

ATTACHMENT C – A.P.C.E. 2012 Report

Report of APCE 2012 Event Held in Grand Rapids, MI in February

The Rev. Karen Blatt

As a Presbyterian, I know the great value the church puts on an educated "priesthood of all believers." Therefore, I am particularly happy that we ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament are now referred to as "teaching elders" in the new Form of Government.

I am also pleased with the quality of work done within the PC(USA) to prepare Certified Christian Educators. Here Karen Banaszak, Heather Bailey, and MaryAnne Evans-Justin have made me aware of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators and their annual conference.

This is why I took advantage of the APCE Conference held this February in Grand Rapids. After reviewing all the workshops, plenary sessions, and courses for certification being offered, I decided that the Certification Course of Bible Interpretation suited me best, given the Bible study teaching that I do in Beaverton.

Jim Brashler of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia led the course, making use of Jack Rogers' text, "Reading the Bible and the Confessions" published in 1999, and Michael Gorman's "Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers" published in 2009/2010.

Others in the course were from Beaumont, Texas, Orlando, Florida, Grosse Pointe, Michigan, Omaha, Nebraska, and Cincinnati, Ohio.

The course content and work fulfilled my expectations. Along with the course work, I made use of the Market Place to purchase new text and other artifacts.

So, if you are not familiar with the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators look them up online or talk with one of our Certificated Christian Educators. Also, Grand Rapids provides us with two very reputable Christian institutions whose offerings are invaluable. One is the Calvin Institute of Worship located at Calvin Theological Seminary. The other is the Maryknoll Dominican Center. Each year in January the Calvin Institute of Worship offers an outstanding and well-attended Symposium on Worship, as well as publishing the "Reformed Worship" quarterly magazine. The Dominican Sisters at Maryknoll offer courses, workshops, and retreats related to spiritual formation and all are well worth their time and money.

May God be in your heart and in your thinking.

Shalom, Rev. Karen Blatt