



ATFE

Association for

Theological Field Education

**33RD BIENNIAL CONSULTATION
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
THEOLOGICAL FIELD
EDUCATION**

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ATFE

Association of Theological Field Education

Proceedings

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To the ATFE community,

I want to begin this report expressing my gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the Steering Committee for the last six years. It has been a blessing to work in and with a guild that generously shares best practices, imaginatively seeks to refine formation for contemporary ministry, and genuinely cares for one another across the ATFE connection.

The 2013-2015 Steering Committee has experienced several challenges and changes over the past two years that have defined our time together as well as given us the opportunity to consider ways in which ATFE can move into the future. All of them are not necessarily new challenges and changes, but they do present the realities of leadership in this area of theological education.

The first of those challenges involves the movement of ATFE leadership between the church and the academy and within the academy itself. Three months after I accepted the nomination of Chair at the Williamsburg biennial consultation, I was appointed by my bishop to the church that resides on the campus of Emory University. While this appointment allowed me the opportunity to remain on faculty at Candler School of Theology, my move represents what happens to many of us in Contextual/Field Education: we build connections between the church and the academy not only in our formation of students for ministry, but also in our actual employment. Another member of our Steering Committee, Dr. Dock Hollingsworth, left his position at McAfee School of Theology to become the senior pastor of Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA. Our moves represent the love that most theological field educators have for the church—one that often draws us back to the parish!

The 2013-2015 Steering Committee also saw changes among us within the academy. Nannette Banks moved from her position as Associate Director of Experiential Education and Field Studies to the position of Director of Alumni/ae and Church Relations at McCormick Theological Seminary. David Jenkins moved out of the Contextual Education program at Candler School of Theology into a full-time faculty position in the area of Practical Theology. Diane Maloney was the only member of the Steering Committee whose change in employment saw a continuation in field education. Diane moved from being the Director of Field Education for the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University Chicago to serving as 3rd year Course Leader for the Office of Vocational Formation and Christian Leadership at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Given this movement in and out of the discipline of Contextual/Field Education, ATFE may want to consider electing alternates to the Steering Committee who would be ready to assume leadership should one of the members move out of the field. I know there was some concern about my maintaining the Chair of this committee given my move to full-time parish ministry; however, I did not want to abandon my commitment and responsibility to fulfill my service to ATFE. Were alternates immediately available, the Steering Committee would not be left short-handed should someone have to withdraw due to a change in employment.

A second challenge (that affected previous Steering Committees as well) was oversight of the ATFE website. While Dock Hollingsworth was at McAfee, he had the expertise of student help to oversee this area of technology that he did not personally possess. When he left that position, he found that he could not carry the weight of this ATFE work as well as the demands of his parish. Since none of the other Steering Committee members had such technology expertise, the communications director at Glenn Memorial UMC, the congregation I serve, took the oversight of the website at my request.

Sara Logeman graciously and generously made all of the changes to update the platform and post the news and information provided to her by ATFE members.

There is great potential in the use of the ATFE website, but as long as we keep limping along and passing it along to those with no expertise with websites, it will never reach its full potential. If ATFE does not have such ability among the membership, then we need to think seriously about securing someone who can provide continuity as they help with this resource.

A third challenge has been and will be the financial resources available to ATFE. With schools closing and/or instituting budget cuts, we have fewer members now than in the recent past. This reduction in membership directly affects the amount we can count on in membership dues. It also affects the traditional way in which the Steering Committee has met and planned for the biennial consultation. This biennial, we met only twice in person as a full committee. Both of these meetings were in Santa Fe, and we worked hard to maximize our time together in the planning of the consultation. The rest of our meetings, eight more with the full group, took place virtually through AdobeConnect.

With the continued rise in cost for air travel and hotel accommodations, it is going to be more difficult for the full Steering Committee to gather in person. A recommendation to future steering committees would be to look at working in subcommittees with only one of those subcommittees devoted to the hands on planning of the consultation. The rest of the committee could be involved in the conceptual design, but it is highly unlikely that the ATFE budget will be able to sustain the number of in-person meetings the Steering Committee enjoyed in the past.

