

Minutes of the AAPC Southeast Annual Business Meetings 2017

Friday October 20 2:45-4:45

Russell welcomed all.

Opening worship.

First attendees were welcomed.

“People who’ve attended this conference before know what to expect at this workshop, but if this is your first time here, or first time in a long time, we want to tell you what’s in store for the next almost two hours.

“This is a workshop, approved for 2 continuing education hours, under the content area ‘professional identity and practice.’ It also serves as our region’s business meeting and town hall meeting. We run it in two parts: this afternoon and then tomorrow night, from 7:00 to 8:30.

“Here’s a snapshot of our Agenda: (on a slide)

- Report from 2016-17
- Proposals for 2017-18
- Conversation
- Decisions at meeting on Saturday night

“Again, mainly for first-time attendees, you’re at the annual meeting of the Southeast Region of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. AAPC is 53 years old this year. It’s a national organization, divided into 8 different regions. The Southeast Region is comprised of AAPC members from North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi. That’s seven states. We’ve been meeting this weekend, at this place, Camp Kanuga, for over 40 years.

“This weekend’s gathering is a historic one – and now I invite everyone to start listening, not just first-timers – and here’s why:

- AAPC did not invent pastoral counseling
- AAPC 1964 → quality assurance, standards → certification
- Training and certification central to life of org
- And to our business model
- Boom time in 1970’s and 80’s
- Licensure effectively ended “certification as sustainable business model” - 1990’s
- Steady decline
- 2015 AAPC Board: ended certification, decentralization
- hasn’t turned the tide (more specifics on this later)

- Our region's response: What does the world need that we have resources to meet?
- Generous work from volunteers: numerical decline, not decline in wisdom and confidence that the values and practices of this community are still relevant, if we can repackage them and offer them in a way that serves the needs of current day.

"We'll be offering information about AAPC's membership trends and financial trends over the past few years later in this 'workshop,' but for now, as we're beginning, we want everyone to understand the large frame around this meeting. We're wanting

- To give you as clear a picture as we can of where the association and this region are at this moment
- To give you the recommendations of our regional leadership team about our path forward
- To hear from you, to create space for the collective wisdom of this community to surface and be heard.

"There's no voting in this meeting. We do vote in the meeting tomorrow night.

"I mentioned our regional leadership team. These are the folks sitting here at the front with us. We'd like to introduce them to you and say the first of many words of thanks to them:

- David, John, Jim, Rachel, Bernard

These people love this organization and the mission we have in the world. They have given countless hours this past year to helping us move forward. You'll hear more about that here shortly, but for now would you offer them your thanks?

"We'd also like to thank you, the membership, our friends and colleagues, for your support over the past year. As we've shared our work over the past year, you have been encouraging, supportive, and appreciative, and it's meant a lot. It's kept us going. I can't think of a single discussion the past year that has not been positive. Even when there have been differences in perspective or opinion, those differences have been voiced with respect and humility and appreciation, and it's been amazing to be part of it.

"It's our expectation and our prayer that the meeting this weekend will have that same spirit. That, whatever decisions we make, the *way we make them* will reflect the values we share and the spiritual maturity of our members. Jesus said, 'Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks' (Matthew 12:34), and we pray that the abundance of our hearts will be heard in our conversation, this weekend and beyond."

Kathryn Summers gave a sketch on the work of 2017-18

We have done a lot of things.

Helping plan national meeting

Webinars

Theo case conference
Calls to members
Planned Kanuga next year with Ken Pargament
And many other things.

She emphasized the main work has been development of a new organization

Russell presented the new business: Proposal for New Organization

Russell set the context:

- Membership trends
- Financial trends
- Belief that we have something important to offer the world

Tere Canzoneri gave some context from AAPC Board. Tere has been on the board about a year and a half. She is the president-elect. Some regions are running out of money. AAPC deficit spending: 14-15/ 270,000 15-16/ \$207,000 16-17/ \$231,000 (Slides shown with statistics)
Membership is going down. All accounts \$1,684,000, MAP grants \$294,000, Region \$895,000 *SE Region Account \$339,000* (Southeast has 38% of \$895,000), Associations Operating Reserves \$495,000

There were some questions. The body requested an accounting of the Association's Budget.

