

The Scroll

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

Vol. 4, No. 1, May 2009

TRIM / EFSM Orientation March 26-29, 2009

Traveling to Richmond, Indiana to attend the orientation program for TRIM and EFSM, I was just a tiny bit apprehensive and full of questions. Would the program meet my expectations? Would the group of students be compatible? And perhaps uppermost in my mind, how would this program work to shape me and form my ministry? By Sunday afternoon when I looked back over the four days of intense study and discussion, deep spiritual focus, and the formation of a new community out of our orientation group, all I could say was, "Wow!"

Eight students—six in TRIM, two in EFSM; seven women, one man; from Maryland, Florida, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri; and with an age span of 40 years--brought diverse life and faith experiences into the President's Conference Room at Bethany Theological Seminary. We each shared one experience in common, however, that of feeling called into ministry and responding to that call with a "Yes!" Through the skillful direction of the Orientation leaders, we found that our differences strengthened us and brought us together as a community.

The Brethren Academy staff worked hard to maximize our time at Bethany. Activities each day had been well planned and it seemed that not a minute was wasted. Besides the classroom time devoted to TRIM and EFSM orientation, we had the opportunity to interact with seminary faculty, staff and students on several occasions. Our Orientation program overlapped with the Spring meeting of the Bethany Board of Trustees, which brought us into contact with church leaders from around the country. Our group felt included and welcomed into the Bethany setting, which gave us a better understanding of the overall program for ministry preparation in the Church of the Brethren.

TRIM / EFSM Orientation

We also were invited to attend a lecture on “A Jewish Tentmaker Preaches Peace,” by Professor Dan Ulrich in celebration of his recent promotion. This lecture was a high point of our orientation experience, as the content correlated so well with the class on “Servant Leadership” which we had attended that same day. It also provided us with an example of the way that a New Testament scholar approaches Paul’s writings, the kinds of questions that a scholar might ask, and the methods that can be used in constructing an answer.

We drew together in worship several times, and each one of us learned something new and creative about worship. I had heard of Lectio Divina before but had never been part of such a group. Under the direction of Tara Hornbacker, we opened up our ears and our hearts to hearing scripture in a new way.

I left Richmond feeling that the TRIM program has both the depth and the flexibility to help me grow in my ministry. More importantly, the Orientation program affirmed my call to ministry (as I suspect it did for others in the group as well) and fostered the feeling of community so essential for ministry to flourish.

Janice Shull, Pastor, Venice Community Church of the Brethren, Venice, Florida

*TRIM / EFSM Orientation
Participants: (Left to Right)*

Jeremy Westlake -Browning IL,
Julie Hostetter – Brethren
Academy Director,
Sharon Heien -Centerville IA,
Amy Bell - Union Bridge MD,
Diane Mason - Moulton IA,
Marilyn Koehler - Udell IA,
Janice Shull - Venice FL,
Diana Smith -Warsaw MO,
Marilyn Lerch – TRIM
Coordinator, and
Becky Henry - Frederick MD



Upcoming Academy Level Courses:

2009:

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

* **"The Spiritual Life of the Pastor"** *on line*. Instructor Josh Brockway, July 6 - August 28 (MS)

"Introduction to Biblical Languages" *on line* Instructor Susan Jeffers, June 8 – August 14 (SVMC) (BT)
<http://www.read-the-bible.org/SVMC-Biblical-Languages.htm>

"Introduction to Old Testament" *on line*, Instructor Craig Gandy, August 24 – October 17 (BT)

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

"Judges" *on line* Instructor Susan Jeffers, September 28 – November 6 (SVMC) (BT)
<http://www.read-the-bible.org/SVMC-Judges.htm>

"Healthy Relationship/Spirituality in a Small Membership Congregation" Jim Kinsey, a certified trainer/consultant in the Healthy Congregations National Network will be offering this Academy Level course. It will be scheduled for either October or November in Iowa. (MS)

"Brethren Polity and Practice" Young Center on the campus of Elizabethtown College, Instructor Warren Eshbach, November 20-22, call SVMC for further details. (MS)

2010 Projections:

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

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

***"Rituals, Ordinances and Worship"** Bethany Theological Seminary, Instructor Dawn Ottoni Wilhelm, May 10-14 (MS)

***"Church Planting"** Bethany Theological Seminary, Instructor TBA, course to be held before or following Church Planting Conference which will be May 20-22, 2010 (MS)

"Exploring Urban/Cross Cultural Ministry" Scott Holland, Associate Professor of Peace Studies and Cross Cultural Ministries at Bethany will be the instructor for this course which will meet either before or following Annual Conference 2010 in Pittsburgh PA. (MS)

*Bethany Experience

**Brethren College Experience

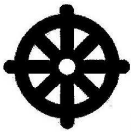
Courses noted as "SVMC" need to be registered for through the
Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center at SVMC@etown.edu, 717-361-1450

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 by emailing academy@bethanyseminary.edu or calling 1-800-287-8822, ext 1824.

