

# *The Scroll*

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

*Fall 2017*

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## **TRIM UPDATES**

### **Graduate Recognition at 2017 Annual Conference**

Nine graduates of the TRIM program were recognized at the annual Bethany Seminary and Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership Luncheon at Annual Conference in Grand Rapids this summer. New graduates include:

Charlotte Beahm Bear – Mid-Atlantic District  
Amy Bowman Bell – Mid-Atlantic District  
Jack R. Flores – Illinois-Wisconsin District  
Kathy Fry-Miller – South-Central Indiana District  
David McDaniel – Virginia District  
Wilkie Nunn – Mid-Atlantic District  
Paul Stutzman – Virginia District  
Cheryl Thomas – Northern Indiana District  
Paul Thomas – Northern Indiana District

Congratulations to our graduates! May God's blessings go with you as you continue in your walk of ministry.

**Class of  
2017**

## 2017 TRIM Orientation



Left to right: Carrie Eikler, coordinator of TRIM and EFSM training programs; Matt Meyers; Diana Smith; Richard Miller; Jim Keel; Ben Henshaw; and Rita Carter

*Photo: Fran Massie*

Five new students and one new district TRIM coordinator gathered on the Bethany Theological Seminary campus at the end of July for a two-and-a-half-day orientation to the TRIM program—a time of worship, study, and deep connection.

Matt Meyers is pastor of the Mexico Church of the Brethren in the South-Central Indiana District.

Diana Smith is pastor of Spring Branch (MO) Church of the Brethren and is the new district TRIM coordinator for the Missouri-Arkansas District.

Rich Miller is a corrections officer and member and minister with the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren in the Southern Pennsylvania District.

James Keel is a retired nurse and member of Spring Branch (MO) Church of the Brethren in the Missouri-Arkansas District.

Benjamin Henshaw is the pastor of the Tyrone Church of the Brethren in the Middle Pennsylvania District.

Rita Carter is a member and minister among those at the Mechanics Grove Church of the Brethren in the Atlantic Northeast District.

Orientation is planned and facilitated by Carrie Eikler and incorporates the work of many others from Bethany Theological Seminary and the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry.

## NANCY SOLLENBERGER HEISHMAN ACCEPTS A NEW CALL



Nancy Sollenberger Heishman has accepted the call to a new full-time ministry as the director of the Office of Ministry for the Church of the Brethren. She will assume this new position on November 6, 2017. In the meantime, Nancy will continue as coordinator of Spanish-language ministry training programs for the Brethren Academy through the end of October. Please join her Academy colleagues in prayer for Nancy, the Office of Ministry, and the Brethren Academy during this time of transition.

Nancy has served as the coordinator of Spanish-language ministry training programs since July 2015. During these past two years, the Academy and its students have benefited from her warmth, her clarity of thought, and her ability to collaborate and to encourage as well as a right measure of humble confidence.

Under Nancy's leadership, the Spanish-language offerings of the Academy have increased. SeBAH-COB has added a second (beta) cohort. New, bilingual Church of the Brethren instructors have been recruited, been trained, and begun teaching SeBAH classes. The Spanish-language track of Education for a Shared Ministry (EFSM) has launched its first pastoral team and congregation. A second is soon to be added. Moreover, numerous educational materials, documents, and denominational policies have been translated into Spanish for the first time, thanks to Nancy's efforts.

Greater than all these accomplishments, however, has been the heart Nancy has brought to her work. She is first and foremost a pastor and has shepherded her students with wisdom and compassion. It is a combination they have greatly appreciated.

No doubt Nancy will bring these same skills to the Office of Ministry as she expands her constituency. Thankfully, the Brethren Academy and its educational programs will still be within her sphere of influence. Part of Nancy's work in the Office of Ministry will be to oversee the Academy's efforts. In that way, we will all continue to benefit from her intelligence, her experience, her wisdom, and her heart.

Que Dios los bendiga, Nancy. You are a blessing to us all.



