



# *The Scroll*

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

*Spring 2018*

**IN THIS EDITION:**

**Welcome to Roxanne  
Spanish-Language Ministry Updates  
Academy Updates**

**Upcoming Courses**

**Continuing Education Events  
From the Director**

## **A Warm Welcome to Roxanne Aguirre**



The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership welcomes Roxanne Gaxiola Aguirre as the new part-time coordinator of Spanish-language ministry training programs! She began on January 16, 2018, and works from her home in central California, communicating via travel and technology.

Roxanne holds a master's degree in marriage and family therapy from Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary and a bachelor's degree in psychology. Over the past ten years, she has worked with persons of all ages in mental and behavioral health settings, education centers, and the public school system. Her services have included individual and group therapy, behavioral coaching, case managing, life skills training, and foster care support.

With lifelong knowledge of the church as well as the skills of a counselor, we believe Roxanne will be a great encourager and coach for both students and supervisors. If you have not already met Roxanne, look for her at Annual Conference this summer or invite her to a gathering in your district. Roxanne's contact information is [aguirro@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:aguirro@bethanyseminary.edu) and 765-983-1821.

## **Una bienvenida a Roxanne Aguirre**

¡El Instituto Teológico de Liderazgo Ministerial le da la bienvenida a Roxanne Gaxiola Aguirre como la nueva coordinadora a tiempo parcial de los programas de entrenamiento ministerial en español! Comenzó el 16 de enero de 2018 y trabaja desde su casa en el valle central de California, comunicándose a través de viajes y tecnología.

Roxanne tiene una maestría en terapia matrimonial y familiar de Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary y una licenciatura en psicología. En los últimos diez años, ha trabajado con personas de todas las edades en centros de salud mental, centros educativos y el sistema de escuelas públicas. Sus servicios han incluido terapia individual, terapia de grupo, entrenamiento conductual, manejo de casos, entrenamiento en habilidades para la vida y apoyo de cuidado de crianza.

Con el conocimiento de toda la vida de la iglesia, así como las habilidades de una consejera, creemos que Roxanne será una gran animadora y entrenadora tanto para los estudiantes como para los supervisores. Si aún no conoces a Roxanne, en la conferencia anual este verano, o invítala a una reunión en tu distrito. La información de contacto de Roxanne es [aguirro@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:aguirro@bethanyseminary.edu) y 765-983-1821.

## **Spanish-Language Ministry Training News**

This past fall and winter have been a time of transition for the Spanish-language ministry training programs of the Academy. In early November, Nancy Heishman, the former coordinator for these programs, left for a new post in the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry. Although the Academy was searching for Nancy's successor at that time, it was not until mid-January that Roxanne Aguirre was able to begin her good work among us. In the interim, it was the job of the remaining Academy staff to keep things going!

As we look back on those months between coordinators, the Academy staff is deeply grateful to all the students, supervisors, instructors, and colleagues who helped to keep SeBAH-COB and EPMC moving forward. Through open and ongoing communication, assistance with technology, acceptance of less-than-perfect translation, unending patience, and enduring prayer, we have reached the other side. God is good.

Special gratitude is expressed for the two new instructors who joined us midtransition, Marcos Inhauser and Otto Kladensky Jr. Each created a first-of-its-kind course for SeBAH. Marcos, a seasoned minister and teacher from Brazil, taught the La Historia, Teologia de la COB, y el Pietismo from November 4 to January 31. Otto, an educator in the field of global evangelism, is currently teaching Vitalidad de la Iglesia y Evangelismo from his home in Costa Rica. This course ends in May.

New students are another reason for gratitude. Whether they are starting SeBAH or EPMC, several new students have enthusiastically entered into this time of transition and newness. We look forward to walking with them as they respond to God's call and develop their skills for ministry.

Responding to God's call seldom takes us on a straightforward journey. Both institutions and individuals experience stops, starts, and times of transition. But just as God has seen the Academy through these last months, may God continue to provide all of us with patient, prayerful companions and that which we need to serve faithfully and well.

### **Noticias de formación del Ministerio de lengua española**

Este pasado otoño e invierno, han sido un periodo de transición por el programa de entrenamiento ministerial en español del instituto teológico de liderazgo ministerial. A principios de noviembre, Nancy Heishman, previa coordinadora de estos programas, a vacado el puesto para tomar nuevas responsabilidades en la oficina de ministerios. Aunque en aquel momento la academia estaba en busca un sucesor para Nancy, no fue hasta mediados de enero que Roxanne Aguirre pudo empezar a desempeñar esta buena labor con nosotros. Durante el periodo interino, fue la responsabilidad de la docente Académica desempeñar las responsabilidades del puesto.

