



# *The Scroll*

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

*Spring 2017*

**IN THIS EDITION:** TRIM Updates  
SeBAH-CoB Updates  
Upcoming Courses

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## TRIM UPDATES

### Administration as Pastoral Care

Instructor: Julie Hostetter



Julie Hostetter, Instructor

Photo: Carrie Eikler

### Ministry in the Mundane

Most ministers commit to serving with the intention of being Jesus's hands and feet in a broken world. Serving the poor, comforting the hurting, visiting the sick, and preaching the Word are typically what a minister would conclude as his or her top priorities. Most congregants imagine the ideal pastor as one who is on the front lines of ministry, serving the people. No one would imagine the ideal pastor as one who sits behind a desk pushing paper, just as no one else would easily name administration as a priority in ministry. And yet, good administration is what keeps ministry relevant and effective.

The class Administration as Pastoral Care, led by Julie Hostetter, explored how administration, good and bad, can affect a congregation and its ministries. As Louis B. Weeks states in his book *All for God's Glory: Redeeming Church Scutwork*, good administration enables the furtherance of the gospel. Bottom line: organization, follow-through, and evaluation help ministers to serve their church and community, for God's glory and the good of those served.

*-continued-*

I appreciated this class and the manner in which it was taught. Julie led by example on the subject matter she was teaching. The class was very organized, and it prompted a lot of evaluation of my current ministry context. I would recommend this class to anyone who is new to serving in ministry. I am thankful to have learned that

- in the mundane tasks of keeping a ministry running, you can be a blessing. Think about how printing bulletins in a larger font is helpful for the visually impaired or how renewing the church van's insurance is an important preparation for any groups using it for mission trips.
- mundane is not the same as trivial. It may seem boring, but it can be essential to the smooth operation of the ministry.

I loved this class, and I hope you can experience it too. I am so glad that I had Julie as the teacher!

- Kayla Alphonse is active in the ministry of the Miami, Florida, Haitian Church of the Brethren.



Seated: Kayla Alphonse, Julie Hostetter, Colleen Michael, Carrie Eikler  
Standing: Liz Thorpe, Kathy Johnson, Brian Archer, Randy Johnson, Nick Beam, Arnold Collett, Sie Brock

Photo: Fran Massie

## Reading Lists

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

- Aleshire, Daniel O. Faithcare: *Ministering to All God's People through the Ages of Life*. ISBN: 0-664-24054-2
- Cahalan, Kathleen A. *Projects That Matter: Successful Planning and Evaluation for Religious Organizations*. ISBN: 1-56699-276-1
- Weeks, Louis B. *All for God's Glory: Redeeming Church Scutwork*. ISBN: 978-1-56699-379-1



Nancy Heishman

## SeBAH-CoB NEWS

### Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano de la Iglesia de Los Hermanos

#### Estudiantes de SeBAH-CoB se encuentren cursos desafiantes

Ambas cohortes de estudiantes del programa SeBAH-CoB han enfrentado cursos desafiantes este invierno y los han encontrado muy valiosos. La primera cohorte Alfa completó el último de los cursos enseñados por profesores menonitas. Ellos y ellas exploraron la rica historia del cristianismo desde la iglesia primitiva a través del surgimiento de grupos de fe Anabautistas y Pietistas como el nuestro. Su proyecto final del curso proporcionó un enfoque muy práctico y relevante para la propia congregación del / de la estudiante. La profesora Patricia Urueña, que enseñó el curso en línea desde su casa en Ibagué, Colombia, asignó su proyecto con el propósito de investigar y escribir la historia de la propia congregación particular de cada estudiante. De una manera significativa, este proyecto se suma a la gran historia de la iglesia cristiana que sigue evolucionando a lo largo de los años. Habiendo escuchado algunas de estas historias inspiradoras durante una conferencia por video, es mi esperanza que algún día puedan ser publicadas como un testimonio de las formas en que el evangelio ha dado fruto en la vida de los Hermanos en muchos lugares. Estén atentos a las noticias de esta publicación emergente.

