

August 12, 2014

## Faculty and Staff Transitions at Bethany

As we at Bethany College near the end of a summer of uncertainty, turmoil, and, yes, many moments of grace and encouragement, we feel the need to keep our supporters, donors and churches apprised of how we are moving forward.

As many of you no doubt know, our Board of Directors has blessed us to go forward for the 2014-2015 academic year and we are so grateful to God for this opportunity! And yet this decision is a cause for both celebration and sorrow because our budget for the upcoming year has required us to make difficult and painful decisions regarding the size and composition of our faculty and staff team.

This update is to inform you of those who will not be returning for the upcoming year. It's impossible to adequately recognize these people in a format like this but please receive this as our effort to name the contribution that these teachers, advocates, mentors and friends have made while also expressing our sorrow at what Bethany's challenges this spring have meant for them.



**Cliff Brandes** – Cliff served in the area of Donor and Alumni relations and represented Bethany with professionalism and careful attention to detail. Cliff has a deep love for Bethany's ministry and was always eager to share and celebrate encouraging words and stories from his many conversations with friends of the college.



**Tim Huebert** – Tim served in the Ministry Arts department, primarily in the areas of music ministry and campus worship. Though Tim was only with us for a year he poured his energy wholeheartedly into the many new tasks he was given and became a well-loved member of the team. Students grew to appreciate his quirky sense of humour and ability to lighten the mood in any conversation. Tim was also a passionate advocate for the church and Bethany benefited greatly from his perspective in this area. Although Tim's time with us was brief, his contribution was significant and we are very grateful for his service.



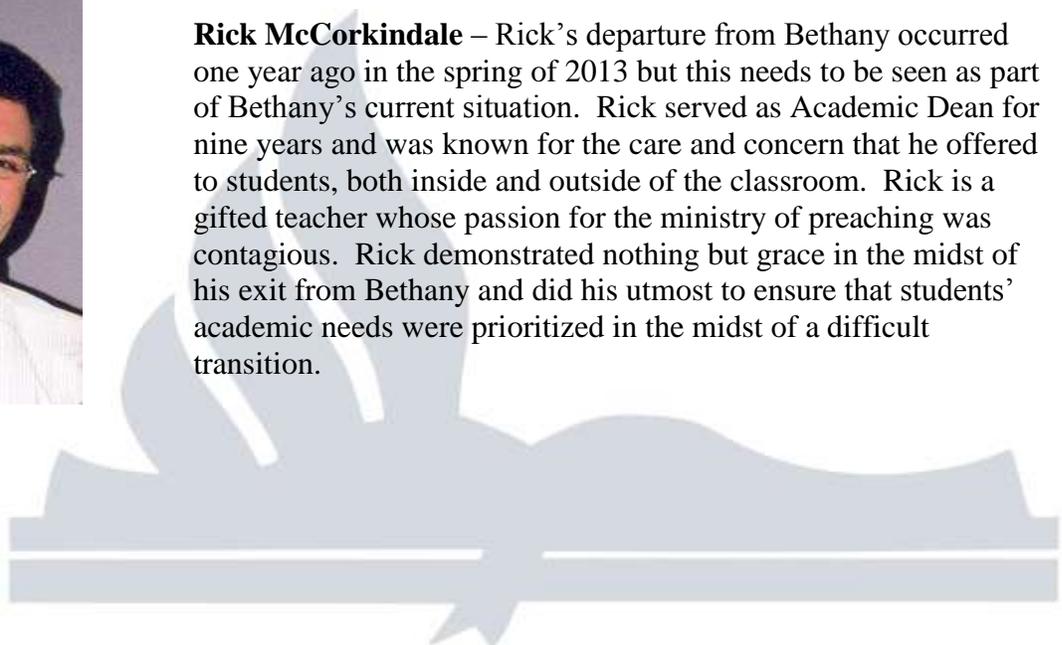
**Dita Leininger** - Dita served as our librarian for the past seven years and brought a professionalism and “can-do” spirit to all aspects of her work. Her enthusiasm was evident to students and she was known for moving mountains to help them find the resources they need (and many that they didn’t know they needed until she found them). More than all of this, Dita brought a high level of competence and a commitment to the quality of our library - and our library is in a much better place because of her work. Her contribution to Bethany’s mission has been significant.



**Jerry Letkeman** - Jerry’s service at Bethany extended over fifteen years and covered a wide range of roles and responsibilities - from Student Development, to Internships, to Service Learning and more recently to the Registrar’s office. He has had a huge role in shaping our Service Learning program and has expanded our network of ministry and service partners in and around Saskatoon. Jerry has also invested significantly in our relationships with First Nations leaders and communities. In each of these areas, we have been blessed by the humble and generous spirit with which Jerry has represented us as a college.



**Rick McCorkindale** – Rick’s departure from Bethany occurred one year ago in the spring of 2013 but this needs to be seen as part of Bethany’s current situation. Rick served as Academic Dean for nine years and was known for the care and concern that he offered to students, both inside and outside of the classroom. Rick is a gifted teacher whose passion for the ministry of preaching was contagious. Rick demonstrated nothing but grace in the midst of his exit from Bethany and did his utmost to ensure that students’ academic needs were prioritized in the midst of a difficult transition.





**Paul Morgun** – Paul served as Director of Admissions for three and a half years. While this past year we did not see the kind of results that we had hoped for in terms of student numbers, the previous years saw steady and even slightly increased numbers. Over his time at Bethany Paul demonstrated a consistent enthusiasm for the ministry of the college and his passion for Christian higher education was instrumental in the lives of many young adults.

This is not a comprehensive list as there have been additional changes among our administrative and support staff as well as in the kitchen. Some of these changes are still in process so it is impossible to name and express our appreciation to all concerned. It goes without saying that these are **not** the circumstances under which we wanted to say good-bye to these co-workers and friends. Bethany College would like to place on record our deep gratitude to each of them, both for their exemplary service as well as for the grace and courage they have demonstrated throughout this difficult period.

In addition to these reductions within our team, most faculty and staff have seen a reduction in their hours in order to streamline our efforts for the upcoming year. There are no faculty members who have been offered full-time contracts and many administrative and support staff have had to adjust to significant changes in their roles. We are very blessed to have a team that believes so passionately in the mission of Bethany.

In the midst of all of the change and sadness we are celebrating God's faithfulness and provision as we move toward the 2014-2015 academic year. We are excited about the students that God has brought across our path for this next season and we are eager to see how God uses our current challenges to mould and shape us.

Please be in prayer for all those who will not be returning for the upcoming year. Pray that as they take their next steps they would know God's faithfulness and provision in new and obvious ways. Please also continue to pray for us at Bethany – that God's Spirit would give us the strength, courage and wisdom that we need to move forward. We are confident that Bethany's future, though unknown to us, is known to God and that, in Christ, that future is a place of blessing.