Reflexionando en ese periodo de transición entre coordinadores, el personal académico esta profundamente agradecidos con todos los estudiantes, supervisores, instructores, y colegas que nos ayudaron a continuar el compromiso de SeBAH-COB y EPMC avanzando. Mediante comunicación abierta y continua, paciencia interminable y oración duradera hemos llegado a nuestro destino. Dios es bueno.

Nos gustaría expresar nuestro agradecimiento a los maestros nuevos que han ingresado durante este periodo de transición, Marcos Inhauser y Otto Kladensky, hijo. Cada uno ha creado cursos únicos para SeBAH. Marcos es ministro y maestro con extensa experiencia en Brasil. Otto dao clases en el área de evangelismo global y en este momento da clases de vitalidad de la Iglesia y evangelismo desde su hogar en Costa Rica. Esta clase termina en mayo.

Estudiantes recién ingresados, tiene otra razón de agradecimiento. Ya sea si han empezado SeBAH o EPMC, los estudiantes iniciando sus estudios durante este periodo de transición y novedad, lo han hecho con entusiasmo. Anticipamos con mucho interés acompañarlos en su trayectoria en respuesta al llamado de dios y en el desarrollo de sus habilidades en el ministerio.

Responder al llamado de dios raramente es una línea directa. Las dos instituciones y la experiencia del individuo pausan y empiezan de nuevo en periodos de transición. Pero de la misma manera que dios ha guiado la academia durante estos últimos meses, El continuara bendiciéndonos con campaneros en oración paciente y recordatorios que debemos servir con fe y dedicación.

## Greetings from Roxanne

Hi, I am Roxanne Gaxiola Aguirre, the newest addition to the Brethren Academy. I would like to tell you about myself.

I was born into a Christian home, the youngest of three siblings. My parents were church planters in Mexico. By the time I was born, my father was working bivocationally, as a pastor and a psychologist in Mexico. My mother taught English at the local university. When I was very young, my parents moved the family to San Diego, California, my mother's hometown. My father, a Mexican citizen, immigrated in order to give me and my siblings a better future. During the time we lived in San Diego, my mother worked as a teacher while my father waited for a pastoral call. That call came when I was five years old, and my immediate family moved to Fresno, California, where my parents and I live to this day.



During my school years, my father did most of his pastoral work from his home office. Growing up, he was the one who took me to and from school. One of my favorite activities to do with my father was to accompany him on pastoral calls, visiting the sick and the elderly. I loved being able to go pray with people. I remember wanting to have a job like my father's, dedicated to helping people. I felt I was doing the work of Jesus.

When I could choose my own career, I studied psychology and became a therapist like my father. Although I had a deep desire to become a pastor, I grew up in a tradition that did not affirm women as licensed ministers. However, after graduating from Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary with a masters in marriage and family therapy, I was introduced to and became a part of the Church of the Brethren. Since then, I have met a number of gifted women ministers, many of whom serve in key roles within the church.

It has always been my desire to be a woman in ministry, helping to bring the Spanish-speaking community to Jesus. Recently, the Lord opened the doors for me to do just that. In January, I became the coordinator of Spanish-language ministry training programs for the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. Now, like my father, I serve bivocationally as a therapist and in this new ministry. I am also a wife and a mother of three wonderful, growing children.

I am very excited about my new role here at the Academy and look forward to playing a part in training pastors who work with the Spanish-speaking community. My Academy hours are Friday through Sunday. Feel free to contact me at [aguirro@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:aguirro@bethanyseminary.edu) or 765-983-1821.

## Saludos de Roxanne

Hola, mi nombre es Roxanne Gaxiola Aguirre, la nueva adición del Instituto Teológico de Liderazgo Ministerial. Me gustaría contarles sobre mí.

Yo nací en un hogar cristiana, soy la más chica de tres hijos. Mis padres fueron plantadores de iglesias en México. Cuando yo nací, mi padre empeñaba dos carreras, el pastorado y psicólogo en México. Mi madre enseñaba inglés en la universidad local. Cuando yo era muy bebe, mis padres nos trasladaron a San Diego, California, la ciudad donde creció mi madre. Mi padre, un ciudadano mexicano, inmigró para darnos un mejor futuro. Durante el tiempo que vivimos en San Diego, mi madre trabajó como una maestra mientras mi padre esperó un llamamiento pastoral. Su llamado llegó cuando yo tenía cinco años de edad y mi familia y yo nos trasladamos a Fresno, California, donde mis padres y yo aún vivimos hasta este día.

