

The Scroll

Notes and News
from the
Brethren Academy for
Ministerial Leadership

March 2016

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TRIM UPDATE

Introduction to the New Testament



Matt Boersma taught this online course, which began January 18 and ended March 11. Fourteen TRIM students from nine districts—Maryland to New Mexico—plus one person who earned CEU credits participated in this class.

“As an instructor, Matt Boersma deserves an A. Matt is responsive, generous with his time, and broad in his scholarship of this material while maintaining a style which is never imperious. His course gave me an excellent overview of the development, and content of our New Testament Canon, providing many an “aha” moment and a fresh perspective from which to grow in my faith and to express it more authoritatively to my congregation.”

--- Bill Caputo, Mid-Atlantic District

Reading Lists –

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

Introduction to the New Testament

- Achtemeier, Paul J., Joel B. Green, and Marianne Meye Thompson. *Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Theology* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. 2001). ISBN: 978-0-8028-3717-2

Introduction to Pastoral Care Opportunities

- Justes, Emma J., *Hearing Beyond the Words: How to Become a Listening Pastor* (Abingdon, 2006).
- Bohler, Carolyn, *God the What?: What Our Metaphors for God Reveal about Our Beliefs in God* (SkyLight Paths, 2008).
- Westberg, Granger E., *Good Grief: A Constructive Approach to the Problem of Loss* (Fortress Press, 2011).

Introduction to Pastoral Care Opportunities

For All Who Pastor: Reflections on the Pastoral Care Class
By Cheryl Thomas, Northern Indiana District

The Introduction to Pastoral Care Opportunities class, directed by Dr. Carolyn J. Bohler, opened diverse discussions on topics that concern pastors today. Especially enlightening was the topic of empathy. We laughed together as we worked through what “accurate empathy” actually entails. Many of us discovered that we were more inclined to steer counseling sessions via advice or evaluative, probing, or reassuring responses than to mirror the client’s thoughts, allowing for self-discovery.

Bohler used many of her personal texts as foundational pieces for the class reading. Two of my favorites were “Female-Friendly Pastoral Care” and “A Hermeneutic of Passionate Care: ‘Now You’re Meddling, Preacher.’” Bohler states, “A sermon can meddle with you by naming a significant theological idea that grabs you intellectually and emotionally.” Thus, sermon writing became a topic of discussion. In fact, many of us provided an audio sermon to Bohler so she could examine our connectivity with the audience.

Yet, other texts were also used. Especially appreciated was a valuable resource entitled *Good Grief* by Granger E. Westberg. Prior to class, I had been studying the concept of preparedness, so I found Westberg’s thoughts to be both validating and forthright. He states, “Persons who are spiritually more mature seem to be able to wrestle more effectively because they are aided by the conviction that God is with them. . . . [Others] seem unprepared to handle even the smaller losses that face all of us from time to time” (p. 3).

Consequently, much of our time was spent sharing scenarios of pastoral care. We garnered ideas and strength from each other, from Bohler, and from the Word. In addition, we spent time in prayer, offering support to one another. The worship manual *For All Who Minister* provides a beautifully sculpted benediction, not only for the class but for all who pastor:

*Go now;
Go in safety,
For you cannot go where God is not.
Go in love,
For love alone endures.
Go with purpose,
And God will honor your dedication.
Go in peace,
For it is the gift of God to those whose hearts and minds
Are in Christ Jesus.
Amen.*

(p. 122)

Standing: Mike Kenney, MATL; Jon Keller, OHS; Randy Johnson, NPLNS; Bill Cave, ANE; Cheryl Thomas, INSC; Paul Thomas, INSC; Jerry Brenneman, INN; Jack Storne, PSW

Sitting: Dana Hart, WPLNS; Carolyn Bohler, Instructor; Liz Thorpe, PAS



Photo: Julie Hostetter



Nancy Heishman

SeBAH-CoB NEWS

Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano de la Iglesia de Los Hermanos

SeBAH-CoB comienza un nuevo cohorte

Cinco nuevos estudiantes procedentes de las costas opuestas, pertenecientes a tres congregaciones, y llevando tres culturas diferentes, todos participaron en un fin de semana de orientación en New Windsor, Maryland, a principios de febrero. Edgar y Jessenia Pineda y Flor Merlos fueron licenciados hace sólo un mes antes de asistir a la orientación. Leonor Ochoa y Sandra David Soto habían estado ansiosamente esperando más tiempo para comenzar sus estudios. Todos ellos llegaron con alegría, un poco de nerviosismo, y un gran entusiasmo. Las sesiones fueron dirigidas por Marco Güete, el nuevo director de la Oficina de Educación Pastoral y del Liderazgo Hispano de la Iglesia Menonita USA que se asocia con la Academia Hermanos en la administración del programa SeBAH-COB.

