



The Scroll

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

Vol.6, No. 1, December 2009

TRIM District Coordinators' Retreat

The lovely home and retreat setting of Carol and Gene Yeazell in Arden, NC was the gathering place for the annual District TRIM Coordinators' meeting that was held September 11-13, 2009. Participating this year were five district coordinators, Gene Hipskind, Lois Grove, Jim McKinnell, Randy Clark and Sandee Kitzel, and TRIM Director Marilyn Lerch. We had an interesting and informative webcam visit with Julie Hostetter, from her office at Bethany. (That is perhaps an option for some Ministry Formation Group time on the district level, especially where physical gathering is difficult because of distance.)

Carol Yeazell led us in "Working with Cultural Diversity" while we considered communicating in respectful ways and also making certain everyone has the opportunity to contribute in discussions. Carol and Gene provided wonderful meals for our group that also included two spouses. We certainly appreciate the Yeazells' hospitality.

Marilyn provided updated notebooks and we spent some time highlighting Ministry Internship (formerly known as supervised ministry). There was time for guided creative journaling and lots of fellowship – especially around meals!

Sandee Kitzel

Western Plains TRIM Coordinator



EFSM Graduation Weekend



Marilla Church of the Brethren in Kaleva, Michigan, was the site of an Education For A Shared Ministry graduation on Sunday, September 20, 2009. Robert Joseph (Joe) Wave completed his program with a worship workshop taking place on Saturday. Members from the Marilla Congregational Training Group plus sisters and brothers from three additional congregations in the Michigan district participated in the workshop led by Julie Hostetter, director of the Brethren Academy.

Joe Wave, Julie Hostetter, and Frances Townsend, pastor of Onekama COB and Joe's supervisor, participating in the Sunday morning worship and graduation service.

Continuing Education Onsite Event

Creation Care: Stewards of the Earth - equipping leaders to guide the Church to care for Creation

Creation Care: Stewards of the Earth is designed for church leaders and individuals passionate about the intersection of faith and environmental responsibility. This event will be held February 12-14, 2010 at the Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, Mt. Pleasant, PA. It is sponsored by the Church of the Brethren and Mennonite Mutual Aid. Leadership will be provided by David Radcliff of New Community Project, Luke Gascho who is executive director of Merry Lea Environment Learning Center at Goshen College, Chris Meyer and Carol Bowman. For more information on worship, presentations and workshops, visit www.laurelville.org/creation_care.html Those attending this weekend event can receive 1.00 CEU from the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership.

*Technology and Church
Ministry-* Enten Eller

Peer Pastoral Coaching - Ron
Faus

*Six Trends & Micro-Trends
Impacting Churches –* Stan
Dueck

*Missional Leadership-*Paul
Mundey

*Interim Ministry-*Del Keeney

Spring 2010 Online Continuing Education Events

Relational Evangelism – Part Two
– Chip Arn

Feb 2 @ at 3:30 PM Eastern or
Feb 4 at 8:30 PM Eastern

*Congregational Dynamics – Part
Two –* Celia Cook-Huffman

Feb 16 @ 3:30 PM Eastern or
Feb 18 @ 8:30 PM Eastern

For additional information,
please contact:

Stan Dueck,
CoB Director for
Transforming Practices

717-368-0404 (cell)

sdueck@brethren.org



Upcoming Academy Level Courses:

Spring 2010

"Gospel of John" Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, IN, Instructor Daniel Ulrich, January 11-15, 2010 (BT) Registration Deadline: December 11, 2009

"Exploring Christian Faith: An Introduction to Theology" *online* Instructor Craig Gandy, January 25 – March 20, 2010 (BT) Registration Deadline: January 8, 2010

"II Corinthians" *online* Instructor Susan Jeffers, February 8 – March 19, 2010 (SVMC) (BT) Registration Deadline: January 28, 2010 <http://www.read-the-bible.org/SVMC-2Corinthians.htm>

"Exploring the Call" Instructor Pat Horst, April 15-18, 2010 (SVMC) (MS) Registration Deadline: April 1, 2010

****"Rituals, Ordinances and Worship"** Bethany Theological Seminary, Instructor Dawn Ottoni Wilhelm, May 10-14 (MS) Registration Deadline: April 9, 2010

****"Church Planting"** Bethany Theological Seminary, Instructor David Shumate, course to be held May 19-23, and includes the Church Planting Conference which will be May 20-22, 2010 (MS)

*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

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

TRIM designations: BT (Bible/Theology credit) MS (Ministry Skills credit)

Please note the Registration Deadlines. While we continue to accept students beyond the deadline, on the advertised Registration Deadline date we determine whether we have enough students to offer the course.