Durante mis años escolares, la mayoría del trabajo pastoral de mi padre fue hecho de la oficina de nuestra casa. De niña, mi padre me llevaba y recogía de la escuela. Una de mis actividades favoritas era acompañar a mi padre a las llamadas pastorales, visitando a los enfermos y a los ancianos. Me encantaba ir a orar por la gente. Recuerdo querer tener un trabajo como mi padre, dedicada a ayudar a la gente. Sentía que estaba haciendo el trabajo de nuestro Señor Jesús Cristo.

Cuando yo elegí mi propia carrera, estudié psicología, como mi padre. Aunque tuve el deseo de ser una pastora, yo crecí en una tradición que no afirmó mujeres como ministros. De cualquier manera, después de graduarme de Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary con una maestría en terapia de familia y matrimonio, empecé a ser parte de la Iglesia de los Hermanos. En la Iglesia de los Hermanos conocí a un gran número de mujeres trabajando en ministerio, y muchas de ellas lleva a cargo papales importantes en la iglesia.

Siempre ha sido mi deseo de ser una mujer en el ministerio, ayudando a traer la comunidad habla hispana a Jesús. Recientemente, el Señor me abrió las puertas para hacer esto. En enero, yo empecé a ser la coordinadora del ministerio del entrenamiento en español para el Instituto Teológico de Liderazgo Ministerial. Ahora, como mi padre, estoy sirviendo en dos careras como terapeuta y en este nuevo ministerio. También soy esposa y madre de tres niños hermosos.

Estoy muy emocionada de mi nueva posición aquí en el Instituto Teológico de Liderazgo Ministerial y espero tomar parte en entrenando pastores que trabajan con la comunidad habla hispana. Mis horas académicas son viernes a sábado. Siéntanse libre de contactarme a [aguirro@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:aguirro@bethanyseminary.edu) o al 765-983-1821.



### The Brethren Academy Is Now on Facebook!

Look for us at [www.facebook.com/BrethrenAcademyforMinisterialLeadership/](http://www.facebook.com/BrethrenAcademyforMinisterialLeadership/) for course listings, continuing education, special events, and ongoing Academy news.

### NEW! Online Registration and Payment

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership (BAML) is now accepting student registration and payment for many of our programs online. Students may register for English-language courses as well as make payments through the Bethany website. Payments now accepted online include TRIM and SeBAH course fees, Directed Independent Study Unit fees, TRIM/EFSM and SeBAH enrollment fees, and TRIM student yearly fees.



To register or pay online, please visit [bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/](http://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/). To pay program enrollment fees, use the Program Enrollment Payment button on our home page. For all other payments look for the Courses/TRIM Payment button on our course listings or home page.

At this time, district fees and congregational fees still need to be made by mailing a check to the Brethren Academy office.

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



Left to right: Barbara Lewcsak, Chuck Jackson, Martin Jockel, Barb Dickason, Leslie Lake, Staci Williams, Thomas McMullen, Sarah Neher, Karen Duhai, Roger Elkins, Kevin Kinsey, Susan Liller, Josh Brockway

Photo: Dan Poole

Travel seminars are not new to the Brethren Academy. TRIM and CEU students have often taken part in such courses when they are offered by Bethany Theological Seminary. However, this January, a new kind of travel seminar was born. A Place of Refuge: Ministry in an Urban Context was offered as a partnership among the Brethren Academy, Bethany Seminary, Congregational Life Ministries of the Church of the Brethren, and City of Refuge Ministries in Atlanta, Georgia.

From January 2-12, ten students (two Academy students, seven graduate students and one guest) lived alongside the residents of the City of Refuge in Atlanta (<http://cityofrefugeatl.org/>), a nonprofit organization offering “light, hope and transformation” through residential, educational, and vocational opportunities for those in need.

With leadership from Bethany faculty member Dan Poole and Josh Brockway of Congregational Life Ministries, students were encouraged to think critically about the complexities, challenges, and theological concepts related to faith-based, urban ministry. Students met with community leaders, spent time in worship and Bible study, shared meals with residents, engaged in directed discussions, and visited local sites of significance, including the Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Martin Luther King Jr. once served as pastor.

