealth of information about how a family is currently structured and functions from an individual perspective. Participants of this training will never see their family the same after listening to this presentation.

Online continuing education through NACSW offers easy, "on-demand" access to a wide array of high quality training options sensitive to the thoughtful integration of faith and practice accessible via computer or mobile device. All trainings included in this program provide CEUs accredited by the Association of Social Work Boards.

NACSW's online continuing education program offers high-quality trainings in several different formats including video-based trainings, audio-based trainings, text-based trainings and virtual study groups, a more interactive approach to small group, online continuing education.

Online trainings cost between \$15-\$20 per CEU hour. Members of NACSW with receive a 20% discount on all courses, and additional discounts are available for alumni of program partners (<http://www.nacsw.org/CEUPartners.htm>) as well.

For a full catalog listing, go to: www.nacsw.org/CEU!

Do You Know Any “Emerging Leaders?”

For more than sixty years, NACSW has been wrestling with what it means to equip its members to integrate Christian faith and professional social work practice.

As demographics within the profession

change, we are wholeheartedly committed to ensuring that the demographics of NACSW membership reflect the influx of the youngest and newest social workers among us. Toward that end, we hope you have begun hearing a new “buzz word” around NACSW: Emerging Leaders. Who are Emerging Leaders? We believe there are three categories including:

- Current BSW and MSW students
- New social work practitioners (in practice 2 years or less)

- Young academics (under 35 years old).

NACSW’s Emerging Leaders Initiative seeks to identify and nurture leaders among the next generation of practitioners and academics as they take up the task of advancing the profession and staking out new territory in the integration of faith and social work. Rooted in the belief that intergenerational interaction is strongly supported in the Scriptures (for example, Psalm 145: 4) and that the youngest among us can and should contribute greatly (see 1 Timothy 4:12), NACSW is working diligently to engage, meet the unique needs of, and thoughtfully integrate its youngest members into the field of social work - and into NACSW.

The Emerging Leaders Initiative is near and dear to my heart, both personally and professionally. Professionally, I spend my days educating and mentoring the next generation of BSWs. At a fairly diverse Catholic institution, I frequently engage my students in difficult conversations

and ethical dilemmas regarding faith and social work. I am grateful for the resource that NACSW is to me as an educator and, more importantly, to my students as some of them wrestle for the first time with

what it means to be both a Christian and a social worker.

Personally, the “Emerging Leader” story is my story. I attended my first NACSW conference as a sophomore BSW student volunteer alongside my fellow Taylor University students. That was in 1999. Since that time, I have attended nearly every annual convention, formed lasting relationships with NACSW members, had opportunities to write and publish in NACSW publications, and most recently to begin a term on the Board of Directors. For me, that 1999

convention was a time of great self-discovery and acceptance. I have never looked back. I have found a home in NACSW and value my membership and participation greatly.

It is my supreme desire to see the Emerging Leaders Initiative ensure that more young, first-time NACSW members connect and invest in what we have to offer. As we begin to create more opportunities to engage, connect with, and invest in our Emerging Leaders, you will hear more about social and networking events at annual conventions, you will see more speakers and topics resonating with the younger generation, and we will be looking to each of you (“Emerging” and “Emerged”) to consider ways you can help. In the meantime, any questions, comments, feedback, or continued discussion is strongly encouraged. You can email us at emergingleaders@nacsw.org.