Un objetivo clave de la orientación es ayudar a los estudiantes se sientan cómodos con las tareas que son cruciales para el éxito de sus estudios. Como un medio para llegar a ese nivel de comodidad, se les invitó a pulir un breve testimonio escrito del inicio de su camino de fe y de ese modo dar testimonio de la obra de Cristo a lo largo de su camino espiritual. De distintas infancias en Guatemala, Puerto Rico y la República Dominicana, cada persona identificaba momentos en los que la gracia de Dios les dio un codazo hacia al compromiso de sus vidas a Cristo. Bellos momentos sagrados en medio de la alegría y el dolor llevaron estos cinco vibrantes creyentes a seguir a Cristo.

Por ejemplo, hermana Flor Merlos escribió: "Mi vida cambió grandemente cuando conocí a Jesús. Era tan pequeña que en ese momento no comprendía el milagro que el Señor había hecho [para sanar] mi cuerpo. Ahora comprendo que después de una batalla, hay una gran Victoria."

Sobre su experiencia en la orientación, hermana Leonor Ochoa escribió, "Estudiar con otros hermanos de otros países de América Latina es una gran experiencia. Nos ayuda a entender, conocer y respetar las diferentes culturas y la manera en que se adora a nuestro Dios. Estoy feliz de ser parte de este nuevo grupo de SEBAH."

Este nuevo grupo de estudiantes se muestra un brillante potencial. Ambas su pasión y dedicación son un buen augurio para su éxito en el programa SeBAH-COB. ¡Bienvenidos a Edgar, Jessenia, Flor, Leonor, y Sandra!



Marco Güete, instructor
Leonor Ochoa, ANE
Flor Merlos, PSWD
Sandra David Soto,
ANE Jessenia Pineda,
PSWD Edgar Pineda,
PSWD

Photo by Nancy
Heishman

SeBAH-CoB NEWS continued

SeBAH-CoB Begins a New Cohort

Five new students coming from opposite coasts, belonging to three congregations, and bringing three different cultural backgrounds all participated in an orientation weekend in New Windsor, Maryland, in early February. Edgar and Jessenia Pineda and Flor Merlos were licensed for just one month before heading to orientation. Leonor Ochoa and Sandra David Soto had been eagerly waiting longer to begin their studies. All of them arrived with excitement, a bit of nervousness, and much enthusiasm. Sessions were led by Marco Güete, the new director of the Hispanic and Pastoral Leadership Education Office of Mennonite Church USA, which partners with the Academy in providing the SeBAH-CoB program.

A key goal of the orientation is to help students become comfortable with the writing assignments that are crucial to the success of their studies. As a means to reach that comfort level, they were invited to polish a brief written testimony of the start of their faith journey and thereby testify to the work of Christ along their spiritual journey. From varying childhoods in Guatemala, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic, each person identified moments where God's grace nudged them toward committing their lives to Christ. Beautiful holy moments amidst joy and pain led these five vibrant believers to follow Christ.

For example, Flor Merlos writes, "My life changed greatly when I met Jesus. I was so little in this moment that I didn't understand the miracle that the Lord had done [to heal my body]. Now I understand that after the battle, there is a great victory." About her experience in the orientation, Leonor Ochoa writes, "To study with others from other countries of Latin America is a great experience. It helps us to understand and respect the different cultures and ways of worshiping our God. I am happy to be part of this new SeBAH group."

This new group of students shows bright promise. Both their passion and dedication bode well for their success in the SeBAH-CoB program. Welcome, Edgar, Jessenia, Flor, Leonor, and Sandra!



