

The Scroll

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

Summer 2017

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TRIM UPDATES

Trans/forming Faith: Introduction to Educational Ministry

Christian education is more than Sunday school. It includes all the ways that we teach and learn about our faith. It is *leiturgia* (the curriculum of prayer), *keygma* (the curriculum of proclamation), *didache* (the curriculum of teaching), *diakonia* (the curriculum of service), and *koinonia* (the curriculum of community). It is the holy work of forming and transforming our community of faith across age groups.

Faith formation in the church is about helping members learn the stories, skills, and practices that can ground them in their religious traditions while opening them up to a lifetime of spiritual growth. Stories that anchor a congregation come from the Bible, denominational history, and Christian leaders. Skills include discernment, leadership, conflict resolution, and volunteering. Practices include prayer, ordinances, Bible study, worship, and spiritual direction. Each ministry setting has its own set of strengths, weakness, and opportunities to build on.



Rhonda Pittman Gingrich

Rhonda Pittman Gingrich guided students through *lectio divina*, theological study, evaluating current ministry settings, and exploring social media in ways that challenged us to consider the changing shape of Christian education. She modeled best teaching practices using a variety of modalities, including lectures, discussions, small group collaboration, and individualized learning experiences, all in an online course! I was surprised by the interaction and learning that could happen through writing. I was grateful for this opportunity to do this holy work with church leaders from across the denomination.

- *Reba Herder, a TRIM graduate and lifelong learner, will be offering the course Healthy Conversation as Spiritual Practice online for TRIM credit from September 13-November 8, 2017.*

Hope for God's Good Green Earth



Nate Inglis

The Welsh novelist Raymond Williams once said, "To be truly radical is to make hope possible, rather than despair convincing." That quote summed up my experience of the Presidential Forum and Young Adult Event at Bethany, entitled God's Green Earth. When it comes to addressing the environmental crisis before us, many take the road of doom, gloom, and despair. Christians stand at a unique *kairos* moment regarding our relationship with creation. Instead of contributing to the despair we are witnessing, we can speak towards tending and keeping God's creation in a way that makes hope possible and real. This was the overall tone that permeated the weekend's plenary presentations, sessions, worship, and conversations. There was a clear call for a more faithful witness from Christians in the work of caring for God's creation.

Coinciding with the Forum was a Directed Independent Study (DISU) with Bethany professor Nate Inglis. The bulk of the work was participating in the Forum and writing papers on various topics presented. There were also assigned ecotheology readings covering Catholic, Anabaptist, and Evangelical perspectives. Those readings enhanced the material presented at the Forum in a way that challenged even my own ecological omissions. I particularly enjoyed reading the Anabaptist perspective on creation and the environment as it helped define and give shape to an Anabaptist environmental ethic: our redemptive work in God's kingdom is also working towards the renewal of creation.

I've been involved in outdoor education/ministry now for over ten years, and a large part of that work has consisted of teaching practices to deepen one's connection with God's creation. The Forum and the course were some of the first opportunities I had to approach creation connection from a biblical, theological, and academic perspective. I was grateful that both the Forum and the class engaged me in an ecotheological conversation as well as the opportunity to rediscover ecocentric discipleship practices. Perhaps the best summary I can give would be this: Christians have an opportunity to be a leading voice when it comes to caring for creation. Our reason is simple; it's Jesus. And because of Jesus, we are a resurrection people who are invited into a life of rebirthing, renewing, reclaiming, and restoring. How fitting then, that our discipleship should also move us towards earthkeeping practices that renew, reclaim, restore, (and resurrect?) God's creation. It's that kind of radical hope that invigorates my soul to action.

- *Randall Westfall is a licensed minister and director of Camp Brethren Heights, Michigan District.*

Reading Lists

If you were not able to take the TRIM courses highlighted above but would like to explore the topic, here is a partial reading list for the courses.

