



alumni news

Nominees to Executive Committee

Fall 2002
Volume 8 Issue 2

Two members of the AMBS Alumni Association share in this issue about their ministry, study and lives. They are nominees to the Alumni Association Executive Committee.

To affirm Jill Wright and Tim Lichti as new members for the Alumni Association Executive Committee:

- send an e-mail message to Mark Weidner, alumni director, mweidner@ambs.edu; or
- return the enclosed postcard.

If affirmed, Tim will serve as vice-president of the committee, and Jill will serve as member-at-large, replacing Daniel Z. Miller and Richard Yoder.

Jill Wright M.Div 2002

This past June I realized a longtime dream of becoming a full-time pastor, when I was appointed to South Bend (Ind.) Northwest United Methodist Church. The journey to full-time ministry has been long, but God has waited patiently for me.

I grew up in Elkhart, about 5 miles from AMBS and graduated from Concord High School. I received my undergraduate degree in business from Indiana University. After graduation, Bruce and I were married and we moved to St. Joseph, Mich., where I worked for the Heath Company for seven years. During that time I received a Masters of Science in Business Administration from Indiana University South Bend, as I continually moved up the corporate ladder. We moved to South Bend in 1984 when I began a new career at Crowe Chizek, LLP, and so Bruce could be closer to our family business, Freers Ice Cream, in Elkhart.

In 1990, our world changed when we adopted our first son, Michael, and we both took our Emmaus Walks. During ensuing Walks in which we served,

I realized God's call upon my life into full-time ministry, and Bruce realized his calling into physical therapy. In the years after Freers Ice Cream was sold, Bruce returned to school to become a physical therapy assistant. In 1997, when our adopted daughter, Megan, was 18 months old, I left Crowe Chizek to pursue full-time ministry as a church administrator at Clay UMC in South Bend. I took my first pastorate in January 1999, when I was appointed to Richland Center and Burton United Methodist Churches in Rochester, Ind. I was appointed to Northwest as a part-time student pastor in June 2000.

My dream of pursuing an M.Div. degree began when I enrolled at AMBS in 1998 and graduated in May 2002. I currently am a Commissioned Minister in the United Methodist Church pursuing full ordination which is a three-year process following graduation and commissioning.

As a full-time pastor, mom, and wife, I do not have a lot of time to pursue hobbies, but I still enjoy swimming, exercise and an occasional game of golf. I have many unfinished, but continually pursued cross-stitch projects that keep my sewing basket full. Cooking and baking also give me escapes from the parish, and reading continues to fill a large part of my free time.



Jill Wright is the first AMBS graduate from the United Methodist Church to be nominated to serve on the Alumni Association Executive Committee.

Photo by Steve Echols.

Nominees to Executive Committee (cont.)

Tim Lichti

M Div 1996

I was born in Los Angeles, Calif., attended Hesston College, and served under the Mennonite Board of Missions Voluntary Service program in Walsenburg, Colo. I was disciplined into ministry in a Paul-Timothy relationship with my pastor, Don King, in Downey, Calif.

I have enjoyed numerous roles both during and



Tim Lichti and Carolyn, his wife, live in Goshen, Ind. They have two sons, two daughters-in-law and three grandchildren.

Photo by Ryan Miller

following my seminary work. Committed as I am to lifelong learning, it took me a number of years to qualify as a graduate. Yet as a student, I brought to the classroom the role of an active pastor and the director of a parachurch ministry. I have always been grateful for the practical support I experienced alongside the academic exercise at AMBS.

I was pastor of the Marion Mennonite Church near Shipshewana, Ind. While there I got involved with other pastors and leaders from four other Anabaptist groups to create an outreach ministry to the tourists coming to the community through the telling of our stories. I resigned my pastorate of eight years to become the first director of Menno-Hof, a visitors center, and I served there for 13 years.

While serving in that capacity I had many unique opportunities for involvement in the work of the church. I worked extensively with issues in

the Amish community including reflecting with Bishops about pastoral care issues. Menno-Hof also opened the door for me to serve on the Nazareth Village Board and as an Mennonite Disaster Service coordinator in my home community following the riots of 1992.

