

# *The Scroll*

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

*Spring 2019*

**IN THIS EDITION:** English-Language Ministry Updates  
Upcoming Course Lists

Spanish-Language Ministry Updates  
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## **SURVEY OF THE BIBLE**

The Brethren Academy was honored to offer the course Survey of the Bible at the Miami Haitian Church of the Brethren in Miami, Florida, in early March. Twenty members of the congregation joined Bethany's academic dean, Steve Schweitzer, for a weekend of exploring the history, context, and literature that make up the canon we revere as the Holy Book. Dr. Schweitzer, along with BAML staff member Carrie Eikler, were also blessed to join the congregation for worship on Sunday morning as Schweitzer delivered the sermon with the translation aid of Pastor Illexene Alphonse.



Steve Schweitzer

Schweitzer shared the following reflection: "The students in my Survey of the Bible TRIM course were engaged in deep and rich conversation with excellent questions and insights into several important topics: how Brethren interpret the Bible, how the Bible was formed, how to approach the Bible theologically and interpret its meaning for the contemporary church. We looked at examples from both Testaments and dealt with hard passages. We spoke honestly and respectfully about how we approach the Bible. We spent a lot of time talking and thinking about the importance of context when reading and applying scripture—the ancient historical and literary contexts and current contexts within the church and the wider society. Students affirmed the value of the course in helping them make connections between the biblical world and our own, and what it means to follow Jesus faithfully as we seek God's will through scripture in community together."

Some of the books that were used for this course:

- Barton, John. *How the Bible Came to Be*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1997. 91 pages. ISBN: 978-0664257859
- Fee, Gordon, and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth: A Guide to Understanding the Bible*. 4th edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014. 203 pages. ISBN: 978-0310517825
- *Bible Translations Comparison*. Pamphlet. Carson, CA: Rose Publishing, 2011. ISBN: 978-1596361331

# ACADEMY STUDENTS EXPLORE RACE AND THE CONGREGATION

In colonial days, an evangelical fervor pushed from Germantown, Pennsylvania, south and west. The people who would become the Church of the Brethren grew quickly as they spread a message of love and service to others who hungered for it.

From his personal experience, Dr. Eric Bishop, University of La Verne professor, led a group of six students in exploring the barrier of racism that often prevents the church from effectively welcoming minorities, particularly African-Americans, who also hunger for inclusion and the gospel. Through reading, media, and extended discussion, the class examined the historical foundations and current evidence of systemic racism across the country and in our churches.

Honest conversation exposed the language and mindset of war that perpetuates violence against African-Americans, Spanish-speaking people, and other cultural minorities, preventing the kind of trust needed for an inclusive community to develop. The class members, consisting of denominational staff, institutional ministers, and pastors, asked questions of each other and shared their own experiences and fears. Each student developed a personal plan for engaging the question of race in their ministry setting.



Instructor Eric Bishop  
*Photo: Janet Ober Lambert*

The weekend intensive closed with the class attending worship at the Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren in Elgin, sharing part of their conversation in the Sunday school period.

~ Gene Hollenberg, TRIM student



Back: Eric Bishop. Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, Gene Hollenberg. Jay Wittmeyer  
Front: Janet Ober Lambert, Eric Anspaugh, Dave Flumenfelt  
*Photo: Carrie Eikler*

## SPOTLIGHT ON UPCOMING COURSES

### Church of the Brethren Polity, online April 3-May 28, 2019



To speak about polity is to explore how groups are organized and governed. In the Church of the Brethren, our polity grows out of our history, our practices, and our 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, instructor Torin Eikler will guide students in engagement of the current and past polity of the Church of the Brethren to understand how it has and continues to shape “another way of living.”

### DISU – Pastoral Boundaries and Self-Care July 2-3, 2019 in Greensboro, North Carolina

TRIM/EFSM students participating in the Brethren Ministers’ Association Pre-Annual Conference event in Greensboro can receive one Ministry/Ministry Skills credit by taking this Directed Independent Study that furthers the conversation presented at the gathering. Students will continue the conversation about self-care and pastoral boundary setting through group conversation immediately prior and following the event and through independent work following Annual Conference.



The study will be facilitated by Carrie Eikler and will focus on common and everyday boundaries, particularly as identified by Dr. David C. Olsen and Nancy G. Devor in their book *Saying No to Say Yes*. Every day, clergy face boundaries and are engaged in boundary setting within their work and their relationships.

