



The Scroll

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

December 2010

District TRIM Coordinators' Retreat

"Ask and you shall receive!" Well it wasn't exactly like that but it did happen sooner than I thought. My District Executive was in my area and we met for lunch to talk over some business as well as to just have some fellowship. He mentioned that PSWD was without a coordinator and I indicated that I could do that. No time was wasted in contacting Marilyn Lerch, the coordinator of TRaining In Ministry. I arrived home that day to Marilyn's phone call. She eyeballed me over the phone and I assured her that I was serious about becoming the TRIM Coordinator for our District. Then she said, "Well we are having training this next week." Reality set in. Days later I was on a plane for Elgin. Our meetings were held in the Church of the Brethren Offices in Elgin, IL.

I had read over the TRIM manual online to prepare myself. My anxiety lessened as I listened to Marilyn explain what we would be doing these next few days. Just being able to meet with other coordinators who had years of experience made me realize that I could count on each one of them for support as I began this position. Marilyn was very professional and quite knowledgeable in her presentation. What I realized was that everyone around our table was committed to TRIM. We all wanted to do our best and to help present and future students reach their highest potential, not just complete TRIM. God calls us in many ways and I definitely felt his calling during this training. I still have much to learn but I know that God and these fellow coordinators along with Marilyn's guidance will be there to assist me.

It was exciting to see the potential of this position. Having met in Elgin at the same time as the Mission and Ministry Board helped to tie what I will be doing as a TRIM coordinator to the larger picture of Brethren ministry. Fellowship was an important part of this training too. Thank you Willard, "Duly", Dulabaum! Duly took the group into Chicago for an Architectural Tour of the city. The weather was great and I will remember our tour. We experienced a wonderful Greek meal, thank you Marilyn. I was a little blurry eyed after my flight back to California but I am ready to do my best as a TRIM coordinator.

Jim Martinez, PSWD



Photo: Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

Mary Jo Flory-Steury (Exec. Dir of Ministry), Vicki Ehret (Atlantic SE TRIM Coord.), Gene Hipskind (OR/WA and S Plains TRIM Coord.), Marilyn Lerch (TRIM Program Coord.), Jim Martinez (Pacific SW TRIM Coord.), Kathy Gingrich (IL/WI TRIM Coord.), Jim McKinnel (Virgina and Shenandoah TRIM Coord.), Lois Grove (N Plains TRIM Coord.), Stan Noffsinger (General Secretary)

A Brethren Academy TRIM Experience at McPherson College, Kansas: Missional Engagement Within and Beyond the Classroom Setting

I can now cross “visiting the campus of all six of our Brethren colleges” off my “Bucket List”. (If you haven’t seen the movie, I recommend it!).

It was a delightful weekend in November as ten of us gathered with instructor Jim Kinsey for a course that would help us to lead “Healthy Congregations, Healthy Prospects and Missional Engagement”. The texts that Jim chose certainly peaked our interest, and discussion was both passionate and plentiful as we learned from Jim’s wealth of experience and considered how new ideas would be played out in our congregations from Louisiana to Nebraska to Pennsylvania. A particular joy of mine was to be among other students who are leaders in churches in the Midwest, for I think those of us in the populous Brethren “east” have much to learn from the experience of our Midwestern brothers and sisters. Circumstances have given them a jump start on those of us who are now only considering what it means to be bi-vocational and creative by necessity in our church experience. I would challenge TRIM students who live east of the Ohio River to consider taking a class offered in a Midwest setting to expand your view of our denomination and its mission!

What prompted my trip to McPherson was the interest the college has in hosting courses offered by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership on a regular basis. It was Parents’ Weekend at McPherson, so we arranged our class schedule in order to enjoy a meal together downtown Saturday evening in a restaurant whose cuisine would be a hit anywhere, and also to attend the college’s performance of “Grease.” I had the privilege of meeting with our hosts of the Office of the Academic Affairs who provided us with a very comfortable classroom setting in a board room, and offered us more than adequate meals in the college cafeteria for \$3.00 a meal. The students in this class found housing in conveniently located hotels, a number pairing up through the course roster to make housing more affordable. In the future, I will be looking at the possibility of having housing available in the homes of COB members even though we will be meeting on campus rather than in a church setting.

