



The Scroll

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

Vol.3, No. 1, February 2009

November 2008 TRIM Coordinators' Meeting

It happens once a year: a gathering of TRIM District Coordinators with Academy leadership. This year it happened November 20-22 at Bethany Seminary. Here are some highlights of our time together as we:

- Worshiped and sang as a choir (unrehearsed), placed ourselves on a map and in a puzzle, quickly developed a group spirit, and somehow spontaneously coined the phrase, "Holy Spirit Left-overs," (any explanation of which would be far less interesting than letting the reader's imagination wander freely....except, perhaps, to indicate that it had nothing to do with food)
- Gave leadership to a joint chapel service of Bethany and Earlham School of Religion, with Myrna Wheeler speaking and Lois Grove leading worship
- Learned a new (for some of us) word, "steeplejacking," from the more worldly-wise among us
- Reviewed the basics of ACTS, EFSM, and TRIM
- Learned about two Academy insight sessions in planned for the 2009 Annual Conference, including a panel presentation on degree and training programs
- Heard a recommendation for the book, Lines, Spaces and Heritage, edited by Steve Longenecker & Jeff Bach
- Met interim administrative secretary, Mary Eller, who took us on a "Paper Trail" of Academy office procedures (no music nor clippity-clop sound effects, and very little dust on this trail)
- Met with new Academy director, Julie Hostetter, who shared plans and dreams, answered our many questions, and more
- Received a detailed report from Marilyn Lerch, TRIM coordinator, and Jim Tomlinson on the content, goals, and courses involved in TRIM Orientation, and what servant leadership really means

November 2008 TRIM Coordinators' Meeting

- Received an update on TRIM policies and procedures, particularly regarding some changes:
 - Did you know? ...The TRIM Profile now contains the **only district signature** officially recommending a new student; from that point on admission is more or less assumed, and an official signature is no longer part of the application...
- Received the latest revision of the TRIM notebook pages through page 62 (up to Supervised Ministry Experience)
- Spent significant time considering Supervised Ministry Training and its contract. Changes may be forthcoming. And we questioned, should the "Supervisor" title be changed to suggest a more mutual role, such as mentor or partner?
- Saw a sample TRIM brochure put out by one district with many transferable features which could be used in any or all districts
- Visited the Brethren Heritage Center at Brookville, hosted by Mark Flory-Steury, Southern Ohio District Executive
- Were treated to the Annual Coordinators' Appreciation Dinner – a special treat – with hospitality and dessert in the home of Julie and Mike Hostetter

In addition to those mentioned by name, fourteen district coordinators attended this year's meeting. For next year, we explored the possibility of piggy-backing onto another gathering such as NOAC.

On behalf of all the coordinators, thank you to the Academy staff members- especially Marilyn Lerch- for hosting us so graciously, and supporting us as we work to provide leadership training within our districts.

Dufy Dulabaum

Illinois-Wisconsin District



L-R: Mary Mueller and Sandee Kitzel explore an interesting display at the Brethren Heritage Center in Brookville, Ohio



TRIM Coordinators (front the front) Gene Hipskind, Clyde Fry, Tom Bowser and Lois Grove contemplate the responsibilities of ministry training.

Upcoming Academy Level Courses:

*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)

2009:

"Ezekiel" *on line*, Instructor Susan Jeffers, Feb 16 – March 27, (SVMC) (BT)

"Introduction to New Testament" *on line*, Instructor Susan Jeffers,
Mar.16- May 1 (no class Holy Week) (BT)

** **"Psalms"** Stone COB, Huntingdon, PA, Instructor Robert Neff,
April 23-26 (SVMC) (BT)

* **"The Spiritual Life of the Pastor"** *on line*. Instructor Josh Brockway, May 1 – June 25 (MS)

** **Distinctive Marks of the Brethren"** McPherson COB, McPherson, KS,
Instructor Kate Eisenbise, June 11-14 (BT)

"Introduction to Old Testament" *on line*, Instructor Craig Gandy,
summer or fall (BT)

* **"Passions of Youth, Practices of Christ"** Codorus (PA) COB,
Instructor Russell Haitch, September 24-27 (MS)

Two other courses are in the works for 2009:

"Small Healthy Congregations" *on site*, Instructor Jim Kinsey, fall (MS)

"Pastoral Care" *on line*, fall (MS)

2010 Projections so far:

***"January Intensive"** Bethany Theological Seminary, Instructor Dawn Ottoni Wilhelm, (MS)

***"Church Planting"** Bethany Theological Seminary, Academy Level Course (MS)

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

Advanced Foundations of Church Leadership

November 14 marked the graduation of the third cohort of the Advanced Foundations of Church Leadership seminar. In the last six years this seminar has included participants with 3 to 20+ years of pastoral experience representing 15 districts of the denomination.