Flor Merlos, PSWD; Jessenia Pineda, PSWD; Edgar Pineda, PSWD; Sandra David Soto, ANE; Leonor Ochoa, ANE; Nancy Heishman, BAML staff; Marco Güete, instructor

Photo by MaryAnn Grossnickle, New Windsor Warehouse



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 pre-course 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/Ecumenical Experience, BT-Bible/Theology, MS –Ministry/Ministry Skills
FCR-Fulfills Curricular Requirement]

Summer/Fall 2016

“Walking to Peace” with Father John Dear

DISU Pre-AC Ministers’ Assn. Gathering
(Greensboro, North Carolina)

Instructor: Debbie Roberts

June 28-29, 2016

(credits: MS, BTS)

Registration Deadline: May 28, 2016

Neighboring Faiths: A Christian-Muslim Encounter in the United States

SVMC weekend intensive

Mechanicsburg CoB (Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania)

Instructor: George Pickens

August 11-13, 2016

(credits: BT)

Registration Deadline: July 11, 2016

Church of the Brethren History

Online

Instructor: Denise Kettering-Lane

September 5-October 28, 2016

(credits: BT, BTS, FCR)

Registration Deadline: August 5, 2016

Brethren Polity

SVMC, Elizabethtown College (Elizabethtown,
Pennsylvania)

Instructor: Randy Yoder

Sept. 30-Oct 1, Oct. 28-30, 2016

(credits: MS, BCE, FCR)

Registration Deadline: August 30, 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, FCR)

Registration Deadline: September 16, 2016

Finances and Faith

Weekend intensive

McPherson College (McPherson, Kansas)

Instructor: Beryl Jantzi

November 10-13, 2016

(credits: MS, BCE)

Registration Deadline: October 10, 2016

Winter/Spring 2017

Administration as Pastoral Care

January intensive

Bethany Theological Seminary

Instructor: Julie Hostetter

January 9-11, 2017 plus two follow up sessions via
Adobe Connect or Zoom (dates TBD)

(credits: MS, BTS)

Registration Deadline: December 9, 2016

Teaching and Learning in the Church

Online

Instructor: Rhonda Pittman Gingrich

February 6-March 31, 2017

(credits: MS)

Registration Deadline: January 6, 2017

Baptism: A Window into Comparative Theology

Weekend intensive

McPherson College (McPherson, Kansas)

Instructor: Russell Haitch

Date TBD

(credits: BT, BTS, BCE)

Registration Deadline: TBD

Healthy Boundaries 101– Basic Level Ethics in Ministry Relations Training

With Julie M. Hostetter
May 9, 2016

Healthy Boundaries 101 – Basic Level Ethics in Ministry Relations Training

A webcast using Adobe Connect will be offered for ministry training students and newly licensed or ordained clergy by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership.

May 9, 2016
9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Eastern Daylight Time
(break for lunch 1:00–2:00 p.m.)

Name:

Mailing Address:

District:

Email:

Phone:

Fee

_____ **\$30.00** newly licensed or ordained
Clergy (includes book and CEU
certificate)

_____ **\$15.00** current TRIM, EFSM or ACTS
Ministry training students (includes
book)

A book will be sent via USPS to your mailing address.

Make check payable to: **Brethren Academy**

Registration deadline: April 25, 2016
No registrations will be accepted after this deadline.

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:
Brethren Academy
for Ministerial Leadership
615 National Road West
Richmond, IN 47374



- Has served as the director of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership since July 2008 and as executive director since 2011
- Trained at Faith Trust Institute; has led 25 Healthy Boundaries 201 training sessions in 13 districts in 2014 and 2015; one webcast in August 2015
- Earned an MDiv from United Theological Seminary (Dayton, Ohio) and a DMin from Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education (Richmond, Virginia)
- Ordained for 33 years
- Has served the church as a minister of music, minister of Christian education, copastor and interim pastor, interim director of an ecumenical agency, and moderator of the Southern Ohio district
- Worked for the Church of the Brethren General Board as the Congregational Life Team coordinator in the Southeast (1997-2005) and as seminary administrator at United (1982-88; 2005-08)
- Married to Michael, pastor of Salem Church of the Brethren in Englewood, Ohio

This training session will take place via webcast on Monday, May 9 from 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time with a break for lunch 1:00–2:00 p.m.. A website link will be e-mailed to participants a few days prior to the webcast. This link will connect you to the webcast room. Dan Poole, director of educational technology at Bethany Seminary, will provide technology support for this event.