Allison Tan
Loliet, IL

UPCOMING AUDIO CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS AND PODCASTS

AUDIO CONFERENCES

February 2015
Audio Conference/Webinar
“When Helping Hurts: Approaches to Poverty Alleviation”
Steve Corbett
February 23, 2015
1 pm – 2:15 pm (Eastern)

April 2015
Audio Conference/Webinar
“Interventions to Prevent Human Trafficking with Youth”
Elizabeth Wilson
April 27, 2015
1 pm – 2:15 pm (Eastern)

PODCASTS

January 2015’s Featured Podcast
“Blessed Assurance: African-American Perspectives on Pastoral Counseling”
Kimberly Hardy
Recorded at NACSW’s Convention 2012 in St. Louis, MO on October 26th, 2012

February 2015’s Featured Podcast
“Addressing Racial Disproportionality through Catholic Social Teaching”
Linda Plitt Donaldson and Kathleen Belanger
Recorded at NACSW’s Convention 2012 in St. Louis, MO on October 27th, 2012

March 2014’s Featured Podcast
“The Pastors’ Words: Perspectives and Approaches to Domestic Violence in the Church”
Jacqueline Dyer
Recorded at a Workshop in Quincy, MA on May 10th, 2013

April 2015’s Featured Podcast
“Spirituality, Child Trauma and Expressive Arts”
Donald Phelps
Recorded at NACSW’s Convention 2012 in St. Louis, MO on October 27th, 2012

For more information about any NACSW audio conference and monthly podcasts, please contact the NACSW office at info@nacsw.org, 888-426-4712 (toll-free), or visit our website at www.nacsw.org.

FREE FOR NACSW MEMBERS!

Dorothy Day and the Church: Past, Present, and Future

Life is a journey, and we are the sojourners. As we travel the path of life, our experiences and relationships shape who we are, what we believe, and how we are to serve our God. We long for an understanding about God's intentions for our lives. Sometimes we clearly discern the path we are to take; other times we question our faith or take a less desirable detour. Regardless of our choices, we have a patient, loving, and forgiving God who is constantly drawing us to Him and guiding our way.

Integrating faith into social work practice is a journey. Social workers who are Christian have lived through a variety of faith and social work practice



Rebecca E. Coleman

experiences. We have celebrated times when God's plan was clear, but we have also faced doubt, asked questions, and chosen disastrous detours. During our own times of insecurity and diversions, how can we, as social workers and Christians, possibly serve our clients and advocate for social justice? In other words, how can we integrate faith into our practice when we are not confident in our faith or choose to act contrary to our Christian beliefs?

Dorothy Day's life is an example of a journey initially filled with doubt and detours but over time transformed into a life with a strong faith in God. With the help of prayer, reflection, relationships, writing, and worship, she integrated her faith into a career as a journalist who advocated for social change. Her vision eventually became a church focused on mercy and justice for the poor.

Dorothy's childhood experiences during her college years enabled her to develop an awareness of social problems related to the disparity between the social classes – the poor and the rich. She questioned why organized religion was only

ministering to the poor and not advocating for social change. During her early journalism career, she primarily focused on secular changes related to the poor and women's voting rights. As a suffragist, she participated in street protests and was arrested. During her time in jail, she engaged in a hunger strike to oppose the unjust treatment of imprisoned women. These early life decisions continued to shape her passion for social justice and advocacy.

As Dorothy established her journalism career, she became involved with several different men. One relationship resulted in an abortion while a subsequent relationship led to the birth of her daughter. Throughout this time, she questioned God yet searched for His direction through prayer and worship. God responded by sending Peter Maurin, who encouraged her to write a newspaper called the *Catholic Worker*. The newspaper would provide a venue whereby Dorothy could integrate her journalism skills with a passion for social

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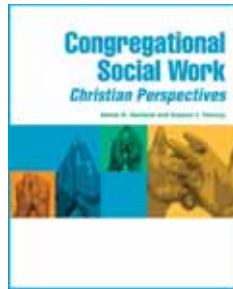
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NACSW Newest Publication

Congregational Social Work: Christian Perspectives

If you haven't already, NACSW invites you to consider picking up a copy of our newest publication, *Congregational Social Work: Christian Perspectives* (2014) by Drs. Diana Garland and Gaynor Yancey from the Baylor School of Social Work. *Congregational Social Work* offers a compelling account of the many ways social workers serve the church as leaders of congregational life, of ministry to neighborhoods locally and globally, and of advocacy for social justice. Based on the most comprehensive study to date on social work with congregations, *Congregational Social Work* shares



illuminating stories and experiences from social workers engaged in powerful and effective work within and in support of congregations throughout the US.