The recent AFCL cohort included:

Liz Bidgood Enders, Harrisburg, PA
Jonathan Shively, Exec. Dir. CLT
Gene Hagenberger, Easton, MD
Pam Reist, Elizabethtown, PA
Dana McNeil, Peoria, IL
Kathi Griffin, Newport News, VA
Lowell Flory, Advancement at BTS
Glenn McCrickard, Cloverdale, VA
Jim Kelly, Clovis, NM
Rick Koch, Milledgeville, IL

They were a spirited and creative group, which became evident, early in the seminar series and carried right through to their closing antics at the graduation banquet.

Following the schedule patterns of previous groups, these eight pastors met for a week in January, April, August, and November for two years. Five of the eight sessions were at Richmond, Indiana. The two August sessions and one January session were at other locations.

The intended design of the seminar series has been to blend biblical and spiritual dimensions of leadership with secular and group process understandings of leadership. Worship opened and closed each week's seminar and opened most days' activities within those weeks. Daily activities included:

- analyzing and applying case studies of various types,
- exploring biblical models or themes for leadership,
- viewing and discussing movies for the leadership insights they provided,
- examining results of numerous leadership questionnaires and inventories that participants completed or colleagues of theirs completed about them,
- intense discussion of the contents of several dozen books that were assigned or recommended over the eight sessions, as well as miscellaneous readings of less than book length,
- time with spiritual accountability partners,
- quiet time for reflection and planning, and
- an occasional basketball or volleyball game or walk in the woods at whatever location served as home for the sessions on a given week.

AFCL continued...

Especially during the sessions where we traveled to non-Richmond locations, there were times of relaxation and group sightseeing, ranging from backwaters and swamps of eastern Florida to the hills of central Kentucky, to a city experience in Seattle, including a variety of worship services in a nontraditional settings and a Mariners baseball game.



Primary leadership for the series was provided by Jonathan Shively, former Director of the Brethren Academy and current Executive Director of Congregational Life Ministries, and Lowell Flory, currently in the Advancement Department at Bethany who came with experience in leadership development from earlier in his career. Other instructors were also part of the schedule, some from the Bethany faculty and some from other roles in the church.

The seminar series has been supported by the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., though it was originally started as a self-supporting program before Lilly funding appeared. We hope that a successor of the Advanced Foundations program will unfold as soon as staff and funding transitions are completed. ~ ~ *Lowell Flory*

Vital Pastor Cohorts

Six Vital Pastor cohorts completed their programs in November 2008. The participants met at the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center, Rancho Palos Verdes, California



Vital Pastor Cohorts



Indiana & Northern Ohio Cohort:

Question: *How shall the Brethren be grown – what are the pastoral leadership characteristics and skills needed to help congregations grow?*

Immersion Retreat Destination:
Historic Church of the Brethren and contemporary Anabaptist (Mennonite) sites in Europe

From Left to Right:

Linda Lewis
Cara McCallister
Dennis Beckner - Facilitator
Carol Pfeiffer
Mark Stahl

Middle Pennsylvania Cohort:

Question: *In light of a dominant North American culture that breeds alienation, what can we learn from our spiritual ancestors (Anabaptists, Pietists, and other Christian traditions) to strengthen our personal and community practices in order to become a more whole and faithful people?*

Immersion Retreat Destination:
Western European Brethren and Anabaptist sites of historical and spiritual significance, including Schwarzenau, Schriesheim, Marburg, Northern Netherlands, etc.



From Left to Right: Connie Maclay, Marlys Hershberger, David Banaszak, Dottie Steele, Dale Dowdy – Facilitator, Ken Kline Smeltzer

Vital Pastor Cohorts



Atlantic Northeast Cohort:

Question: *What leadership skills are needed to pastor disciple-forming communities in a postmodern world?*

Immersion Retreat Destination:
London, England

From Left to Right: Steve Hess, Dennis Garrison, Phil Reynolds, Bob Kettering, Ryan Braught, and John Hostetter - Facilitator

Illinois - Wisconsin Cohort:

Question: *How can we share the Gospel in ways that will move ourselves (and our congregations) more intentionally toward joyous worship, active peacemaking, passionate faith, and spiritual maturity?*

