

Network News

Equipping Laypeople to Give Pastoral Care

Issue Number 113

Summer 2017

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Dear Friends,

Rev. David McBride, Bethel United Methodist Church, Mound, MN, shared these insightful thoughts:

If we're at an archery facility or taking target practice with a pistol, without exception there's a target, right? But let's say we were only told that on yonder wall there's an invisible target. We take a position from 25-30 yards and we shoot. We're not likely to hit the bull's-eye with 10 shots or even 100 shots. It would be a complete accident if we did. Because the target is invisible, our shots are likely to be scattered around.

However, if the target suddenly becomes visible, everything would change. Immediately, our shots would be focused, aimed and have meaning. It's always important to recognize what we're aiming at. Some of our shots might hit the bull's-eye. And the more we practice, the more our shots will approach the center. We are innovating to zero, getting closer and closer to the target.

And, while we can't be perfect all the time, one or two of our "shots" are going to be dead center – exactly the right thing at the right time.

We live in a time when everything seems to be changing. Change can be so difficult. Change can be motivating and birth new approaches to life, our families, our ministry and our vision.

Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc. has seen so much change over the past two decades. New ministries have been birthed in the USA and literally around the world. However, we are seeing a virtual explosion in the ministry in South Korea, Nagaland, India, and in parts of Africa. Empowering the laity to give and share in active ministry is very exciting! Our model of ministry seems to fit hand-in-glove with many of our international ministries.

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"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care." - 1 Peter 5:2

Dear Friends continues

Change can be frightening or it can be embraced, and possibly even stronger ministries can emerge. King Solomon had it right.

⁹ *What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.* ¹⁰ *Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already in the ages before us.*
Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 (ESV)

But this is also true: *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.* Hebrews 13:8 (ESV)

Rev. Tom Corbell, Statesville, NC



Past President, LPMI

Farewell Party for Pastor Tom Corbell

Pastor Tom Corbell has served as the President of Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc. for the last 14 years. At the recent board meeting on April 27, 2017, he resigned this position in order to spend more time with his children.

The LPMI Board of Directors treated him to a farewell dinner and afterwards surprised him with a beautiful Norwegian Ring Cake. The cake was especially made for Tom by Else Rodland who is originally from Norway.

From the picture below, you can see that he was totally amazed and thrilled with this awesome cake.

We shall truly miss Tom and his outstanding leadership throughout the years, and wish him much happiness in his retirement.



More pictures from the Board Meeting and Tom's party that evening



The next morning we celebrated Steve Petrik's birthday with beautiful and delicious cupcakes

Lay Pastors are Connectors

By Dr. Melvin J. Steinbron



LAY PASTORS PROVIDE CONNECTION – Kevin Miller, Editor of *Leadership Journal*, responding to the question, “What’s next for the culture and the church?” said in a recent forum:

In the culture, I see an intense desire for connection.
What do people look for when they go to Starbucks:
It’s not coffee, but connection.

The cliché, “High touch for a high-tech society,” is more true by the day. People have become attachments to their computers [and cell phones]*. Their closest companion is an electronic machine. Their internet relationships have insulated them from the warmth of personal touch, the chemistry of eye contact, and the nourishing sounds of pleasant conversations. After all, *virtual reality* is not reality.

The lay pastoral care ministry in one church captured the moment by calling their lay pastors “Connectors.” The ministry of lay pastoral care is known in their church as, “First Connections: Members Caring for Members.” A caption in their publicity brochure reads:

EVERYONE NEEDS TO FEEL CONNECTED

The church is right on target, assuming that Kevin Miller’s observation is valid. And I believe it is. The following parts of their brochure flesh out their response to our culture’s “intense desire for connections”:

First Connections is a system of providing care and communication to all members of First Reformed Church by assigning each member family a trained lay care giver called a “Connector.” Connectors agree to four areas of responsibility to their assigned families...

P – Pray A – Available C – Contact E – Example

By providing a number of trained “Connectors,” members of the church have a better opportunity to receive the love and care they might expect as a member of the church.

Their ministry is loaded with “high touch” lay pastoral care, making it a great day for the Lay Pastors Ministry in their church ... and in yours!

