

What's Brewing | CIMM

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SPEAKERS

David Lloyd, Brittany Mangelson

Brittany Mangelson 00:27

Hello, everyone. Welcome to the Project Zion Podcast. This is Brittany Mangelson and I'm going to be your host for today. And we are going to be doing a What's Brewing episode where we talk about mission and what's going on in the life of Community of Christ. So, I'm actually sitting across the table from (in real life), in real life from my good friend, David Lloyd. And this is significant because I have not done a podcast face to face in probably four or five years, literally. So, I'm like, I almost don't know what to do with myself. So, podcast listeners, if this is awkward, that's why. Uh, but today, we are going to be talking about the Center of Innovation of Ministry and Mission, which is through the seminary, but I'm actually not going to explain too much about it, because I know I'll mess it up. And that's why we have David on to (mess it up myself), no, to share about what it is. So, I'm really looking forward to this, um, despite me feeling a little awkward doing this in person, but we're just going to roll right into it. So, David is the director. And why don't you, actually, David, you've been on the podcast before, but how about you just give us a high level overview of who you are and how you got to your current role.

David Lloyd 01:46

Uh, so, I am a lifelong member of Community of Christ. Uh, served in a number of roles of full time for over 35 years now and, uh, currently doing what I've done for about the last 10 years and that's online learning for, uh, Community of Christ. And we have a process by which new priesthood members get some training before they are ordained. And that can be done live or it can be done online. And my job is to help on the online portion of it. So, the Center for Innovation in Ministry and Mission was a project started just about a year ago now. So, we're just in our first year. We'll finish our first year's worth of class here in a few months. And what we do is we place online throughout the year, every, uh, priesthood class necessary for ordination. So, the Intro to Priesthood, the Intro to Scripture class that all new priesthood must take, and the office specific class, uh, to which they're called from Deacon all the way up to soon Bishop will be our last class it will produce. We we just finished producing the Evangelist class. And that will be going online here on our next session. And we try to equip the classes with, uh, instructors who know a little bit about the specific class. So, for instance, Jane Gardner, who is, uh, the Presiding Evangelist, will be teaching the Evangelist class. Uh, Dave Anderson, who is the President of the High Council, the teaching High Priest class, etc. And, um, and, and, so, beyond the ministry and priesthood classes, we also have what we call the Christian ministry certificate classes. And this is, like, for those people who knew about the MSEADS program in the past, it's a more advanced, um, online training in more specific topics. You take 10 of these different classes, and you

get a certificate. Um, with each of these classes, by the way, you also get CEU credit through, uh, Graceland. It's non, um, it, it's not dereed credit. It's a CEU credit, um, but you get Graceland credit from it. And, um, the Christian ministry certificate classes are things like intro to New Testament and theology and contemporary culture and those kind of things. And, um, we also are doing other classes, other certificate classes on a, a, as needed basis. Uh, recently, the church asked for a class on discernment, a set of classes on discernment. And as the church is going through a discernment process itself right now, it's quite timely. And so we have had a discernment series going on and that will, we're kind of midway through that at this point. Uh, soon we'll be offering a, uh, a spiritual formations class and, uh, that there'll be a series on that that will be taught by Katie Harmon-McLaughlin and, and, so, we've got a number of these different tracks going up all of them, uh, not for degree. They're, uh, so you can take them if you have a college degree or if you don't have a college degree. And, and our hope is that as, as some priesthood take these classes online, take their priesthood courses online, they might be interested in, in getting more information and go into the Christian ministries program. And if they really want more than they can also go into the, uh, seminary itself and get a, a post graduate degree. So, it's, the nice thing is we've been doing this in a number of venues. It started, the online classes started at headquarters and then it went through Developmetrics for a number of years, uh, through the Canadian church. And now it's with the seminary, which is a great place for it to be and thrive and, and grow into the future.

Brittany Mangelson 05:55

Awesome. So, I have a million questions, which is why we're doing this podcast. So, how, I'm curious how you prioritize what classes are offered. So, you said that the basic priesthood classes are offered and, then, you've added in the discernment class. But are there other classes that you hope to add? How do you prioritize what gets, what gets put out?

