

The Scroll

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

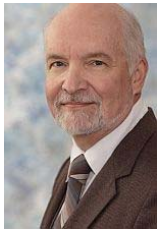
December 2015

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TRIM UPDATE

Christianity in the Ancient and Medieval Worlds



H. Kendall Rogers
Photo: Jim Chagares

As I reflect back on my experience in taking Ancient & Medieval Christianity through the Brethren Academy TRIM program, I realize that I have learned so much more than the content of the course. Under the instruction and guidance of Ken Rogers, professor of historical studies, this course that I at first approached as primarily a requirement to complete became a fascinating and enlightening experience. I knew there would be much content to learn and plenty of reading to do. I approached it as something I would have to learn but I questioned whether this course would really impact my development as a pastor. I didn't appreciate how wrong I was.

Certainly, there was much content to learn as we covered 1500 years of Christian history. The interesting personalities and influential thinkers who influenced the various theological movements of Christianity were fascinating to study. The fact that many of them lost their lives because of their faith shed light on the very integral role Christianity played in the overall story of human history during the fifteen centuries this course covered. I gained a new awareness of the simple truth that history can never be fully understood apart from the positive and negative influence of the church. However, I was unquestionably most impacted by my unexpected realization that the history of ancient and medieval Christianity truly does have a significant impact on today's world.

Having taken this course, I clearly see that one cannot fully understand our own times apart from the influence of many who have come before us. By being able to see the progression of Christian history through so many centuries, one can much better appreciate the journey that has brought us to today. With a better understanding of how the church has arrived at our place in the story of Christianity, we can move forward with an understanding and with wisdom that we would not otherwise possess. I am grateful to both the Brethren Academy and Professor Ken Rogers for expanding my horizons through this course.

- Michael Yingst

Writing for Ministry



Holly White

The Writing in Ministry class came up on the course schedule, and the first thing that I thought was "I need this." My family came to mind when I read what the class was about. I remember the long nights of help that my mother, sister, and then my wife had given me. Holly White does a great job at helping each student to better themselves in writing. No matter what your skill level, you may want to look at taking this course. Holly brings a different look at many different areas of your writing. The class feedback was great as well. Each of us was working toward the goal of better writing and finding ideas of how to write. I am very thankful for the tools that this class equipped me with. Here's to better writing!

- Matt Rupp

Preaching Peace, Justice, and Care for Creation



Photo: David Radcliff

Back: Randy Johnson, Cheryl Thomas, Roger Elkins, Jim Therrien

Front: David Radcliff (instructor), Dana Hart, Leslie Frye, Kim Therrien

The Brethren Academy course Preaching and Teaching Peace, Justice, and Creation Care was offered on the McPherson College campus this past November 12-15. It was the inaugural session for this class, as it is new to the Academy list of offerings. Instructor David Radcliff led the six students and a CEU participant in exploring the biblical basis for addressing social issues; Jesus's call to live justly and his manner of embodying and proclaiming justice, peace, and simplicity; the urgency of Christian engagement with these matters; reasons these aren't regularly dealt with in congregations; and tools and strategies for doing so.

Students came from as far away as New Mexico and Indiana—and Arizona, where David Radcliff resides and serves as director of New Community Project (www.newcommunityproject.org).

Reading Lists

If you were not able to take one of the TRIM courses highlighted in this newsletter but would like to explore the topic, here are the reading lists for the courses.

Christianity in the Ancient and Medieval Worlds, H. Kendall Rogers, instructor

- González, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity*, vol. 1 (2010)

Writing in Ministry, Holly White, instructor

- Deborah Core, *The Seminary Student Writes* (St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2000)
- Kate Braestrup, *Beginner's Grace: Bringing Prayer into Your Life* (New York: Free Press, 2010)
- Martin Buber, *I and Thou*, trans. Walter Kaufmann (New York: Touchstone, 1970)

Preaching Peace, Justice, and Care for Creation, David Radcliff, instructor

- John Howard Yoder, *The Politics of Jesus* (Eerdmans, 1994), ISBN: 0802807348

SeBAH-CoB NEWS **Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano** **de la Iglesia de Los Hermanos**

Pennsylvania SeBAH students gather for conversation

Some thirty Hispanic pastors, current and potential SeBAH-CoB students, and district representatives gathered recently in the Atlantic Northeast District (ANE) for a productive conversation regarding the effectiveness and future of their ministry training program. Students in this particular cohort have endured many complex difficulties, frustrations, and disappointments during their course of study due to unfortunate factors contributed and experienced by the students themselves, the administration, and the professor. Everyone at the meeting had the opportunity to express their perspectives and all acknowledged the difficulties. While other options had been explored as alternatives by district leadership, the group expressed a willingness to continue their studies through the Academy, realizing that the SeBAH-CoB program has many strengths. Students receive solid biblical and theological instruction from an Anabaptist-Pietist heritage. The program also fulfills educational requirements that can lead to ordination. The professors have been well qualified and the curriculum excellent. In fact, students enjoyed interacting via Skype with Dr. Dan Ulrich, the Bethany Seminary professor who is prepared to teach next fall's New Testament Exegesis: Gospel of Matthew class.

