

(Letter to Book of Faith Advocates)

It is our pleasure to invite you to the first-ever Cluster Teacher Network, an event for those who involved in teaching the Bible throughout Regions 4, 5 and 6. We will gather with Biblical faculty from the three Covenant Cluster seminaries including Ann Fritchel (Wartburg Theological Seminary), David Rhoads, Ralph Klein and Ray Pickett (Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago) and Clayton Croy and Diane Hymans (Trinity Lutheran Seminary). Patricia O'Connell Killen (Pacific Lutheran University) will lead us in reviewing best educational practices and methods of learning assessment. We're inviting you, as part of this group, to spend five days learning with each other.

This gathering will be held July 12-16, 2009, at University of St. Mary of the Lake Conference Center, Mundelein, IL. The purposes of the gathering include:

1. To honor the diverse teaching ministries in the Covenant Cluster
2. To build relationships among the teachers
3. To deepen the quality of teaching and learning throughout the Covenant Cluster, particularly among those who are teaching Old Testament and New Testament, by sharing
  - a. Current research in Biblical scholarship
  - b. Best teaching practices
  - c. Opportunities for synodical and seminary teachers to learn and teach one another
4. To develop an ongoing network of trust between synodically-based and seminary-based teachers
5. To do all of this in the context of the Book of Faith Initiative

Together we'll investigate developments in Biblical scholarship, share teaching approaches, review course syllabi, and evaluate texts and other resources. We'll look at the teaching and learning taking place in the various syndically-based, non-degree programs. We'll worship, eat and socialize together. And we'll explore what kinds of ongoing partnership between seminary faculty and synodical teachers—what kind of Cluster Teacher Network—will be most helpful for the future. By the end of the event we'll determine ways to remain in an ongoing supportive relationship.

The cost of the consultation, which also includes lodging and meals, is \$275 (plus travel) for the first two people from each synod. Additional participants are welcome to attend at a cost of \$325 per person (plus travel). Please complete the enclosed registration form and return it to

Peter Perry  
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
1100 E 55<sup>th</sup> St.  
Chicago, IL 60615

Please make your check payable to **Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.**

We hope you'll join us for this event. Our desire is that the quality of teaching and learning throughout the Covenant Cluster will be enhanced. Together we'll have an outstanding continuing education opportunity. Seminary faculty will have an opportunity to hear what your learners are wrestling with and what issues you are addressing in your programs. Synodical courses and standards can be more clearly defined. And our partnership in theological education will become even stronger.

We are pleased to be able to partner with you as you look for resources to live out your synod's commitment to equip the 15,000 teachers of the Bible. The people you meet and the experiences you will have will serve you well as you live into that commitment.

If you have any questions about the event, please contact Richard Bruesehoff, ELCA Director for Lifelong Learning by e-mail at [richard.bruesehoff@elca.org](mailto:richard.bruesehoff@elca.org) or by phone at 800.638.3522, ext 2872.

Sincerely,

Cluster Teacher Network Planning Team

Ann Fritschel, Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Kadi Billman, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
Greg Kaufmann, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin  
Marianne Wilkinson, Central States Synod  
Diane Hymans, Trinity Lutheran Seminary  
Peter Perry, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
Ray Pickett, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
Dick Bruesehoff, Vocation and Education unit, ELCA