

Announcing NACSW's 66th Annual Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio in 2016!

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NACSW is pleased to announce that our 66th Annual Convention and Training Conference, focused on the theme, *"Building Bridges: Fostering Healing & Connections in Our Communities,"* will be held in Cincinnati at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel from November 17-20, 2016. 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 presented at Convention 2016. For



Joy Fagan



Kendall Matthews



Trina Shanks

example, our two pre-convention institute presenters on November 17th will be:

- Dr. Virginia Todd Holeman, leading a full-day workshop on *"Fostering Healing and Connections Through Forgiveness"*
- Dr. Carla

MacDonald, leading a half-day workshop on *"Building Intercultural Competence in Social Work Practice: The Basic Steps toward Acquiring Proficiency."*

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

- **Dr. Joy Fagan** from Safe Harbor House speaking on empowering at-risk

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NACSW's February 29th, 2016 Audio Conference Webinar

NACSW is pleased to announce that it will be offering its next audio conference webinar entitled "Couples in Conflict: A Biblically-based Approach to Problem Resolution" on Monday, February 29th from 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Eastern Standard Time. This session will be co-presented by Drs. Mikal Rasheed, professor of social work and the director of the Master of Social Work Program at Chicago State University, and Janice Rasheed, professor of social work at Loyola University Chicago's School of Social Work.

This presents a biblically-based counseling approach with couples who are in conflict. This webinar is meant to empower the counselor and help the couple resist the temptation to act



Mikal Rasheed



Janice Rasheed

independently of God's support, guidance and wisdom in their attempt towards problem resolution. The goal of this presentation is to provide counselors a biblically-based approach to problem resolution using secular couples counseling methods. The authors have developed an approach in which both Christian faith principles and secular couples' counseling methods are used for insight and direction in helping couples resolve problems.

Mikal N. Rasheed is a professor of social work and the director of the Master of Social Work Program at Chicago State University. He is also the director of the Urban Solutions Institute at Chicago State. Rasheed is a

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Audio

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licensed clinical social worker and has maintained a clinical social work practice for more than twenty years, specializing in men's issues, practice with people of color, and couples and family therapy.

Janice Matthews Rasheed is a professor of social work at Loyola University Chicago's School of Social Work. She has presented papers at professional conferences, written books, and published book chapters and articles in professional journals on qualitative research, program planning, research and social work practice with African American men and their families, family therapy with people of color, family therapy models, and social work practice with veterans and military families. Janice teaches courses in family and couples therapy, multicultural social work practice, and research.

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 on to these sessions from their computers or mobile devices to follow the presenter's PowerPoint presentation on-line, and engage in interactive chat during the session.

For additional information (including session learning objectives), and/or to register on-line, go to NACSW's website at <http://www.nacsw.org>.

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). 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 29th for this important audio conference webinar – we encourage you to register today!

NACSW E-Publishes Its Convention 2015 Proceedings

For the 13th year in a row, NACSW has published convention proceedings comprised of representative papers and materials from workshop and poster sessions presented during its Convention 2015 in Grand Rapids, Michigan from November 12-15, 2015. Online access to these proceedings are now available at no cost to NACSW members and friends by clicking on the "Convention Proceedings 2015" 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 proceedings will significantly extend the impact and reach of the materials presented in Grand Rapids, 2015!

CATALYST

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Editor: Rick Chamiec-Case,
Executive Director

Address: P.O. Box 121, Botsford, CT 06404
Tollfree Phone: 1.888.426.4712
Website: www.nacsw.org

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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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Convention

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women toward healing and wholeness at the Thursday evening keynote session

• **Dr. Trina Shanks** speaking on: "*Faith, Stewardship, and Wealth Creation: Envisioning a Role for Churches in Asset Building Initiatives*" at the Friday morning Alan-Keith Lucas session

• **Major Kendall Matthews** presenting on "*Let's Pull Some Weeds – Time to Meet Your Inner Gardener (John 15: 1-10)*" at the Saturday evening banquet

Once again, NACSW plans to offer over 100 workshops and poster presentations, including a brand new track this year focused on: *Forgiveness*. The *Forgiveness* track was specially recommended by this

year's convention planning committee to support the convention theme and will focus on topics such as: research and practice approaches (including micro, mezzo and macro social work), how trauma shapes a community's response towards forgiveness, and how culture and social identity influence an understanding of forgiveness. There are 12 other workshop tracks as well. Please consider submitting a workshop proposal in any of our thirteen tracks by going to: <http://www.nacsw.org/Convention/Call2016.html>.

We encourage you to mark your calendars early and plan to join us for Convention 2016 in Cincinnati, Ohio next November. This is definitely a conference you won't want to miss!

STAY IN TOUCH

Want to connect with local NACSWACSW members?

Contact your area representative!

Contact information is listed on page 11.

E-mail pictures of your local NACSWACSW event to info@nacsw.org.

