



Anabaptist Mennonite
Biblical Seminary

Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program

Forty-three people were involved in the Journey program during the 2018-2019 year, including eighteen participants and sixteen mentors. Three participants and two mentors are from Central District Conference, including Dennis Miller and mentor John Heyerly, Janet (JP) Schumacher and mentor Gloria Hernandez Bucher, and Jan Croyle. Conference Minister Doug Luginbill, along with other conference ministers, seminary staff, proctors, and two additional pastors also participated. Dennis Miller is completing the program this spring.

All participants gathered at Amigo Centre for the fall Weekend Learning Event with the theme “Abide with Me as I Abide with You.” Pastors Duane Beck and Donna Mast, proctors for Journey, led the Friday evening session, “inFORMation: Stories of Formation.” On Saturday, their sessions were “FORMation: Stories of Practice” and Sunday’s session was “transFORMation: Stories of God’s Work in our Lives.” Eleanor Kreider, assisted by David B. Miller, led worship sessions throughout the weekend. Saturday afternoon, Jewel Gingerich Longenecker and David B. Miller led an orientation to the online learning platform, preparing participants to access the Journey curriculum. 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. Doug Luginbill introduced participants to the personality inventories.

Following the fall gathering, participants joined online classes. 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 various forms of ministry.

The winter Weekend Learning Event was held on the AMBS campus. Presentations focused on the theme, “The Continuing Conversion of the Leader.” Friday evening’s session, led by David B. Miller, was entitled “Leading from Within.” Saturday’s sessions included: “Intersectionality and Undoing Oppression” by Nekeisha Alayna Alexis and “Gender Equality” by David B. Miller and Jewel Gingerich Longenecker. Sunday’s session, led by David, was “Healthy Boundaries.” Eleanor Kreider served as worship leader for the weekend. 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 winter Weekend Learning Event, participants again joined online classes and met bi-weekly in mentor-mentee pairs.

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

According to our Journey participants and alumni, Journey is a tremendous opportunity for lay leaders, pastors, church planters, 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