



For Immediate Release
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NANCY ROSENBERGER FAUS-MULLEN HONORED AS FELLOW OF THE HYMN SOCIETY

Nancy Rosenberger Faus-Mullen has been honored by The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada (THS) during its all-digital Annual Conference on July 16 by being named a Fellow of The Hymn Society (FHS). This award, the highest honor given by the organization, was conferred because of her work as a hymnal editor, an educator, and a researcher in the area of Brethren hymnody; for continuously promoting the voice of the congregation through song, and for her service to The Hymn Society.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Faus-Mullen studied at the University of Pennsylvania (BA), Columbia University (MA), and Chicago Theological Seminary (DMin). She is Brightbill Professor Emeritus of Ministry Studies at Bethany Theological Seminary (BTS) in Richmond, Indiana. She began her tenure at the seminary in 1976 as campus pastor, the first woman to serve on the faculty in several decades. After 1977 Faus-Mullen became Instructor in Church Music; in the 1980s, she revitalized the seminary's music program. As Seminary Choir Director, she led a thirty-voice choir which sang regularly at chapel services and toured over spring break. Faus-Mullen is an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren, and was the first ordained woman to serve on the BTS faculty. Prior to her seminary position, she served as Minister of Music in Kansas and Pennsylvania, taught at Juniata College as an English instructor, and was a music teacher at the elementary, junior, and senior high school levels. A life member of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, Faus-Mullen served on its Executive Committee as Member-at-Large (1988- 1992) and President (2000-2002), presented several times at Hymn Society conferences, and is a past contributor to *The Hymn*. Faus-Mullen joined THS when she was a seminary student in the late 1950s when one of her professors, Dr. Alvin Brightbill, an active Society member, told her that THS was a "mostly male organization and they needed some women in it!"

Faus-Mullen's published work is centered around worship and congregational song. She chaired the committee that produced *We Gather Together* (1979), a worship resource book for the Church of the Brethren. She has written and edited several articles for *Brethren Life and Thought* on Brethren worship, spirituality, and hymnody. In 1986 she compiled and edited *Singing for Peace*, a book of hymns and folk songs for peace. From 1986 to 1992 Faus-Mullen chaired the Hymnal Project that produced *Hymnal: A Worship Book* (Church of Brethren, General Conference Mennonite Church, and Mennonite Church in North America); she also chaired the committee that prepared its Church of the Brethren supplement, *Hymnal Supplement* (2001–2005). Faus-Mullen is a gifted preacher and is well known as an effective leader of workshops on music and worship.

Throughout her career, Faus-Mullen embodied the core Church of the Brethren values of peace and justice. She was passionate about the rights of women, particularly women in ministry, and was an early advocate for inclusive language in Bethany's worship services. The collection *Singing for Peace* was a natural outgrowth of her own commitment to peacemaking. She concludes her foreword to the collection with these words: "God's peace and peace among nations come not simply from the absence of war but as we live and work and walk together in love and compassion. As we yearn for peace, pray for peace, and work for peace, may we do so Sing- ing for Peace!"

For Faus-Mullen, the importance of congregational singing in worship cannot be overstated. Eileen M. Johnson notes, "From Nancy, I learned the importance of promoting and enabling the congregation's voice in worship. During the years I went on tour with her as part of the Bethany Seminary choir, she was always intentional in having the congregation participate in at least one of our pieces. Now, each time I invite my congregation to sing together with the choir, I remember Nancy with great appreciation and thanks."

Founded in 1922, The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada is an ecumenical organization of people who are passionate about hymns and congregational song. The Hymn Society community, open to all, is made up of scholars, church musicians, poets, composers, choir directors, choir members, clergy, worship planners, song leaders, music publishers, music educators, and people who love to sing. We believe that the holy act of singing together shapes faith, heals brokenness, transforms lives, and renews peace. Our mission, therefore, is to encourage, promote, and enliven congregational song.

This information is provided by J. Michael McMahon, Executive Director of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, 5 Thomas Circle, NW, 4th floor, Washington, DC 20005-4153. For more information, please contact Dr. McMahon at mike@thehymnsociety.org or 800-843-8966.