

The Scroll

Notes and News
from the
Brethren Academy for
Ministerial Leadership

March 2015

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TRIM CLASS

Evangelism: Now and Not Yet



Evaluations of Tara Hornbacker's January intensive class, *Evangelism: Now and Not Yet*, resonated with a similar theme, summed up in this student's response: "The class was a wonderful mix of pastors in various walks. It was so great to network and share ideas. . . . It was a wonderful experience and an uplifting week well spent." Thirteen students, from New York City to Los Angeles and points in between, gathered at Bethany Theological Seminary for a wintry week of exploring the nature of evangelism, giving particular attention to congregational culture and personal assessment of one's own evangelism style.

Weren't able to take the class but feel inspired to read more about evangelism? Consider some of the following resources from the course's book list:

The Study of Evangelism: Exploring a Missional Practice of the Church, edited by Paul W. Chilcote and Lacey C. Warner

Live, to Tell: Evangelism for a Postmodern Age, by Brad Kallenberg

Missional: Joining God in the Neighborhood, by Alan J. Roxburgh



Photo by Julie Hostetter

Seated: Kathy Johnson, Tara Hornbacker, Doris Abdullah
Middle row: Jody Romero, Randy Johnson, George Bates, Gary Mosorjak,
Mike Kenney
Back row: Brian Mackey, Chad Palmer, Randy Short, Matt Rupp, Jack Storne

EFSM NEWS

Joshua Leck Graduation Weekend

On Sunday, February 22, the sisters and brothers at Monitor Church of the Brethren (Western Plains) gathered to celebrate the completion of their Education for a Shared Ministry training program. Joshua Leck, the EFSM minister in training, led the worship service, assisted by members of the Congregational Training Group: Kay Billhimer, Pete Brubaker, Jonathan Frye, and Cathy Patrick. Julie Hostetter, executive director of the Brethren Academy, preached and led the graduation service. Ken Holderread, the supervising pastor for the Monitor EFSM program, and Ed Switzer, the Western Plains District liaison, were also present and recognized for their leadership. Bob Sifrit, the original supervising pastor for the group, was not present but was recognized for his mentoring early in the Monitor program.

After morning worship, the gathered community joined in a fellowship meal, where great food, stories and laughter were shared. Along with Leslie Frye and John Hoffman, Joshua will continue as part of the ministry team at Monitor CoB.

Photo by Julie Hostetter

Front Row: Kay Billhimer, Joshua Leck, Cathy Patrick

Back Row: Ed Switzer, Jonathan Frye, Ken Holderread, Pete Brubaker



Gabe Garrison Graduation Weekend

On Sunday, March 22, 2015, the Peace Valley Congregation of the Missouri/Arkansas District celebrated the completion of their Education for a Shared Ministry training program. Gabe Garrison, the minister in training, led the worship service, which was followed by the graduation ceremony. Roger Schrock, supervising pastor for the Peace Valley EFSM program, led the graduation service. Also present were members of the Congregational Training Group, Mary Shrubbs Cox and Jim Protiva.

Following the graduation an ordination service was held for Gabe Garrison. This service was led by Carolyn Schrock, district executive, with assistance from Beth Gahm, District Ministry Task Force member, and Roger Schrock, district representative.

After the morning worship, the congregation and guests joined in a potluck meal, where great food and fellowship were shared by all. The ministry team of the Peace Valley congregation has been dissolved, and Gabe Garrison will continue on as the solo pastor.



Left to right: Roger Schrock, Gabe Garrison, Amy Garrison, Jim Protiva, Mary Shrubbs Cox

Photos by Carolyn Schrock



SeBAH-CoB NEWS

Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano de la Iglesia de Los Hermanos



Debbie Roberts, coordinator of
SeBAH-CoB program

New SeBAH Cohort Ready to Launch

In fall 2014, the SeBAH-CoB Atlantic Northeast District coordinator, Joel Peña, with support from the district executive, Craig Smith, suggested there were several potential students for a new SeBAH cohort. Since that time we have invited district executives from surrounding districts to consider those in their own districts who might benefit from joining this new group. Thus far three districts have expressed interest. While names of prospective students are still being proposed, followed by district interviews before they are accepted into the program, enough have been accepted for us to launch a new cohort, which will begin this fall.

The orientation event, led by Rafael Barahona, director of Hispanic Pastoral and Leadership Education for the Mennonite Education Agency, will take place at Camp Swatara (Bethel, Pennsylvania) June 5-7. Joel Peña and Debbie Roberts, the Brethren Academy SeBAH-CoB coordinator, will join Rafael and our new students at the camp. We are excited to see new interest and to welcome new faces into this important Spanish-speaking educational opportunity for ministry training.

