

REGISTRATION FORM

**Ministry in Moments of
Extraordinary Times of Crisis:
The Virginia Tech Tragedy as Case Study**
Lombard, Illinois
September 18-21, 2008

Name: _____

District : _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

I will be taking this course for:
TRiM Credit ____ Cont. Ed. Credit ____
Personal Enrichment ____

Course fee: \$200.00. Make check
payable to: *Brethren Academy.*

Registration deadline: August 18, 2008

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:

Brethren Academy
for Ministerial Leadership
615 National Road West
Richmond, IN 47374

For more information, contact the
Brethren Academy at 765-983-1824, or
academy@bethanyseminary.edu.

PARTICIPANTS

A TRIM student will earn one unit of Academy level or CEQ credit in Ministry Skills. Pastors will receive two CEU credits for participation which includes doing the pre-course reading but not the post-course project.

Class size is limited to 20 students.

As an attendee of this event, you may be included in still photos, video taped footage, news articles, informational brochures or other media used to interpret the mission and purpose of Bethany Theological Seminary, the Church of the Brethren General Board, and the Brethren Academy.

Refunds:

100% of course fee prior to the registration deadline
50% between the registration deadline and the first day of class

No refunds will be given once the class has begun.
Exceptions require the approval of the Director of the Brethren Academy



Brethren Academy
for Ministerial Leadership
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Richmond, IN 47374
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Ministry in Extraordinary Moments of Crisis: The Virginia Tech Tragedy as Case Study

York Center
Church of the Brethren
1S071 Luther Avenue
Lombard, Illinois
Marilyn Lerch, Instructor
September 18-21, 2008



Brethren Academy
for Ministerial
Leadership

academy@bethanyseminary.edu

MINISTRY IN EXTRAORDINARY MOMENTS OF CRISIS: THE VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY AS CASE STUDY

OBJECTIVES

Any crisis is extraordinary for those experiencing it. This course will use the tragic school shootings that occurred on the Virginia Tech campus on April 16, 2007 as a jumping off place to explore how one responds in a pastoral role to such moments. While no course can prepare us for every unexpected occurrence of life, thoughtfully considering the many options one has to respond to those who suddenly face one of life's devastations can till to soil for experiences in the future.

Topics covered in this course will include:

How can one prepare for a crisis?

What are the limitations as well as the opportunities for ministry in crisis?

What particular place can one in pastoral ministry play during these moments?

How does a pastor stay alert to potential pitfalls – both personal and ministerial - when dealing with traumatic events?

What are the issues that a crisis can raise in those involved?

What contributions do prayer, forgiveness, judgment and grace make in times of crisis?

The class will consist of discussion, lecture, video resources and an on site visit to Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital, where Anna Lee Hisey-Pierson, M.Div, BCC will discuss pastoral care in times of crisis in the hospital setting with the group.

INSTRUCTOR



Marilyn Lerch

Marilyn Lerch has been a pastor for 17 years in the Church of the Brethren, worked as a volunteer chaplain, and served as chair of the board of the Association of Brethren Caregivers. She is currently the pastor of the Bedford PA COB and the TRIM Coordinator for our denomination. Marilyn is a graduate of Bethany Theological Seminary.

With both undergraduate and graduate degrees from Virginia Tech, Marilyn was serving as the pastor of the Church of the Brethren in Blacksburg, VA and a campus chaplain last spring when a student of the university shot and killed 32 others on campus including both students and faculty. She was involved in the campus and community healing process after this event. Her previous work with intercultural situations and persons with disabilities gives her a special interest in this aspect of ministry.

Joining Marilyn in teaching will be Anna Lee Hisey-Pierson, former pastor of the Neighborhood COB in Boulder Hill, IL who now serves as a Palliative Care and Staff Chaplain at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove, IL. Anna Lee, a Board Certified Chaplain, is a graduate of Bethany Theological Seminary.

TEXTS & ASSIGNMENTS

Before the course begins: Read "*Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy*" by *Kraybill, Nolt and Weaver-Zercher (John Wiley and Sons, Inc, 2007)* and write a 2 page paper to be turned in the first evening of class answering these two questions:

What do we learn from scripture and our tradition about forgiveness?

What could you do in your own life to strengthen your habit of forgiveness?

Read "*Cultivating Wholeness: A Guide to Care and Counseling in Faith Communities*" by *Margaret Cornfeld (Continuum International Publishing Group Inc, 2008)* and write a short paragraph for each of the 10 chapters describing what you learned/want to remember.

The Post Course assignment will consist of a short reflection paper and a project in which students will explore and describe local resources in their community which might be helpful in times of crisis.

TRAVEL AND LODGING

The course begins on Thursday evening at 7:00 pm and concludes on Sunday at noon. Those flying should plan to fly into O'Hare International Airport which is about 45 minutes from York Center COB. Please do not plan flights leaving before 3:00 on Sunday afternoon. Transportation, lodging and meals are the responsibility of the student, however should you be interested in lodging options in local Brethren homes, please contact the Academy Office.