

The Scroll

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

Fall 2019

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A Place of Refuge: Ministry in an Urban Context January 6-16, 2020, Atlanta, Georgia

In this joint travel intensive with Bethany Theological Seminary, students will encounter questions unique to urban ministry in one of the most impoverished neighborhoods of Atlanta, Georgia. Designed to be an immersion experience, this course will be both hands-on and reflective as students explore a variety of styles and strategies for addressing the complex issues of ministry in large urban contexts. The focus will be on ministries of care dedicated to the goals Jesus outlined in Matthew 25.

Joshua Brockway will be the Academy instructor for this course. Josh is the director of spiritual formation and co-coordinator for Discipleship Ministries of the Church of the Brethren. He holds a PhD in church history from The Catholic University of America and has served in ministry in Indiana and the city of Atlanta.

Housing will be in dormitory-style accommodations provided on the campus of City of Refuge Ministries®.

Students will travel to Atlanta on January 6, 2020. Class sessions are planned for January 7 through January 15. Students can plan to arrange for return travel on either the evening of January 15 or on January 16. The Brethren Academy will provide a travel stipend of up to \$300 for Academy students to offset travel costs, reimbursement upon submission of travel receipts



Instructor: Josh Brockway

For TRIM students, successful completion of this course will earn two Academy-level units in Ministry/Ministry Skills studies and complete the requirements for both the Bethany Seminary Experience and Ecumenical Experience. Credentialed clergy will earn two continuing education credits (2.0 CEUs). There are five (5) spots available for Brethren Academy students.

Reflecting on the 2018 course, Bethany alumna Karen Duhai, MDiv and MA, said, "Bethany's Atlanta intensive takes students out of the classroom and puts them in a real, urban ministry context where ministry is complicated, messy, challenging and hard, but also beautiful, sacred, and hopeful."

TRIM/EFM Orientation 2019

During our 2019 orientation, held July 30 to August 1, the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership joyfully welcomed five new TRIM students and two new EFSM students. The two-and-a-half days at Bethany Seminary were filled with worship, classroom experiences, and collegial relationship building. Districts represented include Mid-Atlantic, Shenandoah, and Atlantic Southeast. The students began two classes: Introduction to Biblical Studies and Introduction to Spiritual Discernment. Blessings to these new students as they begin their exciting journey!



Front: Nohemi Flores, PSW; Ken George, MATL; Michaela Alphonse, ASE
Back: Dylan Rinehart, MATL; Stewart Lentz, MATL; Charles Estep, SHEN; Marcus Harden, ASE
Photo: Jenny Williams

Strength for the Journey

Whether the journey is rocky or the journey runs smoothly, set-apart ministers need ongoing sustenance and strength. Bearing this in mind, four clergywomen gathered at the end of June to begin the Strength for the Journey program, a continuing education opportunity that invites clergy to support each other, deepen their spiritual lives, and grow in ministerial capabilities. This particular cohort is focusing on women in ministry who are seeking to establish healthy practices (spiritual, emotional, physical, and professional) while naming and exploring the growing edges and strengths in one another. Over the next three years, the group will participate in three retreats, regular conference calls, and the study of shared resources.

Strength for the Journey cohorts may gather around a number of different ministries. If you are an ordained or commissioned minister and have interest in being part of a cohort focusing on a specific demographic or aspect of ministry, please contact Janet Ober Lambert, director of the Brethren Academy.



Upcoming Brethren Academy-Level Courses

Courses for continuing education (2 CEUs), personal enrichment, or TRIM/EFSM credit

Register and pay for courses online:
www.bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy
or contact academy@bethanyseminary.edu or 765-983-1824.

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

There are five (5) spots available for Brethren Academy students.

Nurturing Vital Spirituality in 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

Nurturing Vital Spirituality in a Changing World

**January 22–March 17, 2020
Online**

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. In this course, students will explore these concepts and practices of individual, congregational, and communal Christian spirituality.



Instructor: Rhonda Pittman Gingrich

Please do not purchase texts or make travel plans until the registration deadline has passed and you have received a course confirmation.

For TRIM/EFSM Students Only: BCE – Brethren College/Connections Experience, BTS – Bethany Experience, IE-Intercultural/Interfaith/Ecumenical Experience, BT-Bible/Theology, MS –Ministry/Ministry Skills, FCR-Fulfills Curricular Requirement]

Próximos cursos de SeBAH

Los instructores Dan Ulrich y Otto Kladensky Jr. impartirán los próximos dos cursos para el Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano de la Iglesia de Los Hermanos.

