

From the SCR Certification Committee: at its last two meetings (September 2010 and March 2011), the committee has addressed the matter of **Equivalency for Graduate Theological Degree**. First, the background:

1. *2010 ACPE Definition of Terms*, p. 7, defines five ways to meet the theological education criterion*:
2. *2010 Certification Manual*, p.15, states: Graduate Theological Degree or equivalent:
The regional certification committee makes the equivalency determination based on ACPE guidelines and materials the applicant submits. The regional certification committee must consult with the ACPE national office for consistency. Equivalency determination is required before meeting the committee for Supervisory Candidate status. The applicant must request equivalency determination from the regional certification chair at least 30 days prior to declaration for Supervisory Candidate review.
3. South Central Regional practice prior to 2010 had been to follow the APC guidelines for determining equivalency. With the ACPE determination of five ways to meet the “graduate theological degree” requirement, the APC guidelines no longer seem adequate to determine equivalency.
4. Tom Backer and Chuck Robertson explored the matter and in March presented to the committee a six-page study document for consideration.

Comments during committee discussion included the following: *Addressing an equivalency matter could require more time than the 30 days prior to Supervisory Candidate review, as given in the Certification Manual. In fact, the matter may well be addressed by the individual center as part of its acceptance of a person into supervisory education. *International degrees can be reviewed by one of the appropriate organizations established for this purpose. *When we work outside the Judeo-Christian culture, equivalency may look different. *In some equivalency cases, one ACPE region might consult with another. *Seminary professors could be helpful in equivalency cases. *Appendix 9 may need to be revised to reflect the regional involvement in the equivalency process.

Proposal from the Certification Committee for feedback from the Region: **that graduate theological degree equivalency, where applicable, be addressed at or before Readiness Consultation.** Please send your feedback to Barbara Brumleve, Regional Certification Chair (bbrumleve58@gmail.com) by *****. Following regional feedback, the proposal will be revised as/if needed and submitted to the national office for consistency. Thank you for your participation in this matter.

* One of the following:

- Master of Divinity Degree from an accredited theological school.
- Graduation from an accredited (by CHEA-Concil for Higher Education Accreditation or ATS-Association of Theological Schools) theological school with a graduate theological degree consisting of at least 72 semester credits or 108 quarter credits.
- Ordination from a recognized Jewish seminary
- A post-baccalaureate theological degree with such additional study and vocational formation experience as may be evaluated by an ACPE regional certification committee to constitute equivalent level of study.
- A Master’s degree in a related field with such additional post-baccalaureate theological course work and vocational formation experience as may be evaluated by an ACPE regional certification committee to constitute an equivalent level of study.