All who participated in this seminar report having had a meaningful experience. Some are still “unpacking.” Travel seminars often have an impact that lasts a lifetime. From this one, no doubt, there is still much more to come.



Left to right: Josh Brockway, Barb Dickason, Roger Elkins, Kevin Kinsey, Leslie Lake

Photo: Barbara Lewcsak

## EFSM Weekend



Gretchen Sarpiya, Mike Kelly, Patricia Kenney, Dottie Saunders

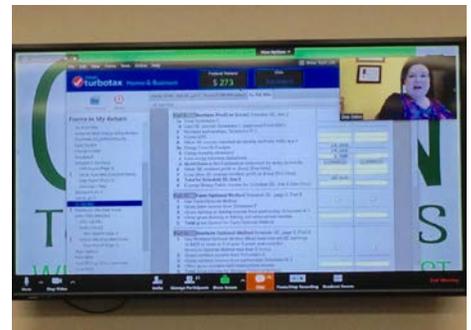
Photo: Janet Ober Lambert

On a cold and snowy February weekend, staff from the Brethren Academy gathered in northern Illinois to train the Rockford Community Church (RCC) in preparation for their participation in Education for Shared Ministry (EFSM). Mike Kelley, who will serve as the minister in training, along Gretchen Sarpiya, Patricia Kenney, and Darcell (Dottie) Saunders as laity in training moved through a weekend of worship, group building, visioning, excitement, and lots of laughs.

RCC is an influential congregation in the Rockford community as it seeks to incorporate work of peace and reconciliation into the life of those around them. Together Mike, Gretchen, Patty, and Dottie will work with RCC to further develop their ministry capabilities, both for the congregation that gathers on a Sunday morning and their neighbors, whether or not they set foot in the church.

## Clergy Tax Seminar Offers Clarity

Thirty-one students gathered in person and via Zoom for the 2018 Clergy Tax Seminar, held January 27. Clergy and lay leaders alike encountered the intricacies of clergy tax law with expert Deb Oskin, EA, NTPI Fellow. During the morning session, Oskin led participants through a PowerPoint presentation covering tax law changes for 2017 and how to file the various forms and schedules that pertain to clergy, including housing allowances, self-employment, W-2 clergy reductions, etc. Throughout the process, Oskin took questions, each of which was answered clearly and patiently.



During the afternoon session, Oskin was assisted by Pastor Mark Liller in completing a sample Turbo Tax application. Using fictitious names and financial records, Oskin and Liller helped participants understand the ins and outs of the online tool. In the end, the seminar concluded with most, if not all, participants possessing greater clarity about the task ahead of them, equipped with tools for sound stewardship. Deb Oskin's calm, clear, understandable, and relatable approach to finances is a great gift and an important ministry. The Brethren Academy is grateful that she so generously shares these gifts with us!

## Upcoming Course Highlights

Did you know Brethren Academy courses are for everyone? TRIM and EFSM students receive 1.0 unit per course, credentialed clergy earn 2.0 continuing education units (CEUs), and *anyone* can enroll for their own personal and spiritual enrichment! Consider whether you or a friend would find meaning in one of our upcoming courses. The following are coming this spring.

### What Brethren Believe

*Weekend intensive at McPherson College, April 12-15, 2018*

*Denise Kettering-Lane, associate professor of Brethren studies at Bethany*

What do Brethren believe? How do these beliefs translate into practice? This course will answer these questions and others by exploring Brethren beliefs related to a variety of issues, including scripture, the person of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the nature of the church, original sin, and the end-time. We will discuss how these beliefs shape our understanding of Brethren ordinances, such as baptism, love feast, anointing, nonresistance, and nonconformity. Particular attention will be paid to the Pietist and Anabaptist origins of Brethren beliefs. The course will also examine how these beliefs and practices have changed over time and consider the diversity of beliefs found among Brethren today.