El Dr. Ulrich, el Profesor Wieand de Estudios del Nuevo Testamento, Seminario Teológico Bethany, enseñará El Evangelio de Mateo del 7 de octubre al 15 de diciembre. Ofrece la siguiente descripción del curso:

El evangelio según Mateo tiene una importancia muy grande en la historia de la iglesia, incluyendo la Iglesia de los Hermanos. Este evangelio testifica acerca de la autoridad de Jesús como el hijo de Dios y el mesías prometido a Israel. Ha motivado la misión para hacer discípulos de todas las naciones, y ha sido una fuente importantísima de instrucción para el discipulado. Enseñanzas como el sermón del monte (capítulos 5-7), el discurso sobre humildad y reconciliación en la comunidad (capítulo 18), y la parábola de las ovejas y los cabritos (25.31-46) han tenido una importancia especial en la Iglesia de los Hermanos. Las enseñanzas de Jesús según Mateo nos guían en el camino estrecho hacia la vida.

El Sr. Kladensky, un graduado de MATH del Seminario Bethany que desarrolla el liderazgo pastoral en toda América Latina, enseñará Vitalidad de la Iglesia y Evangelismo de enero a marzo. Fechas exactas que se anunciarán. El objetivo del curso es el siguiente:

Guiar al alumno a través de los elementos básicos del mandato bíblico para la evangelización y también hacer un análisis de su trabajo evangelístico, a fin de adquirir nuevas habilidades para que el alumno pueda ponerlas en práctica a favor de la vitalidad de la iglesia.

Estos cursos están abiertos a estudiantes que buscan créditos SeBAH, así como a clérigos que buscan créditos de educación continua. Ambos cursos se impartirán íntegramente en español. Para inscribirse en uno o ambos cursos, comuníquese con la Academia de Hermanos.

Upcoming SeBAH Courses

Instructors Dan Ulrich and Otto Kladensky Jr. will teach the next two courses for Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano de la Iglesia de Los Hermanos.

Dr. Ulrich, Wieand Professor of New Testament Studies at Bethany Theological Seminary, will teach The Gospel of Matthew October 7- December 15 and offers the following course description:

The gospel according to Matthew has a very great importance in the history of the church, including the Church of the Brethren. This gospel testifies about the authority of Jesus as the son of God and the messiah promised to Israel. It has motivated the mission to make disciples of all nations, and it has been a very important source of instruction for discipleship. Teachings such as the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7), the discourse on humility and reconciliation in the community (chapter 18), and the parable of the sheep and goats (25.31-46) have had a special importance in the Church of Brethren. The teachings of Jesus according to Matthew guide us on the narrow path to life.

Mr. Kladensky, a MATH graduate from Bethany Seminary who develops pastoral leadership throughout Latin America, will teach Church Vitality and Evangelism January through March; exact dates will be announced. The course objective is as follows:

To guide the student through the basic elements of the biblical mandate for evangelization and also to make an analysis of his/her evangelistic work in order to acquire new skills so that the student can put them into practice in favor of the vitality of the church.

These courses are open to students seeking SeBAH credit as well as to clergy seeking continuing education credits. Both courses will be taught entirely in Spanish. To register for one or both courses, contact the Brethren Academy.

Coming Changes to Academy Fees

In January 2020, the Brethren Academy will introduce three new aspects to our fee structure. First, annual participation fees will become session-based fees, billed twice a year rather than once. Second, we will put a cap on enrollment fees for the team track of Education for Shared Ministry (EFSM) and Educación para un Ministerio Compartido (EPMC). Third, we will institute small fee increases for some of our programs. All of this will be done in an effort to keep the Academy's programs viable while also addressing the financial realities of our students, congregations and districts.

Billing participation fees twice a year, January and July, will provide a cost break for students who complete their programs partway through the year. A student is considered completed when they have finished, submitted, and received evaluations on *all* of their coursework, experiences, and paperwork, including the exit exam. At that stage of the program, a student will receive an official letter of completion from the Brethren Academy. If that letter is issued by June 30, that student will not be billed in July. Students who complete by December 31 will not be billed in January. Districts will be billed twice a year as well, with the option of splitting each session payment into two.

Another area that will be addressed in January is the enrollment fees for students applying to the team track of the EFSM or EPMC programs. Currently, each student pays a \$360 enrollment fee regardless of the number of students in the team. Beginning in January 2020, the Academy will cap that enrollment fee at \$1,000, regardless of how many students enroll from one congregation.

