

SACEM Vision Document

SACEM: An Association of Leaders in Lifelong Learning for Ministry

Brief History / Rationale

SACEM was founded in 1967 by a group of continuing educators representing a variety of denominations from North America. A re-visioning process began in 2011 to respond to changes in our constituency and in our culture, and the advent of digital media that allow us to network in new ways. A consulting team appointed by the Board met again in July 2012 to draft this new vision.

Mission/Purpose Statement

The purpose of [*this organization*] is to enhance lifelong learning for ministry by being a network of persons responsible for and committed to equipping leaders of faith communities that participate in God's mission in the world.

Key Themes/Core Values

- relationships – building community
- constituency includes: lay and clergy, coaches, seminary program directors, judicatory officials, independent providers
- diversity and inclusivity – theological, ecumenical, interfaith, international and intercultural
- playfulness and creativity
- transformative learning – learning that changes who we are and what we do.

Participants / Potential Partners

- seminaries and theological schools
- colleges and universities
- councils of churches international, on down
- denominational leaders, international on down
- para-ministry groups
- other ministry professional organizations
- leadership sub-groups (eg. chaplains, youth, musicians, missionaries, educators, church administrators, retirees, women's and men's groups, campus ministries)
- service providers (eg. Border links, Center for Progressive Renewal)
- Christian retreat and conference centers
- Camp ministries and associations
- emerging leaders in ministry groups
- spiritual directors and Spiritual directors International

Organizational Strategies

- to engage in variety of delivery methods
 - regular face-to-face gatherings
 - distance tools (eg. Internet, telephone conference calls)
 - regional gatherings
 - peer groups
- to provide opportunities for sharing information
- to be an advocate and resource for lifelong learning
- to support research in lifelong learning.
- to energize leaders in lifelong learning
- to integrate theory and practice
- to develop a marketing / communication plan

Marketing/communication Strategies

- webpage
- online journal
- e-news & event reminders (perhaps by Constant Contact)
- surveys
- social media (Facebook, Twitter – create an appropriate hashtag)
- targeted emails (or snail mails) to specific potential partners
- translations to key other languages
- link to Dick B's Lifelong Learning Calendar (Faithandwisdom.org)
- revise membership strata and scales to have two tiers: (1) 1-5 persons at \$100, (2) unlimited \$200
- sliding scale available to international partners
- discounts for students/seminarians and non-institutionally affiliated individuals
- webinars

Outcomes

- a vital learning network that connects digitally and face-to-face
- regional peer group learning opportunities
- energized providers of lifelong learning
- presence of previously un- or under-represented voices
- civil discourse, mutual and respectful dialogue
- current research and innovative work in lifelong learning is publicized on the website and at gatherings/meetings

Key Roles for Organization

- a nexus or hub through which providers can connect and share resources
- focus on lifelong learning for ministry
- provide meaningful learning events
- clearinghouse for sharing ecumenical resources
- interactive online journal
- coaching and peer learning
- generate and inspire substantive thinking about lifelong learning for ministry
- claim and affirm the importance of our work on behalf of providers of lifelong learning for

ministry

- "to equip/mentor directors and others who organize learning activities"
- encourage cooperation and collaboration among other like-minded organizations

Action Plan

Proposed Objectives/Activities

- bylaw revision – presented to March meeting
- proposed slate of Leadership Team members presented to March meeting;
- Communications Marketing Plan
- March 2013 conference and post-conference follow-up
- an online survey post March conference
- pass on link to the SACEM website to colleagues, and to post it on our own webpages
- provide opportunity for the formation of "affinity groups" at the March 2013 conference

Proposed Structure

Governance

- Chair – Becky Youngblood
- Secretary – Steve Simmons
- Treasurer – Michael Wilson (will do this until March 2013)
- web-editor
- Nominating Committee
 - Becky
 - Nancy
 - Bruce (convenor of Nominating Committee)
- Leadership Team 3-year term (6 elected people – two coming off each calendar year, plus the web-editor); suggested limit of 2 consecutive terms
- Officers are elected by the Leadership team from among their membership. Officers hold office for a year, but this is renewable
- Communications Committee
 - Sarah
 - Rafael
 - Sheila (convenor)
- Leadership Team is responsible for policy, accountability and review. Projects will be organized by ad hoc groups or committees

Administration

- web-editor ... animator
- social media animator
- Annual Conference Planning Team
- Nominating Committee
- Communications Committee
- Bylaw revision (Jim, Rick)
- membership recruitment and retention

Annual Meeting Agenda

- report from this task group and affirmation of Name Change
- proposed Bylaw Revisions
- proposed slate for Leadership Team from Nominations Committee, for election
- Financial Report
- solicit planning team members and invitation(s) for next meeting(s)

Needed Resources

- lists and databases of the potential participants listed above
- media savvy person to help set up online resources where we can stream speakers, events
- website content
 - summary of the vision (Steve F)
 - president's message (Becky) ... including the re-visioning process
 - history of SACEM (Bruce)
 - information about the Phoenix conference (Rick)
 - invitation to membership and payment pages (Rick)
 - links to books and resources, with some reviews and/or annotations (Bruce)
- a new logo by Rafael
- members and funding – subsidy for conference fees?