Tere continued with a report on February Summit. The SE Region is being looked to for leadership. They are considering at least three ideas: 1. Stop being a membership organization. Take the resources left to be a grant giving organization to things that fulfill the mission. 2. Let's merge with another organization like ACPE (Canada has done that already.) 3. Let's take the resources we have and disperse them now that they can make an organization. The SE and the Northeast have done a lot of work. SE on spiritual integration. Northeast on pastoral care specialist.

Russell continued: the SE knew this was going to happen 2 years ago and began planning for this. Last year our membership voted to be generative and invest in something new. So as Kathryn said, the CC has spent most of its time developing a new entity. See the idea in the registration packet. (purple handout)

"AAPC Board is asking for a meeting in February – Board and regional leaders – to consider alternative ideas for how we move forward. We have been in that conversation now for two years, and what we're putting before you now is our current best wisdom about how to move forward. A couple of comments before we introduce the details:

- This is the current best thinking of the Coordinating Council
- Tomorrow night we will ask you for a simple up-down vote on whether we move our idea forward.

- The proposal we'll be asking you to vote on is a simple one-sentence motion, but it's reflected in three documents that we'll be referencing in a minute. These documents describe our current best thinking but not a finished product. We have shaped a proposal "in clay, not stone." We'll be asking you to vote for us to keep moving or to stop: yes or no. A yes will mean that we'll continue developing this new organization, concretizing the details, and getting it done in time to "be there" when the national board makes its next significant decisions.
- We'll keep good notes at this meeting, we'll record every comment, and you can contact any one on this team after the meeting. So the thoughts shared here and the questions asked will help strengthen the final product.
- But we will be asking you for a yes or no: proceed in this direction, or stop.

The idea: Many of you heard an early version of this idea at the national meeting in March. Many of you read two documents related to this idea on our website. All documents related to this idea are in your registration packet.

- ABCO October 2017
- Proposal for Certification Program
- Overview of Business Plan

Development and launch of an outreach organization

- To extend mission of AAPC to constituencies who do not resonate with the word "pastoral"
- Possibly to become the primary container, if AAPC Board decides we have reached end of our life as a membership organization

Kathryn and Russell presented the image from Matthew 13. "Draw from that which is old and that which is new." We have drawn on both old and new. There is a lot of spirituality in the world (people engaging on a spiritual journey in a deep way, and draw from a community. We become vessels of healing by being in a community of practice over a period of time. This is not a marketable idea but a true idea. This organization we are envisioning values work with spirit and being together over a period of time. It is not just for people who identify with pastoral counselor but also with other professionals and organizational leaders who can be served by a community with these values and practices and offer in engaging ways. We are envisioning a certification program/a new paradigm.

Discussion was had on the Proposal for Certification Program, with comments

[See Handout.](#)

Discussion was had on the Overview of Business Plan, with comments

[See Handout](#)

Rationale was given:

- It fulfills our desire to serve professionals beyond the capacity of AAPC to serve
- It offers it under a new brand (the sign in the yard)

- It allows us to offer certification
- It may be the only thing left

Responses and Questions:

Keith Parker noted that there are other spiritually integrative programs: Hayden Institute here and in Canada in Certification of Spiritual Direction which includes the health profession and psychotherapists. Keith Parker suggested Russell talk to Alan Proctor who is the director. Russell has.

The new organization is not going to be funded by membership fees. (There will be fees but they will be small and only one stream of revenue streams. Education would also be a revenue stream.)

Question about the relationship between the SE Region and the Association.

Do we have funds to start a new movement?

This new organization will provide a vessel to receive funds from the Association. The SE Region cannot do that. If the Association were to last longer, the fund transfer would be longer. Before the recent deepening of the crisis, we had talked about not joining this new organization but just support AAPC. But, even if AAPC does make it the pastoral brand keeps us from connecting to other professional organizations and people. This new organization was already set up to address this and connect. The February meeting is a fork in the road.

Where is the depth of formation coming from? People will already be trained and licensed. The 30 hours will provide a connection to a community.

Russell presented the names nominated for Steering Committee. (See motion below)

The motion from the Coordinating Council:

- To be voted on Saturday night with much more time for conversation at that meeting
- Again, up-down vote, move forward or turn around
- If move forward, we'll empower the Steering Committee to take action that would lead us to launch at this meeting next year

Financial Report: Jim Coffman thanked all on the finance team. He presented the 2017-18 Budget revisions. Jim presented the 2018-19 Budget

Other SE Region Business

Besides working on the new org, what else are we proposing to do in 2018?

