

The Scroll

*Notes and News
from the
Brethren Academy for
Ministerial Leadership*

April 2013

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TRIM Continues to Respond to a Changing World

TRIM is known across the denomination as a ministry training program that has both high standards and great flexibility. In the twelve years that I have been the TRIM coordinator, I have witnessed the continual stretching of TRIM to meet the ever-changing needs of ministry training in our church. From the days when courses were held in a classroom and communication was on paper sent through the post office, we have expanded the ways we work together to include online learning, Skype face-to-face meeting, e-mail, and website communication. So, what to do when a student wants to enter TRIM, but has felt a call to move from the Northern Indiana District to a remote village in Alaska with her husband (who is also a TRIM student) to work in the school system there? No problem. Even though school teachers and administrators like Cheryl Thomas were back at work in August, Cheryl attended TRIM orientation through the use of Skype and recorded sessions which were sent to her. She and her husband, Paul, are doing their ministry training through online courses and independent study units they construct. What possibilities have been given to us to do the work of Jesus! The technology does not always work the way we would hope, but it has opened new doors and expanded the ways in which we can be together even though the miles separate us.

– Marilyn Lerch

August Orientation Will Welcome New TRIM/EFSM Students

Several students have already registered to attend the August 1-4, 2013 TRIM/EFSM Orientation at Bethany Seminary in Richmond, Indiana. If you know someone who is considering TRIM or EFSM, please be in touch with the [Brethren Academy](#) office for information. The registration deadline for this annual orientation is June 15, 2013.

The Word Alive – An Introduction to Preaching

From January 7-11, 2013, Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm taught a course to introduce students to the basic elements of sermon preparation and presentation. Students learned creative approaches to scriptural exegesis and how to design sermons that are scripturally informed and thoughtful and creative in design.



Seven TRIM students completed this class for credit in their ministry skills area. Three graduate-level students participated fully in the class and completed additional work for credit in their MDiv program.



Annual Conference Directed Independent Study Unit Available for TRIM/EFSM Students



This directed independent study unit (ISU) will be offered June 28-29, 2013, in conjunction with the CoB Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Continuing Education Event in Charlotte, North Carolina. **“Faithful Christian Leadership in the Twenty-First Century”** with the Rev. Dr. L. Gregory Jones is the topic for this year's pre-Conference event. Dr. Jones will lead three sessions (Friday 6:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.) using the books of Numbers, Philippians, and Acts to speak to excellence in ministry as well as forgiveness.

This ISU, planned and led by Julie M. Hostetter, will include pre-Conference reading, a one-hour session before and after the Ministers' Association event, and attendance at the entire event. A follow-up project will be expected.

If interested, please contact Julie Hostetter directly at hosteju@bethanyseminary.edu. There will be no tuition fee for this ISU; however, participants must [register](#) and pay for the CoB Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Continuing Education Event.

Note: If you are planning to take this directed independent study unit, you will need lodging on Friday evening, June 28!

Sustaining Pastoral Excellence

From February 18-21, 2013, the last “class” of Vital Pastor cohorts met at the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center in Palos Verdes, California. This ending retreat had five cohorts who shared what they learned in their studies of self-chosen questions. The cohorts are pictured below with the questions each studied and the destination of their travels.

The Vital Pastor program and Advanced Foundations for Church Leaders are the two tracks of the Brethren Academy's Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program. This program, initiated and funded by Lilly Endowment Inc., was awarded a grant in November of 2003 and began in May 2004. The writers of the Academy's proposal to Lilly included Tara Hornbacker, professor of Ministry Formation, Bethany Theological Seminary; Mary Jo Flory-Steury, associate general secretary and director of ministry with the Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren; and Jonathan Shively, former director of the Brethren Academy and currently executive director of Congregational Life Ministries.

Julie M. Hostetter is the current executive director of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership and Training. The Academy is funded by both Bethany Theological Seminary and the CoB Mission and Ministry Board. Glenn and Linda Timmons have been the coordinators of the SPE program and will be concluding their work in the near future.



Lengel Cohort

L to R: Wayne Hall, Nancy Fittery, Ron Ludwick, Tracy Wisner, Dean Lengel (Missing: Pete Sanchez)

Critical Question: How can our spirituality be enhanced by experiencing and studying the powerful movement of the Holy Spirit among contemporary Messianic Jewish communities?

Immersion Retreat Destination: Israel





Baker Cohort

L to R: Jimmy Baker, Ken Davis, Leah Hileman, Ray Hileman

Critical Question: By what means can we as pastors develop a disciplined, holistic lifestyle so as to deepen our spirituality and effectively model both discipline and discipleship?