The 2013-2015 Steering Committee was able to accomplish a lot of our planning through the use of virtual meetings. I believe this technology will allow future Steering Committees much more freedom and opportunity to look more deeply into ways to resource colleagues beyond the biennial consultation. Just as we are embracing more use of distance technology to access our students, to hold reflection groups, to conduct supervisor training, I believe such technology can be a gift to the future of ATFE as well.

While we experienced certain challenges this biennium, we discovered that they all come with opportunities as well. As we imagine and live into the changing landscape of the future of theological field education, we also have the opportunity to imagine and live into the changing landscape of our guild.

It has been a pleasure to work with the members of the 2013-2015 Steering Committee on behalf of the Association. Joe Bush, Timothy Johnson, Diane Maloney, Trudy Stringer, Nannette Banks and Dock Hollingsworth offered their best on your behalf. Alice Tarkington, with her joy and positive spirit, provided us with expert guidance and advocacy as our conference planner. And we are most indebted to David Jenkins who served as our host committee of one and gifted us with his extraordinary organizational skills and visionary leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Alice Rogers

Senior Pastor, Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church

Associate Professor in the Practice of Practical Theology, Emory University

Summary of Steering Committee Activity

Members and Meetings

Members of the Steering Committee elected at the 32nd Biennial Consultation in January 2013 included: Alice Rogers, Chair; Joe Bush, Vice-Chair; Diane Maloney, Secretary; Timothy Johnson, Treasurer; Dock Hollingsworth, Communications; Trudy Stringer, Member-at-Large; Nannette Banks, Member-at-Large; David Jenkins, Local Arrangements.

The Steering Committee met 10 times during the biennium:

1. January 26, 2013 – Williamsburg, VA
2. February 28-March 2, 2013 – Santa Fe, NM
3. May 7, 2013 – Webconference
4. October 2, 2013 – Webconference
5. November 13-15, 2013 – Santa Fe, NM
6. January 14, 2014 – Webconference
7. February 5, 2014 – Webconference
8. July 23, 2014 – Webconference
9. September 30, 2014 – Webconference
10. December 11, 2014 – Webconference

January 26, 2013 (Williamsburg): Retiring and newly-elected members of the Steering Committee met together following adjournment of the biennial consultation in Williamsburg, Virginia. After a time of introductions, the Committee concluded old business, especially regarding officer transitions, banking details, a review of responsibilities, and a glance at conference evaluations. David Jenkins assumed responsibility for local arrangements in Santa Fe, New Mexico for the 2015 consultation. The Committee made tentative plans to gather in Santa Fe in late February-early March 2013. Alice Rogers suggested we invite Candler's conference planner, Alice Tarkington, to fill the vacancy left by Beth O'Brien. After further review of the conference just ended, the new Steering Committee prayed and adjourned.

February 28-March 2, 2013 (Santa Fe): The Steering Committee convened in Santa Fe. Alice Tarkington had arranged for tours of three potential meeting sites: El Dorado, La Fonda, and the Hilton. After comparison, the decision was made to contract with El Dorado. In order to prepare the conference theme, the Committee explored the context of Santa Fe, both geographically and through conversations with local ministers. Before adjourning, the Committee expressed gratitude to Alice Tarkington and David Jenkins for the thorough explorations of site and surrounding context.

May 7, 2013 – (Webconference): Steering Committee reviewed membership, finances, and website updates. We then turned to brainstorming conversation regarding the theme and structure for the Santa Fe conference, asking how we can use the context of Santa Fe to help our colleagues reflect more deeply on what we do as theological field educators. Possible speakers were proposed.

October 2, 2013 – (Webconference): Committee members reviewed the survey which had been recently sent to ATFE members, noting common requests for topics related to online supervision,

supervisor formation, and trends in theological education. The structure of the conference was then shaped, and plans were made for a November trip to Santa Fe.

