



Anabaptist Mennonite
Biblical Seminary

Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program

Forty-seven people were involved in the Journey program during the 2019-2020 year, including nineteen participants and seventeen mentors in the North American program and twelve participants and one mentor in the newly launched Journey program in southeast Asia.

Four participants and two mentors were from Central District Conference, including Charles Baraka and Steve Mares and their mentor, Cyneatha Millsaps, Janet (JP) Schumacher and mentor Gloria Hernandez Bucher, and Jan Croyle, who was mentored by Marilyn Rossiter of Ohio Conference. Conference Minister Doug Luginbill, Journey board chair Nina Lanctot, along with other conference ministers, seminary staff, instructors and an additional pastor also participated. Janet (JP) expects to complete the program this spring.

Participants gathered at Amigo Centre for the fall Weekend Learning Event with AMBS professor Dr. Safwat Marzouk leading sessions on Biblical interpretation. Eleanor Kreider 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 (led by Doug Luginbill), 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 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 with a Friday evening visit to Menno-Hof in Shipshewana. The theme for the weekend was “Anabaptism: Foundations and Future--A Way of Being Church.” with AMBS professor Dr. Jamie Pitts. Mentees and mentors in their final year of the program, including Jan Croyle, served as worship leaders for the weekend, stepping up as our regular worship leader, Eleanor Kreider, participated in an AMBS study tour to Egypt. 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, board chair, Doug Luginbill, conference minister, and Ardean Friesen, Central District Conference representative, for serving on the board. Nina completed four years of excellent service in February. We are excited to welcome Lois Kaufmann as the new board chair.

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 to 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