Standing Amazed at God and God's People

WOW! I continue to stand amazed at GOD and at God's people! It seems like just yesterday when

I saw a flyer for NACSW on a bulletin board in Green Hall at Oakwood College. However, my grey hair and recent college reunion help me to realize that my first encounter with NACSW was at

least 20 years ago! It also means that Rick Chamiec-Case and the other members of this organization have been impacting my life for a very long time. Quite honestly, had it not been for my Christian social work professors at Oakwood who assigned us to read Alan Keith Lucas' *So You Want to Be a Christian Social Worker*, a divinely-orchestrated encounter with Diana Garland, who spoke highly of the association, and the witness of NACSW through numerous publications and conventions, I'm not sure how I would have learned to integrate my faith in practice. I am thankful to God and God's representatives in NACSW for being a formidable force in shaping the trajectory of my life. Yes, I stand amazed at God's mastery.

I am also extremely thankful that my relationship with NACSW has grown over the years. This organization has allowed me to stretch and serve in unimaginable ways. As I reflect on my 20-year history with NACSW, I realize that NACSW provided me with many "firsts" in my personal and professional career: volunteering at a conference, presenting



Kesslyn Brade Stennis

on a topic that was of both personal and professional interest, and publishing in a peer-reviewed journal. And over the years, I have had the opportunity to continue my service-learning by coordinating convention workshop programs, co-chairing last year's annual conference, and serving in various positions on the Board of Directors. These opportunities have shaped my life in ways that I didn't always realize I was seeking, but God did and NACSW was the conduit!

And now, as I embark upon yet another opportunity within NACSW, I am humbled to tears. God and God's people within this wonderful organization have opened the door for me to serve as President of NACSW's Board. While I am honored, I am also keenly aware that assuming this position requires greater commitment to God and greater responsibility to God's people. The old biblical adage is applicable here: "to whom much is given, much is required." I step into these shoes as Board president as an African American woman understanding the godly requirements and accepting the responsibility to uphold the mission and vision of NACSW.

I also recognize that I must work collaboratively to address some of the issues that I see as most critical for NACSW's continued growth and contribution. These issues are aligned with:

- 1.) *Cultural Inclusion* regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, denominational background, etc.
- 2.) *Financial Fortification* by concentrating recruitment efforts toward college students and young professionals while continuing to facilitate discussions with seasoned members related to

the identification of avenues and implementation of processes that solidify a sound economic position
3.) *Contemporary Relevance* which is systematically assessed and intentionally addressed through our internal reviews, publications, advertisements, programs, virtual presence and services, including outreach to diverse communities.

Finally, as I follow Denis Costello as Board president, I am hopeful. NACSW's history is legendary, its leaders have been impactful, and its members have been faithful. While I believe that our unique identity as a Christian social work organization is one that is galvanizing to many, my hope is that NACSW will positively impact and empower those on the fringes of membership and those who are disenfranchised in our larger global community. Respectful of differences in opinions and practices that exist within our social work professional and various faith traditions, I do firmly believe in the African proverb that states: "When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion." When we as members of NACSW and God's beloved community unite, we can dismantle the lion-like strength of poverty, homelessness, abuse, "isms," health disparities, ecological destruction, international and national unrest, substance abuse, educational and wealth inequities, child abuse and human trafficking, and the numerous human rights and social justice issues within our world. For, in my opinion, addressing these issues as Jesus did is our purpose for being. My hope is that our collective work will solidify our spiritual and organizational presence in the global community that is seeking persons equipped to competently integrate faith and practice.

NACSW BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

NACSW is pleased to announce the final results of its Fall, 2015 Board election. The four candidates who were elected by the membership to serve on NACSW's Board with terms running from 2016 - 2018 are:

- Ardis Fuge, Alexandria, Virginia
- Eleanor Speakes, Fresno, California

- Kesslyn Brade-Stennis, Baltimore, Maryland
- Samantha Taylor, Frederick, Maryland

Please keep these newly elected Board members in your prayers for wisdom and guidance.

Stay current and join the discussion on Facebook at



<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=279106722135>

In Memoriam: Diana R. Garland

Diana R. Garland, long standing member of NACW and dean of the Diana R. Garland School of Social Work at Baylor University, died on September 21, 2015, at the age of 65.

For 40 years, Diana was a pillar of NACSW. Our association has been indelibly marked and molded by her passion and tireless commitment to the integration of Christian faith and social work practice. In April, 2015 Diana received NACSW's Distinguished Service to NACSW (see <http://www.nacsw.org/GarlandAward2015.pdf>).

From her early days as a member in the 1970s, and then as a Board member for multiple terms (including a term as Board president), Diana threw herself with energy and gusto in support of NACSW and its mission. Diana served NACSW in a variety of capacities including: writing countless articles for our journal, *Social Work & Christianity*, in addition to two seminar books focused on of her beloved topics: congregational social work; presenting workshops for more than a dozen NACSW conventions; co-chairing two NACSW conventions; delivering several keynote addresses; providing the inspiration for the development of NACSW's online continuing education program; and serving on the editorial board of *Social Work & Christianity* for decades, to name a few. In addition, Diana completed her last book for NACSW, *Why I Am a Social Worker: 25 Christian Tell Their Stories*, just a few months before she died. Altogether, Diana Garland wrote, co-wrote or edited 19 books and more than 120 professional articles.