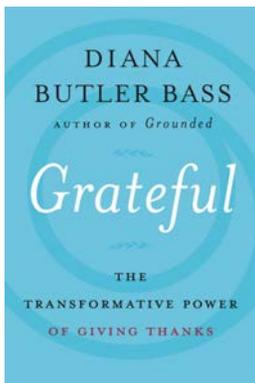


### Contemporary Voices in Ministry: Diana Butler Bass

*Directed Independent Study, Annual Conference, July 3-4, 2018*

*Instructor: Carrie Eikler*

Amid division, stress, and anxiety, why should anyone care about gratitude? Cultural observer and theologian Diana Butler Bass argues that gratitude is central to both our personal and political lives—and that it may be the single most important spiritual practice we can engage in times of turmoil and conflict. In this compelling case, she untangles our misunderstandings about gratitude and proposes that a new commitment to giving thanks can save our own souls and society. This Directed Independent Study will anchor readings and reflection around her work and presentation on gratitude at the Brethren Minister's Association event in conjunction with Annual Conference in Cincinnati.



### Set-Apart Ministry in the Bivocational Reality

*Online, August 8-October 2, 2018*

*Sandra Jenkins, pastor of Constance Church of the Brethren*

Bivocational ministry is a reality in many denominations. It is not only a calling but a necessity; part-time ministry placements often outnumber full-time placements. Stephen Norcross writes, "A part-time arrangement between pastor and congregation does not mean that the person is a part-time pastor, nor that the congregation is a part-time church." Those answering God's call to ministry may find themselves in the area of bivocational ministry. This class will explore the set-apart ministry within the bivocational context, including the rewards and challenges for both pastor and congregation. Bivocational ministry is scriptural. Throughout the class, we will focus on the bivocational ministry of the Apostle Paul. In an online learning community, the class will seek God's direction as it relates to each person's individual call and ministry.





## 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](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

### Spring 2018

**What Brethren Believe**, weekend intensive  
McPherson College, McPherson, KS  
April 12-15, 2018  
Instructor: Denise Kettering-Lane  
(credits: BT, BCE, FCR, BTS)  
**Registration Deadline: March 5, 2018**

### Summer/Fall 2018

**DISU at Annual Conference Pre-Conference Gathering: Diana Butler Bass**  
Annual Conference, Cincinnati, OH  
July 3-4, 2018  
Instructor: Carrie 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  
Bethany Theological Seminary  
November 1-4, 2018  
Instructor: Scott Holland  
(credits: BT, BTS)  
**Registration Deadline: September 27, 2018**

**Introduction to Pastoral Care** (MS), January intensive  
Bethany Theological Seminary  
January 14-16, 2019  
Instructor: Sheila Shumaker  
(credits: MS, BTS)  
**Registration Deadline: December 5, 2018**

### Confirmed Courses for Winter/Spring/Summer 2019

**Church History II**, online  
January 23-March 13, 2019  
Instructor: H. Kendall Rogers  
(credits: BT, BTS)  
**Registration Deadline: December 18, 2018**

**Church of the Brethren Polity**, online  
March 14-May 1, 2019  
Instructor: Torin Eikler  
(credit: MS, FCR)  
**Registration Deadline: February 7, 2019**

**DISU at Annual Conference Pre-Conference Gathering**  
Annual Conference, San Diego, CA  
July 2-3, 2019  
(credits, MS, AC Experience available)  
**Registration Deadline: May 30, 2019**

### Dates to Be Determined

**Race and the Congregation**, weekend intensive  
Bethany Theological Seminary  
Instructor: Eric Bishop  
(credits MS, BTS)

3/15/18

You can now register and pay for BAML courses and fees online!

Check it out at [www.bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy](http://www.bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy).

## Looking for Continuing Education Events?



Church of the Brethren agencies and partners offer classes and events throughout the year that qualify for continuing education units (CEUs) for clergy. Most of these events are also open to laypersons for personal enrichment. Some are offered online, while others are held onsite. Continuing education credits are available for ministers at the cost of \$10 through the Brethren Academy.

A page has been created on Bethany Theological Seminary's website to provide easy access to opportunities offered by the different agencies and partnerships. To see what is available, please go to [bethanyseminary.edu/events-resources/continuing-education-events/](http://bethanyseminary.edu/events-resources/continuing-education-events/).

***Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available for all of the following.***



### 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:

**April 14, 2018 – Congregations Nurturing a Culture of Call: Why It Matters**

*Presenter: Joe Detrick*

To see more information about the sessions and CEU credits, visit [Ventures in Christian Discipleship](#). To register, [click here](#).



**April 6-8, 2018  
Frederick Church of the Brethren  
Frederick, Maryland**

**A Gathering of God's people . . .  
a Global Church of the Brethren**

This Church of the Brethren missions conference features the following:

- Worship
- Keynote speakers
- Workshops
- Fellowship with Brethren from near and far!

