

FAQs

AAPC & ACPE Exploring a Common Future

October 5, 2018

Why is AAPC exploring a common future with ACPE?

AAPC needs a new operational structure. For the last several years the volunteer leadership has been working to cut expenses as our financial and other resources have slowly, but steadily declined. These efforts while helpful in the short-term have not provided a sustainable, long-term structure that will allow us to continue to effectively deliver our mission of promoting and developing the field of pastoral counseling in the world.

The AAPC Board of Directors believes that joining with our historic partnering cognate group will bring strength to both organizations and will provide a solid foundation for responding to the challenges and needs in our communities as we move forward.

What are the key deadlines in the process?

- Letter of Intent sent from AAPC Board of Directors to ACPE Board on August 31, 2018
- ACPE board vote to accept AAPC Letter of Intent on Oct. 8, 2018
- Joint Task Force to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) detailing the transition and intended future of AAPC members within ACPE by Jan. 1, 2019
- AAPC & ACPE Boards of Directors to each vote to accept MoU by Jan. 31, 2019
- AAPC membership vote on ACPE/AAPC Consolidation by mid-February 2019
- ACPE to assume all day-to-day operations of AAPC by March 31, 2019
- Complete shutdown of AAPC by June 30, 2019
- Legal dissolution of AAPC upon filing final taxes on or before Nov. 15, 2019

When will ACPE and AAPC be one?

Legally by the end of AAPC's fiscal year, however, the entire process will be incremental with changes beginning toward the end of 2018 and following on into at least the first half of 2019.

Who will be on the Task Force?

- **Tere Tyner Canzoneri** (AAPC), Co-Chair
- **Amy Greene** (ACPE), Co-Chair
- Claire Bamberg (AAPC)
- Elizabeth Denham Thompson (AAPC)
- Russell Jones (AAPC)
- Flo Dewitt (AAPC)
- Melissa Walker-Luckett (ACPE)
- Linda Wilkerson (ACPE)
- Trace Haythorn (ACPE Staff)
- John Roch (ACPE Staff)

What are the Guiding Principles for the Task Force?

1. **Gratitude and hospitality:** leadership of both groups are grateful for the opportunity to explore this transition to a single entity and want to make this as hospitable as possible for all members;
2. **Transparency in communications and process:** regular communications will be scheduled to keep all members of both groups informed. ACPE will also work with AAPC to schedule a series of webinars to talk through this process with members;
3. **Mutual benefit:** we firmly believe there will be educational, professional and financial benefits for all if this process is managed well;
4. **Professional differentiation:** Pastoral Counseling and CPE are distinct disciplines with different training models/expectations, and any new structure will honor that;
5. **Cooperation not acquisition:** ACPE is not pursuing AAPC but is working to restructure operations to support the ongoing work of AAPC in a fiscally sustainable manner.

What exactly is the task force being asked to do?

The primary responsibility of the Task Force will be to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will outline in detail how current AAPC activity will be moved to ACPE as well as what the future will look like for pastoral counseling in our new home. More specifically the Task Force will:

- Review AAPC policies and procedures to determine how to integrate them into ACPE's structure
- Develop a plan to transition financial, business, technology and programmatic operations to ACPE
- Explore the fiscal impact of the recommended changes to ensure long-term fiscal health for the combined entities
- Create **new member structure categories** for AAPC members within ACPE that will enable AAPC members to maintain a unique identity within ACPE as well as:
 - Chart a path to once again recognize AAPC PCS, Diplomates, Fellows and CPC members under the **new membership structure and categories**
 - Chart a path to once again offer accreditation of counseling and/or training centers under the **new membership structures and categories**
 - Chart a path for those that have not been previously certified to seek certification under the **new membership structures and categories**
 - It is not the intention to revive former AAPC membership categories and structure, but rather to build a new structure that provides avenues to honor past individual achievements
- Integrate ongoing AAPC activities and programs
- Determining how volunteer elected leadership will be structured to ensure AAPC members have a voice at the ACPE Board level
- Answer the questions:
 - How will AAPC members maintain their distinct identity as pastoral counselors?
 - How will AAPC honor the purpose of the Mission Advancement Endowment (MAP grants) in the years ahead?
 - How will AAPC protect the intellectual property of our new offerings?
 - How will ACPE communicate the new combined organization's role and membership categories in ways that have meaning for other organization, especially as it relates to employment status and standards?

Is this a “done deal”?

Given that both parties to date have been very positive about this opportunity, we do not anticipate this will not work out in the end. It is perhaps worth noting that consolidation isn't just a trend among professional associations with religious inclinations, but rather a trend for the entire professional associations marketplace.

There is significant work to be done before everything is complete. Until we are farther down the path there is always a risk that something may not work out. Until we have a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in place either board can choose to walk away at any time. Once an MoU is in place, it will specify under what circumstances, if any, either organization can walk away.

What is a Memorandum of Understanding?

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is a non-binding agreement between two or more parties outlining the terms and details of an understanding, including each parties' requirements and responsibilities.

Do I get a vote?

Yes, at the appropriate time and after separate votes by the ACPE and AAPC Boards of Directors to accept the terms of how we plan to proceed with our common future, all AAPC members with voting rights will be asked to vote on our future as well. A two-thirds majority of those voting will be required for us to move forward.

How can I share my thoughts/contact the AAPC Board?

The best way to share your thoughts is to send an email to info@aapc.org. Tere Tyner Canzoneri, MDiv, LCSW, AAPC President, receives many emails each week and does her best to respond personally.

I want to help, who should I tell?

AAPC is compiling a list of members that have offered to help with the many tasks ahead. Please send an email to info@aapc.org with your contact information and any thoughts about how you'd like to help. If you aren't sure what you'd like to do, provide a brief description of your skills.

Are “Regions” going away?

Yes and no. During its restructuring ACPE eliminated its official regional structure in favor of Communities of Practice (CoPs) that allow members to self-organize around topics of interest and professional needs. As part of ACPE our membership will be organized in the same.

Some of ACPE's members have chosen to organize based on geography, creating their own “regional” community of practice. AAPC members will be able to do the same.

My Question Isn't Answered Here

Most likely that's because the answer is: "we don't know yet."

While things are progressing well with ACPE there is a lot that has yet to be discussed, determined and approved. The volunteer leadership of both organizations and our respective staff are committed to keeping everyone informed as decisions are made and details are decided. To date, we have only discussed the big picture of how best to proceed to begin to detail and decide all the decisions that will need to be made.

If you have a specific question you think we may already have the answer that should be added to this FAQ please send it to info@aapc.org.