

The Scroll

*Notes and News
from the
Brethren Academy for
Ministerial Leadership*

December 2016

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TRIM UPDATES



Church of the Brethren History Instructor: Denise Kettering-Lane

I've spent my entire life in the Church of the Brethren, yet only a small fraction of this history of the Brethren movement was known to me. I found this to be true for many of my fellow students as we began our online Brethren history class this fall. I had taken a church history class in college, but we had only briefly mentioned Anabaptists as part of the Radical Reformation. It was great to spend time learning about my own heritage in more detail.

We used *Fruit of the Vine* by Donald Durnbaugh as our text. We started with grounding our study of the Brethren movement in the historical setting in Europe surrounding the Protestant Reformation. This helped me understand the combination of Anabaptist and Pietist influences on the early Brethren. Prof. Kettering tailored her lectures to the class discussion, which helped me to synthesize the reading along with the emerging discussions online. I was challenged by the early Brethren commitment to community discipleship. It was a challenge to see how some of the early values of peace, commitment to understanding scripture in community, and simple living have changed over time.

The assignments allowed me to get a deeper knowledge of key Brethren events, a close look at M. R. Zeigler and an overview of the historical development of the Brethren peace witness. It was a joy to learn more of my faith heritage and to be challenged by the commitment of those Brethren that have come before.

- Adam Ulm, Atlantic Northeast District

Introduction to the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible

Instructor: Matt Boersma



I was not able to take this course when it was previously offered, so even though we are encouraged to take this early on in TRIM studies, this was actually my last class. In many ways, there have been advantages to bringing perspectives from previous courses to this one. Courses on Walter Brueggemann, interfaith study, and Brethren beliefs all enriched my perspective on the Hebrew Bible and Jewish culture and challenged my work in this course.

The text has been thorough in its introduction to the biblical sources and the complexities of the content itself, especially inconsistencies, cultural context, and reviewing the evidence that exists or not.

Our instructor Matt Boersma has challenged us to go deeper into the texts and study with readings, lectures, in-depth blog posts, forum discussion posts, weekly quizzes (yikes!), and a creative final project based on a scripture passage. I chose to relate my final project to my work with Children's Disaster Services, looking at Psalm 102 from an analytical perspective as well as inspiration for trauma-healing curriculum following disaster in relation to experiences of grief.

Matt brought clear expectations and a wealth of information to the class as well as a respectful approach to encouraging all students in our group. Thank you to Matt and to all those in the class as we have tried to make sense of the Hebrew scriptures in light of our current troubled times and as a peace church!

- Kathy Fry-Miller, South-Central Indiana District

Reading Lists –

If you were not able to take one of the TRIM courses highlighted in the newsletter but would like to explore the topics, here is a partial reading list for the courses:

Church of the Brethren History

Donald F. Durnbaugh, *Fruit of the Vine: A History of the Brethren, 1708-1995* (Elgin: Brethren Press, 1996).

Introduction to the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible

John J. Collins, *A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*, 2nd ed.. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014). ISBN: 978-1451472943



Nancy Heishman

SeBAH-CoB NEWS

Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano de la Iglesia de Los Hermanos

Grupos de SeBAH-CoB disfrutaron de experiencias de aprendizaje en línea

La primera clase en línea para estudiantes del grupo "Alfa" dio lugar a una experiencia rica y profunda del estudio del evangelio de Mateo. Los estudiantes del distritos de Pensilvania, California y Puerto Rico respondieron de diversas maneras a esta plataforma de aprendizaje que se llama "Moodle" dirigido por el profesor Daniel Ulrich. Algunos estudiantes saltaron directamente al mundo de esta nueva tecnología, mientras que otros necesitaban un poco de ayuda para comenzar a estudiar usando este formato. Sin embargo, para aquellos que fueron capaces de terminar el curso de estudio, fue una experiencia ricamente gratificante.