November 13-15, 2013 (Santa Fe): The Steering Committee continued planning for the 2015 consultation, as well as conducting current business. Decisions were made regarding theme, keynote speakers, immersion experiences, and breakout sessions. Members were assigned to contact individuals to serve as plenary speakers and breakout session presenters.

January 14, 2014 (Webconference): The Steering Committee reviewed contacts made with potential speakers for the 2015 consultation. We zeroed in on our theme: Changing landscapes in theological education, and were pleased that Kathleen Cahalan agreed to be a plenary speaker. We then discussed logistics of hosting speakers: transportation, etc., and reviewed our budget. Discussed strategies for encourage membership attendance and dues renewal. We then looked carefully at the structure for workshops and breakout sessions, and prepared to solicit proposals from larger membership.

February 5, 2014 (Webconference): Committee reviewed budget and finalized roster of workshop leaders. Plans were made to update website with conference details.

July 23, 2014 (Webconference): Reviewed progress with registrations, and budget. Stressed importance of collecting membership fees. Joe Bush presented his research on recent years' renewals, and plans to reach out to those in new positions at member seminaries. He has been hard at work to update reliable records. Discussion turned to resources needed for conference, and then to suggested sites for 2017. It was noted that when a geographical cluster of seminaries host, local planning can be easier. A suggestion was made to organize a separate Conference Committee to report back to a Steering Committee with a broader mission. This could be taken up by next elected Steering Committee at the beginning of their tenure. Alice R. and David will return to Santa Fe to finalize many details.

September 30, 2013 – (Webconference): Committee reviewed updated report on registrations and budget. Alice reported on Santa Fe trip, extended time with plenary speakers, worship leaders. We reviewed hotel arrangements, and banquet details. We then discussed progress on 2017 venues.

December 11, 2014 – (Webconference): The Committee reviewed final preparations needed for conference, noting action items. We finalized the agenda for the two business meetings, and reviewed other details such as AV needs, evaluation format, honoring of retirees, budget, excursions. It was noted that numbers for membership, registration are looking good. Committee made plans to meet in Santa Fe on Thursday, January 22, just prior to opening of conference.

Summary prepared and submitted by Diane Maloney, Secretary (2013-15)

Welcome to our Biennial Consultation!

CHANGING LANDSCAPES

Dear ATFE Colleagues,

Welcome to the Land of Enchantment: Santa Fe, New Mexico! We are excited about our time together as we gather for the 33rd Biennial Consultation. From the very first gathering in Philadelphia, PA in 1946, members of ATFE (then known as Field Work in Theological Education) sought to “share insights and problems in this aspect of theological education.”¹ Each gathering has been marked by members generously sharing best practices and insights and guest speakers sharing their latest research and experience from which we can learn more deeply. This consultation is no different. Colleagues who are devoted to the work of Field Education/Contextual Education will share with us through workshops, seminars and colloquies. Our keynote and guest speakers, Dr. Kathleen Cahalan, Bishop Minerva Carcano, Monsignor Jerome Martinez and Rev. Talitha Arnold will teach, preach and offer inspiration in our plenary sessions.

As we gather in this context, the vibrant desert setting of Santa Fe with its ever changing colors and vistas reminds us of the ever changing landscapes of the church and theological education. We constantly move into a new future with new opportunities and challenges for the formation of those who will serve the church and communities throughout the world. Hence, we seek to discover methods and practices by which to meet those new opportunities and challenges. It is our hope that our time together will ignite our imaginations as we build on the best of the past, celebrate the successes of the present, and discover new methods for the future.

May the collaborations, resources and relationships that have marked the ATFE experience from the very beginning be a part of your experience here in Santa Fe, NM.

P. Alice Rogers
Chair, Steering Committee

¹ From the “Statement of Purpose” written by Arthur L. Swift, Jr. Chair, 1946.

Breakout Sessions

10:30 a.m. – Noon on Friday, January 23

CHOOSE ONE:

Session 1: How Can We Approach Cultural Diversity with TFE?