Nueva SeBAH cohorte listo para lanzar

En el otoño Coordinador SeBAH-COB-ANE Distrito, Joel Peña, con el apoyo de ANE Distrito Ejecutivo Craig Smith, sugirió que había varios estudiantes potenciales para una nueva cohorte SeBAH. Desde entonces hemos invitado Ejecutivos de Distrito de los distritos colindantes a considerar las de sus propios distritos que podrían beneficiarse de formar parte de este nuevo grupo. Hasta ahora tres distritos han expresado su interés. Si bien todavía se están proponiendo nombres de los futuros estudiantes, seguido de entrevistas de distrito antes de ser aceptados en el programa, lo suficiente como han sido aceptados para nosotros lanzar una nueva cohorte, que comenzará este otoño.

El evento Orientación, dirigido por Rafael Barahona, Director de Pastoral Hispana y Educación Liderazgo para la Agencia de Educación Menonita, tendrá lugar en el Camp Swatara 5 a 7 de junio. Joel Peña, ANE Coordinador del Distrito, y Debbie Roberts, el Coordinadora Hermanos Academia SeBAH, se unirán a Rafael y nuestros nuevos estudiantes en el campamento. Estamos muy contentos de ver un nuevo interés y dar la bienvenida a las nuevas personas en esta importante oportunidad educativa de habla española para la formación ministerio.



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 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]

2015

Annual Conference DISU: onsite in Tampa, FL, Joyce Rupp, Presenter on *Delving Deeply Into Compassion*; DISU Instructor: Carrie Eikler, July 10-11, 2015 (credit: MS) **Registration Deadline: June 12, 2015**

Bivocational Ministry: online, Instructor: Sandra Jenkins, July 20-September 11, 2015 (credits: MS) **Registration Deadline: June 22, 2015**

Early Church History, online, Instructor: Kendall Rogers September 21-November 13, 2015 (credits: BT, BTS) **Registration Deadline: August 17, 2015**

Writing for Ministry, online, Instructor: Holly White, September 21–November 13, 2015 (credits: MS)

Presidential Forum DISU: Just Peace, Bethany Theological Seminary, Instructor: Debbie Roberts, October 29-31, 2015 (credits: BT, BTS)

SVMC Academic Symposium Directed ISU (DISU): The Gospel of Mark and the Twenty-first Century, Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA, Keynote Speaker: Dan Ulrich, *DISU Instructor TBD*, November 9, 2015 (credits: BT, BCE)

Preaching Peace, Justice, and Care for Creation, McPherson College, McPherson, KS, Instructor: David Radcliff, November 12-15, 2015 (credits: MS, BCE)

Confirmed and Anticipated Courses in Spring 2016 (course schedule not yet completed)

Pastoral Care, Bethany Theological Seminary, Instructor: Carolyn Stahl Bohler, January 11-13, 2016, plus two online teaching sessions (credits: MS, BTS)

Introduction to New Testament, online, Instructor: Matt Boersma, January 18-March 11, 2016 (credits: BT)

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

Brethren Polity and Practice, McPherson College, McPherson, KS, Instructor: Jim Tomlinson, date TBD (credit: MS, BCE)

CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

All God's People Say Amen

May 1-3 2015

Atlantic Northeast District - Harrisburg, Pennsylvania



An intercultural retreat for

- pastors and church leaders
- board members and Sunday school teachers
- ecumenical partners and friends
- you!

Step away for a weekend to experience fresh wind, to encounter new learnings, and to gain a better understanding of what it means to be an intercultural church in the twenty-first century.

Early Bird Registration \$40

Group (3+) Registration \$35 (valid until April 1)

Church Leadership Conference

May 14-16, 2015

Frederick Church of the Brethren - Frederick, Maryland

GIFTED by God CALLED by the Church EMPOWERED by the Holy Spirit

Sponsored by the Council of District Executives, this leadership event is designed for all church leadership. The event will feature worship times, breakout workshops, and plenary sessions. You are encouraged to bring your entire leadership body.

Healthy Boundaries 201 – Ethics in Ministry Relations Training

Many training sessions of Healthy Boundaries 201 have taken place throughout the twenty-three CoB districts over the last year and a half. This session will be offered for licensed and ordained clergy who have not yet participated. Participants will earn 0.5 CEU credit.

Lois Grove will lead the session Friday, July 10, from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. with a break for lunch. Lois was trained to lead Healthy Boundaries 201 by the Faith Trust Institute and has led multiple training events in the Idaho, Illinois-Wisconsin, Missouri-Arkansas, Northern Plains, Western Pennsylvania, and Western Plains Districts.

The afternoon session will include a presentation on the 2008 Ethics in Ministry Relations paper, led by Tim Button-Harrison, district executive for Northern Plains District.