Durante los últimos meses, la cohorte Beta se enfrentó a su más difícil y exigente curso hasta el momento. El curso que se centraba en el cuidado pastoral fue originalmente pensado para ser el séptimo curso en la serie de clases. Sin embargo, debido a la disponibilidad del profesor, cayó en la secuencia como el cuarto curso. Profesor Daniel Schipani es un renombrado erudito e instructor en este campo quien ha sido autor de muchas publicaciones. La profundidad del material desafió a todos los estudiantes en gran medida, pero en última instancia, los bendijo con un profundo aprecio por el ministerio de la atención pastoral dentro de la vida de la congregación y la comunidad. Fueron capaces de procesar el significado teológico de las interacciones dentro de su congregación, así como anticipar futuras posibilidades de ministerio en el área de la pastoral.

Como parte de mi trabajo como la coordinadora de los programas de capacitación del Ministerio de Lengua Española, estoy entusiasmada con dos próximas oportunidades. A finales de marzo comenzará la primera congregación a experimentar la nueva vía en español del programa de Educación para un Ministerio Compartido. David y Rita Flores están pasando del programa SeBAH-CoB a EFSM al terminar su programa de estudio. Ellos y un pequeño grupo de laicos será la primera congregación que se beneficiará de este programa de entrenamiento que ahora está disponible en español.

En la costa este del país, los y las estudiantes del distrito del Noreste Atlántico tendrán la oportunidad de reunirse el 8 de abril para conocer a Janet Ober Lambert, la nueva directora de la BAML y, por video, a Becky Baile-Crouse, una nueva profesora de una clase próxima de SeBAH-CoB. Además, serán invitados a discutir con el liderazgo del distrito sus esperanzas, sueños, preocupaciones y visiones generales para el programa SeBAH-CoB. Esperamos con interés la comunión y el estímulo que siempre resultan de tales reuniones.

¡Que Dios nos bendiga ricamente mientras nos dedicamos a servir al Señor!

## SeBAH-CoB NEWS continued



Screenshot from video conference of members of the Alfa cohort with instructor, Patricia Urueña

Desde el lado izquierdo,  
Egda Franco Macias, Selma Gamboa,  
Nancy Heishman, Haroldo Nunes,  
Patricia Urueña, (profesora), Wilfredo  
Muñoz, Mayra Calix, Lymaris (Aida)  
Sanchez, Arlyn A. Morales

English version:

L to R: Egda Franco Macias, Selma  
Gamboa, Nancy Heishman, Haroldo  
Nunes, Patricia Urueña, (professor),  
Wilfredo Muñoz, Mayra Calix, Lymaris  
(Aida) Sanchez, Arlyn A. Morales

Photo: Floyd Saner

## SeBAH-CoB Students Encounter Challenging Courses

Both cohorts in the SeBAH-CoB program have faced challenging courses this winter and found them very valuable. The Alfa cohort completed the last of the courses taught by Mennonite professors. They explored the rich history of Christianity from the early church on through the emergence of Anabaptist and Pietists faith groups such as our own. Their final course project provided a very practical and relevant focus for the student's own congregation. Professor Patricia Urueña, who taught the online course from her home in Ibagué, Columbia, challenged the students to research and write the history of their own congregation. In a meaningful way, this project adds to the grand story of the Christian church that is continuing to evolve over the years. Having heard some of these inspiring stories during a recent videoconference, it is my hope that they could someday be published as a testimony to the ways in which the gospel has borne fruit in the lives of Brethren in many places. Stay tuned for news of this emerging publication.

During the past several months, the Beta cohort faced its most daunting and demanding course so far. The course focusing on pastoral care was originally intended to be the seventh course in the series of classes. However, because of the availability of the professor, it fell into the sequence as the fourth course. Professor Daniel Schipani is a renowned scholar and instructor in this field who has authored many publications. The depth of the material challenged all the students greatly but ultimately blessed them with a deep appreciation for the ministry of pastoral care within the life of both the congregation and the community. They were able to process the theological meaning of interactions within their congregations as well as anticipate future possibilities for ministry in the area of pastoral care.