- Parker Palmer, *To Know as We Are Known*, HarperOne
- Karen B. Tye, *Basics of Christian Education*, Chalice Press
- Dan Brunner, A. J. Swoboda, and Jennifer Butler, *Introducing Evangelical Ecotheology: Foundations in Scripture, Theology, History, and Praxis*, Baker Academic Press, 2014
- Elizabeth A. Johnson, *Women, Earth, and Creator Spirit*, Paulist Press, 1993



Nancy Heishman

SeBAH-CoB NEWS

La Academia Hermanos lanza el programa de EPMC (EFSM en inglés)

Durante más de treinta años, el programa de Educación para un Ministerio Compartido (EPMC) ha estado nutriendo y equipando ministros y laicos en pequeñas iglesias angloamericanas. Ahora, el programa está siendo puesto a disposición de las congregaciones en cual se habla español. El diseño único de EPMC ofrece oportunidades para que los ministros en formación y líderes laicos discernen objetivos y metas juntos y se animen mutuamente a afilar sus habilidades mientras aprenden sobre la fe cristiana y los ministerios de la iglesia. La fuerza del programa es enfocarse en el equipamiento de toda la congregación, ya que apoyan a sus ministros apartados en el cumplimiento de los requisitos educativos y teológicas para sus credenciales.

En el Distrito del Suroeste del Pacífico, los pastores David y Rita Flores de la congregación Cristo Sion eligieron terminar la capacitación ministerial que habían comenzado a través de SeBAH-CoB por participar en EPMC. Seis líderes laicos se unieron a los Flores en una orientación de fin de semana en el que se familiarizaron con el programa, establecieron metas para su primera unidad de aprendizaje, y se dedicaron como congregación al proceso. Durante estos últimos meses, han explorado las creencias y la teología de la Iglesia de los Hermanos en mayor profundidad. Ellos han estudiado libros y llevaron a cabo proyectos de alcance congregacional al vecindario. La vida congregacional ha sido enriquecida también a través de dar y encontrar un nuevo significado en la práctica de las ordenanzas tales como el lavado de los pies. Si todo va de acuerdo al horario, se graduarán del programa el próximo verano de 2018.

En el distrito de Shenandoah, una congregación con casi una década de relación informal con el distrito fue recibida oficialmente recientemente y está explorando la participación en el programa EPMC. Pastores Julio y Sonia Argueta de la Iglesia Pentecostal Buenas Nuevas Iglesia de los Hermanos en Waynesboro, Virginia están dirigiendo una comunidad cálida y vibrante que comparte el edificio con los Hermanos Anglo de Waynesboro. El Equipo de Plantación de Iglesias del distrito está dando su apoyo ya que juntos exploran la perspectiva de participar en el programa EPMC.

Las clases de SeBAH-CoB continúan mientras el grupo Alfa termina un curso de predicación con el profesor menonita Byron Pellecer. El grupo Beta está estudiando la Teología del Ministerio Pastoral con el Dr. Tony Brun. Ambos cursos son totalmente en línea. Además, la tecnología de videoconferencia ofrece a los estudiantes del curso de predicación la oportunidad para discutir en profundidad los principios fundamentales de la preparación del sermón. Es obvio que todos los estudiantes disfrutaron mucho de la interacción entre estudiantes de California, Pensilvania y Puerto Rico y los estudiantes menonitas colombianos en el curso.

Este año como parte de satisfacer los requisitos del programa para la asistencia a una conferencia anual, tres estudiantes de SeBAH-CoB estarán en Grand Rapids.



Foto por Nancy Heishman de pastores y laicos de Cristo Sion, mas algunos voluntarios del distrito:

Fila 1 (de la izquierda): Martha Barrios, Rosario Luna B., Clara Díaz, Berkley Davis

Fila 2 (de la izquierda): Francisco Villegas García, Víctor Maldonado, David Flores, Gerald Davis, Rita Flores, Elizabeth Rowan, Cándido Rodríguez

SeBAH-CoB NEWS continued

Brethren Academy Launches EFSM program in Spanish

For over thirty years, the Education for Shared Ministry (EFSM) program has been nurturing and equipping ministers and laity together in small Anglo churches. Now the program is being made available to Spanish-speaking congregations. The unique design of EFSM offers opportunities for ministers in training and lay leaders to discern goals and objectives together and to encourage one another in sharpening their skills while learning about the Christian faith and ministries of the church. The program's strength is in equipping the entire congregation as they support their set-apart ministers in meeting the educational and theological requirements for credentialing.

In the Pacific Southwest District, Pastors David and Rita Flores of the Cristo Sion congregation chose to finish the ministry training they had begun through SeBAH-CoB by participating in EFSM. Six lay leaders joined the Floreses in a March weekend orientation in which they familiarized themselves with the program, set goals for their first learning unit, and dedicated themselves as a congregation to the process. During these past few months, they have explored Brethren beliefs and theology in greater depth through book studies, heritage-focused congregational outreach projects in the neighborhood, and by enriching their congregational life through giving and finding new meaning in the practice of Brethren ordinances such as love feast. If all goes according to schedule, they will graduate from the program in the summer of 2018.

