



# Clergy Leadership Program

of Central Pennsylvania

## Seminar Two: RACIAL, ETHNIC, and RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

Monday, 4 December 2017

8:30am	Morning Reception	Climenhaga Homestead
9:00	Welcome, Opening Prayer, and Orienting Questions	Rhonda and Jake
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <i>How diverse is your congregation? How diverse is your community?</i></li><li>➤ <i>How might a deeper engagement with diversity affect your congregation's perception of the social and spiritual health of the region?</i></li><li>➤ <i>How might a deeper engagement with diversity deepen or expand your congregation's understanding of the gospel?</i></li></ul>	
9:10	Scriptural Meditation	Emerson
9:25	Depart for Mt Tabor AME Zion Church (Cedar Street, Mt Holly Springs – near 68 Mt. St.)	
10:00	Presentation and Discussion about Race and Place Lindsay Houpt-Varner, Heart and Soul Project (Cumberland County Museum)	
11:00	Depart for First Church of the Brethren (219 Hummel Street, Harrisburg)	
11:30	Presentation and Interactive Discussion about Immigrants in Central PA Maria Hernandez, Movement of Immigrant Leaders in Pennsylvania(MILPA)	
12:15	Lunch and continued Conversation with Maria Hernandez Catered by Poblano Burrito	
1:10	Depart for Islamic Society of Greater Harrisburg (407 N Front St, Steelton)	
1:20	Presentation and Interactive Discussion about Muslims in Central PA. Aaysha Noor, Islamic Society of Greater Harrisburg	
3:00	Depart for Messiah College	Boyer 102
3:30	“FREE Together” Discussion on Mobilizing Congregations to do Racial Justice. Crystal Brown in Conversation with Drew Hart	
4:30	Break, Personal check-in time, and Seminar Evaluation	
5:00	Theological Discussion ( <i>Gracious Christianity</i> , chapter 2 “Human Nature”)	
5:35	Dinner and Continuing Discussion	Private Dining Room
6:30	Closing Prayer	



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## Seminar Two: Speaker Bios

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### Seminar Coordinator

**Drew Hart** is Assistant Professor of Theology at Messiah College and author of the book *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*. In addition to teaching and writing, Drew is a frequent speaker at churches and colleges across the country and he also partners with a variety of church and community groups to facilitate anti-racism training. A graduate of Messiah College, Drew has an M.Div from Biblical Theological Seminary in and a Ph.D. from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. For more information see: <https://drewgihart.com/>.

### Presenters

**Crystal Brown** is the Executive Director of the Brethren Housing Association, a Harrisburg-based organization that assists individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness by providing a holistic program of stable housing, supportive services, and loving relationships. Crystal oversees BHA's mission, vision, and programs while developing strategic partnerships throughout the community. For more information see: <http://bha-pa.org/>.

**Maria Hernandez** leads MILPA, the Movement of Immigrant Leaders in Pennsylvania, a grassroots network of immigrant families that cultivates leadership and organizes events across Pennsylvania, fighting for human rights and trying to keep immigrant families together. For more information see: [http://englishsite-milpa.nationbuilder.com/about\\_us](http://englishsite-milpa.nationbuilder.com/about_us).

**Lindsay Houtt-Varner** is the director of the "Heart and Soul Project" a 12-month initiative of the Cumberland County Historical Society that is uncovering and recording hundreds of stories that reflect the broad and diverse cultural heritage (i.e., the "heart and soul") of the greater Carlisle region. Lindsay has a Ph.D. in history from Durham University and is an adjunct faculty member in the department of history at Dickinson College. For more information see: <http://greatercarlisleproject.dickinson.edu/greater-carlisle-heart-soul/>.

**Aaysha Noor** is a member of the Islamic Society of Greater Harrisburg who has become increasingly concerned about the visible increase of religious bias in American society since the election of Pres. Donald Trump. Noor says that all the faith communities of the region—Muslims, Jews, Christians, and others—need to work more closely together to protect and defend each other. For more information see: <http://www.isghpa.org/>.