In my work as coordinator of Spanish-language ministry training programs, I am excited at two upcoming opportunities. At the end of March, the first congregation to experience the new Spanish-language track of the Education for Shared Ministries program will begin its work. David and Rita Flores are transitioning from the SeBAH-CoB program to EFSM as they finish their program of study. They and a small group of laypersons will be the first congregation to benefit from this seasoned program now available in Spanish.

On the east coast, students in the Atlantic Northeast District will have an opportunity to gather on April 8 to meet Janet Ober Lambert, the new director of the BAML; to also meet by video a new SeBAH-CoB instructor, Becky Baile Crouse; and to discuss with district leadership their overall hopes, dreams, concerns, and visions for the SeBAH-CoB program. We look forward to the fellowship and encouragement that always result from such gatherings.

May God richly bless us as we dedicate ourselves to serving the Lord!



## 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](mailto:academy@bethanyseminary.edu) or 765-983-1824.

Register for SVMC courses through Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center.

Forms at [www.ETOWN.EDU/SVMC](http://www.ETOWN.EDU/SVMC) or contact [svmc@ETOWN.EDU](mailto: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

### Winter/Spring 2017

#### ***Baptism: A Window into Comparative Theology***

Weekend intensive

McPherson College, McPherson, KS

Instructor: Russell Haitch

April 27-30, 2017

(credits: BT, BTS, BCE)

**Registration Deadline: March 27, 2017**

Instructor: Matt Boersma

October 16-December 8, 2017

(credits: BT, FCR)

**Registration Deadline: September 18, 2017**

### Summer/Fall 2017

#### ***New TRIM/EFSM Student Orientation***

July 28-30, 2017

Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, IN

### Winter/Spring 2018

#### ***Elements of Preaching***

Intensive

Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, IN

Instructor: Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm

January 17-19, 2018

(credits: MS, BTS)

**Registration Deadline: December 11, 2017**

#### ***Directed Independent Study: Lillian Daniel***

COB Ministers' Pre-Annual Conference Gathering

Grand Rapids, MI

Instructor: Carrie Eikler

June 27-28, 2017

(credits: MS)

**Registration Deadline: May 27, 2017**

#### ***Now the Silence, Now the Songs:***

#### ***An Introduction to Worship in the Church***

Online

Instructor: Lee-Lani Wright

February 7-April 3, 2018

(credits: MS)

**Registration Deadline: January 2, 2018**

#### ***Reading Women in the Bible***

SVMC online

Instructor: Erika Fitz

August 23-October 18, 2017

(credits: BT)

**Registration Deadline: July 16, 2017**

#### ***What Brethren Believe***

Weekend intensive

McPherson College, McPherson, KS

Instructor: Denise Kettering-Lane

April 12-15, 2018

(credits: BT, FCR, BTS)

**Registration Deadline: March 5, 2018**

#### ***Healthy Conversations as Spiritual Practice***

Online

Instructor: Reba Herder

September 13-November 8, 2017

(credits: MS)

**Registration Deadline: August 13, 2017**

#### ***Race in the Congregation***

Weekend intensive

Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, IN

Instructor: Eric Bishop

Date: TBD

(credits: MS, BTS)

**Registration Deadline: TBD**

#### ***Introduction to the New Testament***

Online

## CONTINUING EDUCATION NEWS

### Sustaining Ministerial Excellence Advanced Seminar Camp Staff Cohort



The fourth and final retreat for this cohort took place March 19-22, 2017, at the Quaker Hill Retreat Center in Richmond, Indiana. Congratulations to Barbara Wise Lewczak (Camp Pine Lake, NPLNS), Karen Neff (Camp Ithiel, ASE), Linetta and Joel Ballew, (Camp Swatara, ANE), Jerri Wenger (Camp Blue Diamond, PAM) and Wallace Cole (Camp Carmel, SE) who completed the SMEAS program! They are pictured here with Janet Ober Lambert, the BAML director and Julie M. Hostetter, the cohort facilitator. The Sustaining Ministerial Excellence Advanced Seminar funded by the David J. and Mary Elizabeth Wieand Trust is the successor to the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program funded by Lilly Endowment Inc.

On Monday morning, Bethany staff Dan Poole, coordinator for Ministry Formation and director of educational technology, and Ryan Frame, computing specialist, led sessions entitled "How Appropriate Use of Technology Can Enrich Your Outdoor Ministry Programs."