Onsite Academy Course Highlights

In January I had the privilege to participate in an onsite intensive class offered by the Brethren Academy at Bethany Seminary. While it was definitely a sacrifice to leave my sunny Florida home for the cold and snowy Indiana winter, the experience was well worthwhile. The study was entitled "The Reality of the Unseen" taught by Mike Hostetter. Mike brought a wealth of information and insight to the subject of the five world religions that we covered in four days: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. In this course we explored the historical context, core beliefs and practices, and key contributions each religion makes to the larger world. Three texts were assigned as required reading prior to the class: *The World's Religions* by Huston Smith; *Relating to People of Other Religions - What Every Christian Needs to Know* by M. Thomas Thangaraj; and *The Faith Club* by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner. Having read these prior to class made the discussions and activities much more productive.



Buddhism



Judaism



Islam

In the religiously diverse world in which we live today, it is so important to know and understand how others perceive God, how they worship, and how they live out their faith. Throughout this course the overarching message that came through was the importance of finding common ground without diminishing the uniqueness of each religion. In our study it became immediately apparent that we needed to check all our presuppositions, misconceptions, prejudices and misunderstandings at the door if we were to succeed in understanding other religions and the people who practice them. Sometimes in our zeal to convert others to our way of thinking, we feel we must convince others of the errors of their thinking without recognizing how untenable that attitude is. If we are to learn how to live in a society where others are different from us, we need to learn how to respect those differences. And the keys to respecting others include knowledge and understanding. This class was helpful in opening the door of understanding not only others and their views, but also in examining our own views and the methods we use to relate to those who have differing beliefs. I highly recommend this class to all TRIM students as well as pastors and lay people.



Hinduism



Christianity

I have participated in both online and onsite classes, and while I appreciate the value of both; I am drawn more to the onsite classes because the dialogue is free flowing, and discussions provide instantaneous feedback.

Vicki Ehret -TRIM student from Largo, Florida

***SPE Cohort that traveled to New Zealand and Fiji
to present at Annual Conference***



*Sustaining Pastoral
Excellence
Cohort
Participants:*

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

Clergy Women's Breakfast

on Saturday, June 27, 2009

from 7:00 – 8:30 AM

Location: Pacific Salon 2

Title of Presentation: *Daughters of Justice, Mothers of Beauty*

The Clergywomen's Breakfast at Annual Conference this summer will feature a presentation by a cohort group of the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Program.

The question this group has explored: *How do we, as older, spiritually mature women, use the artistry of ministry to bring justice and beauty together?*

The group will be sharing some of the preliminary results of their study as well as related highlights of their immersion retreat in New Zealand and Fiji.

Brethren Academy Annual Conference Sessions

Evening Bible Study, 9:00-10:00 p.m.

Location: Brittany

CEUs available

Presenter: Julie M. Hostetter, Director of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

Friday-Transformational Leadership: Clarifying Our Call-II Corinthians 5:11-21

Saturday-Transformational Leadership: Affirming Unity Amid Diversity

Ephesians 2:11-22, I Corinthians 12:4-14

Sunday-Transformational Leadership: Loving the (Un)Lovable-I John 4:13-21

Monday-Transformational Leadership: Accepting Grace-Empowering Others-John 21:15-19,
I Peter 4:1-11

Saturday, June 27, 2009; 7:00-8:30 a.m.

Clergy Women's Breakfast

Location: Pacific Salon 2

Presenters: Representatives

from a Vital Pastors cohort group (including Marilyn Lerch, TRIM Coordinator) of
the Lilly Endowment Inc. *Sustaining Pastoral Excellence* program

Title: *Daughters of Justice, Mothers of Beauty*

Saturday, June 27, 2009; 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Educating for Ministry

Location: Towne

Focus: Representatives from Bethany Theological Seminary,
the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, and the
Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center

will discuss options for

degree (M.Div., M.A.) and training (TRIM, EFSM, ACTS)
programs for the Church of the Brethren.

Presenters: Richard Gardner, Interim Academic Dean;

Julie M. Hostetter, Director of the Brethren Academy;

Marilyn Lerch, Coordinator of TRIM Program;

Donna M. Rhodes, Executive Director of the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center

Monday, June 29, 2009; noon-1:30 p.m.

Bethany Theological Seminary Luncheon

Location: Pacific Salons 1 & 2

Recognition of 2009 TRIM and EFSM graduates

Panel discussion featuring people who practice various forms of Sabbath rest;
Marilyn Lerch, TRIM Coordinator, is one of the panelists

Monday, June 29, 2009; 12:30-1:30 p.m.

What Are Church Leaders Thinking? Findings from the 2008 Pastoral Survey

Location: Eaton

Focus: Pastors and church leaders were invited to respond
to a survey covering topics such as congregational life,
preparation for ministry and continuing education, support

for pastors, etc. Steve Clapp from Christian Community, Inc.
will present a brief summary of results via DVD. Julie Hostetter,

Linda and Glenn Timmons, co-coordinators of the Lilly Endowment Inc.,
Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program, will lead a conversation

exploring implications for the future.

