



**EASTERN MENNONITE  
SEMINARY**

*Prepared to serve and  
lead in a global context*

**Summer 2017**

**CENTRAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

**Seminary Annual Report**

**Seminary alums making a difference,  
“Welcoming the Neighbor.”**

During the divisive election season, **Matt Bucher** (2014 grad), pastor of Immanuel Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg created a simple wooden sign that read, in Spanish, English, and Arabic, “No matter where you are from, we’re glad you’re our neighbor. This sign was planted in the church lawn. Some months later, **Nick Meyer** (2014 grad), pastor at Early Church in Harrisonburg, suggested that this message needed to be broadcast to a wider audience. A graphic artist helped Matthew and Nick develop a colorful version of the sign that could be easily printed and displayed.

These signs have now appeared in all 50 states, and are starting to show up around the world. Information about ordering signs can be found at the “Welcome your neighbors” Facebook page.

**Change in seminary leadership**

After seven years as dean of Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Dr. Michael King is stepping down, effective June 30, 2017. He is looking forward to re-engaging with his publishing company, Cascadia Publishing House LLC, whose mission is to “...support examination of faith, history, and contemporary life from an Anabaptist perspective.” Dr. Nancy Heisey will continue in her role as the seminary’s associate dean, which she has held since August 2016. Dr. Fred Kniss, university provost, will be stepping in as interim dean for the 2017-18 academic year, as a search for dean commences.

**EMS Commencement**

Seminary commencement was held on Saturday, April 29. Nine students received the Master of Divinity degree, one student received the Master of Arts in Religion degree, and three students received certificates in ministry leadership. The commencement speaker was Erin Dufault-Hunter, Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary.

**Fall semester distance learning options:**

**Online:**

- New Testament: Text in Context, 3 SH, **Dorothy Jean Weaver**
- Christian Tradition I, 3 SH, **David Evans**

**Hybrid:**

- Leadership and Administration, 3 SH, **Lonnie Yoder**
- Christian Ethics, 3 SH, **Mark Thiessen-Nation**

For more information:

<http://emu.edu/seminary/distance-learning/>

***Statement of Purpose***  
*Eastern Mennonite Seminary prepares men and women to serve and lead in a global context. In response to God’s saving grace, we educate students to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of God’s Spirit as wise interpreters, mature practitioners, discerning communicators, and transformational leaders.*

**Susan Schultz Huxman**, *University president*

**Fred Kniss**, *interim seminary dean*

**Les Horning**, *director of seminary admissions, associate director of church relations*

For the most up-to-date information on EMS, give us a call, visit us on the web, “Like” us on Facebook!  
[www.emu.edu/seminary](http://www.emu.edu/seminary)  
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