David Lloyd 06:20

Well, we, we first with the ministry and priesthood classes tried to ensure that in a calendar year, all of the classes necessary for anyone to be ordained are, are offered. And the, um, the Intro to Priesthood and the Intro to Scripture classes are taught more than once, because everybody needs those. So, within a sho, relatively short period of time, anyone who has been called can get through those courses. And, and we usually, usually give, uh, ordinands a year to, uh, you know, get those classes taken care of. It's easily done online. The nice thing about online with ministry and priesthood classes is it's all taught from the, uh, the resource, (Okay.) the resources. So, you're getting the exact same class you would if you bought the book. And we have a, a number of other resources put in that you normally wouldn't get in the book, too. So, it's nice to have that and it's updated every time a World Conference comes about or new policy is put in the church, we change it on the online class. So, that's, that's helpful. Now the, the nice thing with the prioritization of the, uh, uh, the other classes are, we either are informed that the church would like to have something in this area, like the discernment class, um, or we are sitting around and saying, You know, what would be good? We really would like to do something along this line. And, um, the, um, the spiritual formation class has already been going on for a number of years in a live setting. We're just in the, uh, Christian ministries, and in the discernment and in the, uh, spiritual formation class, we also add a live Zoom portion into that. So, there's also a live portion going on in the class, as well as the class itself online. And so that allows for us to have some of the top notch leaders, uh, interacting with people basically all over the, at this point, English speaking

world that, that we can. We are also working at getting some of the, uh, ministry and priesthood classes done in French and Spanish in, in the near future so that, uh, we can expand that, uh, to around the world. Um, but, yeah, it's, it's a prioritization. We, we recognize that there were a number of topics in MEADS when it was going on, but that, uh, made sense. And we have looked at that and added to and changed some of the format, uh, to, to where we are as a church right now to, to make that certificate. And after the 10 classes are taught over a two year period in the Christian ministries class, we plan to have a couple more classes. So, if somebody started, you know, after or started and stopped, you could still probably get the 10 classes in a relatively short two-year period of time or a little after that. And, uh, so, we'll probably be adding a couple more to the Christian ministries class as we go on. But you can see the descriptions of all the classes on our website. And that's, um, www.graceland.edu/CIMM, and that has all the information there and also a button to register for any of the classes that you want to take.

Brittany Mangelson 09:29

Awesome. So, if, and we'll definitely put the, the link in the show notes in the description of this episode. And, so, it sounds like these aren't necessarily classes that you take in isolation. So, you sign up for this thing and then you have, you know, an infinite amount of time and you're not really connecting with people. It sounds like you're, you're actually working with, you know, like you mentioned the (Right.) Zoom element, so, you're working with the professor, you're working with (Yes.) the instructor and with your peers and, so, it, it sounds like it's, it's an actual class that creates a community.

David Lloyd 10:01

Right. One of our, our biggest, um, hurdles was to keep the community aspect in these classes. Uh, we felt it was one of the best, most important priorities we can do because online classes can be very impersonal. And, um, and even in the ministry and priesthood classes, which doesn't include a live element, the, the students still progress with each other week by week. So, you start on a Monday. Uh, the class opens, that week's class opens, and then you have until the next Sunday at 2:30 Central Time to read through everything, turn in your assignment, um, whatever is required in that, that week's class, but you'll also be involved in some discussions where you'll interact with some of the students in the class, hear what their answers might have been to the discussion questions. You can go in and reply to theirs and start a thread and have a discussion. So, we have some sense of community even in some of the most rudimentary classes that we have. Now, in the Zoom classes, there's interaction in small groups on Zoom, if you ever use that and know how that works. Um, so, so you get to not only, uh, experience it with those students from all around the world, uh, in some cases, but also you get to be with that instructor who is, we've had some great instructors, uh, so far in the classes. Um, uh, we've, we've got, uh, uh upcoming, we've got Kris Judd who's going to do, uh, uh, spiritual formation class, one single class in the Christian ministry class. Dave Anderson taught a class on, uh, on theology. Tony and Charmaine Chvala-Smith taught the New Cle, Testament class. Um, so you get to have these people teaching these kind of classes and, um, and interact with them during the week, um, while you're taking the class. So, yeah, we work hard to establish some sense of community in, in the class its, itself.