For more information and to register, go to [www.brethren.org/missionalive2018](http://www.brethren.org/missionalive2018) or contact Kendra Harbeck at 847-429-4388 or [kharbeck@brethren.org](mailto:kharbeck@brethren.org).

## The Risk and Reward of Embodying Jesus Locally

Church Planting Conference

May 16-19, 2018

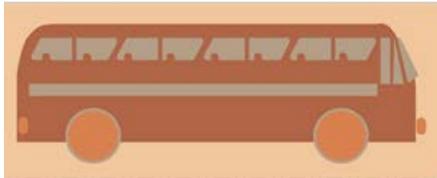
Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, Indiana



Risk. Ask any church planter, and one of the first things they are likely to tell you is that it takes great deal of risk to enter into the difficult work of planting a new church. God took a risk sending Christ into the world, to move into the neighborhood with us. Come and explore with us the ways that we can do risk well as we go about the work of planting new communities of faith across our country and the world. Share your own experiences of risk in the work of church planting and hear how others have handled the risks and challenges of this important work.

The keynote speakers are Christiana Rice and Orlando Crespo. Rice is an on-the-ground practitioner and visionary voice in the missional movement. Crespo helped plant and serve as one of the founding pastors for New Life in the Bronx Church, the first English speaking Christian and Missionary Alliance church in the Bronx.

Visit [www.brethren.org/churchplanting/2018/](http://www.brethren.org/churchplanting/2018/) to learn more more about the Church Planting Conference and the speakers. Registration information is also found there.



### **Dikaioi & Discipleship – Righteousness, Justice, and a History of Faith Pre-Conference Pilgrimage - July 3-4, Cincinnati, Ohio**

Cincinnati is interwoven with the complicated history of race in our nation. Christians along the Ohio River have wrestled with scripture in making decisions about how to live out their faith in the context of slavery, Jim Crow, and the ongoing manifestations of white supremacy. Many who participated in the Underground Railroad did so because their faith insisted on the sanctity of life and that we are all equals before God. Yet as recently as 2001, there have been protests as people struggle to be recognized as equal citizens before the law.

Join us on a scripture-inspired tour of a region that has monuments to the Confederacy and a museum celebrating the Underground Railroad.

To register, please visit [www.cognitofirms.com/ChurchOfTheBrethren1/DikaioiDiscipleship](http://www.cognitofirms.com/ChurchOfTheBrethren1/DikaioiDiscipleship).

## From the Director



### Hope in All Seasons

It's March, and the daffodils are sprouting in the backyard. It's March, and the migrating birds are beginning to return. It's March, and there are long lines at the Dairy Queen on the corner. It's March, and there are signs of spring everywhere.

Don't the daffodils know that winter isn't over? Don't the birds know that the snow may yet fall? Don't all those DQ customers know that we're just as likely to get ice as ice cream at this time of year?

It would be tempting to think of daffodils as premature or birds as far too hasty or folks dressed in parkas eating ice cream as just plain crazy. But then again, there's hope.



Hope is not timely. It is not seasonal. Hope is not particular or careful but rather spontaneous and free. Hope doesn't mind interrupting, especially our discouragement, our disillusionment, or fear. Hope just shows up—while it is still dark, while the ground is still frozen, even before the stone has been rolled away.

Hope is at the heart of Lent and Easter—hope that things are not always as they seem; hope that even the darkest night gives way to the dawn; hope that broken things can be mended; hope that wrongs can be righted; hope that there is nothing stronger than love and no love is stronger than God's love.

Whatever the season, whatever the weather, whatever the circumstances, my prayer for you is this: *May hope find you. May hope surprise you. May hope make a home in you. To God be the glory. Amen.*

*Janet L. Ober Lambert*

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/)



#### Director

Janet L. Ober Lambert

765-983-1820

[oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu)

#### Coordinator of the TRIM and EFSM Ministry Training Programs

Carrie A. Eikler

765-983-1810

[eikleca@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:eikleca@bethanyseminary.edu)

#### Administrative Assistant

Francine Massie

765-983-1824

[academy@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:academy@bethanyseminary.edu) or

[academy@brethren.org](http://academy@brethren.org)

#### Coordinator of Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano - de la Iglesia de los Hermanos (SeBAH-COB)

Roxanne Gaxiola Aguirre

765-983-1821

[aguirro@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:aguirro@bethanyseminary.edu)