- Kanuga
- Newsletter. Small CE events. Pilot curriculum.

Russell entered the Council report and Budget report as Motions. See below:

Motions from Coordinating Council

Entered October 20, 2017

Voting October 21, 2017

1. Coordinating Council moves adoption of minutes from the 2016 meeting of AAPC Southeast. (These minutes are attached.)

2. Coordinating Council moves that the Coordinating Council and the Steering Committee be empowered to create a new organization as described in documents distributed in the 2017 business meeting. (These documents are attached.)

? to extend the legacy of AAPC

? as an outreach of AAPC

Coordinating Council moves acceptance of the new-organization development work presented during 2017 business meeting and empowerment of the Coordinating Council and an ad hoc Steering Committee to create a new organization as an outreach of AAPC.

3. Coordinating Council and the Finance Committee move adoption of 2018-19 budget. (This budget is attached.)

4. Coordinating Council moves endorsement of this leadership team:

Chair	Kathryn Summers
Chair-Elect	Bernard Kynes
Secretary	Jeanne Reynolds
Treasurer	Jim Coffman
Program	Will Eads
Member Care	David Verner
Professional Development	John Eddinger

Steering Committee to Develop New Organization

**Elizabeth Gainer
David Harris
Laura Kreiselmaier
Bernard Kynes
Steve Scoggin
David Smith**

Words of wisdom to the steering committee: "Drink a little scotch and let it rip!"

Closing Prayer/Singing/ Chiming of Prayer Bowl

Saturday night October 21, 7:00-8:30 pm

Announcements were made.

John Eddinger – Review of request from last year to collect all Diplomate Papers, starting in the SE Region. Donna Scott has taken on responsibility to collect them and hold them. Eventually they will be digitalized to be able to be used for research. Accumulated wisdom and knowledge of our region. The contact information for her will be on the AAPC SE website.

Bill Searcy – Announcement – Triple P Positive Program. State of NC have bought rights to teach this course. Department of Health and Human Services for NC.

Kathryn Summers and Bernard Kynes led the group in Breath, Chiming of the Prayer Bowl, Prayer.

Russell reviewed Agenda:

- Adoption of the 2016 meeting minutes.
- Conversation about motions
- Vote

Russell Siler Jones presented **Motion 1:**

Coordinating Council moves adoption of minutes from the 2016 meeting of AAPC Southeast. (These minutes are attached.)

Motion was seconded. Passed.

Kathryn Summers presented **Motion 2:**

Coordinating Council moves acceptance of the new-organization development work presented during 2017 business meeting and empowerment of the Coordinating Council and an ad hoc Steering Committee to create a new organization as an outreach of AAPC. Bill Woodruff seconded the motion.

Conversation was had:

Evon: As a pastor in the ECLA she needs to be endorsed by a professional organization. Her concern was how endorsement has been addressed in the vision of the new organization? Have the faith bodies been asked what their relationship will be.

CC Answer: we have not addressed this. It is received as a need to consider. Tere responded that she came on the AAPC board after the decision had been made. This has been a problem for some time. Discussion continued around the concern about pastoral identity and faith group endorsement. The new organization would be a nest for pastoral counseling but not a single pastoral identity.

Tom: He had a clarification question about whether or not the certification of the new organization is going to train people to be licensed therapists or not. (The answer is no so that there is a need for training programs to continue. The new organization becomes a professional home for these training program graduates.) Tom is in favor of this organization. But, he wanted to highlight that what we are biting off here is going to be hard work because there are people/organizations already doing very similar work. It might be naïve for us to do this because it is going to be very hard work.

David: Heard about CPSP that they are moving not to have ecclesiastical endorsement.

Bill: What do faith groups need regarding faith endorsement?

Bill: As part of the Episcopal church his pastoral identity comes out of his call as an episcopal priest. He wrote to his bishop about endorsement when the changes began happening in AAPC. He asked their blessing during this liminal time until AAPC tried to figure out what to do next. He told the bishop he was confident that the priestly work he was doing will continue as an extension of his ministry. His bishop responded affirmatively.

Russell: This conversation is related to the motion but is not the motion before the body. This group of people have not worked on this issue. This is an Association issue. We are noting this as a problem. The invitation to help develop the passion, there is a place for it.