Church of the Brethren

# SeBAH-CoB UPDATES

## Dios es fiel en medio de todo



Nancy Heishman

Esta ha sido una intensa temporada de incendios forestales, terremotos, huracanes, retrocesos de inmigración, y crisis globales en nuestra nación y el mundo. Es natural ver el regreso de Cristo como acercándose como toda la creación parece gemir en medio de tales acontecimientos catastróficos. Cuando estamos atrapados en varias tormentas, temblores y desafíos, obtengamos fuerza de las seguridades de nuestra fe. El Salmo 90 nos recuerda: "Señor, tú nos has sido refugio de generación en generación. Enséñanos de tal modo a contar nuestros días, que traigamos al corazón sabiduría (Salmo 90:1, 12)." Que todos seamos compasivos, justos y generosos al responder a las crisis y necesidades de aquellos que sufren en medio de nosotros. Algunos puntos destacados de este verano:

- Los estudiantes del grupo alfa del programa SeBAH-CoB han estado ocupados este verano. Se han sorprendido gratamente al descubrir que la política, la ética y la administración pueden ser relevantes, estimulantes e instructivas para sus contextos ministeriales. La instructora Becky Baile Crouse merece un agradecimiento especial por su excelente preparación del curso y dedicación a los estudiantes durante el curso. Las estudiantes del grupo Beta han estudiado la metodología de la reflexión pastoral con la instructora Patricia Urueña y la han encontrado muy enriquecedora.
- Este verano pasado fue una alegría especial dar la bienvenida a los estudiantes de la Academia Hermanos a la conferencia anual, la mayoría de ellos asistiendo por primera vez. Cuatro estudiantes de California, Puerto Rico y Pensilvania participaron en eventos de comida, asistieron a sesiones de negocios y disfrutaron de la comunión con otros hermanos hispanos. También observaron las maneras en que los Hermanos trabajan en discernir temas difíciles dentro de nuestra vida de fe con el objetivo de "guardar la unidad del Espíritu en el vínculo de la paz. (Efesios 4: 3)."

Me gustaría concluir este último artículo con mis profundos y sinceros agradecimientos a todos los estudiantes y profesores con los que he trabajado durante mis años de servicio dentro de la Academia de los Hermanos. ¡Muchas gracias a todos! Junto con el personal fiel de Janet, Carrie y Fran, sigo impresionada y animada por la dedicación y el compromiso que ustedes muestran como estudiantes, a pesar de "hacer juegos malabares" con el trabajo secular y las responsabilidades de la familia y el ministerio junto con sus estudios.

Me da gran esperanza de saber que Dios está levantando líderes fieles, visionarios y equipados para la obra del Reino de Dios. En mi nuevo cargo como Directora del Ministerio para la denominación, llevaré en mi corazón mi amor y aprecio por todos ustedes, así como la satisfacción de nuestra asociación en la misión y ministerio de la iglesia de Cristo. Como el apóstol Pablo escribió: "Doy gracias a mi Dios siempre que me acuerdo de vosotros . . . por vuestra comunión en el evangelio, desde el primer día hasta ahora (Filipenses 1: 3, 5)." Que el Espíritu Santo los bendiga ricamente como ustedes continúen preparándose para la obra a la cual Dios les ha llamado. ¡Dios es fiel en medio de todo esto!



La foto incluye David Flores (EPMC el estudiante) y su hija, Nohemi

The photo includes David Flores (EFSM student) and his daughter, Nohemi.

## SeBAH-CoB NEWS continued

### God Is Faithful in the Midst of It All

This has been an intense season of wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes, immigration setbacks, and global crises in our nation and world. It is natural to view the return of Christ as coming nearer as all creation seems to groan in the midst of such cataclysmic events. As we are caught up in various storms, tremors, and challenges, let us draw strength from the assurances of our faith. Psalm 90 reminds us, "Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart (Ps 90:1, 12)." May we all be compassionate, just, and generous in responding to the crises and needs of those who suffer in our midst. Some highlights of this summer:

- Students in the alpha group of the SeBAH-CoB program have been busy this summer. They have been pleasantly surprised to discover that polity, ethics, and administration can be relevant, stimulating, and instructive for their ministry contexts. Instructor Becky Baile Crouse deserves special thanks for her excellent course preparation and dedicated attention to students during the course. Beta group students have been studying the Methodology of Pastoral Reflection with instructor Patricia Urueña and find it very enriching.
- This past summer it was a special joy to welcome Brethren Academy students to Annual Conference, most of them attending for the first time. Four students from California, Puerto Rico, and Pennsylvania participated in meal events, attended business sessions, and enjoyed fellowship with other Hispanic Brethren. They also observed the ways in which Brethren work at discerning difficult topics within our life of faith with the goal of "maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph 4:3)."

