

HIGHLIGHTS FROM APCE'S HISTORY THROUGH THE DECADES

1970s

- **1971:** APCE organizes, uniting the ACE of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (PCUS) and TAUPCE of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (UPCUSA). Educators from the Reformed Church in America, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church join as full members.
- **1975:** APCE holds consultation on the future of the organization, adopts its first purpose statement.
- **1976:** APCE publishes the first issue of the *APCE Advocate*.
- **1978:** APCE recognizes its first Educator of the Year, D. Campbell Wyckoff, and its first Life Achievement awardees.

1980s

- Many actions regarding the ordination of church educators are taken.
 - **1983:** These PCUS-approved measures are negated by the *sine die* adjournment of the denomination.
 - **1985:** the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (PC(USA)) General Assembly approves the overture, but it is defeated by presbytery votes of 71 for, 103 against.
- **1988:** The Association adopts its logo, incorporating the lamp of knowledge and learning, the flame symbolizing the spirit of our faith, and the cross. The Val Murphy Scholarship is established, honoring E. Valeria Murphy.

1990s

- **1990:** In October, APCE incorporates as the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators.
- **1991:** Sharon Andrews is contracted to be Administrative Coordinator, assuming responsibility for financial and membership issues.
- **1992:** Joyce MacKichan Walker represents APCE on the Workgroup on the Role and Status of Christian Educators for the PC(USA).
- **1995:** Travelink, Inc. begins serving as meeting planner for future annual events. The Endowment Fund initiative is launched.
- **1997:** Four multi-cultural representatives are added to the APCE Governing Cabinet.
- **1999:** The APCE website debuts.

2000s

- **2000:** APCE adopts its mission statement: "The mission of APCE is to connect, enrich, empower, and sustain persons serving in educational ministries in the Reformed family of churches."
- **2001:** The mission statement is further fleshed out with a definition of each action verb in the mission statement: "APCE *connects* every person serving in educational ministry in our Reformed family to one another for encouragement and support; APCE *enriches* the church by engaging persons in active biblical and theological reflections, cross-cultural

experiences, and leading edge educational theory and practice; APCE *empowers* persons serving in educational ministry as equal partners by speaking a prophetic word that transforms educational structure; APCE *sustains* persons in Christian Education by celebrating their call to ministry, inspiring professional excellence, and nurturing their spiritual wholeness.” The recommendations of the Task Force on the Educational Design for the Ordination of Christian Educators are adopted at the General Assembly of the PC(USA) but are ultimately defeated by vote of presbyteries.

- **2004:** Don Griggs joins the Cabinet as theological institution representative from Union/PSCE in Richmond. He advises strengthening relationships with seminaries.
- **2005:** Anne Yee Hibbs and John Johnson travel to Taiwan and Korea representing APCE, strengthening the Association’s global partnerships. Sue Poss is hired as editor of the *Advocate* and the new magazine format is launched.
- **2007:** APCE signs an agreement with the Presbyterian Historical Society for the maintenance of APCE’s history. APCE members are invited to contribute to Presbyterian Reformed Educational Ministry’s (PREM’s) new initiative, “Opening Doors to Discipleship”, an online tool for training.

2010s

- **2010:** Three task forces are appointed: Website Task Force to explore how to make better use of the website; Visioning Task Force to look at the future of APCE; and Denominational Task Force to explore how to strengthen church relationships.
- **2012:** The Task Force on Restructuring is formed.
- **2014:** A new organizational structure is adopted.
- **2016:** The Advocate Ministry Team rolls out the first *Advocate* web log (blog). Recognition awards are expanded and renamed: Connect Award, Empower Award, Sustain Award (comparable to the former Life Achievement Award), and Enrich Award (replacing the former Educator of the Year Award).
- **2018:** The APCE 50th Anniversary Task Force begins plans for the 2021 celebration in Chicago. The Multicultural Task Force, renamed Diversity Task Force, is formed.
- **2019:** APCE takes first steps toward hiring an Executive Director.

2020s

- **2020:** The Covid-19 pandemic motivates APCE to explore new ways to be relevant for those serving in educational ministries.
- **2021:** The Annual Event is produced totally online and is very well-received, as this format allows many more people to participate. The pandemic also prompts the Association to explore and expand ways to use electronic media to develop and provide resources to support educational ministry in congregations.
- **2022:** The Annual Event, held in Chicago, celebrates the 50th Anniversary (plus 1) of the organization, which votes at the Corporation Meeting to change the name to Association of Partners in Christian Education. The Diversity Task Force concludes their work.
- **2023:** The Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (JEDI) Council is formalized.

- **2024:** The Strategic Planning Task Force recommendations are approved, adopting a new organizational structure. Thom Cunningham is hired as the first Executive Director for the Association of Partners in Christian Education.
- **2025:** Thom assumes his duties in January.