

## *A Moment in Mission ❖ from Bethany Seminary*

Throughout Jeff Carter's first year as president of the Seminary, he's asked many questions. The question, Can I get a witness?, formed the framework for his inaugural celebration as Bethany's tenth president in March. And it continues to shape the work and study of students, faculty and staff at the Seminary.

Witness is embodied through both voice and action at Bethany. Inspired by Paul's words recorded in 1 John "We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life" Jeff encourages the Seminary to remain steadfast in our witness, established over a century ago.

Bethany's exhibit at the 2014 Annual Conference posed a similar theme. Visitors were asked to finish this statement: "My witness is seen, heard, and felt when I" The answers ranged from practicing hospitality; to listening to others; to holding a baby all afternoon; to working to help the hungry; to speaking boldly for Christ, living humbly in Christ, and loving unconditionally like Christ. These are a small example of the many varieties of witness practiced daily throughout the Church of the Brethren. Bethany seeks to encourage this witness in each student and person touched by the work of the Seminary.

### *Highlighting Bethany's Ongoing Witness*

- ◆ Bethany's 109<sup>th</sup> commencement ceremony was held on Saturday, May 10, 2014, during which eight graduates received their master of divinity degrees in Nicarry Chapel. Several members of the class are currently pastoring or have been called to pastor a congregation. Other potential paths include pastoral ministry, campus ministry, and further study.
- ◆ A Bethany Neighborhood has been developed near the Seminary campus to provide housing for local Bethany students as well as space for distance students coming to campus temporarily for classes and gatherings. Several nearby houses have been renovated to prepare for the large incoming class for fall 2014. This project will help offer close, stable and affordable housing to students who want to be part of an active campus community. It has also offered a great opportunity to interact with dedicated volunteers helping with the various remodeling projects. The impact has even been felt in the community as ties are strengthened with the surrounding college, business, and residential community.
- ◆ Debbie Roberts began teaching classes in conflict transformation in the 2013-14 academic year. With ongoing conflict around the globe, close to home, and in our congregations, equipping ministers to interact with conflict in healthy and life-giving ways is critical for our contemporary witness.
- ◆ All students continue to experience the world through a required cross-cultural component. Whether it be traveling to Germany, Mexico, Scotland, or the Appalachian mountains, students see first-hand the opportunities for witness and learning around the globe.

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.