There is a two-step registration and payment process:

1. Fill out the DISU registration form and return payment of \$100 to the Brethren Academy for the DISU credit (or go online to register and pay at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/>).
2. Fill out the Pre-Annual Conference registration form (<http://www.brethren.org/sustaining>) and pay the \$50 TRIM / EFSM student fee (or \$45 if first time attendee) for the Brethren Minister’s Association Pre-AC Continuing Education Event.

This brings the total to \$150 or less (the event fee plus DISU fee).

## GRADUATE CREDIT FOR ACADEMY STUDENTS

There is a new way for Brethren Academy students to enroll in Bethany courses! Starting immediately, an Academy student may apply as an **Academy Student for Graduate Credit**. As such, any student who successfully completes their course will receive not only credit toward their Academy transcript but also toward their own graduate record. Should an Academy student choose to later pursue a graduate certificate or degree from Bethany, the graduate credits earned may be applied to their program. Those who already have a graduate transcript will add to it.

What sets this new category apart is largely the cost. An **Academy Student for Graduate Credit** pays \$500 a course, a third of the regular fee!

To earn both Academy and graduate credit, Academy students need to do the following:

1. Obtain permission to take the course from the instructor, academic dean, and the director of the Brethren Academy.
2. Apply to Bethany as an **occasional** student, select **Academy Student for Graduate Credit** on the application form, and follow the additional steps toward admission to Bethany.
3. Once admitted, pay the \$500 fee (\$50 application fee is waived).
4. Successfully complete the course by fulfilling all the requirements set forth by the instructor.

Students who successfully complete a course for graduate credit will receive three credits on their graduate transcript and one credit on their Academy transcript.

### Graduate Courses for Academy Credit

In addition to this new opportunity, Academy students may continue to enroll in Bethany courses for Academy credit alone. To do so, Academy students need to do the following:

1. Obtain permission to take the course from the instructor, academic dean, and the director of the Brethren Academy.
2. Apply to Bethany as an **auditor** and pay the \$350 fee (\$50 application fee is waived).
3. Successfully audit the course by
  - meeting the attendance requirement;
  - completing the assigned reading;
  - engaging in the course through participation;
  - completing reduced assignments that may be required by the instructor.

Students interested in a Bethany course for graduate credit, Academy credit, or both will find course offerings in the [2018-19 Academic Catalog](#).



## Upcoming Brethren Academy-Level Courses

Courses are open to Academy students, pastors (2.0 CEUs), and all interested persons.

To register, contact the Brethren Academy at [academy@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:academy@bethanyseminary.edu) or 765-983-1824.

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

### Winter/Spring 2019

#### **Church of the Brethren Polity**, online

April 3-May 28, 2019

Instructor: Torin Eikler

(credit: MS, FCR)

**Registration Deadline: February 27, 2019**

#### **Church of the Brethren History**, weekend intensive

October 11-13, 2019

Miami Haitian COB, Miami, FL

Instructor: Denise Kettering-Lane

(credits: BS, BTS, IE)

**Registration Deadline: September 6, 2019**

### Summer/Fall 2019

#### **DISU at Annual Conference Pre-Conference Gathering**

Annual Conference, Greensboro, NC

July 2-3, 2019

(credits, MS, AC Experience available)

**Registration Deadline: May 28, 2019**

#### **Introduction to New Testament**, online

October 16-December 3, 2019

Instructor: Matt Boersma

(credits: BT, FCR)

**Registration Deadline: September 11, 2019**

### Courses in Development for Spring 2020

#### **Spiritual Practices in Ministry**, online

February 5-March 25, 2020

Instructor: Reba Herder

#### **Church Planting DISU**

Church of the Brethren General Offices

Instructor: Stan Dueck

#### **Theological Studies**, Intensive

Bethany Theological Seminary

Instructor: Russell Haitch

#### **Faith Formation**, online

Instructor: Rhonda Pittman Gingrich

#### **Legacy of Peace**, TBD

#### **Death and Dying**, online

September 4-October 29, 2019

Instructor: Debbie Eisenbise

(credits: MS)

**Registration Deadline: August 31, 2019**

#### **Interim Ministry**, online

September 25-November 19, 2019

Instructor: Tara Lea Hornbacker

(credits: MS, BTS)

**Registration Deadline: August 21, 2019**

**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.

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

[bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy](http://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy)

## EMPC FINES DE SEMANA DE ORIENTACION

Fue un placer y una bendición ser parte de dos fines de semana de Educación Para Un Ministerio Compartido. La primera tuvo lugar en Las Vegas, Nevada, en la Iglesia Cristiana Elohim, y la segunda, en Los Banos, California, en el Centro Agape en Acción.