Good news was shared that another cohort is ready to form, which will include three students from the Pacific Southwest District and potentially students from ANE and the Virginia District. As soon as their district ministry commissions officially recommend the students, an orientation can be scheduled. We rejoice in the active participation, daily dedication, and strong commitment to ministry evidenced in the twenty-one active SeBAH students. May God bless them richly, as "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, [they] press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:13-14).

- continued



Photo: Joel Peña

Estudiantes de SeBAH-CoB de Pennsylvania se reúnen para conversarse

Algunos treinta pastores hispanos, estudiantes de SeBAH-COB actuales y potenciales, y representantes del distrito se reunieron recientemente en el Distrito Atlántico Noreste (ANE) para tener una conversación productiva sobre la eficacia y el futuro de su programa de entrenamiento ministerio. Los y las estudiantes en esta cohorte particular, han sufrido muchas dificultades complejas, frustraciones y decepciones durante su curso actual, debido a factores desafortunados contribuidos y experimentados por los propios alumnos, la administración, y el profesor. En la reunión el grupo tuvo la oportunidad de expresar sus puntos de vista y todas reconocieron las dificultades. Mientras que otras opciones se habían exploradas por el liderazgo del distrito como alternativas, el grupo expresó su voluntad de continuar sus estudios a través del programa de la Academia, al darse cuenta de que el programa SeBAH-CoB tiene muchos puntos fuertes. Los y las estudiantes reciben instrucción bíblica y teológica sólida a partir de un patrimonio Anabautista-Pietista. El programa también cumple con los requisitos educativos que pueden llevar a la ordenación. Los profesores han sido bien calificados y el currículo excelente. De hecho los estudiantes disfrutaron de la interacción a través de Skype con Dr. Dan Ulrich, profesor del Seminario de Betania, que se prepara para enseñar el Evangelio de Mateo el próximo otoño.

Buena noticia fue compartida que otra cohorte está listo para formarse el cual incluirá tres estudiantes del Distrito Pacífico Suroeste junto con potenciales estudiantes de ANE y posiblemente del distrito Virgina. Tan pronto como sus comisiones ministeriales de distrito recomiendan oficialmente a los y las estudiantes, una orientación se puede programar. Nos regocijamos en la participación activa, la dedicación diaria, y un fuerte compromiso con el ministerio se evidencia en los veintiún estudiantes activos de SeBAH-CoB. Que Dios los bendiga ricamente como *“olvidando ciertamente lo que queda atrás, y extendiéndome a lo que está delante, prosigo a la meta, al premio del supremo llamamiento de Dios en Cristo Jesús” (Fil 3:13-14)*.



Upcoming Academy Level Courses

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

Please note: While we continue to accept students beyond the Registration Deadline, on that date we determine whether we have enough students to offer a course. Many courses have required precourse readings, so students need to be sure to allow enough time to complete those. Please do not purchase texts or make travel plans until the registration deadline has passed, and you receive course confirmation. To register, contact the Brethren Academy at academy@bethanyseminary.edu or 765-983-1824.

Register for SVMC courses through Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center.
Forms at www.ETOWN.EDU/SVMC or contact svmc@ETOWN.EDU or 717-361-1450

[Credit descriptions: BCE – Brethren College Experience, BTS – Bethany Experience, IE-Intercultural/Ecumenical/Interfaith Experience, BT-Bible/Theology, MS –Ministry/Ministry Skills FCR-Fulfills Curricular Requirement]

Winter/Spring 2016

Pastoral Care, January intensive, Bethany Theological Seminary, Instructor: Carolyn Stahl Bohler, January 11-13, 2016, plus two Adobe Connect sessions (multi-framed video conference), January 25 and February 1 (credits: MS, BTS) **Registration Deadline: December 11, 2015**

Introduction to New Testament, online, Instructor: Matt Boersma, January 18-March 11, 2016 (credits: BT, FCR) **Registration Deadline: December 18, 2015**

Church of the Brethren Polity and Practice, weekend intensive, McPherson College (McPherson, KS), Instructor: Jim Tomlonson, March 10-13, 2016 (credit: MS, BCE, FCR) **Registration Deadline: February 10, 2016**

Chronicles, online, Instructor: Steve Schweitzer, April 4-May 27, 2016 (credits: BT, BTS) **Registration Deadline: March 4, 2016**

