

The Bethany Community 2018-19

Theology for a world of possibilities

Newly envisioned and revised MDiv (fall 2018) and MA (fall 2019) degrees are being offered. Focusing on process and outcomes, the new degree objectives help students gain knowledge and skills for their desired vocations. A greater variety of courses can be used to fulfill degree requirements.

Bethany's first new degree in fifty years will be offered in fall 2019: **Master of Arts: Theopoetics and Writing**. The first degree in this field at any school, it is a collaboration with the renowned Ministry of Writing program at Earlham School of Religion, and each school will offer the degree separately.

Bethany's graduate programs continue to grow with a **Certificate in Theology and Science** (fall 2018) and a **Certificate in Biblical Peacemaking** (fall 2019). The latter was developed to meet the needs of EYN students, who can take all qualifying courses online, along with North American students.

The 2019 graduating class earned three MDivs, six MAs, four Certificates of Achievement in Theological Studies, six Certificates in Theopoetics and Theological Imagination, one Certificate in Biblical Interpretation, and one Certificate in Intercultural Biblical Interpretation.

Making the educational pathway affordable

The **Pillars and Pathways Residential Scholarship**, enabling residential students to study at Bethany without incurring additional debt, was at capacity with ten students. The program gained attention through staff presentations at national theological education events and collaboration with other seminaries also addressing student debt.

Nine new students and one alumnus enrolled in fall 2018 and were joined by nine more in spring 2019. The total included five international students.

Where faith meets life, for a better world

Bethany was named to **Seminaries That Change the World** for the fourth consecutive year by the Center for Faith and Service at McCormick Theological Seminary.

Dr. Samuel Dali served as Bethany's second **international scholar in residence** during 2018-19, traveling to a number of churches and events to speak about the Seminary's partnership with EYN and current state of EYN in Nigeria. His wife, Dr. Rebecca Dali, often spoke with him about her own social justice work with Nigerian women.

A **new partnership with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra** launched The Recital Series, bringing RSO members and guest musicians to Bethany's Nicarry Chapel for several public performances during the year.

After twenty-five years, the **Bethany Center received an upgrade** with renovations to the lobby and Gathering Room, new technology, and new carpet and paint throughout.

BETHANY'S MISSION

Bethany will uphold its mission by embracing and articulating its Anabaptist-Pietist identity and reaching both within and beyond the church to serve a broader, more diverse constituency. Hallmarks of a Bethany education will be

- an interdisciplinary approach to learning;
- integration of theory and practice;
- increasingly diverse programs of study.

Partners in Education

In 2018-19, the Pacific Southwest District

- had 3 students in Bethany graduate programs and 12 students in the Brethren Academy;
- contributed \$22,935.00 as of 06/30/2019.

You can also support Bethany Seminary by

- remembering Bethany with prayer and personal and congregational support;
- calling persons of all ages into ministry;
- encouraging those in other professions to take advantage of Bethany's course and certificate options;
- envisioning new forms of ministry for Bethany graduates, such as mentoring lay leaders, supervising Academy students, or coaching pastors new to the Church of the Brethren.