Durante el fin de semana del 8 al 10 de febrero, tuve la oportunidad de viajar desde California a **Las Vegas** para reunirme con la pastora Luz Roman y sus Laicos-en-Entrenamiento. El grupo de la Iglesia Cristiana Elohim había estado esperando ansiosamente para iniciar su programa de educación. La pastora Luz ha estado conectada con la Iglesia de los Hermanos mientras vivía en Pennsylvania y se reconectó con la Iglesia de los Hermanos a través del Distrito del Suroeste del Pacífico. Gilbert Romero y yo pasamos tiempo con la Pastora Luz y ella nos tuvo en su casa y nos hizo una comida tradicional dominicana. Más tarde estuvimos en la iglesia entrenando al equipo congregacional. El domingo adoramos con la pastora Luz y su congregación. El fin de semana fue una gran experiencia de aprendizaje para la Iglesia Cristiana Elohim y para mí como Coordinadora de Programas de Entrenamiento Ministerial en Español. También disfruté trabajando con Gilbert Romero y compartiendo el espacio del ministerio con él. Nuestro domingo concluyó con una predicación sobre ser un sacerdocio de todos los creyentes y una comisión del Equipo Congregacional y la pastora Luz para su capacitación educativa y su unidad como iglesia.

El 2 y 3 de marzo, Gilbert Romero y yo nos reunimos en **Los Banos** y nos reunimos con los pastores Rigo y Margie Berumen. Revisamos el programa y las preguntas de los pastores Rigo y Margie como pastores. Por la tarde nos reunimos con los Laicos-en-Entrenamiento, la iglesia nos proporcionó una comida que incluía carne asada, nachos y naranjas frescas. El grupo en Los Banos fue muy hablador y tuvo muchas preguntas para nosotros. Demostraron estar dispuestos a aprender como estudiantes, incluso expresando el deseo de tomar cursos en Bethany. El domingo nos reunimos para la adoración. El hermano Giovanni, esposo de la hermana Iris (uno de los Laicos-en-Entrenamiento) nos guió en la adoración. Después del sermón, el equipo de la Congregación y los pastores fueron comisionados para su programa de capacitación. El servicio concluyó con una unción para el Equipo Congregacional y los miembros que deseaban ser ungidos.

El equipo de Los Banos escribió un párrafo para hablando de su experiencia.

*En la orientación aprendimos que todos tenemos la autoridad y el poder para orar por otras personas, porque somos linaje escogido por Dios. Aprendimos cómo podemos desarrollarnos en ayudar a la comunidad al demostrar el amor fraternal como cristianos. Nos sentimos con apoyo y agusto con el ambiente del grupo, donde podremos aprender más fácil con la ayuda del uno al otro. Nuestra experiencia fue positiva ya que el propósito de esto no es nomás enfocarnos en teoría si no en lo práctico, demostrando el amor de Dios en nuestra comunidad. En los próximos tres años esperamos tener una relación más íntima con Dios, conocerle cada día más, amarle, entender el propósito que tiene para cada uno de nosotros. También en estos 3 años esperamos descubrir nuestros dones para poder ponerlos en práctica. Queremos aprender más sobre cómo se trabaja en la iglesia de los hermanos y cómo mejorar para llevar el amor de Dios a otros. Queremos capacitarnos de acuerdo a la palabra de Dios y poner por obra lo que nos enseñará sin meter leyes de hombres, ni religión para que se forme en nosotros un corazón conforme a Dios. Y sobre todo queremos tener corazones enseñables, humildes y dispuestos para que cada clase y libro que tengamos sea una herramienta útil para llevar el reino de Dios donde quiera que vallamos.*

~ estudiantes de Centro Ágape En Acción

Espero más programs con Iglesias de Educación Para Un Ministerio Compartido.

