

An Incarnational Education

Bethany's most vital mission is to educate people for a distinctive manner of living grounded in God's infinite love for all creation. In the fourteenth chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that he will be going away from them, but after he is gone they will do the works that he does and even greater works than these.

"Why, and how can this be?" they wonder.

"Because," Jesus says, "the Counselor, the Spirit of Truth, dwells with you and will be in you."

In the fall of 2009, Bethany's board of trustees adopted a new mission statement:

***Bethany Theological Seminary
equips spiritual and intellectual leaders
with an Incarnational education for ministering,
proclaiming, and living out God's shalom
and Christ's peace in the church and the world."***

An Incarnational education arises from spiritual and intellectual "soil" that takes seriously

- ✠ the Genesis story that life is holy and animated by the Creator's Spirit and that human beings, bearing the image of God, are created for relationship with God, the earth, and one another;
- ✠ Jesus Christ, as the Incarnation of God's reconciling love, whose teaching ministry, death, and resurrection invite us to become people who incarnate God's compassion and hospitality;
- ✠ the continuing revelation of God's love through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit within individuals, religious communities, villages and cities that seek to embody Christ's way of love and peace, not for themselves or their own groups alone but for all creation.

As we practice this distinctive manner of living, we experience God's shalom and Christ's peace, reconciled with God and reaching out in reconciliation to others amidst our diversity.



615 National Road West, Richmond, IN 47374
800-287-8822 www.bethanyseminary.edu

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Highlights of 2009-10 — Bethany's 105th year

- ◆ Forty-five new students comprised the largest incoming class in more than a decade.
- ◆ The faculty was fully staffed with the hiring of Dr. Steven Schweitzer as academic dean and Malinda Berry as instructor in theological studies.
- ◆ The board of trustees adopted a new mission statement in October 2009 and approved a new strategic plan in March 2010.
- ◆ A new financial aid plan was approved and will be implemented in 2010-11.
- ◆ The third annual Presidential Forum, "When Strangers Are Angels," was attended by a capacity crowd. Distinguished theologian and writer Dr. Martin Marty was the keynote speaker.
- ◆ Brethren nationwide gathered at Bethany in May for the church planting conference "Plant Generously, Reap Bountifully."



"Bethany Seminary's 105th commencement this spring was a wonderfully joyous day to witness the growth of these students during the three or more years they have been at Bethany, to celebrate their accomplishments, and to send them forth to minister to a church and world in need of God's love and Christ's peace. At each commencement time, I think about the vision of the founders of the Bethany Bible Training School, now Bethany Theological Seminary, and how the roots of that original vision continue to bring forth nourishing fruit over a century later."

— RUTHANN K. JOHANSEN, PRESIDENT

You can participate in the education Bethany provides by:

- ◆ nurturing and calling out persons who show interest in ministry and encouraging them to consider a Bethany education;
- ◆ praying for our students, faculty, and staff;
- ◆ making a gift, either by check or online;
- ◆ Reading *Wonder & Word* magazine and visiting our Web site for news, information, and Webcasts of Bethany and denominational events: www.bethanyseminary.edu.

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Bethany Theological Seminary Prayer Calendar

Please join us in prayer this year for the mission and ministry of Bethany Seminary.

September 2010 – New and returning students as we begin our 106th academic year

October 2010 – Bethany's board of trustees, who give their time, talents, and resources as advocates for the Seminary and who hold their semi-annual meeting this month

November 2010 – Faculty and staff, who daily share their skills and knowledge to support Bethany's mission

December 2010 – Bethany's contribution to the Church of the Brethren peace witness through courses, seminars, and our peace studies degree emphasis

January 2011 – Persons enrolled in January graduate and academy level intensive classes, a place for fellowship and learning

February 2011 – The work of the Institute for Ministry with Youth and Young Adults, in the classroom and through seminars, writing, and research

March 2011 – All those involved with the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership as orientation is held for incoming Training in Ministry students

April 2011 – The Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program and its continuing education opportunities for pastors

May 2011 – Our 106th graduating class as they complete their seminary education and enter ministry

June 2011 – Students in summer ministry formation experiences: congregations, retirement centers, hospitals, and more

July 2011 – Those who are considering enrolling at Bethany in the 2011-2012 academic year

August 2011 – The more than 2,500 Bethany alumni/ae and their contributions to the church over the past century



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