**Bethany Theological Seminary**

**Richmond, Indiana**

**Lilly Grant to Address Economic Challenges Facing Future Ministers**

**Key Objectives:**

The grant will fund research to identify the unique financial challenges for Bethany students in the local and distance programs and to design and implement ways Bethany can better prepare and support students and alumni/ae to face the economic challenges of pastoral ministry. This will include:

* collecting data;
* presenting research findings to Bethany staff and faculty (and others, as needed);
* introducing students to new ideas about “simple living”;
* connecting students with career counseling resources;
* increasing student awareness of available outside financial aid and sources of funding for seminary;
* exploring bivocational ministry preparation at Bethany and throughout the denomination;
* coaching for bivocational ministry that is life giving;
* facilitating financial education for Bethany staff and faculty;
* establishing new programs to strengthen the financial literacy of students;
* informing alumni/ae of financial stewardship resources available to them.

**Significant Activities to Date:**

* Hired a grant project director;
* Started preliminary work on a survey tool.

**Important Resources Discovered or Produced:**

*Christians in an Age of Wealth: A Biblical Theology of Stewardship*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.

**Contact Information of the Project Director:**

Mr. Courtney Hess

Bethany Theological Seminary

615 National Road West

Richmond, IN 47374

(765)969-6835

Courtney@beumerconsulting.com (until a Bethany address can be set up)