Registration brochures for these and other training opportunities are available through the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership at their website:
<http://www.bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy>
or by calling 1-800-287-8822, ext 1824.

Healthy Relationships/Spirituality in a Small Membership Congregation

This class was held at the Fairview Church of the Brethren just outside of Unionville, Iowa, November fifth through eighth. It was a beautiful setting in the rolling hills of southern Iowa and the people there were as hospitable as they could be. They fed us lunch and dinner each day and hosted many of us with a place to stay and breakfast.

As most of us know, TRIM classes can feel like old-home week. The classes online are great. They are informative and there is always good interaction via the internet. But seeing the faces of the people that you have written back and forth to is magic. There were ten of us in this class, and I had been in a class with all but one of them before- and one had attended TRiM orientation with me. The instructor, Jim Kinsey, was also an instructor at that orientation.

The focus of this class was the relationships of people: pastor to congregant, congregant to congregant, church member to non-church member, and families. This topic could have been a difficult one to understand but Jim has a definite passion for the subject and made it easy. His sense of humor and understanding of dynamics of people made the conversation light and sometimes even bold. I would recommend this class and any other that he would teach. No, he did not promise a passing grade for the glowing reference!

We had three books to read to prepare for this weekend class, "Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach" by Dr. Peter Steinke, "Extraordinary Relationships, A New Way of Thinking About Human Interactions" by Dr. Roberta M. Gilbert and "Never Call them Jerks: Healthy Responses to Difficult Behavior" by Dr. Arthur Paul Boers. All were good reading, easy to understand and to the point. Jim also gave us titles and authors of other books that would be appropriate to the subject.

As these titles suggest, we spent a great deal of time focusing on conflict and its resolution. Part of what we learned in this class is that as members of the body of Christ, active dissension destroys that body. But through grace and love, wounds can be healed.

This does not mean that we should all think alike. A church needs differing ideas and opinions in order to grow. It is the constructive pruning of this growth that can lead the way.

Anxiety creates problems that only grace, love and understanding can solve. A person's boundaries are important to them and should be respected. Pastoral and leadership training on these issues is important.

A negative attitude of church leadership can take the life from the congregation, so be positive and focus your efforts on representing Christ.



A congregation should focus on its strengths and move forward in the ways of Christ. Do we care enough to give of our best to Him?

Darrell Barr,
Osage Church of the Brethren,
McCune, KS.

Vital Pastor Cohorts



Pictured above are the participants in the 2009 Vital Pastors “National Pastor’s Retreat” which met November 16-20 at the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center in Palos Verdes, Calif.

The twenty-eight pastors represent six cohorts. Each cohort’s picture, the critical question studied and the destination of the Immersion Retreat can be found on the upcoming pages.

The Vital Pastor program of continuing education for pastors is a part of the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program offered by the Brethren Academy and funded by Lilly Endowment Inc.