En los comentarios finales de evaluación, varios estudiantes señalaron que:

- "Se desarrollaron como líderes ganando nuevas habilidades de predicación y una mejor comprensión de la Palabra. Descubrieron nuevos conocimientos espirituales que tendrán repercusiones eternas. El Señor me trató durante este estudio de su palabra. Su Espíritu Santo cambió mi vida y pude asimilar y cambiar algunas cosas espirituales que han sido de valor espiritual para mi salvación.
- Esta fue la clase menos estresante y más agradable que he tomado durante mis estudios con SeBAH-CoB.
- Uno de los aspectos más agradables de la clase fue la interacción con otros estudiantes y con el profesor que fue parte de este nuevo estilo de aprendizaje.
- Me gustó tanto escuchar acerca de las experiencias de otros estudiantes y cómo el evangelio de Mateo se entiende en sus comunidades. Aprendí que la enseñanza de Jesús es mucho más profunda de lo que podemos imaginar.
- Este curso ha cumplido mis expectativas, ya que aprecié la forma en que el profesor respondió y manejó las diferentes perspectivas teológicas compartidas dentro de la clase.
- Creo que he leído el evangelio de Mateo muchas veces pero esta fue la primera vez que he podido explorar el contenido de él tan profundamente. Me ha motivado a vivir las enseñanzas más en mi vida.
- Me gustó bastante explorar el contexto literario e histórico del evangelio.
- Espero continuar explorando las riquezas de este evangelio cuando tenga más tiempo. Mi horario de trabajo y viajes me impidieron dar tanta atención como habría deseado. Pero ha sido muy satisfactorio.

El nuevo grupo "Beta" de estudiantes está terminando un estudio de la Teoría y Práctica del Ministerio Pastoral. Si bien esta cohorte ha estado utilizando el formato Moodle durante algún tiempo, esta clase proporcionó una nueva oportunidad para estudiar en línea con estudiantes de la iglesia global. En este curso participaron tres estudiantes menonitas que viven en Santiago de Cali, Colombia. La profesora, Patricia Uruena, vive en la ciudad de Ibagué. Las videoconferencias durante la clase proporcionan una interacción agradable mientras los y las estudiantes comparten sus reflexiones y proyectos entre sí.

Ambos grupos de estudiantes esperan continuar sus estudios con clases que comienzan de nuevo en enero.

SeBAH-CoB NEWS continued

SeBAH-CoB Cohort Enjoys Online Learning Experiences

The alpha cohort's first online class utilizing the learning platform Moodle resulted in a rich and profound experience of the study of Matthew's Gospel. The students from three districts in Pennsylvania, California, and Puerto Rico responded in a variety of ways to this interactive model led by Bethany professor Daniel Ulrich. Some jumped eagerly into the world of this new technology, while others needed a bit of help to begin studying using this format. However, for those who were able to finish the course of study, it was a richly rewarding experience.

In the final evaluative comments, various students made the following remarks:

- They developed as leaders by gaining new preaching skills and a better understanding of the word.
- They discovered new spiritual insights that will have eternal repercussions. "The Lord dealt with me during this study of his word. His Holy Spirit changed my life, and I could assimilate and change some things that have been of spiritual value for my salvation."
- "This was the least stressful and most enjoyable class I've taken during my studies with SeBAH-CoB."
- One of the most enjoyable aspects of the class was the interaction with other students and with the professor that was a part of this new learning style.
- "I enjoyed so much hearing about the experiences of other students and how the Gospel of Matthew is understood in their communities. I learned that the teaching of Jesus is much more profound than we can ever imagine."
- "This course has met my expectations as I appreciated the way the professor responded and managed the different theological perspectives shared within the class."
- "I believe that I've read the Gospel of Matthew many times, but this was the first time that I have been able to explore the content of it so deeply. It has motivated me to live out the teachings more in my life."
- "I enjoyed exploring the literary and historical context of the Gospel."
- "I look forward to continuing to explore the riches of this gospel when I have more time. My work and travel schedule prevented me from giving as much attention as I would have liked to the course. But it has been very satisfying indeed."

The newer beta cohort of students is finishing a study of the Theory and Practice of Pastoral Ministry. While this cohort has been using the Moodle format for some time, this class has provided a new opportunity to study online with students from the global church. Joining them in this course are three Mennonite students living in Santiago de Cali, Colombia. The professor, Patricia Uruena, lives in the western Colombian city of Ibagué. Videoconferences during the class provide delightful interaction as students share their reflections and projects with one another.

