

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership proudly offers:

Nurturing Vital Spirituality in a Changing World

JANUARY 22 – MARCH 17, 2020

8-WEEK ONLINE COURSE

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Course Description and Objectives

Mutual longing—ours for God and God's for us—is at the heart of the spiritual journey. The congregation plays a unique role in supporting and nurturing life-giving Christian faith. But in order to support and nurture the spiritual life of its members, the congregation must embody a sense of vital spirituality: inviting people—individually and corporately—into the presence of God, increasing their awareness of God's presence and activity, and empowering them to bear witness to God's presence and activity in the world.

Through assigned reading, personal reflection, online discussions, practical application, and written assignments, participants will:

- Articulate an understanding of Christian spirituality;
- Examine the cultural dynamics impacting the spiritual journey;
- Explore elements of vital congregational spirituality;
- Examine the role of pastors and lay leaders in nurturing spirituality;
- Examine the unique spiritual life of different populations within the context of congregational life;
- Explore and experiment with variety of spiritual practices.



This course is available to:

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

Essentially, this course is open to ALL!

Course fee \$300.00

Registration deadline:

December 18, 2019

Instructor: Rhonda Pittman Gingrich

A former pastor and church resource center director, Rhonda Pittman Gingrich now engages in ministry as an adjunct teacher, writer, and workshop leader, focusing on issues of faith formation and spiritual transformation.

She has taught for the Brethren Academy, Bethany Theological Seminary, and United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. She authored *Heart, Soul, and Mind: Becoming a Member of the Church of the Brethren* as well as two seasonal devotional books for Brethren Press. She also coordinated production of *Piecing Together the Brethren Way*, a heritage and identity resource developed as part of the denominational anniversary celebration. In addition, Rhonda has served her district and the wider denomination in a variety of capacities, most recently chairing the Compelling Vision Process Team.

Ordained in the Church of the Brethren, Rhonda is a graduate of Bridgewater College, Bethany Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities (D.Min.).

Rhonda and her family live in Minneapolis and attend Open Circle Church of the Brethren.

**Brethren Academy for
Ministerial Leadership**

615 National Road W
Richmond, IN 47374
800-287-8822 x1824
765-983-1824
academy@
bethanyseminary.edu

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**Course Withdrawal Refund
Policy**

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

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

Epperly, Bruce G. and Katherine Gould Epperly. *Tending to the Holy: The Practice of the Presence of God in Ministry* (The Alban Institute, 2009). 196 pages. ISBN 978-1-56699-391-3.

Miller, Renee. *Strength for the Journey: A Guide to Spiritual Practice* (Morehouse Publishing, 2011). 134 pages. ISBN 978-0-8192-2746-1.

Roxburgh, Alan J. *Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World: The New Shape of Church in Our Time* (Morehouse Publishing, 2015). 111 pages. ISBN 978-0-8192-3211-3.

Selected chapters, articles, and/or on-line resources as assigned.

In addition, each student will choose and read a book from each of two selected lists: one focusing on the spiritual needs of a particular population in the church and another focusing on a specific spiritual practice.

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

Nurturing Vital Spirituality in a Changing World; January 22-March 17, 2020

[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: \$300 payable to Brethren Academy Registration Deadline: December 18, 2019