Immersion Retreat Destination: Academy for Spiritual Formation, Leesburg, Florida, and Renovare Essentials Conference, Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

Erbaugh Cohort

L to R: Paula Ulrich, Matt McKimmy, Chuck Bell, and Nan Erbaugh.

Critical Question: With the choice between palliative care or painful rebirth, how can we as pastors be faithful, transformational Christ-followers in a time of liminality and exponential change in the world and in the church?

Immersion Retreat Destination: New Zealand



Sampson Cohort

L to R: David Bibbee, Andrew Sampson, Pat Meeks, Brian Flory

Critical Question: Connecting gnosis and episteme: How do we practice the inescapable presence of God?

Immersion Retreat Destination: Ireland and Scotland



Lovett Cohort

L to R: Marge Smalley, Diana Lovett (Missing: Christina Singh)

Critical Question: How do we nurture our spiritual life so that it enriches and deepens our relationship with God and enriches our ministries to and with fellow pastors and the church?

Immersion Retreat Destination: Retreat with John Philip Newell at Casa de Sol, Ghost Ranch, New Mexico



Holy Land Trip Builds Excitement

Bethany Theological Seminary's professor of New Testament studies, Dan Ulrich, and TRIM coordinator, Marilyn Lerch, are busy planning the details for the June 3, 2013, departure to the Holy Land. The group traveling is forming nicely, and all are looking forward to this twelve-day trip to many of the sites of the New and Old Testaments.

It is not too late to join the group; however, as we move into the spring, costs may increase for those who would like to go but have not yet registered. Please review the information available on the Brethren Academy website and be in touch with Marilyn or Dan if you are interested in joining this trip to the Holy Land.

TRIM/EFSM CEU credits are available. Ordained ministers may earn 4 CEUs for participating.



Cultural Connections: Women Weaving Worlds

Cultural Connections: Women Weaving Worlds is a travel program for women from the United States who wish to create community, experience beauty, and work towards justice in collaboration with women from India and Turkey.

Deanna Brown founded the program and facilitates two-week sojourns to India and ten-day sojourns to Turkey to experience, learn, and increase awareness through listening to and participating in the dreams of marginalized women. Interfaith learning and spirituality circles are a vital part of the program's design. Over a thirteen-year period, Deanna has facilitated numerous trips to India. Her work in Turkey began in 2010.

If you are interested in learning more about this program, Deanna's contact information is: deannab@frontiernet.net (bluemangoindia.com), 765-523-3313.

Several Church of the Brethren pastors have been a part of her trips and have received 4 CEUs through the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership.





**Jennifer Quijano,
Coordinator of SeBAH**

**Coordinadora de la
Programa SeBAH**

SeBAH-CoB Updates

Blessings to all in the name of Jesus Christ and greetings from Richmond, Indiana!

I am elated to report that the SeBAH-CoB-ANE and PSWD students have completed their third course in the program, Anabaptist History and Theology. This course took a deeper look at Anabaptist roots, role models, rituals, and theology. The students are now anticipating the next and fourth course in the program, Theology of Pastoral Ministry, which will begin in early April.

The SeBAH-CoB-ASE cohort is also hard at work completing the first course, Understanding the Bible. This course looks at the history of biblical interpretation in addition to the literary context in which it was written. Also, the students have the opportunity to begin exegesis work with in-depth studies of Jonas and Ruth.

It is a joy to work with all the students around the denomination. With continuing prayers and support, we look forward to the ministries our sisters and brothers are preparing for.

Shalom!

Jennifer Quijano
SeBAH Coordinator - Church of the Brethren

Actualizaciones de SeBAH

Bendiciones a todos en el nombre de Jesucristo y saludos de Richmond, Indiana!

Estoy encantado para informar que los estudiantes de SeBAH-CoB-ANE y PSWD han completado su tercer curso en la programa, Historia y Teología Anabautista. El curso tuvo una mirada más profunda a las raíces Anabautistas, modelos de conducta, rituales y teología. Los estudiantes están anticipando el próximo curso, y la cuarta en el programa, Teología del Ministerio Pastoral, que comenzará al principio de abril.

El SeBAH-COB-ASE cohorte también esta trabajando para completar el primer curso, La comprensión de la Biblia. Este curso se centra en la historia de la interpretación bíblica, además del contexto literario en que fue escrito. Además, los estudiantes tienen la oportunidad de comenzar a trabajar con la exégesis con estudios en profundidad de Jonás y Ruth.

Es un placer trabajar con todos los estudiantes en la denominación. Con continuas oraciones y el apoyo, esperamos con interés por los ministerios que nuestros hermanos y hermanas están preparando.