Immersion Retreat Destination:
San Francisco (Mercy Center, Glide Memorial, Grace Episcopal Church), Berkeley (Pacific School of Religion)

From Left to Right: Joel Kline – Facilitator, Christy Waltersdorff, Kreston Lipscomb, Dennis Webb, and Orlando Redekopp



Vital Pastor Cohorts



Mid-Atlantic and Southern Ohio Cohort:

Question: *How do image, story and place create openings for spiritual transformation in us?*

Immersion Retreat Destination: Italy and Greece

From Left to Right: Tracy Knechel Sturgis, Kim McDowell – Facilitator, Paula Bowser – Facilitator, Darlene Myers, and Nancy Fitzgerald

Mid-Atlantic, Atlantic Northeast and Southern Pennsylvania Cohort:

Question: *What are the insights and skills needed for effective pastoral leadership to minister amid the intersections of our Anabaptist/Pietist identity and the emerging postmodern church/culture?*

Immersion Retreat Destination: New Zealand and Australia

From Left to Right: Twyla Rowe, Dick Shreckhise, Jim Zerfing – Facilitator, Dennis Lohr





From the Director's Desk

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

II Timothy 2:15

Accountability and transparency in leadership are timeless traits. As those called to lead and serve, we at the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership are providing an annual report of our ministries among students, congregations, and district and denominational partners. If you have questions, comments or seek clarification, please feel free to contact us.

Jonathan Shively completed eight years as Director of the Academy and began serving as the Executive Director of Congregational Life Ministries for the Church of the Brethren on July 1, 2008. He provided leadership for the annual spring Cross-Cultural Consultation and Celebration that was held in Elgin, IL and the bi-annual Church Planting Training Event held May 15-17 at Bethany Theological Seminary. Along with Lowell Flory, he led the August and November sessions of Advanced Foundations of Church Leadership, part of the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program. Eight pastors representing five districts participated in the final cohort of this Lilly Endowment Inc. grant program. Shively and Flory also provided leadership training experiences for the Western Plains district.

Marilyn Lerch serves as part-time pastor of the Bedford Church of the Brethren (Middle PA district) and part-time coordinator of Training in Ministry (TRIM). Seventy-seven students from 19 districts participated in this program. She planned and implemented a February orientation for six TRIM students from four districts and a June orientation for seven TRIM students and two Education for Shared Ministry (EFSM) students from four districts. At the 2008 Annual Conference Bethany luncheon, the Academy celebrated the graduation of 17 TRIM and four EFSM students. These Academy graduates have now completed the educational requirement for ordination consideration by their districts. During the past year, the Academy organized eight residential and two on-line courses for students, pastors and lay people. In November, the annual TRIM district coordinators' meeting took place at Bethany Theological Seminary. Fourteen coordinators discussed updates and possibilities for the program, led worship for the BTS community, interacted with faculty, met with the new director and spent time in fellowship together.

As of August 2008, 112 pastors have participated in the Vital Pastor track of the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program. In a November 2008 retreat, six cohorts with a total of 31 pastors presented information, ideas and insights gained from their two years of study and travel together. Under the guidance of co-coordinators, Linda and Glenn Timmons, this Lilly Endowment Inc. grant will continue with a group of pastors

completing their two year process with an ending retreat in 2009, and another group beginning in January 2009 and completing their program in November 2010.

Debbie Mullins served as the Academy administrative secretary for six years before leaving in October to pursue other vocational possibilities. Mary Eller, former staff at the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center, began the position of interim administrative secretary. She assisted in reorganizing the Academy office and relocating the TRIM/EFSM archive files from the denominational offices to Bethany Seminary.

Beginning July 1, 2008, Julie Mader Hostetter assumed responsibilities as the Director for the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. Communication has been a key Academy emphasis with weekly staff sessions, resumption of the quarterly electronic newsletter, and reports for and meetings with congregational, district and denominational partners. Coordinating the EFSM program (nine students and supervisors from five districts), working with continuing education options for ministers, and assisting with the annual cross-cultural consultation and the bi-annual church planting program are components of the director's portfolio. In collaboration with Bethany Seminary and the CoB Ministry Office, the Academy has engaged Steve Clapp of Christian Community Inc. to conduct a major survey of all pastors and a sampling of congregational leaders. While this survey is broad in its scope, it has a section for those who have participated in the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence programs. Data is being analyzed to determine what the Academy will offer in the future for continuing education for pastors.

The Academy will continue to respond to the needs of congregations, the denomination and seminary as programs are implemented that equip women and men for ministry, encourage life-long learning and build up the body of Christ.



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

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