This important new work includes chapters on topics such as:

- What is Church Social Work?
- Congregations as Context for Social Work
- Social Workers as

Congregational Leaders

- Leading from Charity to Justice
- And much more!

Congregational Social Work: Christian Perspectives (ISBN 978-0-9715318-8-

8) is over 300 pages long and includes dozens of photos tracing the history of congregational social work. Copies are now available at the low cost of just \$39.95 (or \$31.95 for NACSW members or for orders of 10 or more copies). In addition, an e-version (pdf format) of *Congregational Social Work* is also available for \$24.95.

For additional information about *Congregational Social Work* or to order a copy:

- Email NACSW at info@nacsw.org
- Visit NACSW's website bookstore at: <http://www.nacsw.org/cgi-bin/storeman.cgi>
- Call NACSW's tollfree number at: 888.426.4712

Speaking Out...

NACSW MEMBERS AND FRIENDS SHARE THEIR VIEWS

I really enjoyed the training. <Editor's note: Cindy is referring to NACSW's online training entitled: "Maxims for Management: Manifesting Christian Principles as Supervisors, Managers and Administrators."> I wrote down all 20 of the maxims and plan to review them with my supervisory staff. I have been in this field of social work for 34 years. Sometimes it gets old taking some of the same courses over and over (ethics and supervision) but they are required every 2 years for license renewal so we do it. I need 3 hours for supervision and this class only gave me 1.25. I would love to have more trainings available on supervision and for Dr. Raymond to provide more insights on supervision. I would jump on a 3 hours supervision class from NACSW!

Cindy
Cincinnati, OH

<Editor's Note: This comment refers to a training available on NACSW's online CEU program> I'm doing another audio CEU training by David Sherwood, and I was just thinking that it feels like I'm back at Baylor, as both he and Dr. Ellor were there during my time there. What a great way to reminisce!

Shaina
Atlanta, Georgia

I totally forgot to mention to you earlier that the speaking event I have next month is primarily because the organization found my blog on Shared Grace! Just wanted to thank you again for that opportunity to write for it and let you know the outcomes it's producing!!

Holly
Houston, TX

This webinar is worth twice what we paid! <Editor's note: Carol is referring to NACSW's October 8th webinar entitled: "Forgiveness: A Pathway to Healing."> It's my first NACSW webinar and I know I'll be a returning customer. Goodness this is good material.

Carol
Spokane Valley, WA

I enjoyed the conference immensely. <Editor's note: Penny is referring to NACSW's recent Convention 2014 in Annapolis, Maryland> Thank you.

Penny
Cortlandt Manor, NY

That was truly an awesome convention in Annapolis!

Amy
San Pedro, CA

Dorothy Day

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change based on Christian beliefs. As a result, Catholic Worker homes were created to provide hospitality and care for the homeless. The reality of Dorothy's vision was beginning. Her journey to empower others to create a merciful, Christian response to social problems through advocating social change was coming to fruition.

Dorothy Day, Founder of the Catholic Workers Movement, was a woman whose faith was gradually shaped through her life experiences including her relationship with God. Her life's journey was filled with questions, doubts, and detours but also a strong faith demonstrated through her passion for social justice. My prayer is for social workers to embrace her example of integrating faith into our social work practice. To learn more about Dorothy Day, please consider submitting a proposal and attending a conference sponsored by the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, Indiana on May 2015 entitled, "*Dorothy Day and the Church: Past, Present and Future.*" For additional information including the call for proposals, check out <http://dorothyday.sf.edu>.

