

A Moment in Mission ❖ from Bethany Seminary

As students return to fall 2013 classes, Bethany faculty and staff prepare to welcome fifteen students accepted into the graduate programs. All will be greeted by our new president, Jeff Carter, who has experienced a lot of firsts here at Bethany in recent months. There are the expected firsts, like the first day on the job, which happened at Annual Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. Then his first day in the Richmond, Indiana, office followed by first meetings, conference calls, and projects to attend to. Then there are less expected firsts, like the first prank to be pulled by students and staff who welcomed President Carter to his new office by covering every surface with Bethany promotional posters.

Amidst these new beginnings, President Carter is committed to the deeply rooted theological education established by his predecessors. He encourages Bethany to engage with the broader denomination by highlighting the Seminary as a first thought for all of you in Brethren congregations. Think of Bethany first when you are encouraging those with ministry and leadership callings to pursue theological education. Think first of Bethany trained graduates as gifted and qualified leaders for congregational and denominational ministry. Think of the Seminary faculty and staff first when questions arise around topics of faith and practice and thoughtful conversation partners are needed.

Highlighting More New Beginnings at Bethany:

- ◆ Bethany's 108th commencement ceremony was held on Saturday, May 11, 2013 where ten graduates received their diplomas and three were recognized in absentia. The graduating class expressed joy and a sense of accomplishment as they graduated in front of family and friends in Nicarry Chapel. Each will begin or continue the multiple ministries to which they have been called.
- ◆ New opportunities for youth and young adults and those who minister with them are taking shape at Bethany. In August 2014, jr. high youth can attend Immerse!, a Bible immersion weekend in Pennsylvania for exploring questions about faith and scripture. For rising high school juniors and seniors, the annual Exploring Your Call seminar will continue in 2014, offering college-level study, hands-on ministry, and contemplation of one's own spiritual path. This event will take place over five days in Colorado prior to National Youth Conference. Also, the Bethany Peace Essay Contest is being revived. Seminary, college, and high-school students are eligible to submit entries for prizes; the submission deadline will be in January 2014.
- ◆ Deborah Roberts has been named half-time assistant professor of reconciliation studies at Bethany Seminary, and will begin teaching this fall. This new position at Bethany was created to help implement intentional coursework in conflict transformation within the Seminary's curriculum. As part of Bethany's revised curriculum, students will also be able to take courses in conflict transformation to earn a ministry focus within the MDiv degree or an emphasis within both the MDiv and MA degrees.

Bethany Theological Seminary was founded in 1905 and is the graduate school and academy for theological education for the Church of the Brethren. Bethany expresses gratitude for the many ways you have shown support for its mission. All are invited to take part in Bethany life, from campus visits, to support of a student, to inviting faculty and staff to provide a workshop for your local congregation.