Summer/Fall 2016

“Walking to Peace” with Father John Dear, Annual Conference DISU, Instructor: Debbie Roberts, June 28-29 (credits: MS, BTS) **Registration Deadline: May 28, 2016**

Neighboring Faiths: A Christian-Muslim Encounter in the US, SVMC weekend intensive at Mechanicsburg COB, Mechanicsburg, PA, Instructor: George Pickens, August 11-13, 2016 (credits BT, IE) **Registration Deadline: July 11, 2016 (register through SVMC)**

Church of the Brethren History, online, Instructor: Denise Kettering-Lane, September 5-October 28, 2016 (credits: BT, BTS, FCR) **Registration Deadline: August 5, 2016**

Introduction to Theology, online, Instructor: Nate Inglis, October 10-December 2, 2016 (credits: BT, BTS) **Registration Deadline: September 10, 2016**

Introduction to Old Testament, online, Instructor: Matt Boersma, October 16-December 10, 2016 (credits: BT) **Registration Deadline: September 16, 2016**

Faith and Finances, weekend intensive, McPherson College, McPherson, KS, Instructor: Beryl Jantzi, November 2016 (final dates TBD), (credits: M/MS, BCE) **Registration Deadline: October 2016 (final date TBD)**

CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

SUSTAINING MINISTERIAL EXCELLENCE ADVANCED SEMINAR CAMP LEADERS COHORT

The first retreat for the SMEAS-Camp Leaders Cohort took place November 19-21, 2015, at Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry and Retreat Center (Mid-Atlantic District). Participants had attended the annual Outdoor Ministries Association Retreat and stayed onsite for this new continuing education program.

Content for SMEAS includes components from the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Vital Pastors and Advanced Foundations for Church Leadership tracks administered by the Brethren Academy and the Advanced Pastoral Seminar offered by Bethany Seminary in the past. Participants will meet biannually for two years to

- integrate the spiritual, academic, emotional, relational, and physical components of a healthy lifestyle;
- develop a greater self-understanding of themselves and their ministries;
- reexamine the church and its mission in today's culture;
- explore theological topics through presentations and dialogue with seminary faculty, denominational leaders, and seminar members;
- participate in community with other ministers;
- create strategies for personal and professional change.

Between in-person sessions, the camp leaders will interact via Moodle and Skype.

Tara Hornbacker, professor of ministry formation, missional church, and evangelism at Bethany Seminary, joined Julie Hostetter in providing leadership for this initial event. Tara led sessions exploring spiritual disciplines and facilitated conversations focusing on each leader's spiritual autobiography presentation. She will also lead follow-up Moodle discussions on *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry* by Ruth Haley Barton.



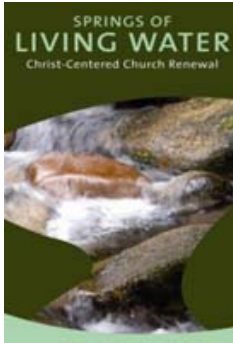
Left to right: Tara Hornbacker, Bethany professor; Joel Ballew (Camp Swatara-ANE); on screen, Karen Neff (Camp Ithiel-ASE); Jerri Heiser Wenger (Camp Blue Diamond-PAM); Barbara Wise Lewczak (Camp Pine Lake-NPLNS); Linetta Ballew (Camp Swatara-ANE); and Wallace Cole (Camp Carmel-SE).

Photo: Julie Hostetter

A SMEAS cohort for bivocational pastors is being formed in the new year. Please contact Julie Hostetter (hosteju@bethanyseminary.edu or 800.287.8822, ext. 1820) for information and to register for this continuing education program.

Springs of Living Water Academy in Church Renewal

Registration Now Open for Foundations Class: Winter/Spring 2016 and Fall 2016



The Springs of Living Water Academy for pastors offers courses with learning objectives which participants localize in their setting.

- Five interactive two-hour phone conference calls with practical training and focused discussion over a twelve-week period
- Focused readings and spiritual disciplines
- Shepherding calls between sessions
- A few persons in the church walking with participants
- A seminal paper reflecting course content and application
- CEUs available
- Resources with many illustrations helping a church take its next steps to new life

Winter/Spring 2016

- **Level 1: Foundations for Christ-Centered Church Renewal**

With a spiritually grounded, servant-led approach and a potential bivocational component,

- ✓ go deeper in one's faith journey using a spiritual disciplines folder and devotional;
- ✓ enlist a congregation in renewal and spiritually discern and train a renewal team;
- ✓ help a congregation enter a spiritual journey with disciplines folders with daily reading of the Bible;
- ✓ learn servant leadership from scripture to help a church grow in the positive side of the life cycle;
- ✓ identify and fulfill five roles of transforming pastoral leadership for church renewal;
- ✓ implement a sevenfold path for renewal in which a church builds on its strengths;
- ✓ help a church spiritually discern a scripture, vision, and ministry plan and learn how to implement it;
- ✓ learn how to create balance in one's ministry, which can include a bivocational model.