Diana R. Garland

Diana also supported NACSW and its mission by producing seminal scholarship and building a strong web of professional connections and networks that created a respected place within the social work profession for her passion, congregational social work. Diana also represented NACSW and Christian social work educators in the broader social work education community through various roles on the Council on Social Work Education and the National Association of Deans and Directors of Social Work. Diana was the inaugural dean of the Diana R. Garland School of Social Work at Baylor University, which offers social work degrees at the baccalaureate, masters and doctoral levels.

David Sherwood, the editor in chief of *Social Work & Christianity*, said of Diana that she was “a woman of unparalleled energy, intellect, vision,

and commitment to serving human need through the ethical integration of deep Christian faith and competent professional social work education and practice.”

NACSW's Board has chosen to honor Diana by establishing The Diana R. Garland Legacy Fund to support innovative scholarship and training focused on the ethical integration of faith and social work practice in a variety of settings – including congregational social work. If you wish to honor Diana's life by making a donation to NACSW's Diana R. Garland Legacy Fund, you can look up the Diana Garland Legacy Fund at www.crowdrise.com.

NACSW Announces *Why I Am a Social Worker: 25 Christians Tell Their Life Stories*

NACSW is pleased to announce the summer, 2015 publication of *Why I Am a Social Worker: 25 Christians Tell Their Life Stories* (2015) by Diana R. Garland. *Why I Am a Social Worker* describes the rich diversity and nature of the profession of social work through the 25 stories of daily lives and professional journeys chosen to represent the different people, groups and human situations where social workers serve.

Many social workers of faith express that they feel “called” to help people – sometimes a specific population of people such as abused children or people who live in poverty. Often they describe this calling as a way of living out their faith. *Why I Am*

a Social Worker serves as a resource for Christians in social work as they reflect on their sense of calling, and provides direction to guide them in this process. *Why I Am a Social Worker* employs a narrative, descriptive approach, allowing the relationship between faith and practice to emerge through the professional life stories of social workers who are Christians. As such, it provides a way to explore integration on personal, emotional and practical levels.

Why I Am a Social Worker addresses a range of important questions such as:

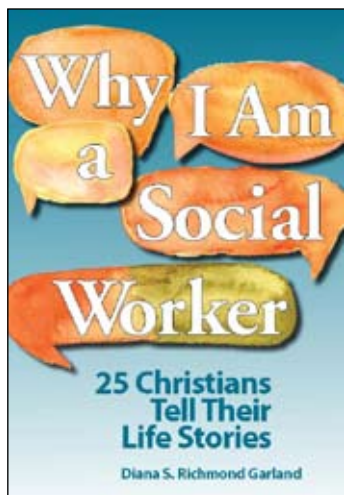
- How do social workers describe the relationship of their faith and their work?
- What is their daily work-life like,

with its challenges, frustrations, joys and triumphs?

- What was their path into social work, and more particularly, the kind of social work they chose?
- What roles do their religious beliefs and spiritual practices have in sustaining them for the work, and how has their work, in turn, shaped their religious and spiritual life?

Why I Am a Social Worker provides a realistic view of the gritty realities of a profession that is at the forefront of serving those Jesus described as “the least of these” (Matthew 25).

Why I Am a Social Worker: 25 Christians Tell Their Life Stories (2015), (ISBN # 978-0-9897581-0-9) is 220 pages long, and is now available at NACSW's on-line bookstore for \$29.95 - or only \$23.95 for NACSW members or for orders of 10 or more copies (plus shipping). An e-version (pdf format) of *Why I Am a Social Worker* is available as well.



Faith Integration and Intersectionality Integration: Can We Do Both?

For those of us who are instructors at faith-based colleges or universities, we have the privilege of integrating faith into all of our coursework. This is a blessed privilege and a great start toward cultural humility. However, instructors should move toward an integrative stance based on intersectionality in all of their courses, whether at a faith-based or secular institution.



Jennifer Shepard Payne

Intersectionality looks at the intersection of faith with other “demographics” affecting a person. Each individual consists of a multiplicity of aspects of self that influence the lens by which he or she views the world. Individuals are absolutely influenced by their faith, but they are also influenced by their gender, race, socioeconomic status, nationality, cultural upbringing and a host of other factors.

As a personal example, I fall into certain prescribed categories according to the U.S. Census. I am Black, I am female, I am Christian. However, as individuals, we do not fall neatly into categories, and within every sub-population, there are within-group differences. All Blacks are not U.S. born or “African American”- there are blacks of Caribbean descent, blacks of Spanish origin, Africans and a host of other sub-populations. I am Christian, but we know that there is a diversity of Christian faith. For instance, I am Apostolic

Pentecostal, and that specificity influences the lens by which I view the world.

