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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGPA INCOMING PRESIDENT ELEANOR F. COUNSELMAN TO DELIVER HER PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS “FIRST YOU PUT THE CHAIRS IN A CIRCLE: BECOMING A GROUP THERAPIST” FEBRUARY 26, 2016

NEW YORK, Feb. 4, 2016— The American Group Psychotherapy Association’s (AGPA) incoming President Eleanor F. Counselman, Ed.D., CGP, LFLAGPA, will deliver her Presidential Address at the AGPA’s Annual Meeting in New York City, February 22-27, 2016. The address, taking place during the Anne and Ramon Alonso Presidential Plenary Session on Friday, February 26, is entitled “First You Put the Chairs in a Circle: Becoming a Group Therapist.” Dr. Counselman will share the personal, professional and interpersonal strengths and challenges that make up the rich and rewarding life experience of developing an identity as a group therapist.

Dr. Counselman is in private practice in Belmont, Massachusetts and was on the faculty of Harvard Medical School for 25 years. She has served as Editor of *The Group Circle*, Co-Chair of the Institute Committee, Editorial Board member of the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, and as President of the Northeastern Society for Group Psychotherapy. She has presented nationally and internationally on group therapy, has authored numerous articles and book chapters on individual, couple, and group psychotherapy, and has received both the Alonso Award for Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Theory and the Affiliate Societies Assembly Award.

Dr. Counselman believes that group is a specialized area of practice that requires training, education and experience. “Group psychotherapy can be your primary professional identity,” says Counselman. “I hope to share the work that goes into making it so, the rewards, which are many, and the special part AGPA can play in it all.”

Dr. Counselman’s Presidential Address is a highlight of the AGPA’s 2016 Annual Training in New York City. Entitled “Transformation in Group: From Isolation to Connection,” this meeting attracts more than 1,000 group therapists, researchers and scientists from around the world. Group therapists of all disciplines will gather to learn the most effective techniques in working with a variety of populations in groups, an increasingly utilized modality due to its effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. The theme reflects the meeting’s emphasis on the power of groups to connect individuals, families and communities in

meaningful ways to effect change on personal and societal levels. For more information, contact AGPA at (877) 668-AGPA (2472) or visit www.agpa.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Media are invited to attend the Presidential Address as well as other select sessions of the AGPA 2016 Annual Meeting. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfeirman@agpa.org or call 212.477.2677.

About AGPA

The American Group Psychotherapy Association is the foremost professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a tri-partite structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, its philanthropic arm; and the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body. This multidisciplinary association has over 2,500 members, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, clinical mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, pastoral counselors and creative arts therapists, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential. The association has 26 local and regional societies located across the country. Its members are experienced mental health professionals who lead psychotherapy groups and various non-clinical groups. Many are organizational specialists who work with businesses, not-for-profit organizations, communities and other "natural" groups to help them improve their functioning.

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