



EASTERN MENNONITE SEMINARY

*Prepared to serve and
lead in a global context*

WINTER 2017

OHIO MENNONITE 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, who grew up at Kidron Mennonite), 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.

The simple message of welcome struck a nerve, and within weeks, requests for the signs came pouring in, and signs began appearing in Pennsylvania, Michigan, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Washington, DC, Vermont, and Canada. This all happened organically by word of mouth, without an intentional campaign, and the word continues to spread. More information can be found at “Welcome your neighbors” on Facebook.

2017 School for Leadership Training: January 16-18

In a time when it seems dividing differences are becoming more and more pronounced, both in the church, and in broader society, nearly 250 participants at EMS’ SLT explored ways to counter this trend.

Led by keynote speakers Christena Cleveland and Drew G.I. Hart, we explored healthy ways to navigate interactions with the “other,” while owning our own particular world-view lenses. The biblical story of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37, was a focal point in the worship services.

Eleven different workshops allowed participants the chance to dig deep into questions of “other” vs. “neighbor” as they occur in various ministry and life contexts.

Visit <http://emu.edu/seminary/slt/archive/> for access to worship resources and podcasts from this event.

EMS offers May and June term courses

EMS will offer several intensive summer courses in May and June, at the Harrisonburg campus:

- **Mennonite Faith and Polity:** 2 SH, May 9-17 (Nancy Kauffman)
- **Isaiah:** 3 SH, May 8-19 (Andrea Dalton Saner)
- **Global Christianity:** 3 SH, May 18-26 (James Krabill)
- **Healing Ministry in the Missional Church:** 3 SH, May 30– June 7 (Lawrence Yoder).
- **Summer Institute for Spiritual Formation:** 1-4 SH, June 19-30 (Kevin Clark, Emily Peck-McClain)

www.emu.edu/seminary/courses/summer

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

Michael King, Seminary dean

Phil Helmuth, director of church relations

Les Horning, interim director of seminary admissions, associate director of seminary development and 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

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