Students of both cohorts look forward to continuing their studies with classes that begin again in January.



Upcoming Brethren Academy Level Courses

Courses are open to TRIM and EFSM students, pastors (2 CEUs), and all interested persons.

Please note: While we continue to accept students beyond the registration deadline, on that date we determine whether we have enough students to offer a course. Many courses have required precourse readings, so students need to be sure to allow enough time to complete those. Please do not purchase texts or make travel plans until the registration deadline has passed and you receive a course confirmation.

To register, contact the Brethren Academy at academy@bethanyseminary.edu or 765-983-1824.

Register for SVMC courses through Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center.

Forms at www.ETOWN.EDU/SVMC or contact svmc@ETOWN.EDU or 717-361-1450.

[Credit descriptions: BCE – Brethren College Experience, BTS – Bethany Experience, IE – Intercultural/Interfaith/Ecumenical Experience, BT – Bible/Theology, MS – Ministry/Ministry Skills, FCR – Fulfills Curricular Requirement]

Winter/Spring 2017

Paul's Thought and the Pauline Tradition in the New Testament, SVMC online

Instructor: Bob Cleveland
January 30-March 24, 2017
(credits: BT)

Registration Deadline: December 30, 2016

Transforming Faith: Introduction to Educational Ministry, online

Instructor: Rhonda Pittman Gingrich
February 1-March 28, 2017
(credits: MS)

Registration Deadline: January 8, 2017

God's Green Earth, A Call to Care and Witness

Directed Independent Study Unit (DISU) in conjunction with Bethany Seminary's Presidential Forum
Instructor: Nate Inglis
March 16-19, 2017
(credits: BT, BTS)

Registration Deadline: February 16, 2017

Baptism: A Window into Comparative Theology

Weekend intensive, McPherson College (McPherson, KS)

Instructor: Russell Haitch
April 27-30, 2017
(credits: BT, BTS, BCE)

Registration Deadline: March 27, 2017

Summer/Fall 2017

Directed Independent Study: Lillian Daniel

COB Ministers' Pre-Conference Gathering
Grand Rapids, MI
Instructor: Carrie Eikler
June 27-28, 2017
(credits: MS)

Registration Deadline: May 27, 2017

Healthy Conversations as Spiritual Practice, online

Instructor: Reba Herder
September 13-November 8, 2017
(credits: MS)

Registration Deadline: August 13, 2017

Introduction to the New Testament, online

Instructor: Matt Boersma
October 16- December 8, 2017
(credits: BT, FCR)

Registration Deadline: September 18, 2017

Women in the Bible, SVMC online

Instructor: Erika Fitz
Date TBD
(credits: BT)

Registration Deadline: TBD

Anticipated Courses in Winter/Spring 2018: *(subject to change)*

Introduction to Preaching (January intensive, BTS)

Church History II (online)

What Brethren Believe (weekend intensive, McPherson)

Travel Seminar: Germany (two-week May intensive)

Spanish-Language Healthy Boundaries Training

The first Spanish-language Healthy Boundaries webcast took place via Zoom on Saturday, October 22. Participants included five ministry training students from the Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH-CoB) program. A Disciples of Christ pastor from Puerto Rico fulfilled a requirement for her doctor of ministry program at Brite Divinity School by attending the sessions.

Ramón L. Torres, pastor of Puerta del Cielo de Los Hermanos in Reading, Pennsylvania (Atlantic Northeast District), provided instruction for the Healthy Boundaries sessions. Pastor Ramón was trained through FaithTrust

Institute and provided sessions in the ANE District and Puerto Rico for the five-year Church of the Brethren ordination review process. Julie Hostetter led the component focusing on the 2008 Ethics in Ministry Relations paper with Ramón providing the translation. Dan Poole, director of educational technology at Bethany Seminary, staffed the webcast.