If you are interested in attending this Healthy Boundaries 201 training, please contact the Brethren Academy at academy@bethanyseminary.edu. **There will be a registration fee of \$20 for this continuing education event. Registration and payment must be sent to the Brethren Academy by June 30, 2015.**

Note: If you are planning to attend this Healthy Boundaries 201 training event, you will likely need lodging in Tampa on Thursday, July 9, 2015.

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Opportunities and Challenges of Post-Christendom

Six webinars featuring the authors of already published or forthcoming books in the popular *After Christendom* series

There is no charge, but donations are welcome. These webinars are presented by the Center for Anabaptist Studies at Bristol Baptist College in partnership with the Anabaptist Network, both in the United Kingdom; the Mennonite Trust; and the Church of the Brethren.

Webinar times*: 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Pacific
 1:30–2:30 p.m. Central
 2:30–3:30 p.m. Eastern
 7:30–8:30 p.m. UK

**Viewers in other time zones should adjust the starting times accordingly.*

May 6, 2015: Simon Perry - “Atheism after Christendom”

Throughout history atheism has been marked by a subversion of gods of the state. As such, in classical Greece, imperial Rome, and medieval Christendom, atheism was a criminal charge. After the European Reformations (sixteenth century), atheism became a term of abuse, and after the Enlightenment (eighteenth century) it became a badge of honour. In the postmodern era (twenty-first century), atheism has become a measure of religious orthodoxy. The more domesticated atheism has become, the more it has lost its subversive element, climaxing today in the endorsement of the very type of state activity it once opposed.



Simon Perry is chaplain of Robinson College, University of Cambridge. He is author of *Atheism after Christendom: Disbelief in an Age of Encounter*. His other publications include the historical fiction *All Who Came Before* (2011) and the theological monographs *Resurrecting Interpretation: Technology, Hermeneutics and the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus* (2012) and *Jesus for Humanists* (2014). He is currently writing about Olympian gods in both archaic Greece and the twenty-first-century West.

June 2, 2015: Brian Haymes and Kyle Gingerich Hiebert - “God after Christendom?”

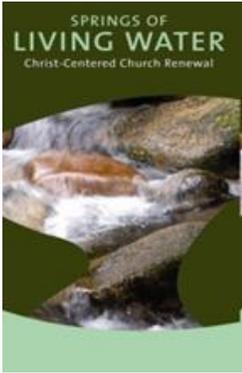
Whatever is happening in history, whatever deals are struck between the church and the state, whether a Christian voice is increasingly heard or marginalized in the arenas of power, God remains God, and that is good news. At least it is so long as God remains God and not some being, even a supreme being. *God after Christendom?* revisits the long tradition of Christian speech about God with the conviction that in scripture and in the history of Christian reflection on these matters there are rich resources for faithful discipleship that enable us to confront the contemporary temptations that too often unwittingly remake God in our own image. Beginning with the biblical witness, the presenters first explore some classic Christian affirmations and argue that they remain crucial for reflection on how we speak of God today, then move on to explore issues of evil and suffering and why faith in the triune God inexorably leads to worship and peace.

Brian Haymes is a Baptist minister who has served in several pastorates, the last being Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, London. He has been principal of the Northern Baptist College in Manchester and Bristol Baptist College.

Kyle Gingerich Hiebert is a Canadian Mennonite who holds a PhD in theology from the University of Manchester.

Springs of Living Water Academy in Church Renewal

Registration Now Open for Foundations Class: Fall 2015



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

Level 1. Fall 2015 Foundations for Christ-Centered Church Renewal

Using a Springs of Living Water text with a spiritually grounded, servant-led approach, learn 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;
- ✓ understand servant leadership from scripture to approach the life cycle of a church;
- ✓ 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.

Recourses: Spiritual Disciplines folder on the Disciplines and *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, *Springs of Living Water*, *Christ-Centered Church Renewal* by David S. Young

Class Sessions – Tuesdays: September 15, October 6 and 27, November 17, December 8

Class Time – 8:00-10:00 a.m. ET

The instructor is Dr. David S. Young with potential guests. Participants call an 800 number. Along with focused readings, participants can practice daily disciplines using folders. For a Springs of Living Water Academy brochure, please e-mail davidyoung@churchrenewalservant.org or call (717)615-4515. The Springs' website is www.churchrenewalservant.org.

Please Note: Registration is due by *August 25, 2015*, earlier if possible, to allow time for reading preparation for the first session listed on the syllabus as well as to discern and enlist a few people from your congregation to walk along with you in the class.

Level 1. Winter 2016 Foundations for Christ-Centered Church Renewal with a bivocational component added that will help all participants

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

Class Time – 8:00-10:00 a.m. ET

Please make your inquiries as soon as possible.

