

(Letter to Ann Fritchel, David Rhoads, Ralph Klein, Ray Pickett, Clayton Croy, Diane Hymans and Patricia O'Connell Killen)

Thank you very much for agreeing to be part of the leadership of the first-ever Cluster Teacher Network, an event for those who involved in teaching the Bible throughout Regions 4, 5 and 6.

We have invited those who teach in synodically-based, non-degree theological education programs and synod Book of Faith Advocate. Faculty members from the three Covenant Cluster seminaries include 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.

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 and Book of Faith Advocates
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 synodically-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, including lodging, meals and travel, will be covered for you. Please do complete the enclosed registration form and return it to

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

We're very excited about 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. All of you will have an opportunity to hear what learners in the synodically-based programs are wrestling with and what issues are being addressing in those programs. And our partnership in theological education will become even stronger.

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 or by phone at 800.638.3522, ext 2872.

Sincerely,

Cluster Teacher Network Planning Team

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