Brittany Mangelson 12:01

Yeah, I just want to underscore what an awesome opportunity this is to have, it sounds like, you know, the class that Kris might be doing is maybe a one op, just like a singular class, but to be exposed to the variety of leadership, the variety of gifts in the church and have it not be, you know, like you're with this professor for the long haul, or whatever. So, it, it, it just sounds like the breadth of experience that are coming into these courses is huge. (Yeah.) So, you're not getting just like one monolith understanding of any given topic, that there's a lot of people who are giving their voices. So, you'll leave with a well rounded understanding of, of the topics. So, that's, (Exactly.) that's really cool. Yeah. That's really cool. So, I guess I have a few logistical questions. So, as far as, like, time commitment, so, and whether that's, you know, for folks who are getting ordained or who are going through Christian ministry certificate, is that what it's called? Okay, the actual Christian ministry certificate. So, what is the time commitment for the different classes?

David Lloyd 13:11

Sure. Well, well, it, it sometimes depends on the class. But in most cases, the ministry of priesthood classes, usually each week, uh, we say about an hour and a half to two hours of reading and, you know, doing your assignments. Everybody's different. Some people can breeze through that much quicker. Some people will, you know, will take an hour and a half to finish that each week. But the nice thing is, if you start on Monday and do 20 minutes on Monday, and then Tuesday, you might do 30 minutes, and you'll, you can get done, or in one setting. You know, you, you can get it done on your own schedule. And, and that's nice for people because, you know, everybody's work schedule's different, school schedule's different and so they can work around their own schedule to make that work. Uh, the Christian ministries classes takes a, probably a little bit more time because the assignments are a little bit more beefy. And, uh, and then you have an hour and a half each week on, like, a Thursday night or something where you'll, uh, connect to the Zoom class and be with those in class once a week. And, and these are eight week classes. All of them are set up on an eight week class, uh, scenario. The only outlier is we also do the Children and Youth Workers Core Training class and that's a two week class. We ask students to finish it within two weeks. And you can pretty much finish that in one setting. And that's not a credited class, but it, it, it does get recorded in Shelby so the people who are wanting to get certified for youth camps and things like that can, can have that training before they fill out their applications.

Brittany Mangelson 14:39

Yeah. That's super important. And as someone who's now taught that class a couple of times and has gone through the paperwork, uh, we were actually just talking listeners about the admin side of being a pastor and just being part of the church. And that's one of those classes that actually has a fair amount of back end administrative (Yes, ma'am.) stuff to go through because we're checking references, we're going over the application, we're sending it in to our department, our church headquarters and, and things like that. So, the fact that it can be done online, (Right.) I think is excellent.

David Lloyd 15:12

And that's, that's another class we actually have in the ministry and priesthood class. Every, uh, January, right at the beginning of the year, we will teach an Intro to Pastor's Ministry class. (Oh, yeah.) And that is, uh, for people who are, you know, part of a pastoral team or, uh, a single line pastor, an opportunity to look at some of the basic functions of what you're getting into as a pastor. And, uh, we'll

be, we talked about a real brief synopsis on how to lead a business meeting and, and the Youth and Children's Worker Training and little things like how do you deal with conflict. Um, we could spend a whole class on that, but at least in that pastors class, we deal with the, uh, the basic tenets, we, we put in it some of the requirements of headquarters, uh, what they require a congregation to do each year that you might not know as a pastor. So, that's a, another good class. It's not really a priesthood class, but it's something we offer every January.