Location: Zia A

Seminar Leaders:

- Rev. Dr. Richard Mallaby, Whitley College, a College of the University of Divinity, Melbourne, Australia
- Rev. Deborah R. Penny, North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL, USA

Synopsis:

- There is a growing awareness of the emergence of culturally diverse communities. The task of theological field education is to rise to the challenge of intercultural development to increase self-awareness, cultural sensitivity and intercultural global mindset. North Park Theological Seminary is currently using the Intercultural Development Inventory. The IDI promotes inter/intra-cultural intelligence, which is integrated in leadership development and ministry practices. Whitley College in Melbourne developed the TransFormation program to bring together time, money and resources for disadvantaged lay and pastoral leaders from different cultures.

Session 2: Art – A Conversation Partner in the Supervisory Process

Location: Zia B

Workshop Leader:

- Rev. Dr. Anne Mallaby, Whitley College, a College of the University of Divinity, Melbourne, Australia

Synopsis:

- The conversation that takes place between the artist, art and the viewer has the potential to challenge, shape and transform each of the conversation partners. What actually goes on as people are drawn to reflect upon art? Does reflection upon questions of meaning unfold, and if so, is this reflection inherently theological? If the outcome of seeing is transformation, then what impact do the presuppositions, the prejudices, the doctrines, the Christian story have in seeing an image? Indeed, how might art claim a significant voice in our theological education, as we re-frame the church for the future?

Session 3: Digital Connection: Personalizing and Building Community in Online Supervised Ministry

Location: DeVargas

Seminar Leaders:

- Axel Schoeber, Carey Theological College, Vancouver, BC

Synopsis:

- I look forward to sharing (and getting feedback) on how I go about building community and making my Supervised Ministry course deeply personal in an online format. Using typical tools and assignments, I have learned how to shape ministry formation (skills, character, attitudes) and to foster theological reflection in this “virtual” medium. I will share what I

have learned to look for. Of particular importance is the manner in which I utilize online discussions.

Session 4: Theology of Place: Implications for Field Education

Location: Sunset Room

Seminar Leader:

- Rev. Douglas S. Hardy, PhD, Professor of Spiritual Formation and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City

Synopsis:

- How might recent developments in the theology of place inform supervisors' and students' understanding of the "field" in which they work and the educative practices appropriate to specific places? This seminar will include a presentation about the formative influence of physical surroundings—geographic location, natural terrain, and the built environment—along with discussion of the implications for field educators who wish to more fully incorporate this level of embodiment.

Seminar 5: Designing a Course for Integrative Teaching and Learning

Location: Anasazi Ballroom

Workshop Leader:

- Kathleen A. Cahalan, Saint John's School of Theology

Synopsis:

- This workshop explores how to design a course and its assignments that engage integrative learning, which includes the following elements: (1) emphasizing ways of knowing (contextual awareness, embodied practice, conceptual knowledge, emotional attunement, critical thinking, creativity, and practical reasoning); (2) connecting learning to experience and ideas inside and outside the course; (3) promoting relational learning about God, self, and others; (4) encouraging ways of learning-how-to-learn in and after the course. Participants are invited to bring a copy of a course syllabi and assignment(s) for group discussion.

Breakout Sessions

10:30 a.m. – Noon on Saturday, January 24

CHOOSE ONE:

Session 1: Are We Really Doing What We Think We're Doing?

Location: Zia A

Seminar Leaders:

- John H. Aukerman, MDiv, EdD. Director of Field Education and Director of Outcomes Assessment, Anderson University School of Theology
- Tom Tanner, MDiv, PhD. Director of Accreditation and Institutional Evaluation, The Association of Theological Schools, Commission on Accrediting

Synopsis:

- Outcomes assessment” can have a bad name in many quarters. But at its heart, it’s all about helping us find out if we’re really doing what we think we’re doing. It can be fun and energizing, if done appropriately. And it can reveal holes and blind spots, helping us take needed corrective measures. Dr. Tom Tanner of ATS will address us via Skype, and Dr. John Aukerman will facilitate this important seminar.