If you are interested in attending this Healthy Boundaries 101 training and overview of the 2008 Ethics in Ministry Relations Paper, please return this registration form with payment enclosed. For questions regarding this event, contact the Brethren Academy at academy@bethanyseminary.edu.

There is a registration fee of \$30 for this event, and 0.5 CEU will be granted. The registration fee for current TRIM, EFSM, or ACTS ministry training students is \$15.00. Registration and payment must be sent to the Brethren Academy by April 25, 2016. No phone or e-mail registrations will be accepted after this deadline.

Training for Online Instructors



Dan Poole

On Saturday, January 9, eleven prospective online instructors and staff for the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center and Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership participated in a continuing education experience via Adobe Connect. Donna Rhodes, executive director of SVMC, and Julie Hostetter co-hosted the event using the technology room at Bethany Theological Seminary. Dan Poole, coordinator for ministry formation and director of educational technology at Bethany, led a two-hour session on Moodle, the learning management system used by BTS and the BAML.



Dan Ulrich

Dan Ulrich, Wieand Professor of New Testament Studies, led a three hour session, "Teaching Online Courses That Engage and Inspire." He shared two resources he developed that were helpful for online courses, "Course Design at a Glance" and a "Sample Discussion Rubric." The book he recommends for those planning to develop courses and teach online is *Best Practices of Online Education: A Guide for Christian Higher Education*, edited by Mark R. Maddix, James R. Estep, and Mary E. Lowe.

2016 Clergy Tax Seminar



Thirty-seven students, pastors, and church leaders participated in the 2016 Clergy Tax Seminar on February 29. They learned how to file clergy taxes correctly and Legally and to comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions. Those who needed it earned 0.3 CEUs. This annual event, offered by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, is cosponsored with its ministry training partners, the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry and Bethany Theological Seminary.

Rev. Deb Oskin, EA, NTPI Fellow, has been doing clergy tax returns since 1989. During her twelve years with H&R Block (2000-2011), she achieved their highest level of expertise certification as a master tax adviser and of teaching certification as a certified advanced instructor. Having earned the status of enrolled agent with the IRS, she is also qualified to represent clients to the IRS.

Deb was called by the Living Peace Church of the Brethren (Columbus, Ohio) to be their peace minister to the wider community in 2004 and served as Southern Ohio District's board chair from 2007-11. She also works closely with several interfaith peace organizations in central Ohio and currently operates her own independent tax service specializing in clergy taxes.

Insight sessions she is offering at Annual Conference include "Demystifying Clergy Taxes" (Thursday, 12:30 p.m.) and "Wait a Minute—Our Pastor Is Self-Employed?" (Friday, 12:30 p.m.).

CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

Annual Conference Women in Leadership Series: Conflict Engagement as Risk and Grace

Clergywomen's Breakfast, Thursday, June 30, 2016 at 7:00 a.m.

"Ethical Grace in Action: A Model of Conflict Engagement for the Church"

Ethical grace, a term coined by theologians Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Parker, points to the grace of the goodness of life and our responsibility for sustaining it. Feminist religious ethicist Sharon Welch describes a similar idea as "joyful resistance" and South African theologian Alan Boesak, as "theological hope." Women of faith through the ages have lived out these concepts of positive peace, advocating for love and generosity in community, caring for those in need, appreciating life in the same breath as confronting injustice, and attending to those who are unjustly treated. How do these values point to healthy conflict engagement in the church?

Hosted by the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry

Insight Session, Thursday, June 30, 2016 at 9:00 p.m.

"Beyond Neutrality: The Many Roles of Conflict Facilitation"

This session will examine various levels and methodologies of conflict engagement, allowing particular conflicts and their contexts to guide us. When pastors and others attempt to facilitate conflict, our *modus operandi* is that our presence be a neutral one. Contrary to popular assumptions, resolution is not necessarily the best goal for every conflict; likewise neutrality is a coveted role that merits additional discernment. Using Mennonite scholar John Paul Lederach, legal scholar Bernie Mayer, and religious studies scholar Carol Dempsey among others, we will explore the roles of neutrality, objectivity, presence, uncertainty, and advocacy as we take to heart the biblical yearning for right relationships. Participants will leave with several methodologies and/or practical tools for use in personal, congregational, or other vocational conflicts. (0.1 CEU available)

Hosted by the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry

Insight Session, Friday, July 1, 2016 at 9:00 p.m.