Brittany Mangelson 16:12

Yeah. And I, I took that class several years ago when I was on a pastoral team. I think under Blair White. He had us all take it. And now that I'm a pastor, I thought, Maybe I should take that class again just to brush up on, on some of the basics, because, yeah, there are things that, you know, when you are in church leadership, especially like for me, we've had the same CFO for 20 years plus. (Yeah, yeah.) and then we now transition not only to a new pastor, but a new CFO, so me and the CFO are like, Okay, how do we do this? (Yeah, Yeah. Absolutely.) Well, we've got our, we've got our past CFO on speed dial always, because we're like, Mmm, what about this account? Or what about this, you know, whatever. So, just all of those nuts and bolts that, (Yeah.) really when you're sitting in a pew, you don't necessarily think about that (No.) all the time (No.), but when you're on a leadership team, whether it's the pastor or the CFO or a counselor,

David Lloyd 17:07

Right. Well, and whenever you're in a, a business meeting and somebody does an amendment to amendment, it's always, always good to, to know a little bit about Robert's Rules before you go in.

Brittany Mangelson 17:18

Ah, absolutely. That's our, uh, World Conference coming out, right? We just had a lot of amendments to the amendments to the amendments to the amendments. Like, what are we even talking about at this point? Oh, that's too funny.

David Lloyd 17:32

Now, as far as costs go on these classes, um, the Ministry of Priesthood classes, we have worked really hard, uh, to only cost \$25, (Oh, wow.) which is about the, the price you pay for the books. (I was gonna' say that) We wanted to keep it accessible. The one thing we don't want it to feel like is that you're, you're paying an exorbitant amount of money to be a priesthood member. (Um. Yeah.) Um, but at the same time, to give a quality introduction to what your priesthood office is, and what ministry is, and, and teaching people how to exegete scripture, (Um hmm.) you know, um, basic tenants of, of ministry. Um, so those are all \$25. The, um, the Christian ministries class, and usually the other classes, will vary in price, usually around \$100 per class. And that's, uh, because we are developing these classes from scratch, (Yeah, yeah.) basically. And we're also giving a, a very small honorarium to the, the instructors who are busy. I mean, I could go through the list of people and you'd realize how busy these people are. But it's also nice, we have, I don't want to over publicize this, but we have general leaders of the church Apostles and, pretty soon, the president of church is going to be teaching one of the Ministry of Priesthood classes. So, we're really excited about (That's great.) having the opportunity to have these people teaching these classes. And in, in times and places where, unless you're at a reunion, you'd never have a class with these people. (Yeah.) Um, so we're excited about

those opportunities to see this teaching a class and, and Art Smith right now is teaching a class and we'll have a number of other people scattered throughout the, the process and, uh, who have volunteered to teach some of our classes.

Brittany Mangelson 19:21

Nice. So, folks are just going to sign up for whatever class Steve teaches and then show up and be like, Oh, the president of the church is teaching.

David Lloyd 19:28

Well, they'll, they'll, we'll, most of them will know before, but, uh, (Okay.) I, I'm just afraid that some classes will be taken just for the name of the person teaching it (There.) rather than, you know, say the content.

Brittany Mangelson 19:40

Absolutely, absolutely. No, but that's, that's really cool. Um, again, to know the, the depth of folks that are teaching these courses, and it's not just

David Lloyd 19:48

Oh, and I'm, I'm teaching at least one course session and (Well, there you go.) I have to cut off the number of people who (Heard it here, folks.) want to take these classes from me because, (Well, absolutely.) dang, that's gold, right?

Brittany Mangelson 20:04

Ah, so, this, I, I'm just so impressed at this opportunity for folks because, so, I have on the Salt Lake pastorate team, um, one of my good friends and counselors, Laura Pennock is taking this course. And she, I mean, she's going through the certificate and she absolutely loves it.

David Lloyd 20:23

It's great. It really is.