Dan Poole



Ryan Frame

In the afternoon, Julie Hostetter, cohort facilitator and former executive director of BAML, led sessions entitled "Reframing Perspectives for Leadership."



On Tuesday morning, Joel Winchip, executive director of the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association in North Carolina, met with the group via Zoom. He gave a presentation called "The Ecumenical Future of Outdoor Ministry,"

In the afternoon Julie Hostetter led a session called "Visioning, Planning and Evaluating" and Janet Ober Lambert led a session entitled "Campfire Stories."



You're never too young for continuing education! Mike Hostetter provided child care for the youngest retreat attendee.

On Tuesday evening, the group celebrated the completion of the program with a special meal, the receiving of CEU certificates and gifts, story sharing and picture taking. Wednesday morning participants shared updates on their in-context projects and ended with a closing worship that included communion.

# 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 & 24, Nov. 14, Dec. 5, 2017 CLASS TIMES –Tuesdays 8:00-10:00 AM 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, April 10, May 1, 2018 CLASS TIMES – Tuesdays 8:00-10:00 AM 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* (Harper One).

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](mailto:davidyoung@churchrenewalservant.org) or call (717) 615-4515. The Springs website, with interpretative Springs DVD, is [www.churchrenewalservant.org](http://www.churchrenewalservant.org).



COLLEGE

## Ventures in Christian Discipleship at McPherson College

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 2016-17 include the following:

- April 8: "The Book of Chronicles and the Church: Theology, Continuity, Innovation, and the Kingdom of God"  
Presenter: Steven Schweitzer
- April 22: "Beyond Sunday School: Trans/forming Faith Formation"  
Presenter: Rhonda Pittman Gingrich

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

- March 22: "Mental Health: Developing Inclusive Communities, Promoting Wellbeing"  
Presenter: Jo Fitzsimmons  
How do we safely support children, young people, adults and whole families in our faith communities in regard to mental health issues?
- April 20: "What Have the Children Done for Us?"  
Presenter: Sara Barron  
In what ways can we hold space for children in and out of the church to build friendship, community and relationship with God?

**All webinars begin at 11:30 a.m. PST; 1:30 p.m. CST; 2:30 p.m. EST; 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](mailto:sdueck@brethren.org).

## Inspiration 2017 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: 1-800-8039 x381 or [jdetrick@brethren.org](mailto:jdetrick@brethren.org).



## JULIE M. HOSTETTER RETIRES FROM BRETHREN ACADEMY



Julie Hostetter with Jeff Carter, president of Bethany

Photo: Lori Current

It was a day of mixed emotions as the employees of the Brethren Academy and Bethany Theological Seminary gathered to celebrate the retirement of Julie Hostetter. Julie served as Executive Director of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership from July 1, 2008 to January 31, 2017.

Julie's duties entailed more than one might imagine. She oversaw the denominational certificate programs, including Training in Ministry (TRIM), Education for a Shared Ministry (EFSM) and the Academy Certified Training Systems (ACTS). Under Julie's leadership, a new certificate program was born: Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH)-COB. In

partnership with the Mennonite Education Agency, SeBAH-COB provides ministry training in the Spanish language. Julie also coordinated denominational continuing education programs, including Sustaining Pastoral Excellence, Sustaining Ministerial Excellence, Clergy Tax Seminar, and Healthy Boundaries ethics training for all ministers and ministerial students. Between 2014 and 2015 alone, Julie led twenty-five Healthy Boundaries training sessions in thirteen districts.

What's more than this—more than the work she accomplished—was Julie's kindness and friendship. Julie was (and is) a friend, a confidant, and a mentor to many.

Carrie Eikler, coordinator of TRIM and EFSM programs, reflects:

*My three years with Julie were ones of intense growth and nurturing. Julie imparted to her colleagues the philosophy that we are here to "nurture and nudge". We nurture and nudge students to not only deepen their studies, but also to claim their call. It is the same thing ministers do with the communities they serve. Ministers nurture and nudge others more fully into transformative relationship with God.*

*Julie's life and message are all encompassing. Her love is full and rich. Her strength and faith are felt by all she comes in contact with. Julie is truly a gift to the church and has been and continues to be a blessing to me.*

Julie's love for doing God's work was evident in her passionate attention to detail, her willingness to serve, her positive attitude and her relationships with those around her.