All of this is to give you a bird’s eye view of the good possibilities that lie head on the McPherson College campus. Its location - just an easy hour’s drive north of Wichita - makes the college very accessible not only for a number of our Midwestern TRIM students, but also for those who want to fly in for a class. In the spring, Jim Tomlinson will be teaching a CoB polity and ethics course at McPherson. Check it out!

Marilyn Lerch, TRIM Coordinator



The class shares a moment of laughter during a break.



Marilyn Lerch meets Kent Eaton, Vice President for Academic Affairs at McPherson College and his Administrative Assistant, Marylyn Mattaei

Photos: Marilyn Lerch

A Brethren Academy TRIM Experience at Bedford CoB, Bedford PA

The weekend class on "Exploring the Book of Acts" was my first experience in a weekend intensive class. For me it was a time not only for learning more about the book of Acts, but also for learning to know others involved in a variety of church leadership positions in other parts of our brotherhood. Rick kept the class, itself, moving and interesting by providing a number of different small group sharing opportunities during the class sessions. And the class interaction kept us thinking about how the book of Acts speaks to our congregations today.

Of course, the students involved in this class were, for me, an important part of this memorable experience. I enjoyed interacting with the mixture of TRIM students from 4 different states, local pastors, and interested church members. We enjoyed wonderful fellowship as we shared several meals together and learned more about each other's lives. In addition, I was one of the students who took advantage of the opportunity to stay in a local home as a part of my time in Bedford, so I was delighted to be able to visit in the home of Marilyn Lerch. This added one more touch of welcome and warmth to an already great weekend. And of course, it was most meaningful to be able to close our session by worshipping with the members of the Bedford congregation on Sunday morning. This was a great opportunity for me and I am glad I was able to make that lovely, scenic drive to Bedford, PA in October.

Pictured is the "Exploring the Book of Acts" class that was held in October at the Bedford (PA) Church of the Brethren. Back row from left to right: Rick Gardiner (Instructor), Beverly Swindell (Assoc Pastor Everett COB), Sue Baer (member, Bedford COB) Randy Short (TRIM student), Dave McDaniel (TRIM student). Front row: Anna Swindell (member, Everett COB), Barbara Wise Lewczak (TRIM student), Mary Etta Reinhart (TRIM student), Marilyn Lerch (TRIM Coordinator, Brethren Academy) Not pictured: Janet Sell, pastor of the Snake Spring Valley COB





Upcoming Academy Level Courses:

“Introduction to the New Testament”, *on line*, Instructor Susan Jeffers, January 17, 2011 – March 11, 2011 (BT) *Registration Deadline: December 17, 2010*

“Teaching and Learning in the Church”, *on line*, Instructor Rhonda Pittman Gingrich, March 14 – May 15, 2011 (Holy Week/Easter break April 18-24) (MS) *Registration Deadline: February 14, 2011*

“An onsite course in CoB Polity and Ethics, McPherson College, Instructor Jim Tomlonson (BT or MS depending on final project)

***“The Historic Peace Churches Seeking Cultures of Peace”**, Bethany Theological Seminary, Instructor Scott Holland, Bethany faculty, June 13-17, 2011 (BT) *Registration Deadline: May 9, 2011*

****“The Protestant Church of Germany: Past and Present”**, Study tour to Germany, Instructor Ken Rogers, June 13-25, 2011. (MS and BT, plus a Bethany and Intercultural experience for TRIM students) See flyer in this issue of The Scroll and posted on our Academy website at <http://www.bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy> *Registration Deadline: December 31, 2010*

“Brethren History”, online, Instructor Denise Kettering, dates TBD, Summer 2011 (BT)

Other courses being planned for 2011 - 2012:

***A course in Bible and Theology**, McPherson College, Instructor Rick Gardner, Fall 2011 (BT)

“Introduction to Old Testament” *on line*, Instructor: Craig Gandy, Fall, 2011 (BT)

“The Spiritual Life of the Congregation”, online, Instructor Rhonda Pittman Gingrich, Winter 2012 (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)

Registration brochures for these and other training opportunities are available through the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership at their website:

<http://www.bethanyseminary.edu/academy>
or by calling 1-800-287-8822, ext 1824.