A Happy Ending and a New Beginning

Summer stayed late in California last year. The vital pastor cohorts enjoyed that blessing during their closing retreat. It isn't easy for people to see good things end, but sometimes the ending itself can be special. That pleasant ending to summer became a metaphor for our retreat.



The program challenged us. For over two years, our cohorts wrestled with deep and intriguing questions about our roles in the future of the Church. We pressed each other and were pressed back by new insights gained through our research and discussions. Those six cohorts gathered together to share their mutual experiences. From each other we learned history, theology, mission, inclusiveness, exclusiveness, hopes and concerns. But best of all, we worshiped the Lord together.

We said goodbye to something that took up a life of its own in each of us. Just as we gather in worship to remember our loved ones when they pass, we gathered to worship and tell the stories of the life we lived for over two years.

However, it wasn't a funeral. As the week unfolded, I saw new life beginning to emerge. Although the cohorts were as diverse as our denomination, during our worship, we enjoyed authentic fellowship. This new and exciting life is a baby born from two parents on opposite ends of the spectrum. It's giving me the hope that focusing on Jesus will resurrect this church with the truth that we are one body and the body needs all of its parts.

*Phil Reynolds, Pastor, Bear Creek Church of the Brethren,
Dayton Ohio*

Upcoming Fee Increases



Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

Schedule of Fees for 2007-2009

in consultation with the Ministry Advisory Council, October 24, 2006
approved by the Bethany Seminary Board of Trustees October 2006

<i>Category</i>	<i>Effective January 2004</i>	<i>Effective July 2007</i>	<i>Effective July 2009</i>
TRIM enrollment	250.00	275.00	300.00
EFSM enrollment	250.00	275.00	300.00
Yearly EFSM congregation	150.00	175.00	200.00
Yearly TRIM student	100.00	125.00	150.00
District yearly EFSM (per congregation)	150.00	175.00	200.00
District yearly TRIM (per student)	150.00	175.00	200.00
Course registration	150.00	200.00	250.00



From the Director's Desk

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

(Ephesians 4: 11-13)

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership has had the opportunity to distribute funds from a Lilly Endowment Inc. grant for **Sustaining Pastoral Excellence**. The **Advanced Foundations of Church Leadership** track has had 26 participants over the past six years. Each of the pastors in the three cohorts participated in eight leadership training sessions over the course of two years and received 8 CEUs (continuing education units) for completion of the program

As of spring 2009, eighty-three (83) pastors have completed the **Vital Pastor** track. Cohort groups met to formulate a theologically based question that would focus their research, travel and meetings over the course of two years. Fall 2009 will have 29 pastors participating in the final National Pastors' retreat; the fall 2010 retreat will have 31 participants. At the conclusion of their experience, each participant receives 8 CEUs.

I also want to lift up opportunities for continuing education available through the Brethren Academy and in various other contexts. Perhaps they will stimulate your thinking about possibilities for the future...

For the past six years, the Shenandoah district has provided **The Minister's Bookshelf** format for pastors. Each winter-spring a group focuses on a particular topic, meeting once a month for several months to respond to books or articles they have read. They end the series with a workshop or guest speaker. This year they focused on *Congregational Leadership In Uncertain Times*, with Jerry Rodefer from Brethren Benefit Trust and me leading a workshop on Saturday, April 18th.

At the Richmond (VA) Annual Conference, the new format for **Brethren Life and Thought** was introduced. In addition to a new attractive cover and larger print, the Brethren Journal Association sought to make BLT even more useful to ministers' associations and study groups. Beginning with volume 53, number 3, discussion questions for many of the articles became available on the website (www.bethanyseminary.edu/blt). These questions encourage thoughtful exploration and the opportunity for deeper reflection on the pieces published by the journal.

The **Cross-Cultural Consultation and Celebration** in Miami offered 2 CEUs for those who participated in the event. In addition, it was the first attempt by the Academy to offer CEUs to those attending an event via web cast.

There are two options for receiving continuing education units at **Annual Conference**:

- The Church of the Brethren **Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Continuing Education event**, *Paradoxes of Congregational Conflict*, will take place June 25-26, 2009 in San Diego, CA. Dr. Celia Cook-Huffman, Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies, Associate Director of the Baker Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, and Director of Baker Mediation Services at Juniata College, will provide leadership. On-line registration is available through the Annual Conference website.
- **Congregational Life Ministry** will provide a continuing education card listing all sessions that are available for CEUs. Participants can attend a variety of experiences, get the card stamped, and turn it in to the appropriate district office. Cards will be available at insight sessions.

In 1999, the Annual Conference paper on *Ministerial Leadership* stated that in addition to completing an approved educational track, "Each District Ministry Commission is expected to promote continuing education expectations for every ministerial leader under its jurisdiction." The 2002 Annual Conference *Guidelines for Continuing Education* clearly outlines requirements and how ministerial leaders "need to pay special attention to their 'spiritual health' and continue to improve their professional skills."

What a privilege it is to be part of a denomination that takes seriously the words from Ephesians 4 and stresses the importance of lifelong learning!



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

academv@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

timmogl@bethanyseminary.edu