I would like to conclude this last article with my deep and heartfelt thanks to all the students and professors with whom I have worked during my years of serving within the Brethren Academy. Many thanks to all of you! Along with the faithful staff of Janet, Carrie, and Fran, I continue to be amazed at and encouraged by the dedication and commitment that you show as students, in spite of juggling secular work and family and ministry responsibilities along with your studies.

It gives me great hope to know that God is raising up faithful, visionary, and equipped leaders for the work of God's reign. In my new position as director of ministry for the denomination, I will carry in my heart my love and appreciation for all of you as well as the satisfaction of our partnership in the mission and ministry of Christ's church. As the apostle Paul wrote, "I thank my God every time I remember you . . . because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now (Phil 1:3, 5)." May the Holy Spirit richly bless you as you continue to prepare for the work to which God has called you. God is faithful in the midst of it all!



Photo includes SeBAH-CoB students, Leonor Ochoa (first from right), Arlyn Morales (second from right) and Dharma Paris Millan (fifth from right).

Las estudiantes de SeBAH-CoB incluyen Leonor Ochoa (primera desde la derecha), Arlyn Morales (segunda desde la derecha), y Dharma Paris Millan (quinta de la derecha)

## BRETHREN ACADEMY ANNOUNCES POSITION OPENING

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership announces a quarter-time position opening: **coordinator of Spanish-language ministry training programs**. The Academy is a ministry training partnership of the Church of the Brethren and Bethany Theological Seminary.

The primary functions of this position are to administer the certificate-level ministry training programs in Spanish, work with various constituencies to provide leadership for these programs, and maintain regular and supportive communication with students and their district liaisons.

Interested candidates should possess the following qualifications and abilities:

- Fluency in Spanish and English, both in oral and written communication
- Experience in the Latino church, either in the United States or abroad
- Completed ministry training through the Church of the Brethren or similar
- Five years of effective leadership in pastoral ministry
- Ability to travel to meet with students and supervisors
- Ability to travel to the Bethany campus several times a year and to the Church of the Brethren General Offices as needed

Additional qualifications of benefit:

- Spanish as a first language
- Ordination in the Church of the Brethren
- Master of divinity degree or equivalent

A complete job description is available at [bethanyseminary.edu/about/employment/](http://bethanyseminary.edu/about/employment/). Applications will be reviewed upon receipt and will be accepted until the position is filled. Interested candidates should send their resumes, a letter of interest, and contact information for three references by e-mail to

Janet L. Ober Lambert, Director  
Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership  
615 National Road West  
Richmond, IN 47374  
[spanishacademy@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:spanishacademy@bethanyseminary.edu)

*Bethany Theological Seminary's policy prohibits discrimination in employment opportunities or practices with regard to race, gender, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, or religion.*



# BRETHREN ACADEMY ANUNCIA APERTURA DE POSICIÓN

La Academia Brethren para Liderazgo Ministerial (Brethren Academy) anuncia un cuarto de tiempo de apertura de posición: **coordinador/coordinadora de programas de entrenamiento ministerial en Español**. La academia es un programa de entrenamiento ministerial asociado con La Iglesia de los Hermanos y el Seminario Bethany (Bethany Theological Seminary).

Las funciones principales de esta posición son administrar a nivel certificado los programas de entrenamiento ministerial en Español, trabajar con varias circunscripciones para proveer liderazgo en estos programas, y mantener apoyo y comunicación regular con estudiantes y contactos del distrito.

Candidatos interesados deberán poseer las siguientes cualificaciones y habilidades:

- Fluidez en Español y Ingles, ambamente escrito como oral
- Experiencia en la iglesia Latina, sea en E.U. O fuera
- Haber completado entrenamiento ministerial atraves de la Iglesia Los Hermanos o similar
- Cinco años de liderazgo efectivo en ministerio pastoral
- Habilidad para viajar y reunirse con estudiantes y supervisores
- Habilidad para viajar a Bethany varias veces al año y a las oficinas generales de la Iglesia de los Hermanos según sea necesario

Cualificaciones adicionales de beneficio:

- Español como primer lenguaje
- Ordenación en la Iglesia de los Hermanos
- Maestria en divinidades o equivalente

Una descripción completa de la posición se encuentra en [bethanyseminary.edu/about/employment/](http://bethanyseminary.edu/about/employment/). Aplicaciones seran revisadas según recibidas y seran aceptadas hasta que la posición sea llenada. Candidatos interesados deberán enviar su resumé, carta de interes, y información de contacto con tres referencias a