Article reprinted from
22 Essays On Lay Pastoral Care (page 23)
See page 7 on Resources

* Editor’s addition

Lay Shepherd Picnic

First Presbyterian Church
Mt Holly, NJ



The Lay Shepherd Leadership Team hosted a picnic in my backyard on July 7. Seventeen Lay Shepherds and Pastors gathered for a time of Food and Fellowship. The Leadership Team provided the food: Hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken and salads of all kinds followed by delicious desserts. It was kind of like an old fashioned bar-b-que except the bar-b-que part of it was a disaster.

We could not get the brand-new grill I had bought for the occasion to work so most of the meat had to be done indoors. But I guess that didn't matter too much because everyone seemed to have a good time.

People told me afterwards how much they enjoyed getting together with other Lay Shepherds and the Pastors in an informal setting. I would call it connecting and building relationships. Even with the frustration of the grill not working I had such a good time I forgot to take pictures.

The Picnic started at 6pm. At nine, the rain came. I guess that signaled it was time to break up.

I appreciate so much the work that the Lay Shepherds are doing in caring for their flocks. I also appreciate being on the Leadership team with Amanda Hamilton and Tish Kelley. It's really neat being part of God's family in His Church.

Else Rodland
Leadership Team
First Presbyterian Church
Mt Holly, New Jersey



God of Tomorrows

This is the blessed life — not anxious to see far in front, nor eager to choose the path, but quietly following behind the Shepherd, one step at a time. The Shepherd was always out in front of the sheep. He was down in front. Any attack upon them had to take him into account.

Now God is down in front. He is in the tomorrows. It is tomorrow that fills [people] with dread. God is there already. All the tomorrows of our life have to pass him before they can get to us.

—F.B. Meyer



Being There

“Hurting people need to feel the relief of you coming alongside them. They need to feel heard, connected, and calmed by your presence. They should sense they are appreciated, respected and valued. You can be the one who brings anergy, hope reassurance and inspitation in the midst of their pain. Likely, none of us can provide all of these benefits, but all of us together in the community of believers can work together to become this overarching, wide-ranging source of comfort.

“Being There,” Gary R. Allen
Pentecostal Evengel, November 17, 2013
<http://www.pe.ag.org>.

Care Partners Appreciation Brunch

Aley United Methodist Church
Beavercreek, OH

On April 22, the Care Partners from Aley United Methodist Church gathered at 10am for an Appreciation Brunch.

We had about 30 members able to attend. We had fresh fruit, muffins, breakfast casseroles, coffee and juice. It was a beautiful brunch decorated with tablecloths and fresh flowers and table favors for each person.

A brief talk by Karen Engel, the Care Partner Director was given to tell everyone what new churches and new Care Partners have been trained this past year and to praise the long time faithful Care Partners who have served since 1989! It was a chance for the newer Care Partners to meet and talk with the longer established ones.

Our Youth Pastor Jonathan Shettler gave a nice appreciation talk for all we do and how we are using our gifts and talents as God would have us do.

Threads of Friendship that will Never Break

*Thank you for the laughter, for the good times that we share
Thanks for always listening, for trying to be fair.
Thank you for the comfort when things are going bad
Thank you for the shoulder to cry on when I'm sad
This gift is a reminder that all my lifetime through
I'll be thanking Heaven for A SPECIAL FRIEND like you.*
-unknown-

Karen Engel,
Director of Caring Ministries



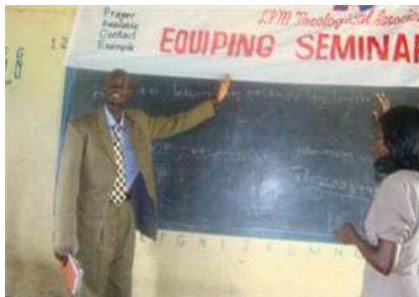
Kenya



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL:
Welcome to LPM Theological Seminary website. You have come to the right place in your search for quality higher theological education.

At LPM Theological Seminary, we equip students holistically, and our students meet not only the academic demands of the working world, but are of high moral integrity.

We aspire to be an institution that transforms the church and society through instilling Christian values to the students who study at our seminary.



