

Bethany Seminary continues its 115-year tradition of providing excellent preparation for pastoral leadership, as well as other forms of ministry and scholarship. In May, thirteen students received Bethany degrees, including seven who earned the Master of Divinity degree, two who earned the Master of Arts, and four who earned certificates in theopoetics and theological imagination. In a video message to the graduates, President Jeff Carter noted:

“You have important work to do. At a time when we are divided, separated, and fearful, it is you who can bring this world together, create places of belonging and most of all, offer hope – a hope that does not disappoint – one born of God’s grace and love.”

/ JEFF CARTER, PRESIDENT



RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Bethany responded swiftly and creatively to the coronavirus pandemic, continuing to pursue its mission, foster community and complete important work. In mid-March, Bethany replaced in-person course meetings with online video conferencing and employees began working from home. In order to maintain our strong sense of community, we instituted weekly online gatherings for devotion and prayer on Wednesdays, and an online gathering on Thursdays called “Coffee with Carter,” intended to bring people together for fellowship and information sharing. Bethany also provided daily lunches to residential students and their families, and faculty and staff maintained their connections with students through online meetings and other communications. Most important, we are continuing to educate our students and help them continue their progress toward degrees, despite the pandemic.

OUR NIGERIA CONNECTION

Enrollment is growing at Bethany’s classroom facility in Jos, Nigeria. Sharon Flaten — an American Master of Divinity student now living in Nigeria —

is a contract employee who serves as our liaison to Nigerian students, an essential role in a culture where in-person meetings are highly valued. Flaten reports that Bethany’s Certificate in Biblical Peacemaking has broad appeal there. “While most of our students come from EYN, we are seeing interest from other denominations, which means that our students come from varying backgrounds.”

MAKING SEMINARY AFFORDABLE

Our primary strategic goal is to help students graduate with minimal debt. The Pillars and Pathways program, offers five means to this end: Scholarships and financial aid; affordable housing for residential students, a financial literacy course, encouragement to live simply; and employment. While students can choose whether or not to make use of these offerings, we are pleased to note that those students who receive a Residential Scholarship (based on good academic performance), live in our Richmond “neighborhood” of seminary owned houses, and contribute a minimum of \$7,500 earned through part-time work can graduate from Bethany without additional student debt.

Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Conference

Bethany At-a-Glance



DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Master of Divinity
- Master of Arts
- Master of Arts: Theopoetics and Writing



CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Certificate of Achievement in Theological Studies
- Certificate of Achievement in Biblical Peacemaking
- Certificate in Intercultural Biblical Interpretation
- Certificate in Just Peace and Conflict Resolution
- Certificate in Theology and Science
- Certificate in Theopoetics and Theological Imagination



BETHANY ACADEMY FOR MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

- Education for a Shared Ministry
- Training in Ministry
- Educación para un Ministerio Compartido
- Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano-de la Iglesia de los Hermanos

BETHANY QUICK FACTS

- **14 of 24** Church of the Brethren District Executives are Bethany Alumni
- This past year **13 students** graduated with degrees from Bethany and another 10 completed training through Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership
- As of the end of May, Bethany was expecting **59 students** to enroll for the fall of 2020
- The "Neighborhood," as the houses where residential students live are known, is expected to be at capacity in the fall, with **16 residents**.
- Students in the Pillars and Pathways Residential Scholarship Program serve more than a dozen non-profit organizations in the surrounding community, completing **288 volunteer hours** per semester.

SOUTHERN OHIO/ KENTUCKY DISTRICT CONFERENCE

- Current students: 4
- Financial support (as of June 30, 2020): **\$46,514.67 from 52 donors**