When I was a doctoral student at UCLA, I had the opportunity to take a class taught by Dr. James H. Cones III on the Psychology of Race and Gender. One thing that I learned from that class that still resonates with me many years later is the concept of salience. Although each of us falls within a constellation of categories that make up who we are, we must always remember that what is most salient for one individual may not be most salient for another. For two individuals who are of the same race, gender and religious group, for instance, race may be the most salient self-identification factor for one individual, while religious group or gender may be more salient for the other. It is the constellation and intersection of all of these demographics that make up who we are.

The term “intersectionality” was coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw and became prominent through Patricia Collins’ black feminist epistemology. In spite of its origin, we do not have to embrace feminism to understand that intersectionality matters. Intersectionality matters in our own lives; we teach and educate our students through this lens. Our passions and teaching focus are influenced by the constellation of factors that make up who we are. It matters for our students - we have diverse students with diverse backgrounds in our social work programs, and that diversity of experience and perspective should be appreciated and embraced in the classroom context. Intersectionality matters for the clients that our students will serve and for the programs and agencies that our students will one day manage. Consumers come from diverse backgrounds and faiths, and

thus we have to prepare our students for successful interaction in a diverse world.

The Apostle Paul discusses his own freedom in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. He states:

“19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings” (NIV version).

As Christians, we must learn to become all things to all people so that we might win some. We must learn to meet individuals where they are, to have enough empathy to try to understand the “shoes” of another, even if we have not walked in their shoes. As social work educators, we need to integrate intersectionality discussions into our classrooms so that our students may understand the various forms of oppression that consumers face on multiple levels. Through embracing both faith integration and cultural integration in our classrooms, we will be able to develop social workers equipped to make significant impact in a diverse world.

Jennifer Shepard Payne, PhD, LCSW
Azusa Pacific University

NACSW Announces Membership Rates for 2016

NACSW membership rates for the year 2016 will be as follows:

- Basic Membership Rate: \$98
- Two Year Basic Membership Rate: \$178
- Student/Retired/Dues Assistance Rate: \$30
- Second Year after Graduation Rate: \$60

- Life Membership Rate: \$1,500

For rates in Canadian dollars, please use the current exchange rate.

<<Note: 2016 rates were set based on the most recent annual US COLA rate available as of July 1, 2015 (1.7%)>>

The Apostles' Preferred Qualifications for a Social Worker: Do You Qualify?

By the grace of God, the Holy Spirit enlightened me two years ago regarding one of the many scripturally-preferred qualifications to be a social worker in the book of Acts of the Apostles chapter 6 verse 3. This passage reads: "So, brothers and sisters, choose seven of your men who have a good reputation. They must be full of wisdom and the Spirit. We will give them this work to do" (ERV). Just as every job description has both required and preferred qualifications, the Apostles of the early church listed their preferred job qualifications for "social workers" when they encountered the social problems of inequality and discrimination in the care of widows.



Christson Adedoyin

The preferred qualifications for social workers according to the Apostles are three-fold. First, the ideal applicant must have "good reputation." Second, the preferred candidate must be full (not partially) of the Holy Spirit. Third, the best candidate must be "full of wisdom." The question I would like you to prayerfully contemplate is this: do you think you qualify to work as a social worker per the Apostles' preferred qualifications? As for me, I am still praying to qualify for at least two of the three qualifications.

In the New Year, I would encourage you to be more thankful to God daily, and with a humble heart be grateful that we already possess, by faith, the number one preferred requirement for our responsibilities as social workers: a good reputation, which we have through the righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ. This understanding takes away every sense of inadequacy we might experience as social workers. Conversely, a daily attitude of contrition is needed to appropriate Christ's righteousness to keep us level-headed and non-judgmental in our profession, and

to be constantly aware that we are not better than, not more righteous than, and nor superior in character to our clients or students. After all, Apostle Paul stated "I am what I am by the grace of God" (1 Corinthians 15:10).

In addition, I will encourage you to make it a daily practice in the New Year to intentionally pray for more "in-filling" of the Holy Spirit. As social workers we need to be daily re-charged and re-fueled for each new day's work. Because of our limitations as mortals, most social workers have overwhelming case-loads, or unfinished paperwork, projects and manuscripts. However, we should remember that "... His mercies never come to an end, **they are new every morning...**" (Lamentations 3:22-23, ESV). Our need for a fresh and daily "inflowing" or "inpouring" of the Holy Spirit is non-negotiable for us to perfectly do the will of God, serve our clients, and indeed be the "... *workmanship of God created in Christ Jesus unto good works*" (Ephesians 2:10 KJV).

It is worth nothing that even our Lord Jesus Christ while on earth had a daily habit of seeking fresh anointing and the power of the Holy Spirit through prayers to His Father (Mark 1:35; Luke 5:19). Helping our clients overcome their problems is spiritually and emotionally draining. Fresh power and anointing is therefore needed daily if we are to reduce compassion fatigue, which contribute to high staff turn-over among social workers. No wonder "... *God anointed Jesus Christ of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with Power; who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed with the devil, for God was with Him*" (Acts 10:38 NKJV).