Following my time at Menno-Hof and after some time of considering options—which included the possibility of transitional interim ministry of which I am a strong proponent—I took the position of conference regional minister for Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference where I serve churches in Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

I have been grateful for the role AMBS played in my development and ongoing partnership in my work. I would hope that the alumni association will find ways to support AMBS in meeting the needs for leadership in both the near and distant future. ●

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AMBS Alumni News is published three times a year by Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. It is intended to keep alumni informed about each other and AMBS. Please send suggestions for articles or information about alumni activities, honors, publications, to: Mary E. Klassen, editor
574 296-6229
mklassen@ambs.edu

Alumni Director: Mark Weidner

Alumni Association Executive Committee:
Douglas Hostetler Kaufman,
president
Mary Lehman Yoder
Marilyn Rudy-Froese
Two members to be affirmed

Challenge to alumni to give online

AMBS alumni who make a donation online will receive free access to an online journal service for one year, a gift from the AMBS Alumni Association Executive Committee.

American Theological Library Association Serials (ATLAS), the online service being offered, is an Internet-based service for reading theological journals online. Individuals with a user-name and password may read

articles from more than fifty journals, including *Interpretation*, *Family Ministry* and *Christian Century*.

Normally this service would cost \$150 per user. However, through a special offer, this will be free for January through December 2003 to the first 200 AMBS alumni who make a donation of at least \$100 online. Details will be sent when the gift is acknowledged.

To give to AMBS online,

go to www.ambs.edu, and follow the link, "Make a gift," below the photo on the opening page.

To find out more, see these web sites:

- About ATLAS: http://www.atla.com/products/catalogs/catalogs_atlas.html
- The ATLAS title list: http://www.atla.com/products/titles/titles_atlas.html ●

Alumni News

Stephen Dintaman (MDiv 1977) and Betsy, his wife, have accepted a three-year term of service with Mennonite Mission Network and are serving at Lithuania Christian College in Klaipeda, Lithuania. LCC is a four-year liberal arts Christian college founded in 1991 as Lithuania achieved independence from the Soviet Union. Stephen is teaching theology and starting in January will serve as chair of the theology department. Betsy assists in the library and with teaching evening English classes to community people.

Richard A. Kauffman (Faculty and Administration, 1984-1995) joined the editorial staff of *The Christian Century* magazine as associate editor in March 2002, leaving his position as pastor of the Toledo (Ohio) Mennonite Church.

Chris Marshall (MAPS 1996) is author of *Beyond Retribution: A New Testament Vision for Justice, Crime and Punishment*, published by Eerdmans. The book, which is part of the Institute of Mennonite Studies series *Studies of Peace in Scripture*, was

named one of the Top Ten Books for Parish Ministry published in 2001 by the Academy of Parish Clergy.

Glenn D. Stevens (MATS 1990) became pastor of the Blue Ridge (Va.) Church of the Brethren in September 2001. He had been camp manager of Camp Bethel for the Church of the Brethren near Roanoke, Va.

J. Denny Weaver (MDiv 1970) has published a book, *The Nonviolent Atonement* (Eerdmans 2001), and an article "Violence in Christian Theology," in *Cross-Currents*, Summer 2001.

Find out more on the web

Resources for AMBS alumni

Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology

The fall 2003 issue theme is Confession. Writers include Marcus Smucker, Malinda Berry, Rachel Miller Jacobs, Alan Kreider, Jacob Elias and Michael King.

The four previous issues focused on Spirituality, Communion, Transformation and Hospitality. This journal is published with Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg, Man.

Read several articles of each of these issues at www.mennovision.org. Check also for information about how to subscribe.

Church Leadership Center

AMBS's nontraditional programs—educational opportunities that are not part of degree programs—make up the AMBS Church Leadership Center. These include continuing

education, Pastoral Studies Distance Education Program, opportunity for alumni to audit courses at half the audit fee and much more.

A new set of web pages within the AMBS web site gives information about all these programs. See this at www.ambs.edu; enter "Church Leadership Center" in the search box (with quotation marks).

Pastor sabbatical program

The fall issue of *AMBS Window* features Louise Wideman (MDiv 1993), who is the first participant in the AMBS Pastor Sabbatical Program, part of the Church Leadership Center.

See the issue on the AMBS web site: www.ambs.edu; enter "AMBS Window" in the search box. Or request a

copy from Mary E. Klassen, editor, at AMBS.

