

CROSSROADS PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Thursday, August 31, 2023

Effective today, August 31st, we bid farewell to our long-time director of the Moravian Seminary Crossroads program, Dr. **Jill Peters**, who leaves us after nearly 15 years of building this outstanding lay leadership program. The continuing success of Crossroads can be traced to Jill's deep commitment to ecumenism and dedication to empowering lay leaders and clergy alike with the skills and perspectives needed to bring the word of God to an ever-changing world.

After graduating from Moravian Seminary in 2007 with a Master of Arts in Theological Studies, Jill was asked to develop a curriculum to help lay individuals discover their sense of call. Crossroads launched in 2009, described as "the intersection of your life and God's mission." More than 230 students have participated in the program, representing a wide variety of Christian denominations from Presbyterians and Lutherans to Moravians and Episcopalians. Jill's connections with United Church of Christ congregations and conferences significantly helped encourage understanding and collaboration over the last two years as our two seminaries began our historic combination. The popularity of Crossroads also has expanded our name recognition and recruitment efforts, and the program has seen some participants enrolling in seminary graduate programs to pursue ordained ministry.

The 2023-2024 program of Crossroads classes continues with the Rev. Dr. **Riddick Weber**, associate professor of practice in pastoral ministry, stepping in as interim leader of Crossroads. Riddick brings a long and deep association with the program and support for its mission.

Even though Jill leaves the Seminary and her part-time role with Crossroads, she will continue her independent work developing and providing workshops, retreats, and consulting services to churches as well as helping congregations develop outreach programs in their community. We will, no doubt, continue to benefit from her advocacy and support of the seminaries.

We thank Jill for her years of dedicated service and Riddick for stepping in to temporarily shepherd the Crossroads program.

Rev. Dr. Katherine H. Ragsdale
Interim VP and Dean
Lancaster Theological Seminary and Moravian Theological Seminary