Carol: Can we name those bodies who are doing spiritually integrated psychotherapy? How do we differentiate from them? Name it. If it is a fear, we need to fully investigate this.

Russell responded: The steering committee is going to do due diligence and develop a business plan and marketing research.

Dick: Confusion that AAPC continues for the time being. All certified now are under AAPC; all endorsements are still in place. An alongside/outreach organization has been developed but it is important to keep these two organizations in tension. We have not thrown the baby out with the bathtub.

Russell: What we do tonight is not going to change the course the AAPC board of directors will take.

Casey N.: Memphis Theological Seminary DMin student. He is a conference attendee. His question is it seems to be the case that the impetus is to broaden the reach of the client base and to serve other practitioners. Could there be a different way forward? Could the sub organization put a resolution to AAPC to adopt these new objectives recommended without forming a new organization?

Russell: It is a great question. David: It is the obvious question. A new person entering the group of course would ask that question. His sense is the organization as a whole has not been ready or willing to adopt anything new. Old wineskins needed to be bursting first. Every time he has been in these discussions like this there has been a desire to hold the previous vision and be

expansive to new opportunities. In his Center he is now the only pastoral counselor on staff. His other colleagues at his center are very interested in this tradition without being ordained and going through the old AAPC process.

Russell: Other professionals who don't identify with pastoral would be served with AAPC. He wants AAPC to live because the name means something. Our developing this the past two years is really a service motivation. The name pastoral has meant something to us. We want it to remain in the world. Hopefully, we can build a new container that can hold pastoral counseling along with others for future generations.

Ron M: Hope that we would move with deliberate speed with a new organization if it looks like the best option. Secondly, there are events happening all through the region that those in training programs know about. Individuals have started training programs for pastoral counselors all through the region. He ask for 8 and got 14 students to his pastoral counseling training program. Something is happening apart from the organization by people in the organization.

Loren T: Whether AAPC lives or dies does not end pastoral counseling. It is part of a 5000 year old tradition.

Bruce V: We will do it better: If we are going to have a cage that hold all these birds means we need an organizing theology. Our plenary speakers have pointed out that there is a dominate model of mental health in this country that is an individualistic diagnose and treat model. We would bring different, communal, that our country needs. Spiritual integration as a term does not give us anything different unless we have a guiding principle that is different.

Bob W: He was shocked by the AAPC financial report. How quickly the finances have gone down in the last two years. In his anxiety about that stirs up a lot of feelings in him. When he became executive director of AAPC in 1988, our balance in a savings account was 0. There was no money in the bank. He began to create reserve accounts. Within one or two years we had \$2000 in a reserve account and grew to an impressive amount before the precipitous decline came to be. Doug invested funds. The finance committee did a great job keeping the investment money going. That appears to be going away. If the board of AAPC decided to shut down the association, that would shut down this region. This region exists as the SE region of AAPC. His feeling became that it is better to take action to anchor this region in its tradition. It has been reinforcing for him to see the energy is still here. Plans need to be made so we can operate whatever happens to the Association. He was concerned about the certification issue. Certification is not easy to do for legal and financial reasons. When the new organization's certification was presented as not as a readiness to practice but as an approach to doing therapy with a prior credential that meets legal requirements then he saw this as a breath of fresh air.

Tere: She cannot imagine a scenario in which the board is going to precipitously get rid of things. The board is looking to the SE. It is looking at how to continue AAPC going forward. The

board will be looking at several options. It is trying to be proactive while there are funds to do things. There is no larger body. There are only regions. She is for this motion.

Sandra: Call for question. Question seconded. Passed.

Motion presented again. **Vote passed unanimously.**

Historic moment. Clapping erupted. Standing ovation.

Motion 3. was presented:

Coordinating Council and the Finance Committee move adoption of 2018-19 budget. (This budget is attached.) Motion Seconded and Passed. Jim explained mileage reimbursement. He thanked people for pledges to the region. He invited all members to make contributions to the region.

Motion seconded and Passed.

Motion 4. was presented:

Coordinating Council moves endorsement of this leadership team:

Chair	Kathryn Summers
Chair-Elect	Bernard Kynes
Secretary	Jeanne Reynolds
Treasurer	Jim Coffman
Program	Will Eads
Member Care	David Verner
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Steering Committee to Develop New Organization

**Elizabeth Gainer
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David Smith**

Motion seconded and Passed.

Appreciations for those who have served were said.