Brittany Mangelson 20:24

She's telling people about it. (Yeah.) It's more accessible. So, you can take it if you don't have a bachelor's degree. That's not a prerequisite. (Right.) You don't, you're not signing up for this big thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars, (Um hmm.) you know, master's degree program, but you're getting the core content that will enhance your ministry, enhance what you can do in your local community (Right.), in your congregation. So,

David Lloyd 20:47

And, and we're already having some of these people who are scared of the idea of taking the degreed seminary training and they go through these classes and say, Well, maybe I can, and have transferred from Christian Ministries to the actual seminary itself. And, and that's exciting to see, too, (Yeah.) because every time we, we educate our membership, we are getting better ministers out there. And honestly, for such a small organization, we have some gifted people, uh, who have put together some wonderful opportunities of learning. And we do help people through the process. It's some, for some

people, it can be a little scary at first and we try to at least be there with them to assure them that they can do it. We have had people, uh, take classes from the age of 16, has been our youngest, (Okay.) and age 93 has been our oldest.(Ooooo.) So, there's a lot of, uh, cultural differences of, between those, those age groups. And online, we've been able to work with all kinds of people in different scenarios.

Brittany Mangelson 21:56

That is incredible. That, wow, 16. So, were the, was the 16 year old taking priesthood (Yeah.) classes or? That's really cool.

David Lloyd 22:06

Yep. And, uh, and the 93 year old was, uh, just trying to, to better their understanding. (Um hmm.) And it's fantastic. (Yeah.) And, and, and we have a, a number of people who have, uh, we have post class surveys, too. And we read all those post class surveys, by the way, and try to make sure that we're, you know, providing what we intend to be providing. And the comments back have been so positive in regard to, I was, I was nervous about doing this. I didn't think I could. And, yeah, sometimes the, uh, registration process is difficult, you know. What, we've got a new registration process through Graceland and we're getting through some of the early stages of, of getting that streamlined. And, uh, but as people go through the classes themselves, they really have tended to enjoy them.

Brittany Mangelson 22:59

Yeah. So, seminary looks different than it did, now, when, when I was going through, so they have, like, the different courses, right? (Me, too. Yeah. Uh huh. Right.) So, I guess my question is, are there different tracks for the Christian Ministry thing? Or right now is it pretty much singular?

David Lloyd 23:14

Well, the Christian Ministry is, is really the basic, uh, general, the general knowledge. (Okay.) Uh, so, so we have, you know, Intro to New Testament, Intro to Old Testament, uh, Christian Theology, uh, Contemporary Culture, um, you know, the, the basic classes that are kind of the high school version of what, uh, the seminary postgraduate (Okay.) courses would be. And then we have other tracks that are based on whatever the perceived need is of the church at that time. So, right now, discernment and spiritual formation will be ongoing. And they'll be different cohorts with the spiritual formation as time goes on. So, if you didn't get into the next spiritual cohort, well, you can apply to get in, in the next cohort, and, and, so, so we anticipate as time goes on, that there will be other things that we'll make up based on the needs of the church, but the basic general, um, education will be through that Christian ministry certificate and the priesthood ministries, preparing for priesthood, uh, ordination classes that we'll be having on an ongoing basis.

Brittany Mangelson 24:26

That's really cool because it gives such a basic fundamental foundation of what we need to know to be Community of Christ in the world, right? (Right.) So, to be ministers, to be able to articulate our story. Oh, that was one question I had. Is, or is there like a church history component (Yes.) to it at all? (Yes.)