Shalom!

Jennifer Quijano
SeBAH Coordinator- Church of the Brethren

Upcoming Academy Level Courses

Courses are open to TRIM students, pastors (earn 2 CEUs) and all interested persons.

Please note: While we continue to accept students beyond the registration deadline, on that date we determine whether we have enough students to offer a course. Many courses have required precourse readings, so students need to be sure to allow enough time to complete those. Please do not purchase texts or make travel plans until the registration deadline is past and you receive a course confirmation.

*Bethany Experience **Brethren College Experience
Courses noted as "SVMC" need to be registered for through
the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center at SVMC@etown.edu, 717-361-1450
TRIM designations: BT (Bible/Theology credit) MS (Ministry Skills credit)

***Evangelism: Both Now and Not Yet** - Online instructor: Tara Hornbacker, professor of Ministry Formation, Bethany Theological Seminary, **April 8–May 31, 2013** (MS). Registration Deadline: March 11, 2013 - **Course Full**

Introduction to Pastoral Care - Two locations: Instructor onsite at McPherson College, Kansas (will qualify for a Brethren College experience); course also available onsite in St. Petersburg, Florida, via webcast. Instructor Anna Lee Hisey Pierson, **May 2-5, 2013** (MS). Registration deadline: April 1, 2013

2013 Educational Travel Experiences:

- May: **Iona, Scotland**, led by Professor Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm - **Course Full**
- June 3: **Journey Through the Bible** - A twelve-day trip to the Holy Land (Israel) led by Bethany Theological Seminary's professor of New Testament studies, Dan Ulrich, and TRIM coordinator, Marilyn Lerch. With a starting price of \$3198, included are round trip international airfare from JFK, New York; first class hotels; guided sightseeing; entrance fees; breakfast and dinner daily; and more. TRIM/EFSM students may earn course credit for this trip. Course requirements will include preparatory reading and journaling during the trip. Ordained ministers may earn four CEUs for participating. The trip is open to all interested travelers: students, those in set apart ministry, and laypeople.

Annual Conference Directed ISU - Charlotte, North Carolina, available for TRIM/EFSM students: This directed independent study unit will be offered June 28-29, 2013, in conjunction with the CoB Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Continuing Education Event. **"Faithful Christian Leadership in the Twenty-First Century"** with the Rev. Dr. L. Gregory Jones is the topic for this year's pre-Conference event. This directed ISU, planned and led by Julie M. Hostetter, will include pre-Conference reading, a one-hour session before and after the Ministers' Association event, and attendance at the entire event. A follow-up project will be expected. If interested, please contact Julie Hostetter directly at hosteju@bethanyseminary.edu. There will be no tuition fee for this ISU; however, participants must register and pay for the CoB Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Continuing Education Event. **Note:** If you are planning to take this directed independent study unit, you will need lodging on Friday evening, June 28!

The Fifth Brethren World Assembly will take place July 11-14, 2013, in the Dayton-Brookville, Ohio, area. TRIM students wishing to attend this event should work on an ISU with their district TRIM coordinator. EFSM students wanting to use this event as part of their Basic Brethren Beliefs learning unit should contact Julie Hostetter, executive director of the BAML. Students are responsible for their registration fee, travel, and expenses at the assembly. Note that CEUs are available for ordained clergy.

Story of the Church: Reformation to the Modern Age - Online instructor: Craig Gandy, **July 29–September 20, 2013** (BT). Registration deadline: July 15, 2013. **SVMC**

***Ministry with Youth/Young Adults** - Online instructor: Russell Haitch, associate professor of Christian education and director of the Institute for Ministry with Youth and Young Adults, Bethany Theological Seminary, **August 19–October 11, 2013** (MS). Registration deadline: July 22, 2013.

***Introduction to Theology** - Online instructor: Malinda Berry, instructor in theological studies, Bethany Theological Seminary, **October 14–December, 2013** (no class Thanksgiving week) (BT). Registration deadline: September 16, 2013.

**** But Who Is My Neighbor? Christianity in a Global Context** - McPherson College, Kansas. Instructor: Kent Eaton, **fall 2013** (BT).

NEW WEBINAR!!
MISSIONAL WORSHIP AS THE HEART
OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION!
WITH
DEBRA DEAN MURPHY



What is desperately needed in today's world is not new worship, but a rediscovery of the rich meaning and formative power of Christian worship. Debra Dean Murphy will stimulate lively learning and reflection as participants learn, reflect and share over the course of two webinars.