Rebecca E. Coleman
Social Work Department Chair,
University of Saint Francis
in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Educators Meet in Annapolis

At NACSW's 64th Annual Convention and Training Conference, held November 6-9, 2014, in Annapolis, Maryland, at least 59 social work educators and several guests gathered on Friday evening for the 30th Annual Social Work Educators Forum. The room was packed to standing room only and overflowing, but at least 36 colleges and universities were represented (including 26 Christian, 2 private-nonsectarian, and 7 public institutions) as well as 22 states, 1 province, and the District of Columbia.



Ed Kuhlman

One of the guests was Dr. Darla Spence Coffey, who is two years into serving as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). David Sherwood and Ed Kuhlmann served as moderators.

Following introductions and announcements, the topics of discussion included the soon to be promulgated Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) and revised accreditation processes, how Christian schools are dealing with LGBT issues, and the need for writing the histories of various denominational efforts to address social welfare concerns. In light of the fact that several NACSW members who have served as accreditation site visitors have retired or are approaching retirement, members were encouraged to apply to be trained as site visitors by CSWE's Commission on Accreditation. It was pointed out that, in addition to

contributing to the profession, one of the benefits of serving as a site visitor is the opportunity to learn more about the accreditation process and standards as well as how other programs are fulfilling the standards.

In response to accreditation concerns expressed by some forum participants, Dr. Coffey pointed out that EPAS is formulated by our peers and that more than one-third of the 733 accredited programs of social work education are located in faith-based or religiously-affiliated institutions and are a valued component of the social work education spectrum. It was also pointed out that CSWE has "come a long way" in terms of being a transparent and supportive standard-setting organization.

*Ed Kuhlmann
Professor Emeritus of Social Work
Eastern University
St. Davids, Pennsylvania*



NACSW WNY Chapter Update

The western NY Chapter of NACSW hosted their second annual fall festival to introduce students to NACSW. Over 20 students attended and had the opportunity to hike, try out the zip line, ride the four wheelers, and enjoy cider and smores around the campfire. In addition to these activities, students were introduced to the importance of networking and becoming involved in more than just their academics. They were presented with the

benefits that a membership in NACSW can provide. Hiie Silmere and Dave Skiff then reviewed the upcoming WNY NACSW calendar schedule of events including our trip to the international conference in Annapolis, Maryland. According to senior social work major Danielle Uttaro, "the fall festival was absolutely a blast!! It was a great way to network and hang out with other students."

Mastering continued from page 5

or Hispanic. As I have been interviewing individuals in these communities, it is clear that their voice and their perspective differs considerably from those who do not experience the same daily experiences these individuals are exposed to. It is also very clear that their true and authentic voice is rarely asked for – not in research, and not by practitioners. As social workers who are committed to social justice, we must be willing to lay our assumptions aside and to truly seek the voice of our clients and those in our communities who are disenfranchised or oppressed.

Jesus readily expressed his mission statement when He said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." As Christian social workers we are the eyes and ears of Jesus in this world. Let us more readily be willing to explore who we are in Jesus, to lay down our assumptions of others, and to truly be interested in finding out how others define themselves and their situations.

Keep current on NACSW news, events, photos, videos, and other resources by following us on NACSW's:



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- To make a secure, one-time or monthly donation, go to https://www.nacs.org/2008/2008_support.htm or contact us at the office at info@nacs.org, or call tollfree at: 888-426-4712.

- Please also consider NACSW as a beneficiary when you write or update your will. To discuss a planned giving option, please contact Rick Chamiec-Case, executive director, at rick@nacs.org, or 888.426.4712.

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New Membership Rates for 2015

NACSW membership rates for the year 2015 will be as follows:

- Basic Membership Rate: \$96
- **Two Year** Basic Membership Rate: \$175
- Student/Retired/Dues Assistance Rate: \$30
- Second Year after Graduation Rate: \$58
- Life Membership Rate: \$1,475

For rates in Canadian dollars, please use the current exchange rate. <<Note: 2015 rates were set based on the most recent annual US COLA rate available as of July 1, 2014 (1.5%)>>