"Being Mindful of Our Metaphors: The Question of 'Sheep' and 'Shepherds'"

Biblical texts represent stories about God and about Jesus that are constantly adapted to new settings. The memories of the Jesus written about in the gospels were transformed by the experiences of the people doing the writing. Adapting what we hear to make sense in our own settings is important because context matters. That is what the biblical writers did, and that is what we do as well. What do the biblical metaphors of sheep and shepherds offer us today in contexts where we wrestle with issues of empowerment, equality, shared decision making, egalitarian work relationships, and teamwork? Together we will consider the possible pros and cons of these metaphors in our roles as visionaries of God's realm in our lives. (0.1 CEU available)

Hosted by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership and CoB Office of Ministry

Insight Session, Saturday, July 2, 2016 at 9:00 p.m.

"A Restorative Justice Approach to the Divided Church"

As Methodist minister, theologian, and attorney Thomas Porter notes, "Justice is more important to God than worship. The worth of worship is contingent upon being just and righteous in one's relationships." Restorative justice, a comparative response to retributive justice, is a means of conflict facilitation used when harm has been done. In the church, we attempt to mend relationships and move on, often as efficiently as possible and without considering the harm done along the way. This session will discuss the differences between restorative and retributive justice and differences among conflict management, mediation, and restorative justice. Might we consider the methodology of restorative justice helpful as we continue to grapple with deep issues of distrust and harm done among our congregations, within our districts, and at the denominational level? (0.1 CEU available)

Hosted by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership and Bethany Seminary

Presenter: Debbie Roberts is assistant professor of reconciliation studies at Bethany Theological Seminary and also serves as part-time pastor of Ellisforde Church of the Brethren (Pacific Northwest District). She earned a BA at Berea College (1980), an MATH at Bethany Theological Seminary (1986), and a PhD at Claremont Graduate University (2006). Debbie is a former area minister for Pacific Northwest District, former chaplain at La Verne University, and former pastor of congregations in Indiana and the Pacific Northwest. Courses she has taught include conflict transformation, ethics, women's studies, and intercultural studies.



Church of the Brethren Congregational Life Ministries

The Heart of Anabaptism

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*. The webinars are sponsored by the Anabaptist Network, 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 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, April 21: Dennis Edwards (USA), Core Conviction #2
Thursday, April 28: Mark & Mary Hurst (Australia), Core Conviction #7

Urban Webinars Spring 2016

Thursday, April 14: Rob Schellert, "Experiencing Gentrification in the East End of London with Squatters and Anarchists"
Thursday, May 5: Rachel Bee, "The Practical Struggles Faced by Asylum Seekers and How the Christian Community Can Respond"
Thursday, May 26: Jan Pike, "Convening Conversations with Muslim Women"
Wednesday, June 15: Phil Warburton, "Forming a Christian Community in the Midst of Our Struggle for Good Mental Health: Reflections from The Geoff Ashcroft Community"

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

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, Transforming Practices at sdueck@brethren.org



2016 New Church Planting Conference

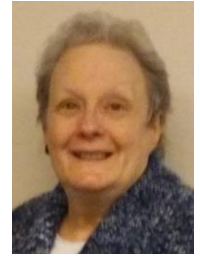
Hope - Imagination – Mission

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.

From the Executive Director



At the Brethren Academy, women and men are equipped for leadership in the church through four training programs: Training in Ministry, Education for a Shared Ministry, Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano, and district based Academy Certified Training Systems. The Brethren Academy also offers continuing education opportunities through several venues to those who have completed seminary degrees or ministry training programs.