Announcing SeBAH - CoB



Photo credit to Marcia Shelter

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is creating a new Spanish language training program for the Church of the Brethren. The new program will work as a Brethren track in the Mennonite Education Agency's program for Hispanic Pastoral Leadership Education, Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano. This Spanish language training track, SeBAH-CoB, will parallel the Academy Certified Training System (ACTS) programs that are in place for English speaking students. Students will participate in the courses offered by SeBAH and then complete courses specifically designed for the Church of the Brethren.

The first cohort is in Atlantic Northeast District, and is scheduled to hold an orientation at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., January 20-23, 2011.

Rafael Barahona, associate director of the Mennonite Education Agency, director of SeBAH and Julie M. Hostetter, director of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

The Pacific Southwest district affirmed the formation of a CoB-Mennonite cohort group that will have an orientation session late winter 2011.

Several additional districts and individuals have expressed interest in the SeBAH-CoB program and more cohorts will be formed in the future.



Photo credit to Marcia Shelter

Rafael Barahona, associate director of the Mennonite Education Agency, director of SeBAH
Carlos Romero, executive director of the Mennonite Education Agency
Mary Jo Flory-Steury via Skype, executive director office of ministry for the Church of the Brethren, Julie M. Hostetter, director of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership
Steve Schweitzer, academic dean at Bethany Theological Seminary

Sustaining Pastoral Excellence

Advanced Foundation of Church Leadership District Executives



Photo: Marcia Shetler

Front Row: (Left to Right) Georgia Markey (SPA), Sonja Griffith (W Plains)
Second Row: Tim Button-Harrison, (N Plains) Martha Beach (, Ron Beachely
Third Row: David Shetler, Kendall Elmore, John Ballinger,
Kevin Kessler, Herman Kauffman, Gene Hagenberger

Beginning in 2004, the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership distributed funds from a Lilly Endowment Inc. grant for *Sustaining Pastoral Excellence*. Two tracks were devised for the program, the Vital Pastor (see the article below) and Advanced Foundations of Church Leadership. The AFCL track with Jonathan Shively and Lowell Flory as coordinators included 26 participants over six years (2003-'04, '05-'06, '07-'08). Each of the pastors in the three cohorts participated in eight leadership training sessions over the course of two years and received 8 continuing education units for completion of the program. This program offered opportunities for participants to work in a small cohort group (8-10 pastors), to worship together, study and reflect on leadership theory and practice, relate to each other in formal and informal contexts, and explore ways they could effect change personally and professionally.

In September 2010, the BAML was pleased to offer a SPE-AFCL track for District Executives coordinated by Julie M. Hostetter and Lowell Flory. Eleven district executives participated in the sessions at the Quaker Hill Conference Center. Tara Lea Hornbacker, Associate Professor of Ministry Formation at Bethany Theological Seminary, provided a focus on spiritual formation as each participant shared his/her spiritual autobiography. The group will gather again February 28-March 3, 2011 to continue focusing on holistic health (intellectual, spiritual, emotional, relational, physical), greater connectedness to the whole, and seeing themselves as transformational leaders.

Note: Several pastors have expressed interest in beginning a SPE-AFCL cohort in August 2011. For more information on this cohort group, please contact the BAML at academy@bethanyseminary.edu or academy@brethren.org.

Vital Pastor Cohorts



Pictured above are the participants in the 2010 Vital Pastor “National Pastors’ Retreat” which met November 8-12, 2010 at the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center in Palos Verdes, Calif.