Session 2: Engaging Neighbors: Social Analysis in Field Education for Ministry

Location: Zia B

Colloquy Leader:

- Joseph E. Bush, Wesley Theological Seminary

Synopsis:

- This colloquy will explore methods and tools for social analysis as relevant for theological field education. Methods include asset mapping, pastoral circle, and frame analysis. These will be examined for usefulness in both congregational settings and other situations of ministry such as service agencies. We will address the pedagogically challenging tendency for our students to become more self-absorbed when introduced into new communities—whether congregations or neighborhoods—and examine reflective tools for addressing this challenge.

Session 3: I Have This Idea ... : How to Get Published

Location: Zia C

Seminar Leader:

- Beth Ann Gaede, independent nonfiction editor

Synopsis:

- Many books and websites, agents and publishers offer would-be authors guidelines for developing proposals for books or articles. Beth Gaede has 25 years’ experience as an editor and has worked with nearly 200 authors (including many ATFE members). She will guide participants through proposal development, focusing on the issues that matter most to prospective publishers, and outline the editorial and production processes.

Session 4: Expanding Learning Contexts: Social Change and Theological Field Education

Location: DeVargas

Workshop Leaders:

- Jenny Whitcher, Iliff School of Theology
- Trudy Hawkins Stringer, Vanderbilt University Divinity School

Synopsis:

- Changing landscapes of theological education offer challenges and opportunities for the discipline of theological field education. Our understanding of “ministry” is expanding beyond congregation-based leadership to include nondenominational parachurch organizations and secular nonprofits. An increasing number of students come with an interest in social justice, social movements, and social change initiatives as places of ministry. Such vocational orientation may include several expressions of vocation over the span of one’s ministry, or bi-vocation—multiple, simultaneous expressions of vocation, and/or a more fluid understanding of the interplay between church and its contextual setting within society. In addition, there is a growing loss of faith in institutions within U.S.-American society, leading students towards emergent and entrepreneurial forms of ministry and community. In this workshop we will explore programmatic models for establishing community partnerships with a wide range of social change organizations and learning contexts. In preparation for the workshop, participants are asked to bring a contextual analysis of their institution setting, highlighting current programming, opportunities and challenges.

Session 5: Developing Supervisor-Mentors in Communities of Practice

Location: Sunset Room

Workshop Leaders:

- Matthew Floding, Duke Divinity School
- Lucinda Huffaker, Yale Divinity School
- Tom Fuller, Beeson Divinity School, Samford University
- Rhonda Parker, Duke Divinity School
- Jennie Rodriguez, Princeton Theological Seminary
- Allison St. Louis, Virginia Theological Seminary

Synopsis:

- 6 theological field educators from 5 diverse theological schools will share what they’ve learned from a group project that introduced “communities of practice” as a means of developing and supporting excellent supervisor-mentors. Each TFE convened a group of their outstanding supervisor-mentors over 1-2 years to reflect on their own practices of supervision and mentoring. The groups, as communities of practice, resourced each other to deepen their capacity for ministerial reflection, improve supervision skills and embrace their role as mentors to our students who even now are entering this community of practice! Workshop participants will learn some effective practices for developing these skills in supervisor-mentors, and they will try some of the exercises to explore their own learning in communities of practice at ATFE.

Seminar 6: Where Spiritual Formation and Field Education Intersect

Location: Anasazi Ballroom

Leaders:

- Sr. Mary Leanne Hubbard, SND, DMin, St. John's Seminary, Camarillo, California
- Rev. Dr. Wanda Stahl, Boston University School of Theology
- Dr. Brady Bryce, Graduate School of Theology at Abilene Christian University

Synopsis:

- The contemporary practice of formation can benefit from conversation with our past, across tradition, and between institutions. From three different theological schools and three different spiritual traditions, the presenters will reflect on their respective approaches to integration of spiritual formation and contextual pastoral experience. The methodologies range from formative field practice to individual mentoring to group reflection and discernment.