Muchas bendiciones,  
Roxanne Gaxiola Aguirre  
Coordinadora de Programas de Entrenamiento. Ministerial en Español



Grupo de Las Vegas, de izquierda a derecha/Las Vegas group, left to right:  
Luis Manuel Cardenas, Avelina Cardenas, Juan Carlos Muriilo Ramirez, Ines Rodas Merino, Roxanne Gaxiola Aguirre, Orlando Roman, and Luz Roman



Grupo de los Baños  
Los Baños group



Grupo de los Baños, de izquierda a derecha/Los Baños group, left to right:  
Alba Vega, Jose Vega, Arnoldo Mendoza, Marisela Mendoza, Rigo Berumen, Margie Berumen, Roxanne Aguirre, and Gilbert Romero.

## EPMC ORIENTATION WEEKENDS

It was a pleasure and a blessing to be part of two Educación Para Un Minisiterio Compartido weekends. The first one took place in Las Vegas, Nevada, at Iglesia Cristiana Elohim, and the second one was in Los Banos, California, at Centro Agape en Acción.

During the weekend of February 8-10, I had the opportunity to travel from California to **Las Vegas** to meet with Pastor Luz Roman and her laity in training. The group from Iglesia Cristiana Elohim had been eagerly waiting to initiate their education program. Pastor Luz was connected with the Church of the Brethren while living in Pennsylvania and was reconnected with the Church of the Brethren through the Pacific Southwest District. Gilbert Romero and I spent time with Pastor Luz, and she had us in her home and made us a traditional Dominican meal. Later we were at the church training with the Congregational Team. On Sunday we worshiped with Pastor Luz and her congregation. The weekend was a great learning experience for the Iglesia Cristian Elohim and myself as coordinator of Spanish-Language Ministry Training Programs. I also enjoyed working with Gilbert Romero and sharing ministry space with him. Our Sunday concluded with preaching on being a priesthood of all believers and a commissioning of the congregational team and Pastor Luz for their educational training and their unity as a church.

On March 2 and 3, Gilbert Romero and I were reunited in **Los Banos** and met with Pastors Rigo and Margie Berumen. We reviewed the program and addressed their questions as pastors. In the afternoon we met with the laity in training. The church provided us with a meal that included loaded carne asada nachos and fresh oranges. The group in Los Banos was very talkative and had many questions for us. They demonstrated willingness to learn with students, even expressing a desire to take courses at Bethany. On Sunday we met for worship. Brother Giovanni, husband of Sister Iris (one of the laity in training) led us in worship. After the sermon the congregational team and pastors were commissioned for their training program. The service concluded with an anointing for the congregational team and members who wished to be anointed.

The Los Banos team wrote a paragraph for *The Scroll* highlighting their experience.

*In the orientation we learned that we all have the authority and power to pray for other people because we are a chosen lineage of God. We learned how we can develop ourselves in helping the community by demonstrating brotherly love as Christians. We feel supported and comfortable with the group's environment, where we can learn more easily with the help of each other. Our experience was positive since the purpose of this is not just to focus on theory but on practicality, demonstrating the love of God in our community. In the next three years, we hope to have a more intimate relationship with God, to know him more each day, to love him, to understand the purpose he has for each one of us. In these three years, we also hope to discover our gifts and to be able to put them into practice. We want to learn more about how to work in the Church of the Brethren and how to improve to bring the love of God to others. We want to train ourselves according to the word of God and to put into practice what he will teach us without putting laws of men or religion so that a heart according to God will be formed in us. And above all we want to have teachable, humble, and willing hearts so that each class and book that we have is a useful tool in carrying the kingdom of God wherever we go.*

~Students from Centro Ágape En Acción

I look forward to more Educación Para Un Minisiterio Compartido weekends.

Many Blessings,  
Roxanne Gaxiola Aguirre, Coordinator of Spanish-Language Ministry Training Programs

## 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 certificates 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-opportunities/](http://bethanyseminary.edu/events-resources/continuing-education-opportunities/).

### **Bethany Seminary Unveils a New Offer for Alumni!**

It has long been understood that Academy graduates are considered Bethany Theological Seminary alumni in significant ways. This new offer from Bethany Seminary is one of them.