Finally, the third preferred qualification of a social worker according to the Apostles' job description is to be *full of wisdom*. Why must the candidate be full - and not partially full - of wisdom? As professional social workers either on campuses or in agencies, we are daily presented with information by the people we serve that it is very easy for us to misjudge based on the evidence before

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NACSW Convention 2016 Cincinnati, OH November 17-20, 2016

NACSW invites you to submit a proposal for a workshop proposal for its Convention 2016 in Cincinnati, OH. 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. Forgiveness (New Track)
13. Faith and Justice (New Track)

For additional information about how to submit a proposal, you can either go to <http://www.nacsw.org/Convention/Call2016.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, 2016 (this is a firm deadline).

All proposals are peer reviewed. Final decisions will be made and submitters notified in May, 2016. Only a limited number of proposals can be selected.

Searching for a new job?
Visit www.nacsw.org and click on the JobNet Career Center link.

To send a question to Dear Dexter, students should contact Dexter at: dexter.freeman@amedd.army.mil

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 <http://nacs.org/CEU>. New trainings recently added to our program (which now has 95+ trainings) include the following:



Steve Corbett

effective poverty alleviation.

Leadership in Times of Crisis: Christ's Call to Competent Compassion

Bob VandePol, LCSW; video-based training; 2.0 CEUs.

The focus of this session is two-fold. One area of focus is to provide participants with opportunities to learn a variety of methods to obtain a spiritual assessment from their clients. The other area of focus is to gain a better understanding

of the role that spirituality has played and continues to play in the lives of individuals who are in recovery from substance addiction issues.

The Christian Call to Racial Reconciliation through Community Integration

Christopher Thyberg, BSW; video-based training; 1.0 CEU.

Despite some steps towards racial equality in recent decades, there is a continuing trend of neighborhood segregation in America that has resulted in the persistent disenfranchisement of the African American community. The



Christopher Thyberg

Christian Community Development Association's model of neighborhood integration provides a realistic, personal way for Christians and social workers alike to make an investment in struggling communities.

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 social work accessible via computer or mobile device. All trainings included in this program provide CEUs accredited by the Association of Social Work Boards.

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.nacs.org/CEUPartners.htm>) as well.

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

NACSW Online CEU BOGO Offer for March

In celebration of social work month in March, NACSW is pleased to announce a special "Buy One Training & Get One Free" promotion for NACSW's online CEU program. This special arrangement makes it possible to access double the number of our online trainings for your dollar throughout the month of March!

To participate in this special "Buy One Training & Get One Free" promotion, any time between March 1st and 31st, you can do the following:

1. Register and pay for any online training offered through NACSW's online CEU training program at: <https://nacs.org/CEU/>.
2. Send us an email to info@nacs.org with the title of a second training (of



equal or lesser CEU value) that you would also like to take, and we will register you for this second training at no cost. Please

make sure to include your license number in this email.

3. NACSW will send you a confirmation email with your log-in information for this free training within 24 hours (it will take a little longer on weekends).

All 95+ online CEU trainings are "fair game" in this special promotion. Feel free to "Buy One Training & Get One Free" as many times as you wish throughout the month of March.

Don't hesitate to contact us at info@nacs.org with any questions you might have. Take advantage of this special offer to stock up on CEU trainings (approved by the Association of Social Work Boards) sensitive to the thoughtful integration of Christian faith and social work practice!

Without your current email address, NACSW cannot as easily provide you with announcements about NACSW events in your area, the annual convention, and updates about new NACSW programs and services. If you've not received an email from NACSW within the past 4-6 weeks, please send us an email (info@nacs.org).

TECHNOLOGY COLUMN

Technology: Stifling or Empowering

Do you feel empowered or stifled by the technology that you use? Over the past few years I've

written in this space about some of the benefits of technology and social media as well as some of the drawbacks. The tools at our disposal are quite powerful and that can be

overwhelming. Hopefully we are able to use them for good!

I know a lot of people who sign up for a tool and follow some people: friends, news organizations, celebrities, and professionals. They may become overwhelmed by the information or aren't sure how to condense their thoughts into the medium. Can you really have a meaningfully deep discussion in 140



Nick Cross

characters on Twitter? Granted there are some who sign up with the sole intent of watching selected people. My dad created a Twitter account so he could follow me and see what was happening in my world. He's never purposely tweeted.

In recent months it seems that we regularly hear about people who say something on Facebook or Twitter and then are forced to retract it. Some even lose their jobs. Why do people do this? Some do it because they truly believe what they say, and they have an audience who believes it, too. Others are reacting to something about which they feel they just have to say something. Maybe someone said something that got them fired up or in a moment of passion wrote something without fully thinking it through.

