



The Scroll

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

Summer 2019

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SPOTLIGHT ON UPCOMING COURSES

Death and Dying, September 4-October 29
Eight-week online course (Ministry/Ministry Skills unit)

Church communities play a central role in death and dying. Providing an understanding of death, easing anxiety, bringing peace, and helping people make meaning of dying and death is crucial to effective pastoral ministry. **Instructor Debbie Eisenbise** will explore with students how as pastors we can teach and model a faith that informs dying, including ways to attend to God in suffering, grief, and end-of-life care. Practical considerations concerning funerals, memorials, and graveside services as well as preaching, praying, providing pastoral care, and encouraging spiritual growth with those who are dying and grieving death will be addressed. Consideration will be given to difficult situations such as suicide, homicide, sudden death, dysfunctional family dynamics, infant mortality, and child death.



Debbie Eisenbise

Registration Deadline: July 31, 2019



Tara Hornbaker

Interim/Transitional Ministry, September 25-November 19
Eight-week online course (Ministry/Ministry Skills unit)

This course is a practical exploration of the gifts and challenges specific to interim/transitional ministry. **Instructor Tara Hornbaker** will explore with students the necessary tasks for successful interim/transitional ministry and the personality characteristics most helpful to develop for the practice of this specialized area of congregational leadership. Students will examine the unique calling of persons to walk with congregations in both short term and long term intentional ministry situations.

Registration Deadline: August 21, 2019

Spotlight on Upcoming Courses Continued

Church of the Brethren History, October 10-13

Weekend intensive at Miami Haitian Church of the Brethren, Miami, FL
(Bible/Theology unit, Bethany Experience and Intercultural/Interfaith/Ecumenical Experience)



Denise Kettering-Lane

Instructor Denise Kettering-Lane will lead the second Brethren Academy course to be offered in Miami, Florida. This course will look at how the Brethren movement has developed over time. She will also explore how Brethren have confronted issues in the broader society, such as slavery, war, or prohibition. This course will answer these questions and others by exploring the history of the Brethren movement, beginning with its origins in Schwarzenau, Germany, and tracing its development through over 300 years of history. While this course will predominantly focus on the Church of the Brethren, the class will also touch briefly on other Brethren groups. The course will investigate the social and historical contexts in which the Brethren emerged in Europe, immigrated to North America, and spread to other countries. A focus of the course will be on the changes and continuities among the Brethren in interaction with surrounding cultures.

Registration Deadline: September 6, 2019

Introduction to the New Testament, October 16-December 3 Eight-week online course (Bible/Theology unit)

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. **Instructor Matt Boersma** will have students 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. They 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

Registration Deadline: September 11, 2019

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](#) (2019-20 issue available soon).



Upcoming Brethren Academy-Level Courses

Courses are open to Academy students, clergy (2.0 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 require 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. Please register [online](#) or contact the Brethren Academy at 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]

Summer/Fall 2019

Death and Dying, online
September 4-October 29, 2019
Instructor: Debbie Eisenbise
(credits: MS)
Registration Deadline: July 31, 2019

Interim/Transitional Ministry: More than Mere Maintenance, online
September 25-November 19, 2019
Instructor: Tara Lea Hornbacker
(credits: MS, BTS)
Registration Deadline: August 21, 2019

Church of the Brethren History, weekend intensive
October 10-13, 2019
Miami Haitian COB, Miami, FL
Instructor: Denise Kettering-Lane
(credits: BS, BTS, IE)
Registration Deadline: September 6, 2019

Introduction to the New Testament, online
October 16-December 3, 2019
Instructor: Matt Boersma
(credits: BT, FCR)
Registration Deadline: September 11, 2019

Winter/Spring 2020

A Place of Refuge: Urban Ministry, two-week intensive
January 6-16, 2020
Atlanta, Georgia
Instructor: Joshua Brockway
(credits: 2 MS units, IEI, BTS)
Registration Deadline: November 1, 2019
Runs concurrently with Bethany Seminary course

Faith Formation for a Changing World, online
January 22-March 17, 2020
Instructor: Rhonda Pittman-Gingrich
(credits: MS)
Registration Deadline: December 18, 2019

Spiritual Practices in Ministry, online
April 15-June 9, 2020
Instructor: Reba Herder
(credits: MS)
Registration Deadline: March 11, 2019

Science and Faith, weekend intensive
April 29-May 3, 2020
Bethany Theological Seminary
Instructor: Russell Haitch
(credits: BT, BTS)
Registration Deadline: March 25, 2019