In the Shenandoah District, a congregation with almost a decade of informal relationship with the district was recently welcomed officially and is exploring participation in the EFSM program. Pastors Julio and Sonia Argueta of the Iglesia Pentecostal Buenas Nuevas Church of the Brethren in Waynesboro, Virginia, lead a warm and vibrant fellowship that shares the building with the Anglo Brethren of Waynesboro. The Church Planting Team of the district is giving support as together they explore the prospect of participating in the EFSM program.

SeBAH-CoB classes continue as the alfa cohort finishes a preaching course with Mennonite professor, Byron Pellecer. The beta cohort is studying the Theology of Pastoral Ministry with Dr. Tony Brun. Both courses are totally online. Additionally, videoconference technology gives students in the preaching course opportunity to discuss in more depth the fundamental principles of sermon preparation. It is obvious that all the students greatly enjoy the interaction between Californian, Pennsylvanian, and Puerto Rican Brethren and the Colombian Mennonite students in the course.

This year as part of satisfying the program requirements for attendance at Annual Conference, three SeBAH-CoB students were present in Grand Rapids.



Photo by Nancy Heishman of Cristo Sion pastors, laity, and district volunteers

Front row (L to R): Martha Barrios, Rosario Luna B., Clara Díaz, Berkley Davis

Back row (L to R): Francisco Villegas García, Víctor Maldonado, David Flores, Gerald Davis, Rita Flores, Elizabeth Rowan, Cándido Rodríguez



Upcoming Brethren Academy Level Courses

Courses are open to TRIM and EFSM students, pastors (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 a 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/Interfaith/Ecumenical Experience, BT – Bible/Theology, MS – Ministry/Ministry Skills, FCR – Fulfills Curricular Requirement

Summer/Fall 2017

TRIM/EFSM Student Orientation

Spiritual Discernment (M/MS)

Introduction to Biblical Studies (B/T)

July 28-30, 2017

Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, IN

Reading Women in the Bible, SVMC online

August 23-October 18, 2017

Instructor: Erika Fitz

(credits: BT)

Registration Deadline: July 16, 2017

Healthy Conversations as Spiritual Practice, online

September 13-November 8, 2017

Instructor: Reba Herder

(credits: MS)

Registration Deadline: August 13, 2017

Introduction to the New Testament, online

October 16-December 8, 2017

Instructor: Matt Boersma

(credits: BT, FCR)

Registration Deadline: September 18, 2017

Winter/Spring 2018

Elements of Preaching, intensive

Bethany Theological Seminary

January 17-19, 2018

Instructor: Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm

(credits: MS, BTS)

Registration Deadline: December 11, 2017

The Gospel of John, SVMC online

January 29-March 23, 2018

Instructor: Andrew Hamilton

(credits: BT)

Registration Deadline: December 18, 2017

Winter/Spring 2018, cont.

A Place of Refuge: Ministry in an Urban Context

Atlanta, Georgia (travel intensive)

January 2-12, 2018

Instructor: Joshua Brockway

(credits: MS, BTS, IE)

Registration Deadline: LIMITED SPACE, REGISTER ASAP

Now the Silence, Now the Songs: An Introduction to Worship in the Church, online

March 14-May 8, 2018

Instructor: Lee-Lani Wright

(credits: MS)

Registration Deadline: February 7, 2018

What Brethren Believe, weekend intensive

McPherson College, McPherson, KS

April 12-15, 2018

Instructor: Denise Kettering-Lane

(credits: BT, FCR, BTS)

Registration Deadline: March 5, 2018

Anticipated Courses Summer/Fall 2018 (schedule to be confirmed)

DISU at Annual Conference Pre-Conference Gathering (M/MS)

Bivocational Ministry (M/MS)

Pastoral Care (M/MS)

Introduction to Hebrew Scriptures (B/T)

Church History or Theological Studies (TBD, B/T)

CONTINUING EDUCATION NEWS

Supervision in Ministry Course

In ministry, supervision implies a collegial relationship between a supervisee and supervisor. While this relationship is mutual, each person fills a unique role. The one being supervised brings a case or situation from his/her ministry as the subject for a supervisory conversation. The supervisor commits to the other's growth and understanding and helps the supervisee to reflect critically on their experience. While the supervisee has primary control over what is learned, both may find themselves coming to new understandings and insights.