We have all seen super passionate arguments on Facebook. We've all probably responded to some of them. Some (most?) of these discussions quickly lose their friendly demeanor and erupt into arguments with personal attacks on others. I think in these instances we are empowered by the perceived or pseudo-

anonymity provided by social media. I would argue that if you put that same group of people together at a table in a local coffee shop, it would be a very different discussion.

I think we as followers of Jesus and as social workers are called to be mindful in the way we engage others in the realms of technology. This can look different for each of us. For me it means I almost never comment on a Facebook post that seems designed to provoke arguments. I look at who posted it and its title and decide whether to read the piece and respond or not. I definitely don't respond until I've read the attached article or watched the video. So in some ways I am stifling my own opinions.

We are called to serve and advocate for others and this does include the social media space. I'm not advocating for abstention or withdrawal but conscious (mindful) engagement with others. We should wield the power that comes through engagement on social media carefully.

Prayer Corner

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us. While I am a strong proponent of evidence-informed decision-making in the discharge of our duties, I would encourage the reader to seek a deeper dimension of decision-making through a daily prayer for the Spirit of Wisdom as we serve the Lord Jesus Christ through our social work practice.

In summary, cultivate a daily habit of praying for the Apostles' preferred job qualification of a social worker: a good reputation (the righteousness of Jesus Christ), fullness of the Holy Spirit, and fullness of wisdom. Happy New Year!

Call for Board Nominations for 2017-19

Current members of NACSW are invited to propose candidates to run for NACSW's Board of Directors for terms starting 2017. 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.



NACSW T-Shirts, Mugs, and More!

In response to requests we've received from our members, NACSW, in conjunction with the online store, Cafepress, is now offering t-shirts, mugs, bags, sweatshirts, baby clothes, water bottles, magnets, ipod cases, and more with the NACSW logo!

Check it out by going to:



Call for Papers: Special Issue of *Social Work and Christianity*

Topic: Faith, Religion and Migration

Date of Issue: Spring 2017

Guest Editors: Breanne Grace and Benjamin Roth

Deadline: September 1, 2016

Three percent of the world's population are international migrants. Whether they are immigrants who cross nation-state borders voluntarily, refugees who are displaced by conditions in their home country, or asylees who are fleeing persecution, a greater percentage of the global population than ever before is living in a country that is not originally their own. The reception that migrants receive varies considerably.

Given the magnitude of migration, the complexity of the migratory process, and the multiple factors affecting integration, there is no single migration experience. However, religion and faith are woven into contemporary migrations in ways that have significant implications for immigrants, their families and the places where they settle. This special issue of

Social Work and Christianity will explore the role of religion, religious institutions, and/or faith in contemporary migratory processes (including why individuals leave, their migration experience itself, and/or the challenges of adjusting to a new home once they arrive).

Submissions in the following areas are particularly requested:

- **Conceptual** offerings providing definitional clarity and theoretical frameworks related to how religion, religious institutions, and/or faith intersects with contemporary migration.
- Articles that apply social work **practice** to working with migrants, with a special focus on religion/faith, at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.
- Articles focused on **research** or **research methods** related to religion/faith and migration.
- Articles focusing on the **history** of religion/faith and migration in social work education and practice.

Guidelines for submitting manuscripts:

All authors are strongly encouraged to contact the special edition editors by email (see contact information below) by June 1, 2016 to discuss ideas for paper submissions. The deadline for all paper submissions is September 1, 2016.

Articles submitted to SWC should begin with a title page, including the author's name, address, phone number, email address, abstract of no more than 200 words, a list of key words, and an indication of whether or not the author would like the manuscript to be peer-reviewed. The article text should be double-spaced and limited to 20-25 pages, including all references and appendices (please use the 6th edition of the American Psychological Association Style Manual format for in-text references and reference lists). Manuscripts should be submitted electronically as email attachments, preferably in Microsoft Word, to either Benjamin J. Roth (rothbj@sc.edu) or Breanne Grace (breanne.grace@sc.edu) by September 1, 2016.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Social Work & Christianity 2016 Graduate Student Paper Award

NACSW is pleased to announce its 2016 Graduate Student Paper Award, with the winning paper to be published in *Social Work & Christianity* and the author to receive an Award Honorarium of \$500.

The purpose of this Award is to encourage and recognize excellence in scholarly work by a graduate student on issues related to the integration of Christian faith and professional social work practice and other professional concerns that have relevance to Christianity.

We are issuing a call for proposals from current MSW and Ph.D. students regarding projects for which they would like to submit papers in consideration for this Award.

Proposals must be submitted by January 31, 2016. The Student Paper Award Committee of the editorial board will review proposals and authors of proposals that show significant promise of meeting the award criteria will be encouraged to submit completed manuscripts by July 31, 2016. Completed manuscripts will be anonymously reviewed by the Student Paper Award Committee and the Award decision and notification will be made by September 15, 2016. The winning paper will be published in the Spring 2017 issue of *Social Work & Christianity* and the Award formally presented at the following NACSW Annual Convention. Strong papers that do not win the award will be considered for possible publication in subsequent regular issues of the journal.