The thirty-one pastors represent seven cohorts. The districts represented were Atlantic Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Pacific Southwest, West Marva, Western Pennsylvania, and Western Plains. 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 and Linda Timmons



Davidson Cohort

Question: What does it mean for us to become effective rural mission-oriented pastoral leaders in effective rural, great commission, mission-oriented ministries?

Immersion Retreat Destination:
Chicago to visit mission-oriented ministries and ministers

From Left to Right:

Ed Switzer

Ken Davidson, Facilitator

George Hinson (not pictured, attended via Skype)

Vital Pastor Cohorts

All Vital Pastor Cohort photos: David Sollenberger



Eikler Cohort

Question: *How does engaging other religious traditions inform and transform us and our practice of ministry?*

Immersion Retreat Destination:
Shikoku Island and Hiroshima,
Japan

From Left to Right:

Russ Matteson
Erin Matteson
Carrie Eikler
Torin Eikler, Facilitator
Sara Haldeman-Scarr
Bill Haldeman-Scarr

Oltman Cohort

Question: *How do we as pastors of diverse congregations experience abundant life in Christ as we individually grow in our discipleship, and hence, our ability to foster healthy relationships in Christ's love with others?*

Immersion Retreat Destination:
Church of the Savior, Washington,
D.C.; Great Bend Retreats

From Left to Right:

Sonja Griffith
Marlo Oltman, Facilitator
Leslie Frye



Vital Pastor Cohorts



Smalley Cohort

Question: What are the attitudes, skills, and principles we need as ministerial leaders to work effectively in our own cross-cultural and multi-cultural settings?

Immersion Retreat Destination:
Quo Vadis Center for Interfaith Dialogue in Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu, India

From Left to Right:
Barbra Davis
Chris Stover-Brown
Michael Burr
David Smalley, Facilitator

Snyder Cohort

Question: What personal worship and spiritual direction/formation practices shape us as corporate worship planners and leaders to encourage spiritual formation in the congregation?

Immersion Retreat Destination:
Iona Community, Scotland

From Left to Right:
Laura Snyder, Facilitator
Karen Cox
Jon Tuttle
Keith Funk



Vital Pastor Cohorts



Speicher Cohort

Question: How do we develop and sustain courage and passion to minister to our communities within a culture of fear?

Immersion Retreat Destination:
Nigeria, Africa

From Left to Right:
Del Keeney
Belita Mitchell
Wally Landes
Peter Haynes
Timothy Speicher, Facilitator

Wenger Cohort

Question: As pastoral leaders, what actions and initiatives on our part will lead our churches into a deeper encounter with Christ and motivate them to be actively engaged in a counter-cultural fashion in the mission of Christ in our world??

Immersion Retreat Destination:
Current Christian Ministries in England along with historical sites related to the Anabaptist/Pietist movement in England and Germany

From Left to Right:
William Wenger, Facilitator
William Waugh
Jeffrey Fackler
Linda Stoner
John Stoner, Jr.
Rob Rummel



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Upcoming Event!

Attention District Executive Ministers, District New Church Development Committees, Church Planter Support teams, and Church Planters.

Mark Vincent, with Design Group International, will present a webinar on funding and budgets for new churches. He gives insight into past and current funding practices and shares new ideas being developed by new church starts. It will be beneficial to view Mark's recorded webinar series "Oh-My to A-Men" series at

<http://bethanyseminary.edu/webcasts/MoneyLeadership2010>

Webinar Dates: January 11, 2011 @ 12:30 pm pacific/3:30 pm eastern
or

January 13, 2011 @ 5:00 pm pacific/8:00 pm eastern (repeat session)

Enter the webcast 5-10 minutes prior to the start time at:

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

More information needed? Contact Stan Dueck at

sdueck@brthren.org

or by calling 717-335-3226



Ministry of Reconciliation & Church of the Brethren Credit Union

Faith, Family & Finances:

How to live faithfully within your means and keep peace in the family

Sponsored by:

Midland Church of the
Brethren Servant Ministries
Team

Schedule:

Saturday, February 12, 2011
9 am to 4 pm
Lunch & Child Care provided

Cost:

Free will donation
*Continuing Education Units
available to Church of the
Brethren ministers for \$10 fee*

To register:

Send name, contact info and
number of participants to
Shirley Brooks (540-439-2400
jbplumr@verizon.net)

Registration deadline is

February 7, 2011.