While we miss Julie's daily interaction with the Academy, we wish her all the best in her retirement and relocation to Virginia. As Julie would often say, "Onward we go!"

- The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership Staff

## BAML ANNUAL REPORT

- Forty-nine students from fifteen districts participated in the Training in Ministry (TRIM) program.
- Five students and their supervising pastors from four districts participated in the Education for a Shared Ministry (EFSM) program.
- There are fifteen TRIM coordinators, some serving two districts.
- Five TRIM students completed their program and were recognized at the 2016 Annual Conference.
- Five new TRIM students from five districts participated in the 2016 orientation.
- Bethany Seminary teaching faculty provided leadership for the Brethren Academy. Steve Schweitzer and Denise Kettering-Lane taught online courses on Chronicles and Church of the Brethren History, respectively. Debbie Roberts offered a Directed Independent Study Unit (DISU) in conjunction with the CoB Ministers' Association Pre-Annual Conference event. Dan Ulrich designed and taught El Evangelio de Mateo (The Gospel of Matthew), the first Church of the Brethren course in Spanish for the SeBAH-COB program.
- In partnership with the Mennonite Education Agency, the Brethren Academy provides a Spanish-language ministry training program for the Church of the Brethren, Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH). The first SeBAH unit has seventeen students from three districts. A second unit launched in February with five students.
- Three new tracks were added to the EFSM training program: ministry team, specialized ministry, and Spanish language.
- Healthy Boundaries 101 sessions were offered in May for BTS ministry formation students, BAML students and newly ordained or licensed ministers from the districts. The first Spanish-language Healthy Boundaries 101 webcast was offered in October.
- The on-campus and online Annual Clergy Tax Seminar was provided by the Brethren Academy in partnership with the COB Office of Ministry and Bethany Theological Seminary.
- The Supervision in Ministry class was held October 22 and November 5 with four pastors from Southern Ohio District participating.
- Six leaders from five camps participated in the camp leaders cohort of the Sustaining Ministerial Excellence Advanced Seminar. They focused on Biblical Models of Leadership, Theology and Science Fiction, Intergenerational Ministry and Youth/Young Adult Ministry, Leadership Practices, and the use of technology in camp settings.

The Academy continues 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.

## From the Director



After twenty-five years in pastoral ministry, I joined the staff of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership eight weeks ago. Since then, I have been on a huge learning curve. The amazing program that my predecessors developed and administrated is beautiful and daunting in its scope. The Academy staff is skilled and experienced, each in their own areas, and I am running to keep up. And you—the students, instructors, supervising pastors, district personnel and coordinators—you are sustaining wonderful ministries of your own. God breathes inspiration, wisdom and knowledge. You are the hearts, minds, and hands that receive these gifts and put them to work in the world. I am honored to be among you.

My transition to this new position has reminded me of the importance of lifelong learning, not just for others but for myself. Engaging in learning throughout our lives ensures us of never growing complacent, overconfident, or careless with the good news entrusted to us. Remaining open to new knowledge, insight, and perspectives keeps our minds sharp and our spirits humble. This is why I am pleased that the Brethren Academy focuses both on training persons for ministry *and* engaging them in continuing education. As pastors, chaplains, church administrators, spiritual directors, religious educators, music ministers, camp personnel, and lay leaders, we need to stay sharp, open, and always learning. Like school teachers attending in-service days, surgeons learning new techniques, or artists continually honing their skills, we are called to develop our gifts that they may be used in ever greater ways, used for the glory of God and our neighbors' good.

Please join me, then, on this learning curve—not just until I get this job figured out but for as long as God calls us to the good work of the gospel of Jesus Christ. For we may have these “treasures in clay jars” (2 Cor 4:7), but these jars may be melted, molded, filled, and constantly used in new ways by the grace and goodness of God.

*Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us.*<sup>1</sup>

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

1. Everson, Daniel (1926). *Spirit of the Living God* (Birdwing Music), 1935.

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



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