Resources: Spiritual Disciplines folder on the disciplines and *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard J. Foster
Springs of Living Water, Christ-Centered Church Renewal by David S. Young
Handouts for the class as well as shorter articles on renewal for persons walking along

The instructor is Dr. David S. Young with potential guests. Participants call an 800 number and give a code. For an Academy brochure, please e-mail davidyoung@churchrenewalservant.org or call (717) 615-4515. The Springs website, with interpretative Springs DVD, is www.churchrenewalservant.org.

Class Sessions – Saturdays: February 20, March 12, April 2 and 23, and May 14, 2016

Class Times – 8:00-10:00 a.m. ET. Please make your inquiries as soon as possible.

Please Note: Register by December 1, 2015, earlier if possible, due to class size for discussion, to allow time for reading and preparation for the first session listed on the syllabus, and to discern and enlist a few people from your congregation to walk along with you and have conversations on the meaning of renewal.

Fall 2016

- **Level 1: Foundations for Christ-Centered Church Renewal**

Class Sessions – Tuesdays: September 13, October 4, October 25, November 15, December 6

Class Times – 8:00-10:00 a.m. ET

Upon request:

- **Level 2, a follow-up class on more implementation:**
Servant Leadership for Church Renewal, Shepherds by the Living Springs

Gives pastors training on vital topics of churches in renewal: master preaching, dialogue and discernment, inviting and discipling new members, and implementing units of renewal. Please make your inquiry known.

The Heart of Anabaptism – CoB Congregational Life Ministries

The 2015-16 webinars organized by the Centre for Anabaptist Studies will explore the seven core convictions of the UK Anabaptist Network. These summarize the heart of Anabaptism and its contemporary significance. They are also at the heart of the book *The Naked Anabaptist*. Seven speakers from different contexts (the UK, South Africa, Australia, and North America) will reflect on these convictions, critique them, and ask how they work out in practice. The webinars are sponsored by the Anabaptist Network, UK; the Centre for Anabaptist Studies (Bristol Baptist College); the Church of the Brethren; and the Mennonite Trust.

The seven core convictions of the Anabaptist Network, UK are posted at <http://www.anabaptistnetwork.com/coreconvictions>. The following presenters have been invited to examine and reflect on the following convictions as developed by the Anabaptist Network:

- Thursday, January 14 - Juliet Kilpin (UK), Core Conviction #4
- Thursday, February 11 - Jo Frew (UK), Core Conviction #6
- Thursday, March 31 - Dennis Edwards (USA), Core Conviction #2
- Thursday, April 28 - Mark and Mary Hurst (Australia), Core Conviction #7

Each webinar lasts sixty minutes, and participants can earn 0.1 CEU for attending each live webinar. There is no charge, although an opportunity to donate is available.

*Details of the 2016 webinars will be available soon.
For additional information contact Stan Dueck, director,
Transforming Practices at sdueck@brethren.org.*



2016 New Church Planting Conference

Hope – Imagination – Mission

**Bethany Theological Seminary
Richmond, Indiana
May 19-21, 2016**

Mark your calendars for the 2016 New Church Planting Conference. For more information, please visit the Church of the Brethren [website page](#) regarding this event.

Marque su calendario para la Conferencia de plantación de nuevas iglesia de 2016. Para obtener más información, visite la iglesia de la [Página Web](#) de hermanos con respecto a este evento.

Greetings From the Brethren Academy Staff

God of hope, come! Enter into every human heart that cries out for a glimpse of your love, for a sign of your welcoming presence, for a taste of your happiness. Be the one who calms the restless and gentles the ache of the human journey.

God of hope, come! Be the Morning Star in our midst, the Light that can never go out, the Beacon of Hope guiding our way to you. Come into our midst and make of our lives a home, where your everlasting goodness resonates with assuring love and vigorous hope.

from Joyce Rupp's prayer "The Gift of Hope," published in her book
Out of the Ordinary: Prayers, Poems and Reflections for Every Season, Ave Maria Press, 2010

Sisters and Brothers,

In this season of waiting, watch and wondering,
may our hearts, minds, and spirits be open to Christ's presence coming among us once again,
may we respond to others with acts of compassion and generosity, and
may our lives reflect God's shalom and Christ's peace.

With our wishes for a blessed Advent, joyous Christmas, and peace-filled New Year,



Nancy Julie Carrie Fran

A ministry-training partnership of the Church of the Brethren
and Bethany Theological Seminary
<http://www.bethanyseminary.edu/academy>



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