

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

SEEING NACSW AS A BRIGHT SPOT IN OUR LIVES AND CAREERS

I want to say how grateful and excited I am to occupy the position of NACSW Board President for the next couple of years.

Some years ago, Michael Sherr and Terry Wolfer brought me (reluctantly, I must confess) to my first NACSW conference. I was the fourth presenter in a workshop and I had no idea that NACSW was



David Cecil

about to become such an influential force in my life, both personally and professionally.

In NACSW I have found wonderful opportunities for friendship, fellowship, networking, professional development, and scholarship. I have developed connections with colleagues and friends that will last a lifetime. And so as Board President I feel an immense responsibility to serve NACSW in the way I have been served, with a spirit of openness, inclusiveness, and rigor. I am eager to see what lies ahead for NACSW as we face so many opportunities. The NACSW Board, in support of our Executive Director, Rick Chamiec-Case, is working diligently to plan for NACSW's future. We

In the coming year, my hope for our membership is that we will come to see more and more what a bright spot NACSW is for our lives and careers.

are currently utilizing a strategic planning model that goes beyond traditional questions about time and resources and forces us to anchor deep into our mission while also asking the big questions about our current challenges and options. Our mission to equip social workers to integrate their faith and practice is unwavering, but difficult economic times and rapidly changing social networking and communication methods, for example, present challenges for our organization. So our goals, as the

Board, are to stay deeply rooted in the foundation principles that serve us so well, to inform and then listen to our membership, and to prayerfully and systematically explore options for innovating to ensure a strong membership for NACSW's future.

In the coming year, my hope for our membership is that we will come to see more and more what a bright spot NACSW is for our lives and careers. If you have not had that experience, I hope you will be open to it. Many of us are making tough financial decisions these days and things like traveling for conventions and even renewing our memberships can be understandably difficult. But I have always enjoyed seeing how resourceful people are at NACSW conventions, for example, pulling together to share expenses. This makes the conference experience both more affordable and enjoyable. And in the end, I find that the resources I set aside for NACSW, just like tithing, has an exponentially more valuable impact in my life.

I wish you all well in the important work you do. My prayer for NACSW is that we remain open to the ways God is calling us to equip social workers to bring health and healing to so many in need. Please do not hesitate to contact me personally with any ideas and concerns you have.

David Cecil, PhD.
President, NACSW Board

MAKING NACSW MORE ACCESSIBLE AND USEFUL TO ITS MEMBERS

In response to suggestions we've received from members over the past few years, NACSW has recently developed several new ways to draw more effectively on technology to expand low or no-cost benefits for NACSW members, as well as to begin to move forward into the world of social networking. Some of these changes include:

- Building a team of NACSW members to work together to launch and nurture a new Facebook group

We invite you to keep current on NACSW news, events, and photos by signing up to join NACSW's Facebook group. Our Facebook group name is NACSW.

- Eliminating (entirely) the registration and CEU fee for members who participate in our quarterly audio conferences



- Providing free monthly podcasts for NACSW members and sample podcasts for NACSW friends (see article on page 1)
- Expanding the number of audio files

and CDs we now offer via our on-line bookstore at significantly-reduced cost

We also invite you to visit NACSW's newly-upgraded homepage (www.nacsw.org) for more accessible announcements about NACSW news and activities - and photos from recent NACSW events - all updated on a regular basis.

Our hope is that these changes will greatly increase the value and support NACSW provides for you as we seek to equip Christians in social work to ethically integrate Christian faith and social work practice. We would love to hear from you about how these new benefits and services work for you - let us know!

Rick Chamiec-Case
Executive Director