

Continuing Education Program

In a rapidly-changing world, continuing education for clergy becomes essential. MSR's continuing education programs for clergy and laity address current issues in theology, mission and church life.

Past events have included presentations by noted theologians, historians and authors as well as specialists in particular areas of ministry.

MSR sponsors many ecumenical events as well as brokering and arranging events and classes for denominational events and classes.

Our staff is always open to new ideas for continuing education topics. MSR-CRM is also happy to provide educational opportunities on a focused subject matter for judicatories and other organizations.

MSR Center for Rural Ministry is an ecumenical not-for-profit organization funded by personal contributions, gifts from churches, endowments, foundation grants, trusts, and denominational support. Denominations supporting MSR-CRM include:

- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Episcopal Church
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- United Church of Christ
- United Methodist Church

Staff



Rev. Fran Schnarre
franmsr@earthlink.net
(left) became Director of Educational Ministries in 2005. Following 20 years of farming with her husband, Fran began

her studies through the former MSR/Eden Theological Seminary Master of Theological Studies program. She completed her degree in 2000 and was ordained in 2001. She served seven years as associate minister at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Centralia and worked three years for Foods Resource Bank, an ecumenical world hunger organization. Fran and her husband Brian live on their farm near Centralia. They have four grown children and two grandchildren.

Krystal Jacobs

krystalmsr@earthlink.net (right) has worked for Missouri School of Religion - Center for Rural Ministry since June of 1996. She coordinates daily office activities, registrations and is the webmaster for MSR-CRM. Her husband, Ryan, works for the Missouri Army National Guard in Jefferson City. Their favorite pastime is spending time with their daughter, Ella.

Janet Hartsfield

janetmsr@earthlink.net began working part-time for MSR-CRM since October 2008. She provides staff support in various ways. Janet most recently worked part-time for Wesley Foundation in Kirksville, MO as the administrative assistant and bookkeeper. Janet and her family moved to Holts Summit in 2007 when her husband, David, a Methodist Pastor, was appointed to Shiloh UMC in Holts Summit and New Bloomfield UMC in New Bloomfield. Janet and David have two grown children.



Missouri School of Religion

Center for Rural Ministry

STATEMENT OF MISSION

"The mission of Missouri School of Religion Center for Rural Ministry is to provide transforming experiences of leader development, ministerial preparation and continuing education, with concern for small and rural churches and communities. Working within ecumenical partnerships, we affirm our covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)."

**Missouri School of Religion
Center for Rural Ministry**

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History of Founding and Growth

Missouri School of Religion began its ministry over 100 years ago in Columbia, Missouri, as a project of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), focused on formal education for pastors and lay leaders in the church. The School quickly attracted interdenominational sponsorship and enjoyed Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregational support. By 1930, the School had an interfaith character with the support of the Jewish Student Foundation. To this day, MSR has maintained and celebrated its ecumenical mission.

During most of its years in Columbia, MSR was located on the campus of the University of Missouri and focused on teaching religion classes accredited by the University. From 1952 to 1972 it possessed unique status as a Rural Graduate Seminary in addition to its undergraduate focus.

In the early 1980's MSR, after a period of serious study, redefined its role, becoming a center of continuing education for clergy and laity and maintaining its historic focus on leader development for small rural congregations. MSR also developed specialized education opportunities in continuing education and in lay ministry training.

In 1985, the institution moved to the Rickman Conference Center, the retreat center of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America in Jefferson City, Missouri. In 1995, in its centennial year, the School again refined and reshaped its mission by becoming the Missouri School of Religion – Center for Rural Ministry, specializing in licensed ministry training, now called the Certificate in Pastoral Ministry program, and in rural issues advocacy.

Programs

Certificate in Pastoral Ministry

The Certificate in Pastoral Ministry (CPM) Program of MSR-CRM was initially developed in 1983, then called Certificate in Pastoral Studies, to provide a foundational curriculum of education and ministry formation for licensed and commissioned lay ministers, especially those serving on a bi-vocational basis.

The curriculum was developed in consultation with the Commission on Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Mid-America to meet requirements for that judicatory's licensed ministers. However, the content of the curriculum, the diverse pool of instructors and the ecumenical context of MSR-CRM's work make it appropriate for many denominations to consider. The curriculum was revised in 1998 after consultation by MSR-CRM staff with veteran instructors and ecumenical partners.

The CPM program is designed to be completed in a minimum of three years utilizing an intensive weekend educational format. This is intentionally keyed to the schedule of lay persons and bi-vocational pastors. The courses are offered at the Rickman Center, the retreat facility of the Christian Church of Mid-America in the rural of Jefferson City, Missouri.

In 2007, MSR-CRM launched on-line CPM courses in partnership with Culver-Stockton College, Canton. Currently four courses are offered online each year.

Parish/Faith Community Nursing

The Rural Parish/Faith Community Nurse Project provides a certified education program for parish nurses who will serve small town and rural congregations and communities. The Parish/Faith Community Nurses develop health and wellness programs in congregational settings, normally as a volunteer (or small stipend).

Roles of the Parish/Faith Community nurse may include:

- *Health Educator* - Provides opportunities for the congregation to learn about health topics and issues, individually and in groups.
- *Health Counselor* - Discuss health concerns emphasizing early response to small problems and encouraging healthy lifestyle changes.
- *Health Advocate* - Serves as a liaison to connect people with community agencies. Works with the congregation or community to advocate for needed services.
- *Volunteer Coordinator* - Recruits, prepares and oversees congregational volunteers to help those in need.
- *Integrator of Faith and Health* - Assists parishioners to bring together faith and health, promoting higher levels of wellness by improving spiritual health as well as physical health.

In 2007, MSR initiated a model faith community nursing project in Osage County with the support of the Missouri Foundation for Health and assistance from the A.J. Schwartze Foundation and the Three Rivers Helping Hands Grant. The vision of this project is to help church members become the healthiest Christians possible. This project will employ three part-time nurses in the ministry areas of assisting, educating, developing and advocating for church members within the five sponsoring congregations.