



AMBS

explore ~ prepare ~ serve

pastoral care and counseling

fact sheet

■ program description

The Pastoral Care and Counseling concentration seeks to provide training for pastoral caregivers in the context of a Mennonite tradition that values the total physical, emotional, relational and spiritual well being of each individual.

AMBS seeks to strengthen pastoral ministry by focusing on pastoral care as an essential dimension; to enable men and women to establish and pursue a pastoral care and counseling ministry in the congregation or to function in a hospital chaplaincy; and to make available the foundations for clinical specializations.

The seminary offers summer instensives and various lectureships as well as continuing education events. Faculty have published numerous books and articles on pastoral care and counseling. Adjunct faculty and other contributors have presented on issues such as abuse, addiction, wisdom within pastoral care and counseling, and marriage and family, to name a few.

Study at AMBS includes internships in various institutions such as jails, hospitals and counseling centers, in addition to the congregational setting. In establishing such internships, AMBS has looked at integrating peace and justice in issues of marriage and family mediation and integrating spiritual resources and practices (e.g. Bible, prayer) in all care and counseling settings. AMBS emphasizes that care and counseling happen in more than just church settings and that training is appropriate for more than church work. While church work is important, people in all walks of life can benefit from pastoral care and counseling training and can pass on these benefits to others.

The Pastoral Care and Counseling concentration has a fourfold purpose:

- To strengthen pastoral ministry by focusing on pastoral care as an essential dimension.
- To enable men and women for pastoral care and counseling ministry in the congregation.
- To establish the foundations for hospital chaplaincy.
- To establish the foundations for clinical specialization.

■ ministry options

Students who complete this program of study may enter into a counseling ministry in the context of a congregation or serve as a chaplain in a hospital setting. The program of study also is a foundation for pursuing the vocation of clinical counselor or therapist.

Master of Divinity,
Pastoral Care and Counseling
concentration (*with emphasis on
congregational care, chaplaincy
and healing*)

(90 credit hours)

faculty

Daniel S. Schipani, Dr. Psy., Ph.D.

Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling

*Mennonite Perspectives on Pastoral
Counseling* (Institute of Mennonite
Studies/Herald, 2007), editor

*Spiritual Caregiving in the Hospital:
Windows to Chaplaincy Ministry*
(Pandora, 2006), co-editor

The Way of Wisdom in Pastoral Counseling
(Institute of Mennonite Studies, 2003)

Andy Brubacher Kaethler,

Ph.D. candidate,

Instructor in Christian Formation and
Culture, IExplore Director, AMBS

Ruth D. Leshner, Ph.D.

Adjunct Faculty in Religious and
Psychological Assessment

■ programs of study

The program of study can be completed in three years of full-time study, but also may be pursued with part-time study. Examples of courses in the concentration are:

- Human Development and Christian Formation
- Principles of Pastoral Care
- Marriage, Family and Pastoral Care
- Family Systems and Pastoral Care
- Pastoral Counseling and Theology
- Crisis and Supportive Counseling
- Conflict, Communication and Conciliation
- Religious and Psychological Assessment
- Pastoral Counseling Practicum: Advanced Theory and Practice
- Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)
- Spirituality, Pastoral Care and Healing
- Spiritual Guidance Practicum
- Spiritual Discipline Seminars: Prayer, Journaling, Scripture, and/or Family Spirituality

■ key resources

- **Dual-degree programs:** AMBS collaborates with Andrews University in nearby Berrien Springs, Mich., to provide study opportunities in social work. By enrolling in both institutions, a student can earn a Master of Divinity and a Master in Social Work in four years or a Master of Arts: Peace Studies and a Master of Social Work in three years.
- **Extreme Situations in the Congregation: A Pastoral Care Continuing Education Series.** The AMBS Church Leadership Center regularly offers one-day seminars on specific issues of pastoral care and how these affect the congregation. Examples of previous topics include children and adult children of divorce, financial crisis, addictions and mental illness.
- **Library:** The AMBS library has an excellent collection of books and journals on pastoral care and counseling. In addition, faculty and students have access to numerous other library holdings via interlibrary loan.

■ additional information

- **AMBS web site:** www.ambs.edu
Select *Academics*, then *Degree programs*, then *Master of Divinity*.
- **AMBS Admissions Office**
admissions@ambs.edu or 800.964.2627
- **AMBS Catalog**
Request from Admissions Office or consult online at www.ambs.edu/student-resources/catalog

graduate comments

"I was interested in the Pastoral Care and Counseling program because of its focus on ministering specifically to people in the midst of their struggles, hope, sorrow and everyday life. I have not been disappointed. Classes like Crisis and Supportive Counseling, the Pastoral Counseling Practicum and intensive daylong seminars like Pastoral Care for People with Addictions have taught me not only theory but also given me insight and experience being the face of God to people in need."

Emily Toews, MDiv, pastor, North Star Mennonite Church, Drake, Sask.

"One aspect of my experience at AMBS that I particularly value was the opportunity to reflect pastorally and theologically on the practice of spiritual care-giving in the hospital setting. I am grateful for the classes, internships and especially for the friendships that were the context in which significant formation and transformation took place."

Leah Dawn Bueckert, MDiv, Spiritual care coordinator, North Eastman Health Association in Manitoba

"AMBS' Pastoral Care and Counseling program gave me opportunities to think theologically and pastorally as I worked in a mental health setting as a living skills specialist. I am inspired by this program's focus on the integration of psychological awareness and theological reflection that helps me prepare to give effective pastoral care and encourages me to seek wholeness that is empowered by God's Spirit."

Deron Brill Bergstresser, MDiv, co-pastor, Faith Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind.