

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership proudly offers:

Church of the Brethren Polity

APRIL 3 – MAY 28, 2019

8-WEEK ONLINE COURSE

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Course Description and Objectives

To speak about polity is to explore how groups are organized and governed. In the Church of the Brethren, polity is intertwined with our history, practices, and ecclesiology (who we are as a church). Talking about polity as ministers and members of the Church of the Brethren naturally uncovers who we are, what we do, and how we shape our lives together. In this course, we will engage the current and past polity of the Church of the Brethren in order to understand how it has, and continues to, shape “another way of living.”

Students will:

- Gain an understanding of ecclesiology in the Church of the Brethren and how our particular blend of Anabaptism and Pietism informs our polity.
- Examine the changing nature of organization, polity, and practice in the Church of the Brethren.
- Have a greater understanding of the relationship between congregation, district, and denomination in the Church of the Brethren, as well as the wider church.
- Reflect on and understand the role of congregational and ministerial leadership through the lens of Church of the Brethren polity.
- Explore how polity creates structures of privilege and power within the Church of the Brethren and recognize the importance of ethical leadership in the use of that power within the church and in the secular world.

Instructor: Torin Eikler

Torin Eikler has served as the District Executive Minister in the Northern Indiana District since 2014. A graduate of Manchester (College) University with a BA in Biology and Environmental Studies, he is a 6-year veteran of Brethren Volunteer Service, and received an MDiv from Bethany Theological Seminary. Prior to coming to district ministry he served as co-pastor to the Morgantown Church of the Brethren, in Morgantown, WV. He brings a passion for compassionate service and a systems-thinking approach to his ministry in the church. Torin lives in Goshen, Indiana (surrounded by Mennonites, Amish, and other Anabaptists) with his wife, Carrie, and three sons: Sebastian, Alistair, and Patrick.



This course is available to:

- TRIM/EFSM students- fulfills one MS unit and FCR
- Those seeking Continuing Education Units (2.0 CEU)
- Anyone seeking personal and spiritual enrichment

Essentially, this course is open to ALL!

Course fee \$295.00

Registration deadline:

February 27, 2019

**Brethren Academy for
Ministerial Leadership**

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**Course Withdrawal Refund
Policy**

100% of course fee prior to
registration
50% from the registration
deadline to the first day

No refunds will be given
once the class has begun

Exceptions require the
approval of the Director of
the Brethren Academy

To earn CEU credit

Participant will

- Meet the attendance
requirement
- Complete the assigned
reading
- Engage in the course through
participation

A CE or PE student is not
required to complete any
assigned papers or exams.

Required Texts

Required Reading List:

- Church of the Brethren Manual of Organization and Polity
2016 Edition (found at
<http://www.brethren.org/ac/ppg/>)
- Bowman, S. Loren. *Power and Polity Among the Brethren*,
chapters 1-2, 9-10. (electronic copies supplied)
- Durnbaugh, Donald F., *Church of the Brethren: Yesterday
and Today*. ISBN: 0871781514
- Additional excerpts and articles supplied by the instructor.

Suggested Reading List:

- Bowman, Carl F., *Brethren Society: The Cultural
Transformation of a "Peculiar People"*. ISBN:
0801849055
- Brown, Dale W., *Understanding Pietism (Revised Edition)*.
ISBN: 0-916035-64-6
- Redekop, Benjamin W. & Redekop, Calvin W., *Power and
Authority in the Anabaptist Tradition*. ISBN: 0801866057

Expectations

Online learning requires students to be disciplined in their time
management. Students are expected to spend 10 hours per
week in course-related work

For online learning, students will need basic computer skills and
access to the internet. If your computer is four years old or less,
you should have the capabilities for this class. These
capabilities include:

- Modem: Minimum 56 kbps speed is slow but
adequate. A speed of 100 kbps (300
recommended) is needed for podcasts and 300
kbps (500 recommended) for videos
- An email account
- An up-to-date web browser; such as Firefox, Internet Explorer
or Google Chrome

Church of the Brethren Polity, April 3 – May 28, 2019

[Register online](#) or fill out following information and return, along with payment to:
Brethren Academy * 615 National Road West * Richmond, IN * 47374

Name: _____

Address: _____

Best contact phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I will be taking this course for: ___ TRIM credit ___ EFSM credit ___ CEUs (2) ___ Personal Enrichment
Course Fee: \$295 payable to Brethren Academy Registration Deadline: February 27, 2019