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*Las políticas de Bethany Theological Seminary prohíbe el discrimen en oportunidades de empleo o practicas con relación a raza, genero, discapacidad, estado de matrimonio, orientación sexual, origen national o étnico, o religión.*



## **UPCOMING COURSE HIGHLIGHTS**

**Did you know that TRIM courses are open to anyone, even if they aren't in the TRIM program? Consider sharing information about these upcoming classes with those who might like to take them for continuing education or simply for personal enrichment!**

### **Introduction to New Testament**

***Online***

***October 16-December 8, 2017***

The Church of the Brethren has long held that it has “no creed save the New Testament.” Yet the New Testament itself is a collection of books and letters of a wide range of genres, none of which resemble a traditional creed. In this course, we will look at the various books of the New Testament, explore the world which created these texts, and look at how the texts may have interacted both with each other and the Hebrew scriptures. We will look at what the ancient authors of the texts might have been trying to say to their audiences as well as what they are still saying today. Matt Boersma, a continuing adjunct faculty member for Bethany, will be the instructor of this class.

### **Elements of Preaching**

***Intensive at Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, Indiana***

***January 17-19, 2018***

The craft of sermon writing and preaching are major components of the life of a pastor. Study, prayer, writing, and presentation are elements of the sermon process that can be learned (for the novice sermon preparer) and honed (for the more seasoned preacher). Through readings, lectures, classroom discussions, and assignments, students will learn the art and practice of preparing and presenting sermons. Bethany faculty member Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm, Brightbill Professor of Preaching and Worship, will instruct this class.

### **A Place of Refuge: Ministry in an Urban Context**

***Two week-travel seminar in Atlanta, Georgia***

***January 2-12, 2018***

This course represents an educational partnership with Pastor Bruce Deel and City of Refuge Ministries® along with Congregational Life Ministries of the Church of the Brethren. This course will also explore the ministries of other faith-based groups in metro Atlanta that will expose students to a variety of styles and strategies for addressing the complex issues of ministry in large urban contexts. This will be an immersive urban experience with a focus on the ministries of care in Atlanta dedicated to the goals Jesus outlined in Matthew 25.

Students will be introduced to the networking approach to capacity building that is necessary for partnerships that minister with marginalized communities in the city. This will involve an exploration of the collective impact that results when leaders from the three main sectors—nonprofit, public, and government—advocate for the voiceless through collaborative efforts. The instructor of this class is Josh Brockway, director of spiritual life and discipleship for the Church of the Brethren.

*For further details, please see the following page, [Upcoming Brethren Academy-Level Courses](#).*





## Upcoming Brethren Academy-Level Courses

Courses are open to TRIM and EFSM students, pastors (two 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](mailto:academy@bethanyseminary.edu) or 765-983-1824.

Register for SVMC courses through Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center.

Forms at [www.ETOWN.EDU/SVMC](http://www.ETOWN.EDU/SVMC) or contact [svmc@etown.edu](mailto: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

### Summer/Fall 2017

**Introduction to the New Testament**, online

October 16-December 8, 2017

Instructor: Matt Boersma

(credits: BT, FCR)

**Registration Deadline: September 18, 2017**

### Winter/Spring 2018

**Elements of Preaching**, intensive

Bethany Theological Seminary

January 17-19, 2018

Instructor: Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm

(credits: MS, BTS)

**Registration Deadline: December 11, 2017**

**The Gospel of John**, SVMC online

January 29-March 23, 2018

Instructor: Andrew Hamilton

(credits: BT)

**Registration Deadline: December 18, 2017**

**A Place of Refuge: Ministry in an Urban Context**

Atlanta, Georgia (two-week travel intensive)

January 2-12, 2018

Instructor: Joshua Brockway

(credits: MS, BTS, IE)

**Registration Deadline: November 1, 2017**

**LIMITED SPACE - REGISTER ASAP**

**Now the Silence, Now the Songs: An Introduction to Worship in the Church**, online

March 14-May 8, 2018

Instructor: Lee-Lani Wright

(credits: MS)

**Registration Deadline: February 7, 2018**

**What Brethren Believe**, weekend intensive

McPherson College, McPherson, KS

April 12-15, 2018

Instructor: Denise Kettering-Lane

(credits: BT, FCR, BTS)

