

Brethren Academy offers 'Strength for the Journey'

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership has begun a new continuing education experience called "Strength for the Journey," to bring together small groups or "cohorts" of ministers to share experiences, hone skills, explore ideas, wrestle with common dilemmas, and take on topics that spark new energy for ministry, while earning continuing education credit.

The program will include up to five cohorts each year, beginning in early 2023. Cohorts of five to eight ministers will meet via Zoom, with assistance from a convener. Funds will be available to meet in person at the end of the year.

The three types of cohorts:

Deep Dive Cohorts to engage in conversation about a topic of mutual interest, exploring a book, an area of ministry, or a social concern, and developing skills for worship, preaching, or peacebuilding.

Specialized Ministry Cohorts to gather groups who share one of the ministry specialties in the Church of the Brethren.

Case Study Cohorts to discuss case studies from their own ministry settings.



Fellowship of Brethren Homes holds annual forum

The Fellowship of Brethren Homes held an Annual Forum at West View Healthy Living in Wooster, Ohio, Aug. 10-12 after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19.

In attendance were representatives of Hillcrest and Casa de Modesto in California; Garden Terrace in Washington; the Cedars in Kansas; Pinecrest in Illinois; Londonderry Village in Pennsylvania; and Good Shepherd, the Brethren Retirement Community, and West View Healthy Living in Ohio.

The keynote on effective storytelling was provided by Courtney Malengo, founder of Spark + Buzz Communications. David Sollenberger, immediate past moderator of Annual Conference, led a discussion about storytelling through video. Lisa McCracken, director of Senior Living Research for Zeigler Investment Bank, presented the report "2022 State of Not-Profit Senior Living and Care."



The National Older Adult Conference team met in Lake Junaluska, N.C., while planning for next year's NOAC. Team members include Glenn Bollinger, Karen Dillon, Bonnie Kline Smeltzer, Jim Martinez, Leonard Matheny, Don Mitchell, Karlene Tyler, and Christy Waltersdorff as coordinator, with Josh Brockway and Stan Dueck as staff.

Anabaptist Bible project launches

Work has begun on a first-ever **Anabaptist Bible**, a project of MennoMedia. An Aug. 26-28 event gathering some 40 "Bible ambassadors" from various Anabaptist communities included Brethren Press publisher Wendy McFadden and Josh Brockway, co-coordinator of Discipleship Ministries for the Church of the Brethren.

The gathering was convened by John Roth, director of

"Anabaptism at 500" for MennoMedia, with representatives of the Mennonite Church USA, Mennonite Church Canada, Brethren in Christ, Evana, Lancaster Mennonite Conference, Bruderhof, and the Church of the Brethren.

The project is recruiting 500 Bible study groups from the Anabaptist community in North America to study portions of scripture and share their insights.



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EYN workshop educates on sexual exploitation

Ekklesiyar Yan'ua a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) partnered with Mission 21 and others to create a workshop on "Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment." The initial workshop was held July 18-22 with 24 participants from various departments of EYN, facilitated by Mission 21 country coordinator Yakubu Joseph.

The topic was very new to most of the participants, who were left with zeal to create awareness of gender-based violence, starting from the family level. Certain church structures, such as church sub-groups and IDP camps, were identified as venues to conduct additional workshops to reach a larger audience.



Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) Unit 331 held orientation at Camp Wilbur Stover in New Meadows, Idaho, Aug. 9-17. The 10 volunteers included 5 from EIRENE, a partner organization based in Germany: (front row, from left) Martha Hummer of Annville (Pa.) Church of the Brethren is placed with Brethren Disaster Ministries in Waverly, Tenn.; Chloe Soliday of Stone Church of the Brethren in Huntingdon, Pa., is placed at Brethren Community Ministries, Harrisburg, Pa.; Lena Lippert of Altena, Germany, is placed at Abode Services in Fremont, Calif.; (middle row) Moritz Hinner of Winnigen, Germany, is placed at Highland Park Elementary School in Roanoke, Va.; Billy Harness of North Liberty, Ind., and North Liberty Church of the Brethren is placed at SnowCap in Fairview, Ore.; Benjamin Hoffmann of Pfullendorf, Germany, is placed at Ferncliff in Little Rock, Ark.; Virginia Rendler of North Manchester, Ind., and Manchester Church of the Brethren is placed with Corrymeela in Ballycastle, Northern Ireland; Lucas Kohler Caravaca of Berlin, Germany, is placed at SnowCap; Franka Evers of Bochum, Germany, is placed at Abode Services; Grace Elliott of Fort Littleton, Pa., is placed at the Brethren Nursery School at Gisenyi Church of the Brethren in Rwanda; (back row) Michael Brewer-Berres and Emily Bowdle of the BVS office staff.



Personnel

Scott Holland has been awarded professor emeritus status at Bethany Theological Seminary. He continues to teach in the theopoetics program that he helped develop. He has been the Slabaugh Professor of Theology and Culture at Bethany and spent 23 years directing the seminary's Peace Studies program. He first joined the faculty in 1999 with a focus on public theology. He was instrumental in starting the theopoetics program that began as a five-course certificate program, and then evolved into a full master's degree program in

partnership with Earlham School of Religion.

Barry LeNoir will depart June 30 as director of Camp Bethel in Fincastle, Va., a position he began in 2002. He has 38 years of camp staff experience. He served on the steering committee of the Church of the Brethren's Outdoor Ministries Association (OMA) 2004-2010, receiving the OMA Camp Staff Award in 2011

Precious Earley of Atlanta, Ga., started Sept. 26 as communications director for Eder Financial. She has more than 17 years of experience in marketing and com-

munications and holds a bachelor's degree in telecommunications from Ball State University and a master's in integrated marketing communications from the P.I. Reed School of Journalism at West Virginia University.

Bayo Tella was appointed provost of Kulp Theological Seminary of Ekklesiyar Yan'ua a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) on Aug. 1, after serving as deputy provost and then acting provost. He began teaching at the seminary in 2016 and was dean of Student Affairs 2016-2017. He is an

ordained minister who has served several pastorates and various district positions across EYN. Tella's predecessor, Dauda A. Gava, has completed his two-term tenure.

Kate Doyle Betts has been named president and chief executive officer of SERRV International. She has held senior leadership roles in marketing, including 22 years with Williams-Sonoma. A fair-trade organization founded by the Church of the Brethren 72 years ago, SERRV continues to have warehouse facilities at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md.