Webinar 1: "Missional Worship and Congregational Formation"

Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 3:00-4:30 p.m. eastern/12:00-1:30 p.m. pacific

This session's content is informed and shaped by three interrelated questions about the nature of Christian liturgy:

1. How does missional worship form a people (and not just persons)?
2. How is missional worship like therapy—lifelong detox for our distorted desires?
3. How is missional worship like doing the dishes—work we've been given to do over and over?

Webinar 2: "Missional Worship and the Lord's Table"

Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 3:00-4:30 p.m. eastern/12:00-1:30 p.m. pacific

This session's content is informed and shaped by three interrelated questions about the nature of eucharistic worship:

1. How does sharing in Christ's body and blood impel us to nourish and care for our own bodies and the bodies of others?
2. How is partaking of the Lord's supper an act that informs and implicates *all* of our eating (and overeating)?
3. What might a liturgically rooted response to food-related health crises look like?

CEU: 0.15 for live session only – offered by Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

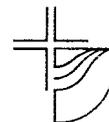
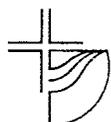
Link: www.brethren.org/webcasts (Note start time by time zone)



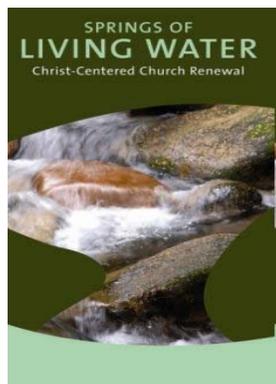
Debra Dean Murphy is assistant professor of religious studies at West Virginia Wesleyan College and the author of *Teaching That Transforms: Worship as the Heart of Christian Education*. She is active in the Ekklesia Project, a network of Christians and Christian communities from across the theological and denominational spectrum, and she blogs at Intersections: Thoughts on Religion, Politics, and Culture. Debra recently converted from United Methodism to the Roman Catholic Church.

More Information

Stan Dueck
Director, Transforming Practices
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Springs of Living Water Academy in Church Renewal Registration Now Open for Fall 2013 Courses



The Springs of Living Water Academy for pastors offers courses with formal learning objectives which participants localize in their setting. Program features include:

- Five interactive two-hour phone conference calls with practical training and focused discussion over a twelve-week period;
- Assigned readings;
- Individual contacts between calls;
- Laypeople in the church participating with the pastor;
- A seminal paper reflecting course content and application;
- CEUs available.

With positive response to the initial offering, the following two courses are available in fall 2013:

Level 1. Foundations for Christ-Centered Church Renewal

Using a spiritually grounded, servant-led approach, learn to:

- ✓ Enlist a congregation in renewal, spiritually discerning and training a renewal team;
- ✓ Help a congregation enter a spiritual journey with disciplines folders;
- ✓ Use servant leadership from scripture to approach the life cycle of a church;
- ✓ Implement a sevenfold path for renewal in which a church builds on its strengths;
- ✓ Help a church spiritually discern a scripture, vision, and ministry plan;
- ✓ Assist a congregation in implementing a renewal plan of focused ministries.

Dates: Wednesdays Sept. 11, Oct. 2, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, and Dec. 4 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Participants call an 800 number every three weeks. Please register as soon as possible. The cost will be \$185 plus \$10 if CEUs are desired.

Level 2. Servant Leadership and Application to Church Renewal

Using primary sources in spiritually oriented servant leadership, participants will:

- ✓ Study in depth the leadership style of Jesus from John 4 and other passages;
- ✓ Go deeper in servant leadership through scriptures and application in renewal;
- ✓ Learn dialogue, discernment, conceptualizing, foresight, and the role of the leader;
- ✓ Take a deeper look at the life cycle of a church and how to intervene with servant leadership;
- ✓ Learn how servant leadership helps reach out to current members and newcomers;
- ✓ Learn how to build servant-led, spiritually vibrant, Christ-centered congregations.

Dates: Starting in September with five sessions over a twelve-week period; days and times determined by participants. Instructors for courses are Dr. David S. Young and guests. In both courses, participants are invited to practice daily disciplines.

For a fuller description of courses and a Springs of Living Water Academy in Church Renewal brochure, please email davidyoung@churchrenewalservant.org or call (717) 615-4515. The Springs website is www.churchrenewalservant.org.

From the Executive Director's Desk



At the Brethren Academy, women and men are equipped for leadership in the church through four training programs: Traininin Ministry, Education for a Shared Ministry, Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano and district-based Academy Certified Training Systems. Those who have completed seminary degrees and training programs are offered continuing education opportunities through several venues including the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program-Advanced Foundations of Church Leadership track or Vital Pastor track- funded by a Lilly Endowment Inc. grant.