Glenn Timmons

Vital Pastor Cohorts



Buckwalter Cohort

Question: *How do we, as older, spiritually mature women use the artistry of ministry to bring justice and beauty together?*

Immersion Retreat Destination:
New Zealand

From Left to Right:

Mary Cline Detrick
Kay Gaier
Debbie Eisenbise
Frances Townsend
Marilyn Lerch
Anita Smith Buckwalter, Facilitator

Lake Cohort

Question: *What are the ways a primitive Christianity and heritage values can provide prophetic guidance for 21st century pastors in light of the emerging experience of spiritual renewal?*

Immersion Retreat Destination:
England and Germany

From Left to Right:

Leslie Lake, Facilitator
Patrick Bailey
Tom Zuercher
Delbert Kettering



Vital Pastor Cohorts



Reiman Cohort

Question: *What leadership qualities and behaviors help congregations form partnerships of learning and service across boundaries of culture and faith?*

Immersion Retreat Destination:
Guatemala

From Left to Right:

Jeanne Rempel

Pearl Rohrer (not pictured)

Michael Titus

Howard Ullery

Ken Reiman, Facilitator

Robbins Cohort

Question: *How do the challenges and difficulties faced by the apostles and early church leaders mirror our own, and what can we learn from them to help us as we serve in our day and time?*

Immersion Retreat Destination:
Israel

From Left to Right:

Edward Robbins, Facilitator

Mervin Wunderlich

Donald Hubbell

Jonathan Bream



Vital Pastor Cohorts



Sgro Cohort

Question: How can we as pastors nurture a holistic approach to New Testament spirituality that will lead us to love God and neighbor with everything we have?

Immersion Retreat Destination:
Ireland

From Left to Right:

Lisa Fike
John Sgro, Facilitator
Ginny Haney
Anthony DiMarco
Kathleen Brinkmeier

Woodard Cohort

Question: As persons called to the set-apart ministry, what traits and practices will best help us (and the church) come alive with vital hearts for the world God so loves while resisting conformity to the world?

Immersion Retreat Destination:
London & Northern Ireland

From Left to Right:

Thomas Powers
David R. Miller
Ed Woodard, Facilitator
Christopher Zepp
Patrick Starkey



**“The Shepherd’s Guide Through the Valley of Debt and Financial Change:
A Comprehensive Manual for Financial Management,
Counseling and Spiritual Guidance”**

By Flora L. Williams, PhD. MDiv, RFC

A book review by *Marilyn Lerch*

Many congregations this time of year have just moved through their budget process for 2010. Especially in these uncertain economic times, that process brings to the surface concerns about the ability of the church to maintain financial stability. If you are a pastor, perhaps you found yourself preaching on stewardship more than once this fall, wondering whether your message is truly transformative. You may also find yourself not only concerned about your own finances, but also faced with others who have lost jobs, and have little hope of finding employment. While Jesus may not have had a pension plan that was floundering or faced a high health insurance bill each month, he talked a great deal about money. As those who work as his servants, we can hardly be faithful unless we do the same.

Just as love begins at home, so too does good stewardship. When one’s personal finances are questionable, it is difficult to provide stewardship leadership in the church with any integrity. We on the Brethren Academy staff know that it is important that those involved in our ministry training programs have **faith based instruction in the area of finance**. Just when we need such help the most, along comes Flora Williams, sharing her wonderful gifts of financial and theological training and years of experience to encourage and instruct us. “The Shepherd’s Guide” will not only assist you as you minister to others in the area of finances, it will provide you with ways to consider your own practices and attitudes. This text, written from an Anabaptist perspective, is currently being used in more than one course at Fuller Theological Seminary as well as in other academic and church settings.

If the whole area of finance makes you uneasy, I would recommend you not only purchase “The Shepherd’s Guide,” but READ it! TRIM students could easily **create an Independent Study Unit** using this text alone. The Rev. Dr. Flora Williams’ credentials are impressive: a 32 year teaching career at a variety of universities – while at Purdue, 25 years of directing a financial clinic and many years of experience as a Registered Financial Consultant. Upon retirement she earned a Master of Divinity Degree at Bethany Theological Seminary. The recipient of many awards, Flora is also the author of 18 other books and over 100 articles.

“The Shepherd’s Guide” is a text that offers not only inspiration, but positive, practical hands-on advice, whether your questions are about college funding or funeral planning. It is solidly grounded in scripture, and provides forms, charts and many short vignettes of individuals which makes it not only a wealth of information but also very readable. If you are tired of feeling discouraged due to the various ways you have had to focus on finances recently, this book is just what you need. It follows what I see as the attitude of Jesus on the subject: realistic and encouraging. “The Shepherd’s Guide” acknowledges the importance of working with all people, regardless of their financial situation.

