

## Speakers for First CLP Retreat

(14-15 September 2015)

**Anthony (Tony) L. Blair** is President and Professor of Church History at Evangelical Theological Seminary in Myerstown, PA. He is also co-pastor of Hosanna! A Fellowship of Christians in Lititz. Before moving to Evangelical Seminary, Tony served as Professor of Leadership Studies and Dean of the Campolo College of Graduate and Professional Studies at Eastern University in St. David, PA. Tony has a D. Min. from George Fox Evangelical Seminary and a Ph.D. from Temple University. He is the author of several books, including *Leading Missional Change: Move Your Congregation from Resistant to Re-Energized* (Wipf and Stock, 2012) and *Church and Academy in Harmony: Models of Collaboration for the Twenty-First Century* (Wipf and Stock, 2010).

**William J. King** is pastor of Saint Elizabeth Anne Seton Catholic Church in Mechanicsburg, PA and previously held a variety of administrative roles in the diocese of Harrisburg, including leadership of the Tribunal. From 2006 to 2008, he served as Judicial Vicar for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, and in 2009 Pope Benedict XVI named him “Chaplain of His Holiness” with the title of Monsignor. Monsignor King has a Licentiate in Canon Law from the Catholic University of America and a Doctorate in Canon Law from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, and he currently teaches Canon Law for the Catholic University of America. He is also an accomplished organist.

**Ben Riehl** is an Amish farmer and businessman from Narvon in northeast Lancaster County, PA. In addition to caring for 130 head of cattle, Ben also installs solar panels and (with his wife) runs a bed and breakfast on his property (called Beacon Hollow Farm) for people who “want to get away from all their gadgets” for a few days. Ben is not only Amish himself, but he also tracks Amish culture and is a frequent spokesperson for the community. Ben has served as a consultant for numerous scholars and has been widely quoted in newspapers and news reports about the Amish worldwide.

**Anne T. Thayer** is the Paul and Minnie Diefenderfer Professor of Mercersburg and Ecumenical Theology and Church History at Lancaster Theological Seminary. She received a Ph.D. in Religion from Harvard University, where her focus of study was late medieval Christianity. In addition to teaching classes on the history of Christianity in general, Anne also teaches courses focusing on the history of preaching, the laity, and pastoral care, themes that merge together in her book *Handbook for Curates: A Late Medieval Manual on Pastoral Ministry* (Catholic University of America Press, 2011). Anne is an active lay member of the United Church of Christ. She has served on the Penn Central Conference’s Theological Commission and is co-editor of *Christ, Creeds and Life: Conversations about the Center of Our Faith* published by United Church Press in 2007.

**David L. Weaver-Zercher** is Professor of American Religion at Messiah College. A graduate of Messiah College (in chemistry) and of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, David earned his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Most of his research and writing has focused on the Amish and on the Anabaptist tradition more broadly. His published works include: *Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy* (Jossey-Bass, 2010), *The Amish Way: Patient Faith in a Perilous World* (2012), and *The Amish and the Media* (John Hopkins University Press, 2008). He is currently completing a new book on the history and influence of *The Martyr’s Mirror*, the most popular Anabaptist publication of all time.