**Registration Deadline: March 5, 2018**

**Travel Seminar: Germany**, two-week intensive  
May 2018 (exact dates TBD)

Instructor: Kendall Rogers

(credits: two BT credits, IIE, BTS)

**Registration Deadline: November 1, 2017**

*\*Contact BAML directly if you are interested*

### Summer/Fall 2018

**DISU at Annual Conference Pre-Conference**

**Gathering: Diana Butler Bass**

July 3-4, 2018

Annual Conference, Cincinnati, OH

Instructor: Carrie A. Eikler

(credits: MS, AC Experience available)

**Registration Deadline: May 30, 2018**

**Bivocational Ministry**, online

August 8-October 2, 2018

Instructor: Sandra Jenkins

(credits: MS)

**Registration Deadline: July 3, 2018**

**Introduction to Hebrew Scriptures**, online

October 17-December 11, 2018

Instructor: Matt Boersma

(credits: BT)

**Registration Deadline: September 12, 2018**

**Narrative Theology**, weekend intensive

Location: TBD

Date: TBD

Instructor: Scott Holland

(credits: BT, BTS)

### Anticipated Courses - Schedule to Be Confirmed

**Pastoral Care** (MS), online – fall 2018

**COB Polity** (MS), online – spring 2019

**Church History II** (BT), online – spring 2019

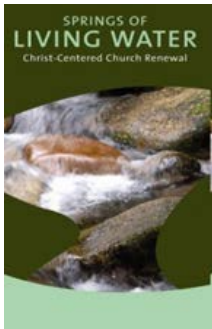
**Race and the Congregation** (MS), intensive – spring 2019

**Writing for Ministry** (MS), online – spring 2019

# 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 reflective paper on course content and application in a church
- CEUs available

### ▪ **Level 1: Fall 2017 Foundations for Christ-Centered Church Renewal**

**Sept. 12, Oct. 3 and 24, Nov. 14, Dec. 5, 2017      Class Times – Tuesdays 8:00-10:00 a.m. ET**

#### **With a Christ-centered, servant-led approach, learn how to**

- ✓ go deeper in one's faith journey using a spiritual disciplines folder and devotional;
- ✓ enlist a congregation in renewal and spiritually discern and train a renewal team;
- ✓ help a congregation enter a spiritual journey with disciplines folders and daily reading of the Bible;
- ✓ use servant leadership from scripture to help a church grow on the positive side of the life cycle;
- ✓ identify and fulfill five roles of transforming pastoral leadership for church renewal;
- ✓ learn the sevenfold process of Christ-centered, servant-led church renewal.

### ▪ **Level 2: Winter/Spring 2018 Implementation of a Christ-Centered, Servant-Led Renewal Plan**

**Feb. 6 and 27, Mar. 20, Apr. 10, May 1, 2018      Class Times – Tuesdays 8:00-10:00 a.m. ET**

- ✓ Go deeper in your spiritual growth and in your congregation's corporate spiritual formation.
- ✓ Learn and use servant leadership by all and equip the saints for the work of ministry in churches.
- ✓ Implement a sevenfold path for renewal in which a church builds on its strengths.
- ✓ Help a church spiritually discern a biblical passage, vision, and ministry plan and how to implement it.
- ✓ Disciple people, train them in ministry, learn seven-fold mentoring process, go out in mission in joy.
- ✓ Celebrate a church going deeper spiritually and complete steps of a focused renewal plan.

#### **Resources**

- The Bible (Please bring the version of your choice to telephone conference calls.)
- David S. Young, *Springs of Living Water, Christ-Centered Church Renewal* with forward by Richard Foster
- Richard J. Foster, *Celebration of Discipline, The Path to Spiritual Growth* (San Francisco: Harper), 1978
- David S. Young, *Servant Leadership for Church Renewal, Shepherds by the Living Springs* (Wipf and Stock)
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together, The Classic Exploration of Christian Community* (HarperOne)
- Arlin Rothauge, *Sizing Up a Congregation for New Member Ministry*; free handout e-mailed
- David Young, on web, *Servant Leadership* and *Gift of Dialogue* interpretive DVDs, David Sollenberger

The instructor is Dr. David S. Young with potential guests. Participants call an 800 number and give a code.