David Lloyd 24:44

There, there is in Christian theology, as well as a Community of Christ theology (Okay. Yeah.) course. Those things, so, yes, there are those that are, are planned and, and coming up. Uh, again, we're in the first year of the, the Christian Ministries course, so, we're still making it up as we go, (Yeah.) but, uh, yeah, we, we already have our, our leadership set up, uh, for teaching these classes for the next, uh, six months or so. (Great.) And we're just keeping on going as, as the calendar rolls through. So, whenever you're listening to this, you know, just go onto the website, see what the schedule is, and you'll see who the instructors are and information about those classes. But, you know, the, the, the neat thing about this is that, uh, in the life of the church, education has always been a, a, a pivotal part of, of our identity. I mean, Kirtland had, you know, the School of the Apostles, the School of the Prophets, you know, as, as, as a major part of the temple. And when we built the Independence Temple, you know, right on the outside, uh, parking lot of the Temple is the words Temple School. (Um hmm.) And most of us know what Temple School is, was. And there was a time in the church where we were cranking out, you know, so many different classes through Temple School, and that was all done, um, either in live classes, or there, there was an opportunity of, of mailing courses that, that we did. And then, uh, for a while, that kind of went down and we, we lost the resources of people and, um, and we couldn't keep up with the changes in, in our, the church and the classes, uh, and updating them. And what happened was, we kind of began the process of doing online learning starting with training mission center presidents. That was (Um.) the first class that I did online through the church. And we realized immediately how well this would work with, um, uh, priesthood ministry, especially since we were redoing all the priesthood classes. And once we started doing that, we realized that on the fly, we could update the class online where we couldn't in print. (Yeah.) And then we also un, understood that we could get instructors engaged, uh, at a little bit at a time rather than being inundated with mail-in, uh, uh, grades to do in classes. And it became a vehicle to expand the ability of teaching in the class. So, the words Temple School is still on the Temple (Um huh.) there. And, and my office is in the Temple. And this is kind of the, the next resurrection of education in the life of the, uh, the church, uh, uh, an ability to do this kind of educational experience with people in, in outlying areas. Every time we do classes, I get some comment back from somebody who lives out in a far congregation saying, I never realized our church believed this. (Ohhh.) And it's because, you know, in the bubble, they, they didn't have the opportunity to take class with a number of other people from other places (Right.) and hear other opinions and realize that this was the direction the church was going. (Hmm.) And, um, and so it, it, it's provided us with a way of, um, of standardizing some things and yet still expanding it to people who have different viewpoints and working with those, uh, in a class setting and learning from each other, too. So, it's been a real positive experience.

Brittany Mangelson 28:24

Yeah, this is, and just the opportunity, I think is so limitless, like you've said, you know, you're you've laid the foundation for the Christian ministry. And yet, there's still more ideas that are being generated, and, you know, thinking of different ways that we can use this technology to connect with people in French and Spanish eventually, and

David Lloyd 28:45

And, and it's made the seminary a whole lot more accessible. (Yes.) So, so you can take a Ministry and Priesthood class and say you've taken a class through the seminary. (Yeah.) Uh, not, not a postgraduate, but you are taking a class, uh, connected to the seminary. And, and, so, the seminary is

now not just doing this, you know, this unattainable, uh, uh, for some education, but an education for the entire church.

Brittany Mangelson 29:12

Yeah, and, and you're networking with the people that are in seminary, (Um huh.) right? (Um huh.) You're, you're networking with (So) that leadership

David Lloyd 29:17

getting that, that, that knowledge and leadership. Yeah.

Brittany Mangelson 29:21

Yeah. That, that's incredible. So, I guess I'm, I am wondering, though, there are probably people listening to this that still feel like, Okay, well, this is great for other people, but not for me. And whatever their reasons are, you know, whether they think it's financial or if they're, they don't feel like they've been in college for decades. So, like, you know, feel like they would not be a good fit. Um, what would you say to some of the general insecurities that you have heard or that you think are floating around, um, about (Uh,) this?

David Lloyd 29:52

first of all, you're never too old or too young to learn. (Yeah.) And, and that out of the catalogue of classes we have, I'm sure there's something that might pique your interest. And, and if it does, um, and if you're, you're afraid that your, your knowledge base is not as, as broad as whatever you're jumping into, uh, understand that there's probably 12 to 15 other people who are in the same situation as you are. And we expect that people who are taking these classes are coming to learn. And if that's the case, then you're in good company, (Yeah.) that, that people who are coming in there are, are also coming to learn and you might learn something from the instructor and you might learn something from the students. And, um, a, and so if you come with an open mind and a, a, a desire to, to hear more about whatever that topic is, try out a class. See how it works. And, uh, and, and feel free to, uh, let us know if you're having any problems along the way. We are, our, our goal is that, uh, grace abounds in, in the CIMM classes. We try to work with people so that they feel comfortable in not only what they're learning, but how they're learning. And if there's anything we can do, I personally will come in and assist someone to, to be successful in a class.