Photo: Dan Poole

CONTINUING EDUCATION NEWS

Supervision in Ministry



Photo: Julie Hostetter

Back left to right: Trent Smith, Happy Corner COB; Irv Heishman and Nancy Heishman, West Charleston COB; Jen Keeney Scarr, Trotwood COB

Front left to right: Mike Hostetter, trainer; Mike Yingst, TRIM student presenting a ministry reflection report

Four pastors from the Southern Ohio District participated in the October 25 and November 6 sessions on Supervision in Ministry. At the end of their sessions, the four pastors set a date to begin meeting quarterly for ongoing peer supervision.

This continuing education option is available to ministers who have provided supervision in the past for Bethany Seminary ministry formation students or Brethren Academy ministry training students. A few prospective supervisors are also included to assist in preparing them for this ministry opportunity.

Supervision in Ministry continuing education training sessions will be offered in the Shenandoah District March 11 and 25, 2017, and in the Virlina District April 22 and May 13, 2017.

Sustaining Ministerial Excellence Advanced Seminar Camp Staff Cohort



Photo: Karen Duhai

Presenter Del Keeney

The third retreat for the Sustaining Ministerial Excellence Advanced Seminar (SMEAS) camp directors and program staff cohort took place in Florida at Camp Ithiel. The group met November 17-20, prior to the annual Outdoor Ministry Association meeting.

Del Keeney, pastor of Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren (Southern Pennsylvania District), provided the leadership, which focused on the five practices of exemplary leadership: model the way, inspire a shared vision, challenge the process, enable others to act, and encourage the heart. Through the Leadership Practices Inventory, each participant received feedback from respondents who interact with them in their ministry setting. As a follow-up to this session, in-context projects will address the leadership practice each person wishes to explore.

Karen Duhai, a Bethany MDiv alumna and current MA student, provided leadership for the opening and closing worship services as well as daily devotionals.

The fourth retreat for this cohort will take place March 19-22, 2017, at the Quaker Hill Retreat Center in Richmond, Indiana. Zoom video conference calls and one-on-one conversations with Julie Hostetter will take place between the two retreats.



Photo: Dean Wenger

Back: Del Keeney, presenter, pastor of Mechanicsburg COB, PAS;
Joel Ballew, Camp Swatara, ANE; Wallace Cole, Camp Carmel, SE

Front: Linetta Ballew, Camp Swatara, ANE; Karen Duhai, BTS student;
Jerri Heiser Wenger, Camp Blue Diamond, PAM; Karen Neff, Camp Ithiel,
ASE; Barbara Wise Lewczak, Camp Pine Lake, NPLNS

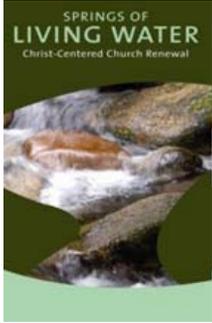


Photo: Karen Duhai

Jerri Heiser Wenger
Linetta Ballew

CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

Springs of Living Water Academy in Church Renewal Registration Now Open for Foundations Class, Winter/Spring 2017



The Springs of Living Water Academy for pastors and ministers offers courses in church renewal with practice of spiritual disciplines and a practical path for renewal in a church.

- Five interactive two-hour phone conference calls, spread over a twelve-week period with practical training and focused discussion for their setting in ministry
- Focused readings with a detailed syllabus and use of a spiritual disciplines folder
- Shepherding calls to each participant by the instructor between sessions
- A few persons in the church to walk along with pastors and ministers and learn as well
- A seminal paper reflecting course content and application
- CEUs available
- Resources with many illustrations helping a church take its next steps to new life

Level 1: Winter/Spring 2017 - Foundations for Christ-Centered Church Renewal, with added bivocational component to help all pastors and ministers

Resources: Spiritual disciplines folder on the disciplines and *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard J. Foster
Springs of Living Water, Christ-Centered Church Renewal by David S. Young
Handouts both for the class as well as shorter articles on renewal for persons walking along

The instructor is Dr. David S. Young with potential guests. Participants call an 800 number and give a code. For an Academy brochure, please e-mail davidyoung@churchrenewalservant.org or call (717) 615-4515. The Springs website, with interpretative Springs DVD, is www.churchrenewalservant.org.