In the class Supervision in Ministry, students explore how they might become effective supervisors for others. Supervisees might include seminary or Brethren Academy students, licensed ministers, those exploring a call to the ministry, staff in a congregational or other ministry setting, congregational leaders, or clergy peers who supervise one another. Supervisors are usually ordained ministers who have demonstrated a capacity to listen well and who are open to lifelong learning. The values shared by both are commitment to spiritual growth, faithful living, self-understanding, and professional competence.

Lifelong learning requires a commitment to explore complex and sometimes difficult issues. These issues are professional, personal, or a combination of the two. The growth and development of professional competence and self-understanding is directly related to the quality of the supervision one receives. The strength of ministerial leadership grows from the willingness to reflect critically upon experience and to learn by that process.

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership and Bethany Theological Seminary are committed to quality biblical/theological education, increased personal growth, and greater professional competency.

- Mike Hostetter, Instructor

Five clergy from Virgina district attended two sessions on Supervision in Ministry. Participants in this continuing education experience included Mike Hostetter (BAML instructor), Becky Rhodes (Central COB), Dan Rudy (Ninth Street COB), Doug Veal (Daleville COB), Tom Powers (Masons Cove COB) and Patrick Starkey (Cloverdale, COB).

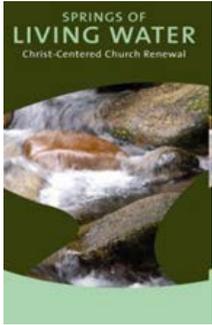


At the first session on Saturday, April 22, Tabitha Hartman Rudy, a 2017 Bethany Seminary graduate, presented a ministry reflection report for supervision by Mike Hostetter. This modeled for the others the supervisory process outlined in *Transforming the Rough Places: The Ministry of Supervision* (second edition) by Kenneth Pohly.

Photos by Julie Hostetter

CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

Springs of Living Water Academy in Church Renewal Registration Now Open for Foundations Class, Winter/Spring 2017



The Springs of Living Water Academy for pastors and ministers offers courses in church renewal with practice of spiritual disciplines and a practical path for renewal in a church.

- Five interactive two-hour phone conference calls, spread over a twelve-week period with practical training and focused discussion for their setting in ministry
- Focused readings with a detailed syllabus and use of a spiritual disciplines folder
- Shepherding calls to each participant by the instructor between sessions
- A few persons in the church to walk along with pastors and ministers and learn as well
- A reflective paper on course content and application in a church
- CEUs available

- **Level 1: Fall 2017 Foundations for Christ-Centered Church Renewal**
Sept. 12, Oct. 3 and 24, Nov. 14, Dec. 5, 2017 CLASS TIMES – Tuesdays 8:00-10:00 a.m. ET

With a Christ-centered, servant-led approach, learn how to

- ✓ 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 and daily reading of the Bible;
- ✓ use servant leadership from scripture to help a church grow on the positive side of the life cycle;
- ✓ identify and fulfill five roles of transforming pastoral leadership for church renewal;
- ✓ learn the sevenfold process of Christ-centered, servant-led church renewal.

- **Level 2: Winter/Spring 2018 Implementation of a Christ-Centered, Servant-Led Renewal Plan**
Feb. 6 and 27, Mar. 20, Apr. 10, May 1, 2018 CLASS TIMES – Tuesdays 8:00-10:00 a.m. ET

- ✓ Go deeper in your spiritual growth and in your congregation's corporate spiritual formation.
- ✓ Learn and use servant leadership by all and equip the saints for the work of ministry in churches.
- ✓ Implement a sevenfold path for renewal in which a church builds on its strengths.
- ✓ Help a church spiritually discern a biblical passage, vision, and ministry plan and how to implement it.
- ✓ Disciple people, train them in ministry, learn seven-fold mentoring process, go out in mission in joy.
- ✓ Celebrate a church going deeper spiritually and complete steps of a focused renewal plan.

Resources

- The Bible (Please bring the version of your choice to telephone conference calls.)
- David S. Young, *Springs of Living Water, Christ-Centered Church Renewal* with forward by Richard Foster.
- Richard J. Foster, *Celebration of Discipline, The Path to Spiritual Growth* (San Francisco: Harper), 1978.
- David S. Young, *Servant Leadership for Church Renewal, Shepherds by the Living Springs* (Wipf and Stock).
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together, The Classic Exploration of Christian Community* (HarperOne).
- Arlin Rothauge, *Sizing Up a Congregation for New Member Ministry*; free handout e-mailed.
- David Young, on web, *Servant Leadership* and *Gift of Dialogue* interpretive DVDs, David Sollenberger

The instructor is Dr. David S. Young with potential guests. Participants call an 800 number and give a code.