Brittany Mangelson 31:17

Yeah. That is great. One of the, one of the comments that you just made about, you know, a class maybe is peaking your interest, are you able to just take a singular class or do you have to sign up for the whole Christian Ministry (You,) kit and caboodle?

David Lloyd 31:33

you can take whatever is in, uh, uh, your interest, at least in the Christian Ministries (Yeah.) and the Ministry and Priesthood priesthood classes. Um, now, if you're wanting to be ordained, you do have to (Yeah.) take the three classes, (Yeah.) especially for the Christian Min, Ministries courses, taking one class and seeing how it, how it feels is, you're welcome to do that. (Um hmm.) Now, some other classes, you'll be in a, uh, cohort and, um, you'll have to keep doing all of those classes in order to

progress to get, like the discernment class, I'm, I'm thinking (Um hmm.). Um, you're expected to begin and end with the class. Now, we've had a couple of people drop out, which is expected. But most people are hungry to get that process because it's a very interactive class, that specific class, where you're working with, uh, the instructor and other students and your local area to be a part of the discernment process, um, in wherever you're located. But as, as far as for the Christian Ministries class, the Ministry and Priesthood classes, if you just want to take one class and see, see how it fits, you're more than welcome to do so.

Brittany Mangelson 32:40

Okay, that is cool (Um hmm.) because, like I said, uh, you know, the seminary program has changed a lot since I went through back in 2017. Um, (Wow. You're old.) I know. I'm (Don't ask when I was in, right?) Uh, okay. No, I, I, my Facebook memories, it's, like, five years ago. I'm like, Oh, five years ago. It feels so long. (Um hmm.) But, I mean, even a lot's changed since then and, you know, we've had an entire pandemic, which I know changed how (My goodness.) we've interacted online.

David Lloyd 33:11

Let me tell you, (Yeah.) the pandemic dur, when we, when I was in Developmetrics doing the same thing, um, boy, it, it was a lifesaver. I mean, seriously? (Absolutely.) Because there would have been no means during that quarantine time for people to be ordained, (Yeah.) other than us having them in online classes. (Yep.) And we were able to maintain people's schedule from calling to ordination because we had these online classes. (Yeah.) So, we were in the right place at the right time to be a great service to the church during that period of time. And it, it made us stronger. I mean, it really helped people to see that this is not only, um, a nice novelty to have. This is a necessity as far as the church is, is concerned, as far as education is concerned in the life of the church, um, to have these online classes available.

Brittany Mangelson 34:02

Absolutely. And I feel like so much creativity was sparked during that time because it was like, Okay, (Necessity out of, yeah.) Yeah, like we, we have this thing. We know how to deliver content online. So, what else can we use this for, right? So, to me, when I first heard about, um, what the seminary was doing in this Christian Ministry certificate, it was like, Well, of course, like, of course, that's going to happen because all the, the, the blocks were right there. They just needed to be put together to build this thing, (Absolutely.) you know, to, to be able to deliver content to the church. So, (Um hmm.) Yeah, but that's really exciting to hear that you can just take a class here or there. Um, like I said, with my friend, Laura, she's been telling me about some of the stuff she's been doing. And, and I even talked to Zach at, uh, seminary or not seminary, well, I did talk to Zach at seminary, but I talked to Zach at World Conference and he was like, Yeah, you should come back Brittany. I'm like, I've been there, done that. But knowing that there's classes like discernment (Yeah.) and I think there was a class that you all did on forgiveness. Was that part of, I think Nancy Ross taught it. (Oh, no, that peace and justice.) Peace and justice. (Yes.) Yeah. (Yeah.) I know that they were doing a book about forgiveness. (Right, right.) And I've been reading that on my own and just realizing, like, yes, you can do that work on your own. But doing it in community, it's probably a much more (Right.) rounded experience because you're interacting with

