



"Bethany Theological Seminary equips spiritual and intellectual leaders with an Incarnational education for ministering, proclaiming, and living out God's shalom and Christ's peace in the church and world."

— MISSION STATEMENT

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011-2012

Major Initiatives

- The Seminary completed the second year of its 2010-2015 strategic plan, approved by the board of trustees in March 2010. Several priorities of the plan are reflected in the following two initiatives.
- The faculty are evaluating and restructuring Bethany's academic programs and curriculum, projecting to be completed by fall 2013. Objectives include: integrating all disciplines around the mission statement, revising degree program objectives, a new formation course for the MA program, increasing the number of emphases for students to select, and additional course offerings in evangelism and conflict management.
- Bethany has completed the private phase and first public year of its three-year \$5.9 million Reimagining Ministries campaign, having reached two-thirds of goal. Many volunteers have helped carry out 35 area meetings. The campaign goals include preparing students for multiple forms of ministry, new course offerings in evangelism and conflict management, and increased access to Bethany's resources.

Reaching the Wider Community

- A capacity crowd attended Bethany's fourth Presidential Forum, "Joy and Suffering in the Body: Turning toward Each Other." Keynote speaker Dr. James Forbes and five academic professionals in medicine, ecclesiology and sexuality, Christian history, religion and psychiatry, and biblical studies led the Forum.
- Exploring Your Call was again held in June, a ten-day seminar for high school students to explore faith and vocation through classes, congregational involvement, service projects, and personal and spiritual enrichment.
- Faculty and staff had a presence beyond the classroom within the Church of the Brethren, including numerous sermons and other church-related presentations, leadership in workshops and retreats, reports to district conferences, and insight sessions. All faculty also participated in professional conferences, presented papers, gave academic lectures, and/or had works published.

Additional Highlights

- Sixteen graduates received MDiv and MA degrees and Certificates of Achievement in Theological Studies.
- Two grants were received: (1) to support a faculty study on ministry in multifaith contexts and (2) to develop effective ways of encouraging personal and professional growth through the Ministry Formation program.
- A new study program in Marburg, Germany, will enable students to earn up to five credits while learning German, tutoring English and religion in the public schools, and becoming involved in a congregation.

You are invited to support Bethany Seminary by:

- Remembering Bethany with your continued prayers and personal and congregational support;
- Calling persons of all ages into ministry and encouraging those who work in other professions to attend Bethany for a semester or an intensive course;
- Envisioning new forms of ministry for master-of-divinity-trained persons, such as mentors of lay leaders in small congregations, Academy student supervisors, or coaches of pastors new to the Church of the Brethren.

Ruthann Knechel Johansen, president, and Carol Scheppard, chair 2010-12, Bethany board of trustees



BETHANY AND THE SOUTHERN OHIO DISTRICT: PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Students in graduate programs: 13 Students in the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership: 5
Financial support: \$10,552 from your district and congregations during fiscal 2011-12

To learn more about Bethany, visit our website at www.bethanyseminary.edu.