



Anabaptist Mennonite
Biblical Seminary

Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program

Twenty-six people were involved in the Journey program during the 2017-2018 year, including nine participants and nine mentors. Three participants and three mentors are from Central District Conference, including Dennis Miller and mentor John Heyerly, Janet (JP) Schumacher and mentor Gloria Hernandez Bucher, and Jan Croyle and mentor Cynthia Mason. Conference ministers, seminary staff, and two additional pastors also participated.

All participants gathered at Amigo Centre for the fall Weekend Learning Event. David Miller, AMBS professor, led the Friday evening session, "Remember your Baptism." On Saturday Nina Lanctot and Cyneatha Millsaps led sessions on spiritual disciplines and character formation for leaders. Eleanor Kreider led worship sessions throughout the weekend. Saturday afternoon, Brent Graber, AMBS Director of Information Technology, led an orientation to the online learning platform, preparing participants to access the Journey curriculum online. Cohort sessions followed, providing opportunities for participants to work on their personal timelines, take personality inventories, and explore spiritual direction. Mentors and mentees also met together to work on and update their learning covenants.

Following the fall gathering, participants joined online study units using the Journey Missional Leadership Development curriculum. As part of these studies they also carried out a wide variety of ministry tasks in their congregations and communities. Throughout the session they met with their mentors, typically bi-weekly, to discuss the study materials and their experiences in ministry.

The spring Weekend Learning Event was held on the AMBS campus. Presentations focused on the theme, "For Such a Time as This: Challenges and Resources for Christian Leadership in our Moment and Place," and were led by David Miller along with AMBS students Amos and Esther Muhagachi, of Tanzania. Amos and Esther hope to use the Journey curriculum in the Tanzanian setting in the future. Eleanor Kreider served as worship leader. Each mentee submitted a reflection paper focused on her/his learning from the previous study unit, and each mentor submitted reflections on the learning of her/his mentee. Following the spring Weekend Learning Event, mentor-mentee pairs again met bi-weekly to discuss curriculum and to reflect on their ongoing ministry experiences.

The Journey Board continues to play a vital role in keeping the program running. Many thanks to Nina Lanctot for chairing the board and to board member Ardean Friesen, Central District Conference representative.

According to our Journey participants and alumni, Journey is a tremendous opportunity for lay pastors, pastors, emerging pastors, and other emerging leaders. If someone you know wants to develop ministry gifts or is exploring a call to ministry, please encourage them speak to Doug Luginbill about whether the Journey program might be the right next step.

Respectfully submitted,
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AMBS Dean of Lifelong Learning