David Lloyd 35:25

Well, anybody who's been at a book club knows, knows what it's like to be a, a, a part of one of these, uh, Christian Ministry courses, because we require, you know, one or two books (Um hmm.) for the course. And you're all as a group going through those resources, um, each week. So, it, it, it makes you read the book, you know, and that, that reading, plus, uh, conversing with other students and the instructor makes it really helpful. So, here's the thing. As, as the church, you can, uh, have so much, um, insight as to where you want the church to go. And you can put out statements and you can put out mission initiatives and enduring principles. But unless you have a means of delivery, all those things stay up at headquarters. (Yeah.) What CIMM does for the church is provide a means of delivery and what we're finding out, a quick means of delivery. I, I mean, before we knew that we were going to go through a discernment process as the church for the new president, we had already been no, notified that we needed to offer something on discernment. And so we were prepared to have that ready immediately as we were going into that portion as a church. So, this really has become the means of conveyance of the mission and message of the church to the individuals within the church itself. (Absolutely.) And, um, and that, that has really streamlined us into a place of where we can talk about it and then deliver it in a fairly quick amount of time to the church. (Hmm.) So, yeah, it's a, a wonderful opportunity and means of, of education and conveyance of, of where the mission and message of the church is.

Brittany Mangelson 37:15

And you said that the classes are about eight weeks long. Does that mean that every week there's an opportunity to jump on board (Yes.) the next class? (Yes.) That is exciting. And here we go. I might see what's coming up. (Yeah.) I'm excited about this.

David Lloyd 37:30

Now, one, once in a while there's a break so we'll, (Yeah.) there'll be a break around Christmastime. I didn't realize it until this first year that there was actually a spring break and, and I was prepared to do the next set of classes. And then I realized, um, I looked at the calendar and I realized, Oh, my gosh. I get a week in between. (You get to party.) What am I gonna' do? (Party. That's what . . .) So, so, yeah, so it's just about every eight weeks, however, that works in a, a yearly calendar. Uh, but we have a winter A and B class of eight weeks each. Uh, spring A and B, summer A and B, fall A and B. (Cool.) And, uh, and that schedule is on our website available (Alright.) for you to peruse at this moment.

Brittany Mangelson 38:11

Well, you may have converted at least one person so, (Then my job is done here.) she's sittin' across from you.

David Lloyd 38:16

I should go back to Blue Springs, Missouri, and leave you here in Saratoga Springs, Utah.

Brittany Mangelson 38:23

Oh, I love it. No, I really am very excited about this. And I, I just see the spiritual and intellectual hunger that is around here (Um hmm.) for theology and for a different way to view Christianity and, and just basic building blocks of Christian history, (Um hmm.) right? So, I'm now, I'm going to be a little

evangelist for this program with my own congregation because I think there's so many people that are just, like, right there wanting to dive in. But, yeah, a full master's degree doesn't feel as accessible. There, there's, you know, several hurdles that would get somebody to that point. Uh, but this feels like such a good bridge to that, (Yeah.) or, you know, just a supplement of, you know, just, yeah, reading a book in isolation on your own. Because, again, I was reading the same book that the Peace and Justice class was doing, and I was, like, Oh, it would be good to read this with a (With a group. Yeah.) community to be able to have these conversations and do the practices that are found in the text. It's great book, but

David Lloyd 39:25

And, and (. . .) with, with instructors who know what they're talking about, too. (Exactly.) Yeah. (Yeah. So.) Yep. Well, have we got a deal for you? Yeah.

Brittany Mangelson 39:34

Ya' heard it here first. Well, thank you, David. Is there anything else that you would like to share?

David Lloyd 39:40

No. If anybody has any questions, have them feel free to contact me, um, at, at my email address, which is, uh, available on our website, or you can just do david.lloyd@graceland.edu and I'd be glad to, to share with them.

Brittany Mangelson 39:55

Excellent. Well, thank you so much. (Awesome.) It's been a joy to do this face-to-face (Yeah.) even if I did feel a little awkward and I'm like, throwing my hands around as I'm talking. It's been great. Uh, so, yeah, listeners, thank you for tuning in, uh, to this episode of What's Brewing and we'll see you later.