The 426 page guide leads we shepherds through both the valleys and the green pastures of finances. There are specific chapters that deal with counseling others through financial crisis, the consideration of finances in premarital counseling, the effect of addictions on financial habits and how various seasons of life change our decisions about money. Sermon illustrations and content abound. Underlying all of Flora’s words is a strong belief in the abundance of God, generous and giving to all who would seek to follow faithfully.

Perhaps you need to give yourself an early Christmas gift of this text – so that January, rather than being a time of depression created by a mountain of bills, will instead find you entering the new year with hope, knowing that not only your trust in God, but your own efforts have meant a new attitude and enthusiasm about the resources with which God has blessed you.

Copies of the book (\$27.00) can easily be obtained through a link on Flora Williams’ website:

<http://www.florawilliams.com/>



From the Director's Desk

"Christian life is about embraces—bonds of affection and accountability that unite us in Jesus Christ."

The Promise of Partnership: Leadership and Ministry in An Adult Church, pg. 3

In their book, *The Promise of Partnership: Leadership and Ministry in An Adult Church*, James D. Whitehead and Evelyn Eaton Whitehead offer information, ideas and insights regarding life in the church. They define, cite biblical examples for and explore topics such as authority, collaboration, authenticity, conflict, servant leadership, prophetic leadership and patterns for working relationships. Community is defined as *a ministry group in which shared values lead to common action undertaken in a spirit of mutual concern... each of these elements demands explicit attention* (p.57). The structures of partnership offer processes that *expand dialogue, extend decision-making and enlarge mutual accountability* (p. 174).

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is a ministry training partnership of the Church of the Brethren and Bethany Theological Seminary. It participates with other representative bodies in the Ministry Advisory Council. This group-this partnership-is charged with the responsibility to facilitate effective ministerial leadership in the Church of the Brethren. According to its mission statement and goals, the Ministry Advisory Council will

- Identify emerging ministry issues and concerns and channel them to the partner agencies.
- Enable interagency communication and collaboration in the development and implementation of ministry education programs.
- Encourage and promote appropriate educational requirements and standards for ministerial leadership for the church.
- Encourage and promote consistency of ordination practices of districts.
- Foster common understandings of ministry and ministerial leadership among partner agencies as per the ministerial leadership paper.
- Encourage and promote the most effective use of financial resources for the development of ministerial leadership.
- Encourage and support the spiritual formation and growth of ministerial leadership by congregations and others throughout the denomination.
- Encourage lifelong learning and promote the development of continuing education opportunities.
- Encourage and support congregations and others in the calling out of new persons for ministerial leadership.

The Ministry Advisory Council takes a break at its October 21, 2009 meeting.



Copyright Church of the Brethren / Photo by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

L to R: John Gingrich (Brethren Higher Education Association), David Steele, (District Executive-Middle PA), Dana Cassell (BVS Staff for Vocation and Community Living; Writer, Ministerial Leadership Paper Revision), Georgia Markey (Associate District Executive-Southern PA), Allen Kahler (District Executive-South Central IN), Tara Lea Hornbacker (Bethany Faculty-Ministry Formation) Steven Schweitzer (Bethany-Academic Dean), Julie M. Hostetter (Director-Brethren Academy), Mary Jo Flory-Steury (Executive Director of Ministry for the CoB) and Stanley J. Noffsinger (General Secretary for the CoB).

The Ministry Advisory Council will next meet May 11-12, 2010 at Bethany Seminary.



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

**Coordinator for
Training in Ministry**

Marilyn Lerch
814-623-6095

lerchma@bethanyseminary.edu

Administrative Secretary

Mary Eller
765-983-1824

academy@bethanyseminary.edu

Director

Julie M. Hostetter
765-983-1820

hosteju@bethanyseminary.edu

**Coordinators for
Sustaining Pastoral Excellence**

765-983-1810

Linda Timmons

timmoli@bethanyseminary.edu

Glenn Timmons

timmog1@bethanyseminary.edu