Highlights of the 2015 calendar year:

- ❖ Sixty-five students from eighteen districts participated in the TRIM program. Eight students and their supervising pastors from six districts participated in the EFSM program.
- ❖ Two new district TRIM coordinators, Howard Ullery of the Pacific Northwest District and Andrew Wright of Southern Ohio were welcomed into the group of eighteen. Some coordinators serve two districts.
- ❖ Five TRIM students and three EFSM students completed their programs and were recognized at the 2015 Annual Conference. These Academy graduates have now fulfilled the educational requirements for ordination consideration by their districts.
- ❖ Eleven TRIM students from seven districts participated in a July 30-August 2 orientation. Staff advised entering students during a rolling enrollment period before the annual orientation.
- ❖ The Academy organized one residential class at Bethany Seminary, two on-site classes hosted at McPherson College and four online courses. Students, pastors, and lay people participated in these offerings.
- ❖ Bethany teaching faculty provided leadership for the Brethren Academy. Tara Hornbacker taught a January TRIM intensive class, led a session during TRIM orientation, and co-led the first Sustaining Ministerial Excellence Advanced Seminar retreat. Scott Holland taught an onsite spring class at McPherson College, Debbie Roberts offered a Directed Independent Study Unit (DISU) in conjunction with the October Presidential Forum, and Ken Rogers led a May travel seminar to Germany for BTS/BAML participants and taught an autumn online class. Dan Ulrich met with SeBAH-CoB-ANE students via Skype and is preparing the first Church of the Brethren Spanish-language course for this ministry training program.
- ❖ A Directed Independent Study Unit (DISU) for TRIM and EFSM students was offered in conjunction with the Church of the Brethren (COB) Ministers' Association Pre-Annual Conference continuing education event.
- ❖ The Brethren Academy partnership with the Mennonite Education Agency to provide a Spanish-language ministry training program for the Church of the Brethren continued. Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH-CoB) is a denomination-wide certificate-level program that parallels the Academy Certified Training System programs available to English-speaking students. The Atlantic Northeast District had twelve students, and the Pacific Southwest District had six students participating in the SeBAH-CoB program. One student in Puerto Rico continued her program in a Mennonite-CoB cohort. A new SeBAH-CoB cohort will launch in February 2016.
- ❖ Three new tracks have been added to the Education for a Shared Ministry (EFSM) training program: ministry team, specialized ministry, and Spanish language. Information has been shared with district executives and prospective students.
- ❖ Leadership from Bethany Seminary, the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center, and the Brethren Academy coordinate a schedule so that Church of the Brethren history, theology, and polity and practices are offered on a rotating basis in order for students and pastors to have ongoing access to these topics.

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- ❖ The Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry assigned the continuing education program for ministerial ethics—Healthy Boundaries 201 training—to the Brethren Academy. Fifty-six sessions in twenty-four districts with approximately 1,822 participants were offered in 2014-2015 so that the denominational ordination review for clergy could be completed in 2015. The executive director led a Healthy Boundaries 101 webinar training in November for ten TRIM students and others needing the introductory training. Continuing education options have been provided in partnership with the Church of the Brethren and Bethany Theological Seminary as well as with districts, local congregations, and other agencies.
- ❖ The oncampus and online Annual Clergy Tax Seminar was provided by the Brethren Academy in partnership with the COB Office of Ministry and Bethany Theological Seminary.
- ❖ For the fourth year, a Women in Leadership insight session series was offered at Annual Conference in partnership with the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry and BTS.
- ❖ The Supervision in Ministry class was held via Adobe Connect (session one) and onsite in April at the Atlantic Northeast District Office (session two). Five pastors from the Atlantic Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern Pennsylvania Districts who serve as mentors and supervising pastors for Brethren Academy and Bethany Seminary students completed the course.
- ❖ The Sustaining Ministerial Excellence Advanced Seminar bivocational pastors' cohort retreat scheduled for January 16-19, 2015, had to be cancelled. The Sustaining Ministerial Excellence Advanced Seminar for camp leaders was launched November 19-21, 2015, at Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry and Retreat Center. Six leaders from five camps are participating in this continuing education experience. The second retreat was held March 13-16, 2016, at the Quaker Hill Conference Center in Richmond, Indiana.

Fran Massie serves as the full-time administrative assistant at the Brethren Academy and Carrie A. Eikler is the half-time coordinator of TRIM and EFSM ministry training programs. Debbie Roberts, assistant professor of reconciliation studies at Bethany Seminary, completed her commitment as coordinator of the SeBAH-CoB program June 30, 2015. In mid-July Nancy Sollenberger Heishman began a quarter-time staff position as coordinator of Spanish-language ministry training programs.

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

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



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