Because Bethany seeks to support its alumni in the pursuit of lifelong education, the Seminary is now offering the following option for graduate-level courses, beginning with the 2018-19 academic year:

**Alumni who have graduated within the last five years may audit two courses at no cost.**

**Alumni who graduated more than five years ago may audit one course at no cost.**

Academy graduates who wish to participate in this offer may apply by completing the [Auditor Application Form](#). Alumni may waive the \$50 application fee.

Academy graduates who have questions about this process may contact the Brethren Academy office or Bethany Seminary: [admissions@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:admissions@bethanyseminary.edu) or 800-287-8822.

Note that if CEUs are desired for any course, a student must contact the Brethren Academy Office for a continuing education certificate.

## **Continuing education units (CEUs) are available for all of the following events.**

### **Ventures in Christian Discipleship**

The April offering from the Ventures in Christian Discipleship program at McPherson (Kansas) College is entitled Healthy and Safe Congregations. Almost all congregations aspire to welcome the stranger into our midst. Our tradition, sacred texts, doctrines, teachings, and cultural values can be a resource to visitors, members, and the community.

All classes are donation based, and continuing education credit is available for \$10 per course.

#### ***Healthy and Safe Congregations***

**April 13, 2018 – Kathy Reid, instructor**

This course will look specifically at how congregations can be a safe place for those who are vulnerable. Based on our Brethren values, what can we do to make sure that all—especially survivors of child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assault—feel safe and supported?

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

## Look at Life Conference

April 25-27, 2019  
Bethany Theological Seminary



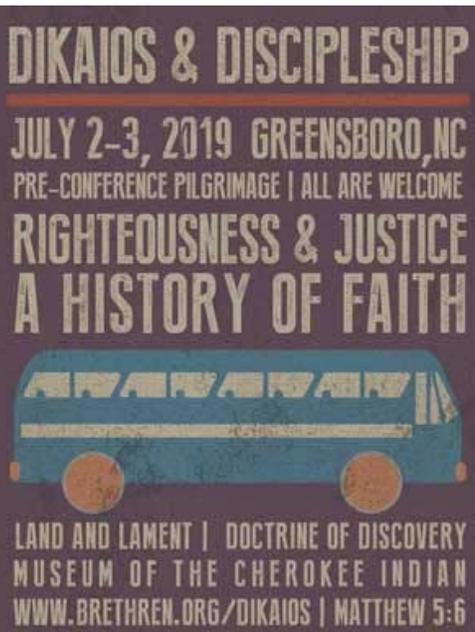
We live in an age of science. We live in the presence of God. At this conference, we want to bring both together—the facts of science, the truth of faith. And we really want you to join us!

Here you'll meet experts. But you don't need to be an expert to come. We're not looking at anyone's report card. Instead, we're looking at life—through eyes of both faith and science.

If you like to learn and talk about amazing things, you'll be among friends.

Continuing Education unit value varies, depending on which sessions you attend. Attendance at all sessions will earn 1.6 CEUs.

Registration is required. For more information and to register, please visit <https://faithandsciencemeet.com/>.



Are you attending Annual Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina?

If so, why not plan to arrive in time for this pre-conference pilgrimage? This experience takes place July 2-3 and will include visits to the Museum of the Cherokee and the Oconaluftee Living Village.

Lodging and meals are included in the registration fee. Continuing education credit is available for an additional fee.

For more information and registration, please visit <http://www.brethren.org/congregationallife/dikaios/>.

## Director's Page



*Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new.*

~ Isaiah 43:19, *The Message*

At the Brethren Academy, we have been challenged and delighted by new things this spring—new courses, new curriculum, new students, new congregations, new cohorts, and new host sites. Articles about many of these appear in this issue of *The Scroll*. In addition, the Academy is preparing to offer clergy ethics training using new curriculum written by Church of the Brethren pastor and ethicist James Benedict. Look for the first Zoom course for licensed ministers to be offered in June. It is an exciting time to be part of the Brethren Academy!

At the same time, the Academy is staying the course by offering quality education and training through building block courses, support for students and supervisors, and continuing education that feeds the whole church, clergy and laity alike. We are committed to our foundations of education and ministry training, even as God calls us to explore creative new ways and places to do this work.

Through it all, dear reader, we are grateful that you are with us on this journey. Please continue to pray with and for us as we seek to follow the ever-engaging leading of the Holy Spirit.

By God's grace and in God's peace,

*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/)



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