All international ministries are self-governed, separate entities. They are organized under the laws of their respective countries. While we have no jurisdiction over these ministries, we share our materials, encouragements, and prayers.

Uganda



LPM Divinity School is a ministry of Lay Pastors Ministry of Ghana.

Lay Pastors Ministry is registered and incorporated in Ghana as a company limited by Guarantee.

LPM Divinity School is an advanced theological Research institution that offer its own theological degrees based in Ghana.

It offers both Graduate and Postgraduate degrees in the area of theology, Divinity and Missions.

From Daniel
Ghana Africa



Rev. Daniel Patrick
B.Th (in Theology)
M.Div and Th.M (Trinity Theological Seminary)
Th.D (Japan Bible Institute)

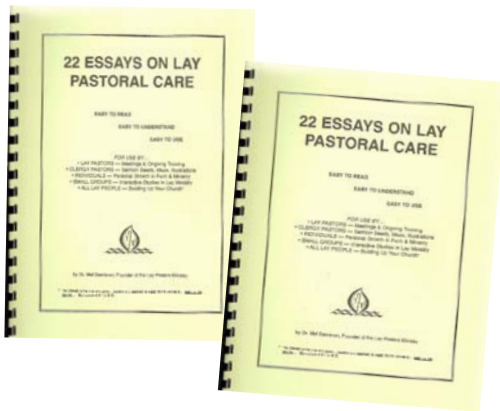


Two excellent Manuals for Ongoing Training
Written by Dr. Mel Steinbron



DM-01 Dynamite Meetings Manual
By Mel Steinbron.....\$25.00
(\$3.00 shipping cost per copy)

Contains 25 “ready-to-go” complete plans for your Lay Pastors monthly meetings, training events or retreats. Your purchase includes the right to photocopy selected pages for your use. Many plans are useful for all types of lay ministry meetings.



ME-22 22 Essays On Lay Pastoral Care
By Mel Steinbron.....\$25.00
(\$2.00 shipping cost per copy)

These essays are one-to-two-page easy-to-read, easy-to-understand and easy-to-use brief writings.

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Home Office



Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc
P O Box 368
Lumberton, NJ 08048-0368
phone: 609.456.1218

email: laypastorsministry@gmail.com

IN MEMORIAM

Purpose

To share lay pastoral care ministry information and resources with churches, individuals, denominational leaders and seminaries.

Editorial Team

Carolyn Sullivan, Editor
Else Rodland
lpmi@comcast.net

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To be added or deleted from the mailing list, **to offer suggestions for content, submit writings**, or to inquire about the Lay Pastors Ministry, Network News, conferences or resources for your lay pastoral care ministry, please contact:

Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc.
P O Box 368
Lumberton, NJ 08048-0368
609.456.1218

laypastorsministry@gmail.com
www.laypastors.com

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Dr. Melvin J. Steinbron

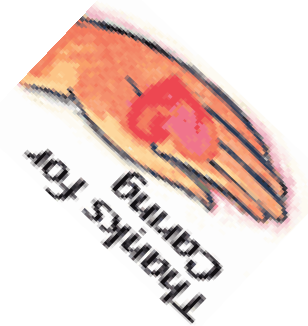
On June 27, Tom Corbell received a call from Helen Steinbron that our beloved Mel, Founder of the Lay Pastors Ministry, had passed away Sunday morning, June 25. He is survived by his wife, Helen, son Sterlyng (Diane), 5 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

Mel founded the Lay Pastors Ministry in 1978 while Pastor at College Hill Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, OH. It is still active in many parts of the world including Korea, India, Kenya, Uganda and Ghana.

Our Fall 2017 issue of the Network News will be dedicated to Mel. It will include his vision for and dedication to the the Ministry, his writings in addition to his two books, CAN THE PASTOR DO IT ALONE? and A LAY DRIVEN CHURCH.

Mel Steinbron had a passion for bringing “God’s Love with Skin on” to churches and individuals around the world. Thank you, Lord, for having given us our brother, Mel!

2017 Prayer Availability Contact Example



“Equipping Laypeople To Give Pastoral Care”
Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc.
P. O. Box 368
Lumberton NJ 08048-0368

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