Upon Request: Level 2. A follow-up class on implementation is offered:

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, implementing units of renewal. Please make your inquiry known.

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.

During this past year:

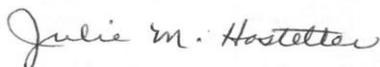
- ❖ Fifty-seven students from nineteen districts participated in the TRIM program. Eleven students and their supervising pastors from eight districts participated in the EFSM program.
- ❖ Four new district TRIM coordinators—Laura Leighton-Harris of Northern Plains, Kevin Daggett of Virgina and Shenandoah, Wes Richard of Northern Indiana, and Paul Bozman of Northern Ohio—were welcomed into the group of sixteen. Some coordinators serve two districts.
- ❖ Nine TRIM students and one EFSM student completed their programs and were recognized at the 2014 Annual Conference. These Academy graduates have now fulfilled the educational requirements for ordination consideration by their districts.
- ❖ Nine TRIM students from eight districts participated in an August orientation. Staff advise entering students during a rolling enrollment period before the annual orientation.
- ❖ The Academy organized two residential classes at Bethany Seminary, one on-site class hosted at McPherson College, and four online courses. Students, pastors, and laypeople participated in these offerings.
- ❖ Bethany teaching faculty provided leadership for the Brethren Academy. Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm led an EFSM weekend in a local congregation, Tara Hornbacker led a session during TRIM/EFSM orientation, and Denise Kettering-Lane taught an online TRIM class.
- ❖ A Directed Independent Study Unit on preaching for TRIM and EFSM students was offered in conjunction with the CoB Ministers' Association Pre-Annual Conference continuing education event.
- ❖ West Marva and Southeastern Districts are working on the recertification of their ACTS programs. The Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center, supported by five districts (Atlantic Northeast; Mid-Atlantic; and Middle, Southern, and Western Pennsylvania), was recertified in 2011 and offers classes for ACTS and TRIM students. The Christian Growth Institute, the ACTS program for Virgina and Shenandoah Districts, was recognized at the 2013 Annual Conference for the completion of its recertification process.
- ❖ The Brethren Academy partnership with the Mennonite Education Agency to provide a Spanish language ministry-training program for the Church of the Brethren continues. Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH-CoB) is a denomination-wide certificate-level program that parallels the ACTS programs available to English-speaking students. Atlantic Northeast District had twelve students and 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.
- ❖ The academic dean from Bethany, executive director of the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center, and executive director of the Brethren Academy coordinate a schedule so that courses in 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.
- ❖ As a representative group to the Ministry Advisory Council, the Academy cohosts the spring meeting.
- ❖ The Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry has assigned the continuing education training program for ministerial ethics—Healthy Boundaries—to the Brethren Academy. Fifty-four sessions in twenty-three districts with approximately 1,700 participants have been offered so that the denominational ordination review for clergy can be completed in 2015. The executive director led the annual session for BTS students who were beginning ministry formation placements.

- ❖ Continuing education options have been provided in partnership with the Church of the Brethren and Bethany Theological Seminary as well as districts, local congregations, and other agencies.
- ❖ The annual on-campus and online Clergy Tax Seminar was provided by the Brethren Academy in partnership with the CoB Office of Ministry and Bethany Seminary's Office of Student Services and Office of Communications.
- ❖ For the third year, a Women in Leadership series was offered at the 2014 Annual Conference in partnership with the CoB Office of Ministry and Bethany Seminary.
- ❖ A new program, Supervision in Ministry, has been launched to provide additional training and continuing education for those serving as mentors and supervising pastors for the Brethren Academy and Bethany students. Six pastors completed the February 2014 class; four pastors completed the fall 2014 sessions. Arrangements are underway for an April 2015 class to be held in the Atlantic Northeast District.
- ❖ Representatives from the Brethren Academy, Church of the Brethren, and Bethany Theological Seminary worked on a proposal for a Sustaining Ministerial Excellence Advanced Seminar option that will succeed the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program. Matching funds from the David J. and Mary Elizabeth Wieand Trust were granted by the Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board and Bethany Theological Seminary Board of Trustees to fund this initiative.
- ❖ Planning for a Sustaining Ministerial Excellence Advanced Seminar bivocational pastors' cohort took place, and twelve people expressed interest in a January 16-19, 2015, retreat. Participants at the annual Outdoor Ministries Association retreat responded to an invitation to form a cohort for ordained camp directors and program staff in the upcoming year.

Fran Massie continues as the administrative assistant at the Brethren Academy. Carrie Eikler began her employment as the half-time coordinator of TRIM and EFSM ministry training programs on February 1, 2014. Debbie Roberts, assistant professor of reconciliation studies at Bethany Seminary, coordinates the SeBAH-CoB program as her Bethany commitment to the Brethren Academy.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Mader Hostetter, Executive Director

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



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