Note: Due to class size for discussion, please enlist team, prepare for class, and **register for Foundations by August 15, 2017**. For Implementation Course, register by January 9, 2018. Inquiries: 717-615-4515

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.



Ventures in Christian Discipleship

The Ventures in Christian Discipleship program at McPherson (Kansas) College has focused on providing small church congregations with useful, affordable education. The course offerings in 2017-18 include the following:

- September 16 - Welcoming Muslims: Understanding the Differences between 98% of the World's Muslims, Islamists, and Jihadists
Presenter: Kirk MacGregor
- October 14 - Navigating Religious Diversity: An Introduction to Interfaith Cooperation
Presenter: Zandra Wagoner

Continuing education credit is available for ministers at the cost of \$10 through the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. To see more information about the sessions and CEU credits, [click here](#). To register, [click here](#).

For more information, please visit [Ventures in Christian Discipleship](#).

Church of the Brethren Congregational Life Ministries: The Crucible Webinars

- June 14: "The Virtual Self"
Presenter: Simon Jay
Is this new world of online identities enabling us to connect with more people or creating isolation?
- July 20: "The Art of Resilience: Nurturing Practices for Flourishing"
Presenter: Alexandra (Alex) Ellish
We will consider how to understand some of the challenges that we face and what we can do to nurture personal and community resilience and to thrive.

All webinars begin at 11:30 a.m. PDT; 1:30 p.m. CDT; 2:30 p.m. EDT; 7:30 p.m. GMT.

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.

For additional information contact Stan Dueck, director, at sdueck@brethren.org.

National Older Adult Conference

The Office of Ministry is offering a day-long professional growth event for pastors focusing on congregational vitality entitled Demonstrating the Extraordinary God: Discipleship That Is Transforming the World. It will be led by Congregational Life Ministries staff Stan Dueck and Josh Brockway.

This event will take place on Monday, September 4. The all-inclusive cost of \$85 per person and \$145 per couple covers overnight lodging for September 3, breakfast, lunch, and a certificate for 0.6 CEUs. Spouses are welcome to participate. For information or to register, contact Joe Detrick, interim director of ministry at 1-800-8039 x381 or jdetrick@brethren.org.

From the Director



In February, I moved into a new house. At first, it was winter, and I cared little for what was happening outdoors. As spring came, however, I ventured outside, curious to see what might begin to grow. I took delight in crocuses, daffodils, and mysterious, leafy shoots that grew out of the ground.



All the flower beds in my yard are well marked. They are edged with brick or stone and mulched to keep down weeds. That is, all except one. When I discovered it, the flower bed behind the house was making every attempt to merge with the lawn. There was no border. Everything was growing up together. Some of it I recognized—grass (obviously), wild strawberries, wild violets, and dandelions. Other shoots, stalks, and leaves were less familiar. They still are. To help in the identifying process, I recently edged that garden, using old paving stones I found in the shed. It looks neater, but it remains a mystery.

As I watch and wait, I consider how being a lifelong learner is a bit like that flower bed. Our minds and hearts are fertile soil in which, over time, much takes root. Some of it is placed there deliberately. These are the lessons we seek through formal education, training, and our own self-study. Some of it is sown by nature, by wind, by rain, by birds and squirrels. These are the lessons we learn simply by living. Not all of these lessons are pleasant; but they are all part of our educational garden. Some of it may be new. Some of it may be unfamiliar. Some of it may be unwelcome weeds. Then again, as A. A. Milne once wrote, "Weeds are flowers, too, once you get to know them."

Learning to identify one plant from another is a part of our education. For this reason, we look to the Master Gardener to guide us, to still our anxiety about what is planted in our flower bed, and to invite us to be patient. Be patient to see what will grow within us, what will flower, what will bear fruit, and even what may need to be uprooted in order to replenish the soil or make room for something new.

This process takes time. Somedays, I want to pull up everything in my flower bed and start over, planting only the flowers I recognize, the plants I am confident that I know how to grow. I want to get rid of everything just in case it's an invasive species. But even then, I know I will not be in control. Despite what I plant, life happens; wind, rain, and birds happen. The only way I can keep myself from learning new things is to never enter the garden, shut myself in, and shut myself off. For me, that is never an option. Thanks be to God.

~ Janet L. Ober Lambert, Director, Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

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



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