Winter/Spring 2017

Class Dates: Tuesdays, January 10 and 31, February 21, March 14, April 4

All Class Times: 8:00-10:00 a.m. ET, Tuesdays over the phone

Please make your inquiries as soon as possible.

Please Note: Register by **December 28, 2016**, sooner if possible, due to class size for discussion and to allow time for reading and preparation for the first session listed on the syllabus. Also, this gives the opportunity to discern and enlist a few people from your congregation to walk along with you on the meaning of renewal.

Kingian Nonviolent Conflict Reconciliation

On Earth Peace will present its online orientation to Kingian Nonviolent Conflict Reconciliation beginning in January 2017. There will be an info session on December 12 at 6:00 p.m. EST to share details about the series.

This unique online orientation to Kingian Nonviolent Conflict Reconciliation training series will meet in three-hour sessions via webcam each Monday from January 9 through February 20, 2017.

CEUs will be available: [Register for the info session](#)

For any questions or for assistance with registration, please contact Radiah Shabazz at racialjusticeteam@onearthpeace.org.

Ventures in Christian Discipleship at McPherson College

The Ventures in Christian Discipleship program at McPherson (Kansas) College has focused on providing small church congregations with useful, affordable education. The course offerings in 2016-17 include the following:

- January 21 The Real Deal in Brethren History: What Really Happened Out There, and What Does It Mean for Today? – Frank Ramirez
- February 18 Mark's Messages for the Twenty-First Century Church – Dan Ulrich
- March 11 Christ Is My New Me: A Lenten Exploration – Steve Crain
- April 22 Beyond Sunday School: Trans/forming Faith Formation – Rhonda Pittman Gingrich

Continuing education credit is available for ministers at the cost of \$10 through the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. To see more information about the sessions and CEU credits, [click here](#); to register; [click here](#).

Clergy Tax Seminar



The annual tax seminar for clergy will be a webcast on Saturday, January 28, 2017, from 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. EST.

This seminar will cover tax law for clergy, changes for 2016 (the most current tax year to file), and detailed assistance as to how to correctly file the various forms and schedules that pertain to clergy, including housing allowances, self-employment, W-2s clergy reductions, etc.

This opportunity is highly recommended for all pastors and other church leaders who wish to understand clergy taxes, including treasurers, steward commission chairs, and church board chairs.

The seminar will be led by Deb Oskin, EA, NTPI Fellow, who has been doing clergy tax returns since 1989, when her husband became pastor of a small Church of the Brethren congregation.

More information is available on the [BAML website](#).

Church of the Brethren Congregational Life Ministries

The Crucible Webinars

- Thursday, December 15, 2016 Stuart Murry Williams: "Post-Everything" explores the implications of post-Christendom for followers of Jesus.
- Thursday, January 19, 2017 Juliet Kilpin: "Augmented Margins, Living Hopefully in Expanding Times" explores how the peace we long for at the borders of nations often starts with finding peace at the borders of our own lives.

All webinars begin at 11:30 a.m. PST; 1:30 p.m. CST; 2:30 p.m. EST; 7:30 p.m. GMT.

Each webinar lasts sixty minutes, and participants can earn 0.1 CEU for attending each live webinar. There is no charge, although an opportunity to donate is available.

For additional information contact Stan Dueck, director, at sdueck@brethren.org.

Christmas

Greetings



May the Peace of Christ dwell richly within you and yours this season!

¡Que la paz de Cristo more ricamente en usted y los suyos durante esta temporada!

-Carrie



Wishing you, your family and congregation a blessed Advent, joyous Christmas and hope-filled new year!

¡Deseándole a usted, a su familia y a la congregación un bendito Adviento, una Navidad feliz y un Año Nuevo lleno de esperanza!

-Julie



¡Que la gracia y la paz de Jesucristo estén con todos ustedes durante estos días de celebración de la Navidad y del Año Nuevo!

May the grace and peace of Jesus Christ be with you all during these days of celebration of Christmas and of the New Year.

-Nancy



Wishing you a joyful Christmas season!

¡Deseándoles una feliz temporada de Navidad!

-Fran

A ministry-training partnership of the Church of the Brethren
and Bethany Theological Seminary
<http://www.bethanyseminary.edu/academy>



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