Church Planting, Directed Independent Study
Begins with the Church Planting Conference
May 2020 (date TBD)
Instructor: Stan Dueck

.You can now register and pay for BAML courses and fees online!
bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy

ACTUALIZACIONES DE SeBAH Y EPMC

¡Es verano! Vivo en California y no experimentamos tantos cambios en las estaciones como muchos de ustedes que están en otras áreas del mundo. Sin embargo, todavía anticipamos el verano aquí en la soleada California. Los niños salen de la escuela, es el final de un capítulo en sus vidas y el verano les permite descansar mientras se preparan para otro año escolar. Este año, mi hijo mayor completó el octavo grado, y este otoño seré la madre de un estudiante de Prepa. Mi hija de 6 años terminó el kinder y mi bebé se graduó de preescolar. Mientras me alegro de que mis hijos crezcan, extraño los días en que eran más pequeños y podía cargar a mis bebés.

El progreso en la vida de nuestros hijos nos recuerdan que el cambio, el crecimiento y las nuevas experiencias son parte de la vida. Como muchos de ustedes saben, mi esposo fue llamado a pastorear en el sur de California y él ha aceptado la llamada. Nos sentimos felices por el cambio, también experimentamos estrés a medida que hacemos la transición de nuestras vidas, las escuelas los niños y los trabajos a una nueva ciudad. Quizás algunos de ustedes también están experimentando cambios en sus vidas. Quiero animarle a recordar que la vida hay cambios, y que Dios esta con nosotros a través de las estaciones de nuestras vidas.

Este verano, el programa SeBAH ofrece dos clases: *La Ética, Política y Administraciones de la Iglesia de los Hermanos* y *Pastoral de Acompañamiento*. En el otoño Dan Ulrich, Wieand profesor de estudios bíblicos del Seminario bíblico Betania, enseñará en *El Evangelio de Mateo*.

Espero ver a aquellos en el ministerio terminar su capacitación ministerial. Quiero animar a los estudiantes de SeBAH que no han comenzado la Experiencia de Ministerio Supervisado a que comiencen lo antes posible. La experiencia supervisada del ministerio está diseñada para ser una experiencia reflexiva donde se pueden evaluar los dones, las áreas de crecimiento y las habilidades. Esto no es algo que deba apresurarse, es algo que requiere tiempo, atención y compromiso.

Si necesita claridad sobre la experiencia en el ministerio supervisado, no dude en comunicarse con los coordinadores de su distrito o conmigo mismo.

Por último, quiero recordarte que te cuides. El trabajo ministerial puede ser muy agotador y, a menudo, solitario. Por favor, asegúrese de participar en el cuidado personal. Si necesita apoyo o ideas sobre cómo practicar el cuidado personal, no dude en contactarme, ya que tengo muchos recursos disponibles para compartir.

Muchas bendiciones,

Roxanne Gaxiola Aguirre
Coordinadora de Programas de Entrenamiento. Ministerial en Español
Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

SeBAH AND EPMC UPDATES

It's summer! I live in California, and we do not experience as much change in the seasons as many of you who are on the East Coast and in other areas of the world. Yet, we still anticipate summer here in sunny California. The kids get out of school, it is the end of a chapter in their lives, and summer allows them to rest as they get ready for another school year. This year, my oldest child completed eighth grade, and this fall I will be the mother of a high schooler. My middle child finished kindergarten, and my baby graduated preschool. While I rejoice at my children growing, I am missing the days when they were younger and I could hold my babies.

Milestones in our children's lives remind us that change, growth, and new experiences are a part of life. As many of you are aware, my husband was called to pastor in southern California and he has accepted the call. While we are happy for change, we are also experiencing stress as we transition our lives, kids' schools, and jobs into a new city. Perhaps some of you are experiencing change in your lives as well. I want to encourage you to remember that life is change and that God journeys with us through the seasons of our lives.

This summer the SeBAH program is offering two classes: *La Etica, Ploitica y Administraciones de la Iglesia de los Hermanos* and *Pastoral de Acompañamiento*. In the fall Dan Ulrich, Wieand Professor of New Testament Studies at Bethany, will be teaching *El Evangelio de Mateo*.

It is my hope to see those in ministry finish their ministerial training. I want to encourage SeBAH students that have not started Supervised Ministry Experience to start as soon as possible. Supervised Ministry Experience is designed to be a reflective experience in which one can evaluate gifts, growth areas, and skills. This is not something that should be rushed. It is something that requires time, attention, and commitment.