Advent Commentaries

Commentaries on the lectionary readings for Advent are published on the AMBS web site. Follow the link from the opening page: www.ambs.edu.

To refer a student to AMBS

If you know someone with gifts for ministry, pass the name on to us and we will begin a conversation about the possibility of seminary study.

You may send a message to admissions@ambs.edu. You also may send the information through the web site: www.ambs.edu. Enter "Recommend a student" in the search area and follow the link to the form. ●

AMBS News

AMBS Faculty Commit to Peacemaking

The following statement was approved unanimously by the AMBS faculty on Oct. 9, 2002:

"As followers of Jesus Christ, we cannot support a war against Iraq. The sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus reconcile humans to God and to one another. God overcomes evil through suffering love, and calls Christians to love and pray for our enemies. If there is a war against Iraq, we will lament and oppose it. We commit ourselves to preach the gospel of peace, to work for justice, and to promote reconciliation between nations through the power of the Holy Spirit. We invite our brothers and sisters in Christ to join in these commitments, and welcome dialogue about these convictions."

Andrew Brubacher Kaethler to be !Explore director

Andrew Brubacher Kaethler has been appointed director of **!Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth**. AMBS received a major grant from Lilly Endowment to fund this program which introduces high school youth to ministry opportunities and to theological and biblical study. Andy currently is minister of youth ministries for Mennonite Church Eastern Canada and will begin the AMBS assignment in fall 2003.

New purpose statement proposed



Outgoing president of the AMBS Alumni Association Executive Committee, Dan Miller, serves as interim pastor at Olive Mennonite Church, Elkhart, Ind. For about a decade, Dan has served as a transitional pastor for Mennonite congregations in Elkhart County. He comes into a congregation whose pastor has resigned and helps them assess who they are and where they are going. He prepares them for new leadership as they focus on their purpose and mission.

Dan worked with the Alumni Association Executive Committee in much the same way as he works with congregations in transition. The result is that the committee is proposing a new purpose statement for the association:

The AMBS Alumni Association is committed to cultivating long-term reciprocal relationships

between seminary resources and ministry practitioners around the world. The Alumni Association works at these goals by:

- **Communicating about the realities of frontline ministry;**
- **Promoting ongoing development of alumni by connecting them to seminary resources;**
- **Cultivating collegial relationships among alumni;**
- **Encouraging active contributions of prayer, finances and student recruits.**

This purpose statement would replace our current one: "The purpose of this Association shall be to:
a. provide opportunities for contacts among alumni and the seminary.
b. promote the welfare of the seminary in the church."

In the new statement we highlight the reciprocity of our relationship with the seminary. The seminary

has shaped us and now we support it. But this reciprocity is ongoing; it does not disappear after graduation. Especially with many continuing education opportunities, it is a lifelong relationship.

This is our proposed purpose statement. Now we want to hear from you. Do you affirm the new statement? Do you have ideas for implementing the ideas contained in it? On the reply card for you to affirm new executive committee members, we have included space for your response to the purpose statement. I am excited by the possibility of strengthening our current work and exploring new avenues for enriching the relationship between the seminary and alumni. So please let us know what you think.

– Douglas Kaufman
Executive Committee president ●

3003 Benham Avenue
Elkhart, IN 46517-1999
574 295-3726
www.ambs.edu



Mary E. Klassen

Lois Barrett (MDiv 1983) was installed as the director of the AMBS extension site in Kansas, AMBS—Great Plains, on September 22 in Hesston, Kan. Participating in the installation were Marvin Zehr (BD 1961) chair of the AMBS—Great Plains board, Debbie Schmidt (MDiv 1995), Nelson Kraybill, AMBS president, and Loren Johns, AMBS academic dean.



Mary E. Klassen

Four directors of the Great Plains Seminary Education Program were present at the celebration for Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary—Great Plains Extension in Hesston, Kan., on Sept. 22: Leland Harder (BD 1952 and former faculty), Dorothea Janzen, Jacob T. Friesen (MDiv 1976) and Floyd Bartel (BD 1956). Dorothea served as the first director of the conference-based program, followed by Elmer Ediger (deceased), Leland, David Habegger (not present at the celebration), Jacob and Floyd.