Proposals should provide a concise overview of project and its relationship to the ethical integration of Christian faith and competent professional social work practice and scholarship.

They should include a clear explanation of the proposed topic or research question, the methodology used to address the question, and the intended contribution to social work scholarship and practice. Proposals should be no longer than 400-600 words and should be submitted by email attachment to David Sherwood, Editor, *Social Work & Christianity*, david@sherwoodstreet.com.

Criteria by which submitted papers will be evaluated are:

- 1. Topic:** Does the paper have relevance for the integration of Christian faith and professional social work practice or other professional concerns related to Christian faith?
- 2. Significance:** Does this paper address an important issue? What is the potential contribution of this paper to the profession?
- 3. Innovation:** Does the paper employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Is it original and innovative? Do findings or conclusions challenge existing paradigms or help develop new methodologies?
- 4. Approach:** Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate to the purposes of the paper? Does the author discuss the paper's limitations?
- 5. Implications for social work practice and/or education:** Are the implications adequately articulated? Do the findings or conclusions have broad applicability?
- 6. Writing:** Is the writing style concise? Are concepts, methods, and findings clearly explained? Does the submitted version of the paper suggest that the student carefully reviewed the paper (e.g., no grammatical, spelling, typographical errors) and had feedback from others to improve it?

NACSW–California Chapter on the Move

The NACSW-CA chapter didn't get a chance to share how much fun it was to host the NACSW Board of Directors for their Board meeting in June this summer, as well as to have them join us for our state conference, at Fresno Pacific University. The theme of our conference was "Justice and Peace in the City: Transforming Lives within Community." What an amazing day! We thank God and thank our hard-working committee at Fresno Pacific University who planned the conference almost entirely on their own and did a fantastic job!

The 2015 state conference planning committee included Donna Callahan, chair; Suzanne Mondell-Cook, consultant; plus Dr. Jon Clark, Amy-Lynne Hilderbrand, Tonya Lovely, Wanda McIntosh, David Plassman, Sonia Pranger, and Eleanor Speakes.

After a very full year, the NACSW-CA chapter has now begun planning local NACSW cell group meetings with CEU presentations, brainstorming how to expand our membership base and provide outreach to students on secular campuses, and developing a website.

Since the state of California hires over



14,000 social workers, more than the second and third states combined, if we can capture the hearts of just 10% of those professionals, we could add as many as 1400 members to NACSW (to the existing NACSW roster of 1,500 members overall). Yes, we are motivated to expand!

For further information about the NACSW-CA chapter or group meetings in your area, you can contact:

- Donna Callahan at callahan@fresno.edu or Eleanor Speakes at espeakes41@gmail.com for the Fresno area
- Glenda Gordon at gal4gsus2009@gmail.com

gmail.com for the Inland Empire area

- Suzanne Mondell-Cook at suzmondell@gmail.com for the San Diego area

If you are interested in forming a local cell group in your area, please do not hesitate to contact our chapter president, Amy-Lynne Hilderbrand at histerdergrip@gmail.com or Suzanne Mondell-Cook, Vice-President (San Diego) at suzmondell@gmail.com.

*Glenda Gordon
San Bernardino, CA*

Speaking Out...

NACSW MEMBERS AND FRIENDS SHARE THEIR VIEWS

Wanted to thank you all for the excellent special edition of Social Work and Christianity on the Black Church and Social Reform. It was inspiring, informative, and challenging. I appreciate all the work that went into its production. It kept me company on my train commute between NYC and Long Island, and I read it from cover to cover.

Thanks so much for all that you do.

Dave
Amityville, NY

I've just gotten done reading through the Catalyst and would like to express my interest in the Poverty Alleviation Interest Group.

I continue to be impressed with and blessed by the resources offered through NACSW. Thanks so much!

Matt
Bloomington, IL

I can't thank you enough for your kindness and support! I appreciate your generosity in sharing the resources you sent along. . . . I have gained so much support and nurturing as a social work student through my membership with the NACSW this year. My mentor, Janet, has been absolutely wonderful. Our monthly talks have really inspired me, comforted me, and provided a faith-filled perspective that has been lacking in my studies and supervision. I just want to thank you for making such an impact on my experience through the NACSW!

Heather
Ann Arbor, Michigan

. . . My grandfather went home on Veterans day to his eternal home and NACSW was so supportive during everything, it makes me so proud to be a part of this organization, to know

that so many people are gracious and compassionate.

Jessica
Rochester, NY

. . . I wanted to tell you that I've met some of my favorite people through NACSW. Thanks for leading this organization that helps Christians in social work to make professional and personal connections with others who are involved in similar work! I sincerely appreciate the ministry of NACSW and the work that you do to keep us moving forward. Blessings to you!