**Note:** Due to class size for discussion, please enlist team, prepare for class, and register for Foundations by August 15, 2017. **For Implementation Course, register by January 9, 2018.** Inquiries: 717-615-4515

For an Academy brochure, please e-mail [davidyoung@churchrenewalservant.org](mailto:davidyoung@churchrenewalservant.org) or call (717) 615-4515. The Springs website, with interpretive Springs DVD, is [www.churchrenewalservant.org](http://www.churchrenewalservant.org).



## Northern Plains District CEU Event

Northern Plains District has invited Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm to southeast Iowa to hold a "Spiritual Renewal Circuit Ride." She will hold two sessions, which are listed below. Each event is worth 0.2 CEU credits with a cost of \$10 for the certificate. If you attend both events the cost is still only \$10 and will provide 0.4 CEU credits. A meal and worship will follow each event.

- **Sunday, October 8** – 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Ottumwa CoB, Dawn will lead a session entitled "The Living Words of Scripture in Worship: a Workshop on Presenting Scripture in Different Ways."
- **Monday, October 9** – 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Prairie City CoB, Dawn's session is entitled: "Living Witnesses in Scripture, in Preaching, in Daily Life."



**McPherson**  
COLLEGE

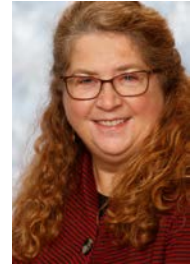
## Ventures in Christian Discipleship

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 2017-18 include the following:

- **October 14 - Navigating Religious Diversity: An Introduction to Interfaith Cooperation**  
*Presenter: Zandra Wagoner*  
This course will introduce students to the concept of interfaith cooperation, including a theoretical framework for successful interfaith engagement based in social science research.
- **November 11 – Welcome to Transformation**  
*Presenters: Irvin R. Heishman and Beth Gunzel*  
This course will explore how setting aside various forms of privilege and power makes room for life-giving transformation and growth in the faith community.
- **January 20, 2018 – Congregation in Mission**  
*Presenter: Jim Tomlonson*
- **February 10, 2018 – How the Bible came to be The Bible**  
*Presenter: Carol Scheppard*

Continuing education credits are 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, visit [Ventures in Christian Discipleship](#). To register, [click here](#).

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



It is September—traditionally the time of year our minds “go back to school.” Whether we are remembering our own school days or buying classroom supplies for children in our care, our attention shifts from summer to semester. This shift may be triggered by a change in the weather, the turn of the calendar, or a barrage of advertising for back-to-school clothes. Never mind most fall semesters start in August these days. There is something special about September.

Therefore, this September, I am inviting you to come back to school by exploring the offerings of the Brethren Academy! Perhaps you are already enrolled in a program—TRIM, EFSM, SeBAH-COB, or one of the Academy Certified Training Systems. Have you decided which classes you will be taking this year? Or maybe you have been thinking about enrolling in one of our programs. Talk to your mentor and your district executive. Call us. Let’s all work together to help you discern which program is right for you. Then, again, perhaps you have completed your formal education. You are working in your ministry setting daily. Even so, learning never ends! Consider what continuing education courses you want to take this year.

Most Brethren Academy courses are open to students who wish to receive continuing education credit and/or personal growth and enrichment. During the coming school year, you can hone your preaching skills through Elements of Preaching. You can increase your biblical knowledge by taking The Gospel of John. You can develop your skills for leading worship as part of Now the Silence, Now the Songs: An Introduction to Worship in the Church. You can even learn What Brethren Believe.

New to the Academy this year is a two-week January intensive to be taught onsite in Atlanta, Georgia. The course, A Place of Refuge: Ministry in an Urban Context, will be taught by Josh Brockway of Congregational Life Ministries (CLM) of the Church of the Brethren. A Bethany graduate-level course of the same name will be taught concurrently by Dan Poole, coordinator of ministry formation at Bethany. Josh and Dan are creating the curriculum together, working with Pastor Bruce Deel and the City of Refuge Ministries. Josh is so excited about this course that CLM is offering a \$300 travel scholarship to help each Academy student get to Atlanta! Registration deadline for this course is November 1, and space is limited.

For more about the courses being offered this year, see earlier pages of this newsletter. For full details, please access the brochures on our website: [bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/](http://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/).

No matter how young you are, how old you are, or how many degrees you already have, there is something new to learn at the Brethren Academy. Welcome back to school!

~ Janet L. Ober Lambert, Director, Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

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A ministry-training partnership of the Church of the Brethren  
and Bethany Theological Seminary  
[www.bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/](http://www.bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/)



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