During this past year:

- ❖ Seventy-three students from eighteen districts participated in the TRIM program. One new district TRIM coordinator was welcomed into the group of fifteen, with some of them serving two districts. Six students and their supervising pastors from five districts participated in the EFSM program.
- ❖ Seven TRIM and four EFSM students from six districts participated in an August 2012 orientation. Staff advise entering students during a rolling enrollment period before the annual orientation.
- ❖ One EFSM and nine TRIM students completed their programs. These Academy graduates have now fulfilled the educational requirements for ordination consideration by their districts.
- ❖ The Academy organized two residential classes at Bethany Seminary, two on-site classes at McPherson College, and four online courses and offered one travel seminar in conjunction with a masters-level class for students, pastors, and laypeople.
- ❖ The following Bethany teaching faculty taught classes, provided presentations, or led an educational trip for students or continuing education participants: Malinda Berry, Rick Gardner (emeritus), Scott Holland, Tara Hornbacker, Denise Kettering-Lane, Ken Rogers, and Steve Schweitzer.
- ❖ For the first time, an Academy-organized independent study unit for TRIM and EFSM students was offered in conjunction with the CoB Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Continuing Education Event. This learning experience partnership will continue in the future.
- ❖ The Christian Growth Institute, the Academy Certified Training System for Virlina and Shenandoah Districts, has submitted and revised materials for recertification. The CGI will be recognized at the 2013 Annual Conference for the completion of its recertification process. West Marva and Southeastern Districts are working on the recertification of their ACTS programs. The Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center, supported by five districts (ANE, Mid-Atlantic, Middle PA, Southern PA and Western PA), was recertified in 2011 and continues to offer classes for ACTS and TRIM students.
- ❖ The Brethren Academy partnership with the Mennonite Education Agency to provide a Spanish language ministry training program for the Church of the Brethren continues. Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH-CoB) is a denomination-wide certificate-level program that parallels the Academy Certified Training System programs available to English speaking students. Atlantic Northeast district has fifteen students, and Pacific Southwest district has six students participating in the SeBAH-CoB program, completing their third course. Two students in Puerto Rico have begun their program in a SeBAH Mennonite-CoB cohort. Orientation was held in November 2012, and their first online class, Introduction to the Bible, is in process.
- ❖ The academic dean from Bethany, executive director of the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center, and director of the Brethren Academy coordinate a schedule so that Church of the Brethren history, theology, and polity and practices are offered on a rotating basis in order for students and pastors to have ongoing access to these topics.

Continued

- ❖ Students and pastors requested “sitting-in student” status for courses at the masters studies level to complete TRIM requirements, for continuing education units, or to fulfill district ordination requirements.
- ❖ The Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry has assigned the continuing education training program for ministerial ethics to the Brethren Academy. The executive director, one BTS faculty member, and two pastors participated in Healthy Boundaries classroom training offered by the Faith Trust Institute. One pastor took the class online, and two more pastors will complete online training in early 2013.
- ❖ The annual on-campus and online Clergy Tax Seminar was provided by the Brethren Academy in partnership with the CoB Office of Ministry and Bethany Seminary’s Office of Student Services and Office of Communications.
- ❖ Continuing education options have been provided in partnership with the Church of the Brethren and Bethany Theological Seminary as well as districts, local congregations, and other agencies.
- ❖ The Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. continued. Both tracks—Vital Pastor and Advanced Foundations of Church Leadership—focus on holistic health (intellectual, spiritual, emotional, relational, physical), greater connectedness to the whole, and participants seeing themselves as transformational leaders.
- ❖ Thus far, 143 pastors have completed the Vital Pastor program. Two new cohorts began their two years of travel and study in January 2011; three additional cohorts began the Vital Pastor program that fall. The final five cohorts with twenty-one pastors completed their two years of study in February 2013.
- ❖ Twenty-six pastors completed the Advanced Foundations of Church Leadership program from 2003-2008. A cohort of ten District Executives began meeting in November 2010 and completed their program in September 2012. A cohort of seven pastors began meeting in September 2011 and will meet quarterly through June 2013 to focus on leadership issues.
- ❖ Representatives from the Brethren Academy, Church of the Brethren, and Bethany Theological Seminary have been working on a proposal for a Sustaining Ministerial Excellence: Advanced Seminar option that will succeed the current Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program. It will begin in January 2014 after the completion of the SPE-ViP and SPE-AFCL tracks.



A ministry training partnership of the
Church of the Brethren and
Bethany Theological Seminary



<http://www.bethanyseminary.edu/academy>

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