If you need clarity on Supervised Ministry Experience, please do not hesitate to reach out to your district coordinators or myself.

Lastly, I want to remind you to take care of yourself. Ministry work can be very draining and often lonely. Please make sure to engage in self-care. If you need support or ideas of how to practice self-care, please feel free to contact me as I have many resources available to share.

Many blessings,

Roxanne Gaxiola Aguirre
Coordinator of Spanish-Language Ministry Training Programs
Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

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.



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/.

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

The Office of Ministry of the Church of the Brethren invites you to

COME, BE REFRESHED, RENEWED, AND EQUIPPED FOR MINISTRY

by experiencing a continuing education event on the opening day of NOAC.

Spouses are welcome to attend, and the fifty+ age requirement does not apply!

PREACHING AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm, presenter

**Monday, September 2, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
6 CEUs available**



Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm

For more information please follow these links:

Find the combined brochure/registration form at www.brethren.org/noac or www.brethren.org/ministryoffice. The direct link is <http://www.brethren.org/ministryoffice/documents/2019-pre-noac-event.pdf>. The registration form is the last page of the brochure and must be mailed with a check. *There is not online registration for this event.*

The event focuses on preaching and spiritual formation and will be led by Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm, Brightbill Professor of Preaching and Worship at Bethany Theological Seminary.

In what ways might preaching be a source of spiritual formation and renewal--not only for congregations but also for preachers? How might different ways of sermon preparation awaken a sense of God's presence and movement among us, particularly during challenging and divisive times? This continuing education event will help participants to cultivate a deeper connection to God's divine mystery in our lives, sermons, and communities of faith as we explore scripture texts and practices that encourage us to reach through the polarities of our time with hope in the Spirit's transformative work among us.

More Continuing Education Events



McPherson
COLLEGE

Ventures in Christian Discipleship

Below is a partial listing of upcoming continuing education events offered through the Ventures in Christian Discipleship program. More information will soon be available at the website listed below.

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

God's Relation to the Natural World and Creation Care
September 28, 2019; presenter: Kirk MacGregor

Faith through Action: Effective Approaches to Solving the Climate Challenge
October 26, 2019; presenter: Sharon Yohn

We'd Prefer to Avoid That: Conflict in the Congregation
November 9, 2019; presenters: Melanee Hamilton and Rick Polhamus

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



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 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.

Director's Page

We've had a long spring in Indiana this year—a big surprise after last year, when springtime lasted about a day. After a particularly cool day recently, I heard someone complain about the weather, wondering when it was going to finally get warm. I smiled, knowing that by August that same person might just as well be wondering when it will cool down! As I am no fan of humidity, I will probably be thinking the same thing.



In matters of weather and other life events, we human beings spend an inordinate amount of time wishing our lives away, waiting for something to happen—a change of season, a vacation, a birthday or holiday, a visit with a loved one, or something life altering, like graduation, an engagement, retirement, or any number of life's milestones. Meanwhile, as we are waiting and wishing, life is happening, to us and all around us. Life in all its complicated, lovely, messy reality is unfolding. How often do we notice? How often do we watch the garden grow or the sun rise or set? How often do we look at the face of another and really see them, not just hear their words but watch the expressions play across their face? How often do we sit quietly and listen to the symphony we can only hear in silence? How often do we stand still in the midst of our busyness and honor that very moment and attend to the presence of God?

For years, I have kept near me a small card on which these words are written:

My name is not I WAS.
My name is not I WILL BE.
I am here.
My name is I AM.¹

When Moses asked God whom he should say had sent him to the Israelites, God replied "I AM" (Ex 3:14).

We are the children of the great I AM. May we be given the wisdom to live accordingly.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Janet L. Ober Lambert".

¹Adapted from the poem "My Name is I AM" by Helen Mallicoat

A ministry-training partnership of the Church of the Brethren
and Bethany Theological Seminary
www.bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/



Director
Janet L. Ober Lambert
765-983-1820
oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu



**Coordinator of English-Language
Ministry Training Programs**
Carrie A. Eikler
765-983-1810
eikleca@bethanyseminary.edu

Administrative Assistant
Francine Massie
765-983-1824
academy@bethanyseminary.edu or
academy@brethren.org

**Coordinator of Spanish-Language
Ministry Training Programs**
Roxanne Gaxiola Aguirre
765-983-1821
aguirro@bethanyseminary.edu