Ken
Birmingham, AL

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



Facebook Fan Page:
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YouTube account:
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Flickr account:
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RSS URL – nacsww.org/RSS



iTunes - nacsww.org/itunes

CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Area	Contact	E-mail
California (All)	Amy-Lynne Hilderbrand	histendergrip@gmail.com
California (Central)	Eleanor Speakes	espeakes41@gmail.com
California – Northern	Osmond Kwan	osmond81@gmail.com
Canada (Ontario)	Timothy Myland	mylandti@gmail.com
Connecticut	Bob Nield	bobnield@hotmail.com
Florida (Central)	Marleen Milner	mmilner@seu.edu
Georgia (Atlanta)	Shaina Blair	sdr_rodody@yahoo.com
Hawaii	Andy Dahlburg	adahlborg@hotmail.com
Indiana	Jeff Bryant	jbryant@uindy.edu
Kentucky (Louisville)	Tim Moseley	tim@waysidechristianmission.org
Maryland (Western)	Brent Thornton	snowmanbrent@atlanticbb.net
Massachusetts (Boston)	Stacey Barker	stacey.barker@enc.edu
Michigan (Western)	Gary Deckert	gdeckert@yahoo.com
Minnesota - Minneapolis-St. Paul	Nick Zeimet	zeimet.nick@gmail.com
Mississippi	Jana Donahoe	jdonahoe@deltastate.edu
Missouri (Southwest)	Lacey Nunnally	nunnallyl@evangel.edu
Missouri/Kansas (Kansas City)	Terri Bennett	nealandterri@yahoo.com
New York City Area	David Fritz	dmfritz3@gmail.com
New York (Western)	Dave Skiff	skiffd@roberts.edu
North Carolina (Central)	Ken Smith	ktaasmith@gmail.com
North Carolina (Raleigh-Durham)	Amelia Roberts-Lewis	amrobert@email.unc.edu
North Dakota/South Dakota	Gayla Sherman	gayla.sherman@charleshallyouthservices.com
Oklahoma (Tulsa)	Robert Kiel	rkiel@oru.edu
Tennessee (Eastern)	Reba Terry	reba_terry@bellsouth.net
Tennessee (Western)	Stevie Ray	stevieray38128@yahoo.com
Texas (Dallas)	Linda Openshaw	linda.openshaw@tamuc.edu
Texas (Fort Worth)	Melissa Stanford Oden	drmissy2011@gmail.com
Texas (Houston)	Kim Parker	parkerly@msn.com
Texas (San Antonio)	Kelly Moeller	kelly.moeller@yahoo.com
Washington, DC/VA/MD	Willi Dalaba	willidalaba@aol.com

OVERSEAS CONTACT INFORMATION

Area	Contact	E-mail
Australia	Ian Bedford	ianjudybedford@iinet.net.au
Korea	Sang Hak Ro	rosang-h@chikushi-u.ac.jp

For email addresses and additional chapter information, please see NACSW's chapter webpage at: <http://www.nacsww.org/chaplist.html> or contact the NACSW office.

PARTNERING IN NACSW'S MISSION AND MINISTRY

There are a number of ways to provide a financial contribution to NACSW to partner with us in our mission and ministry.

- To make a secure, one-time or monthly donation, go to https://www.nacsww.org/2008/2008_support.htm or contact us at the office at info@nacsww.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@nacsww.org, or 888.426.4712.

NACSW JOBNET:

The Christian Career Connection



Looking to fill an open position?

Visit NACSW's website www.nacsww.org

Searching for a new job?

visit www.nacsww.org and click on the JobNet Career Center link



North American Association of Christians in Social Work
 P.O. Box 121, Botsford, CT 06404-0121
 www.nacsw.org • info@nacsw.org • 888-426-4712

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UPCOMING AUDIO CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS AND PODCASTS

AUDIO CONFERENCES

February 2016
 Audio Conference/Webinar
 "Couples in Conflict: A Biblically-based
 Approach to Problem Resolution"
 Mikal and Janice Rasheed
 February 29, 2016
 1 pm – 2:15 pm (Eastern)

April 2016
 Audio Conference/Webinar
 "One Step Forward ~ Two Steps Back:
 From Poverty to Self-Sufficiency"
 Pam Crawford and Kim Rainey
 April 25, 2016
 1 pm – 2:15 pm (Eastern)

PODCASTS

January 2016's Featured Podcast
 "And What is True Religion?"
 Elizabeth Omilami
 Recorded at NACSW's Convention 2013
 in Atlanta, GA
 on October 19th, 2013

February 2016's Featured Podcast
 "Learning Through Technology: An
 Engaging, Practical Approach"
 David Cecil and Stephen Baldrige
 Recording of
 NACSW's Audio Conference Webinar
 on November 24th, 2014

March 2016's Featured Podcast
 "Integral Ethics in Social Work Education"
 Mari Anne Graham
 Recorded at NACSW's Convention 2013
 in Atlanta, GA
 on October 19th, 2013

April 2016's Featured Podcast
 "Transformed by the Renewing
 of your Mind: Utilizing Rational
 Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT)"
 Erma Ballenger
 Recording of
 NACSW's Audio Conference Webinar
 on November 25th, 2013

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
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 MEMBERS!**