On Earth Peace
P.O. Box 188
New Windsor, MD 21776
Phone: 410-635-8704
E-mail:
lfrye@onearthpeace.org



**Saturday,
February 12, 2011**
9 am – 4 pm
at
**Midland
Church of the Brethren**
10434 Old Carolina Rd
Midland, VA 22728

*For those experiencing financial
challenges or who know someone who
is – in other words, everyone!*

In this workshop we will acknowledge the important role money management plays in our lives by speaking openly about how to live within our means. And we will work through ways we can actively love each other as we face the unique challenges that financial crises bring.

Learn:

- How to set goals that help you to live comfortably within your means.
- How your values help you make financial decisions.
- To communicate openly and honestly about finances.

Leadership:

**Charletta Erb, Ministry of Reconciliation
Lynnae Rodeffer, Church of the Brethren
Credit Union, Brethren Benefit Trust**



From the Director's Desk

When most of us talk about change, we typically mean incremental change. Incremental change is usually limited in scope and is often reversible...we feel we are in control.

Deep change differs from incremental change in that it requires new ways of thinking and behaving. It is change that is major in scope, discontinuous with the past and generally irreversible. The deep change effort distorts existing patterns of action and involves taking risks...(it) means surrendering control.

from *Deep Change: Discovering the Leader Within* by Robert E. Quinn; Jossey-Bass, 1996, p.2.

In his book, Quinn guides the reader through the process of deep- as opposed to incremental- change. Each chapter includes exercises for reflecting on and responding to personal and organizational steps to change. As I reviewed the notes and reflections I made in 2006 while reading this book, I realized that most of my changes in the past four years have been incremental. The only deep changes have been through a transition in ministry context (from working with the United Methodists to returning to work among the Brethren) and when facing recent health issues (cancer surgery and follow-up radiation treatments). Risk taking and surrendering control are not easy for me!

Over the past year, the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership has engaged in some incremental changes:

- We are offering a TRIM level course each semester at McPherson College as we continue to provide on-campus, on-site and online classes for training program students, clergy seeking continuing education options, and anyone interested in exploring ministry-related topics.
- We updated our financial assistance programs so that they are compliant with regulations for taxable income.
- We have formed a cohort of eleven district executives in the Advanced Foundations of Church Leadership track, part of the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program funded by Lilly Endowment Inc.

In two ministry areas, the BAML has undertaken some changes that might be perceived as deep change for the future:

- We have entered a partnership with the Mennonite Education Agency to provide a Spanish language training program for the Church of the Brethren. Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH-CoB) is a certificate level program that will parallel the Academy Certified Training System programs available to English speaking students. Atlantic Northeast district will hold a cohort orientation January 20-23, 2011 at the New Windsor Service Center; Pacific Southwest district plans to begin a CoB-Mennonite cohort in late winter.

- We provided a live webcast on *The Chronicler* with Old Testament scholars, Steve Schweitzer, Bob Neff and Frank Romero. A recording of the webcast can be found at the BTS website. Podcasts by these three scholars that focus on the chapters of the Covenant Bible series book, *The Chronicler*, will be available soon.

This is a season with potential for change. Many of us respond to God's greatest gift of love with incremental changes. Thanks be to God! Yet in the birth, life and ministry, and death and resurrection of Jesus, we have a model for deep change. Risk taking and surrendering control are opportunities we all face as we respond to God's call in our lives.

During the coming year, may Christ's passion for reconciliation and compassion for all people inform and form our ministry. And may Christ's presence and the companionship of others on the journey sustain us during times of meaningful change!



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

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