

ACPE THEORY PAPERS OF THE YEAR AWARD



Editor's Introduction

For many years, the ACPE Theory Papers of the Year Award was published annually. The predecessor of *Reflective Practice, The Journal of Supervision and Training for Ministry*, annually published a set of theory papers that were deemed exemplary of high-quality theory writing by people who were seeking certification as supervisors (now certified educators) in ACPE. When *Reflective Practice* began publishing this journal, a similar tradition was continued. Then the ACPE Pacific Region set up an award for the best theology paper of the year and named the award after Len Cedarleaf, for many years a CPE supervisor in the Pacific Region who also served a term as president of ACPE. Len championed CPE supervisors having a well-grounded theology for supervising CPE students. Two years ago *Reflective Practice*, in conversation with the Certification Commission and ACPE, expanded the award to be the Theory Papers of the Year Award.

A committee of ACPE-certified educators met and discussed what is required to qualify for this award. They created the following statement to describe what they thought was important to look for in theory papers and against which to measure the quality of the writing.

Writing theory papers is the articulation and application of theory to the primary task of CPE—educating spiritual care givers who provide quality spiritual care. The Theory Papers of the Year Award showcases papers that demonstrate quality writing focusing on how a Candidate is facilitating learning for quality spiritual care giving. These theory papers demonstrate for us how we integrate all parts of ourselves as we serve in this most sacred of ministries: attending to the suffering and well-being of our fellow humans and educating our students to do that as well.

For the last two years, potential theory papers of the year have been nominated to the *Reflective Practice* reading team by theory paper readers.

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The reading team reviewed the papers and selected the one set of papers that reflected the statement above. With the advent of a new ACPE process for certification, the *Reflective Practice* Board discussed how the journal would address the change in the requirements that allowed candidates to submit either theory papers or a presentation. There would be several years when people who were in the previous certification process would continue to write a set of three theory papers addressing theology, education, and personality. More people were seeking certification under the new process, which gives candidates the option to demonstrate their use of theory.

In conversation with the leadership of the ACPE Certification Commission, *Reflective Practice* proposed that during the transition years the journal would print the theory papers of the year from both the previous and the current certification processes. We were delighted that, when the call went out for theory papers and presentations, we received five sets of theory papers from the previous certification process and eight theory papers or presentations from the current certification process. We utilized two sets of readers, one reviewing the papers from people in the previous certification process and the other reviewing the papers and presentations from the current certification process.

This year, the reader teams unanimously selected one recipient for each category. Mariah Callison was selected to receive the award for papers submitted under the previous certification process, consisting of three theory papers. Nancy Wood, who is in the new certification process, received the award for her project-based presentation describing and demonstrating the utilization of theory in CPE supervision. Her abbreviated essay is here and in the online version, it is followed by her project, a "playbill," which reflects her work in the form of a theater presentation.

Congratulations to both of these winners.

We are honored to be able to share the work of these two award-winning authors in this volume of *Reflective Practice*. I hope you enjoy reading each of their award-winning selections.

Rodney Seeger
Managing Editor