Finally, several small fee increases will be introduced in January 2020. These will be the first fee increases for TRIM, EFSM and EPMC in three years. While the Academy has tried to hold steady as long as possible, the cost of offering our programs—instructors, resources, administration and technical support—have made these increases necessary. The new fee schedule is as follows:

TRIM One-Time Enrollment Fee	\$360 per student
TRIM Yearly Student Fee	\$225 per student *
TRIM Yearly District Fee	\$245 per student*
TRIM Course Registration Fee	\$300 per student per course
Directed Independent Study Fee	\$115 per student
EFSM/EPMC One-time Enrollment Fee	\$360 per student (capped at \$1,000)
EFSM/EPMC Yearly Congregational Fee	\$245 1-3 students, \$355 4-6 students*
EFSM/EPMC Yearly District Fee	\$245 1-3 students, \$355 4-6 students*
SeBAH One-Time Enrollment Fee	\$55 per student
SeBAH Course Registration Fee	\$350 per student per course

**Fees will be billed in two parts, half in January and half in July.*

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.

Ventures in Christian Discipleship



Below is a listing of upcoming continuing education events offered through the Ventures in Christian Discipleship program. For more information, please visit the website listed below.

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

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

Examining the Disconnect between Society and the Environment
February 29, 2020; presenter: Dustin Wilgers

Creation Care and the Gospel of John
March 21, 2020; presenter: Dan Ulrich

Nurturing the Spirit of the Child without Squelching the Spirit
April 18, 2020; presenter: Rhonda Pittman Gingrich

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



Clergy Tax Seminar

Saturday, January 25, 2020

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is once again offering a clergy tax seminar. Students, pastors, and other church leaders are invited to participate in this online seminar. Pastors can earn 0.3 CEUs for the morning session

The annual Clergy Tax Seminar will consist of two sessions:

- Session 1, from 10:00am to 1:00pm EST, will focus on the rules surrounding Clergy Tax Returns, including who is subject to these rules, what income is subject to tax, and how to reduce total tax liability using various methods, including housing allowance, business expenses, and medical reimbursement plans. The court case around the housing allowance will also be discussed. Credit for 0.3 CEUs will be available for attending Session 1 only.
- In Session 2, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm EST, participants will complete a clergy tax return using H&R Block's highest tier (Premium and Business) downloadable software.

This seminar is highly recommended for all pastors and other church leaders who wish to understand clergy taxes, including treasurers, steward commission chairs, and church board chairs.

Seminar Schedule

- 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. EST: Morning session (.3 CEUs for the morning)
- 1:00-1:30 p.m. EST: Lunch on your own
- 1:30-3:30 p.m. EST: Afternoon session (No CEUs)

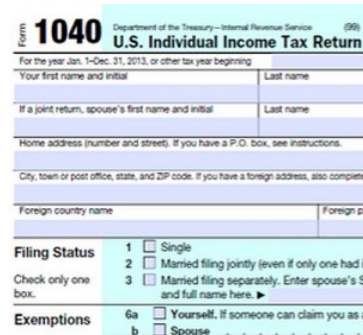
Registration and Cost

Registration is \$40 per person (generally nonrefundable to keep fees and overhead low). Current Bethany, TRIM/EFSM/SeBAH, and Earlham School of Religion students may attend the seminar at no cost, although registration is still required to reserve space and will allow us to provide you with web access to the seminar; instructions and handouts will be sent a few days prior to the event.

Registrations are not complete until payment is received. Prompt registration is advised—**registration deadline is January 15, 2020**. Register at bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/clergy-tax-seminar/.



Deb Oskin has been doing clergy tax returns since 1989, when her husband left seminary to pastor a small rural COB congregation. As a pastor's wife and later as a tax professional, she learned the tax problems and pitfalls associated with the IRS's identification of clergy as "hybrid employees." In 2011, after twelve years with H&R Block, Deb left to start her own tax practice, specializing in clergy taxes. Clergy clients now make up 75 percent of her client base.



Form 1040 Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service (99)
U.S. Individual Income Tax Return
For the year Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2013, or other tax year beginning
Your first name and initial Last name
If a joint return, spouse's first name and initial Last name
Home address (number and street); if you have a P.O. box, see instructions.
City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. If you have a foreign address, also complete
Foreign country name Foreign pr
Filing Status 1 Single
2 Married filing jointly (even if only one had ir
Check only one 3 Married filing separately. Enter spouse's S
box. and full name here. ▶
Exemptions 6a Yourself, if someone can claim you as a
b Spouse

A Letter from Roxanne Aguirre

Roxanne Aguirre, coordinator of Spanish-language ministry training programs, concluded her ministry with the Brethren Academy on August 30, 2019.

Roxanne brought to the Academy a deep love for the Hispanic church and for theological education. Her passion for both made her ideal for this role. During her time with us, Roxanne helped Educación Para un Ministerio Compartido (EPMC) grow, leading orientation weekends for churches in California and Nevada. This summer, at Annual Conference, Roxanne was able to recognize the Academy's first EPMC graduate. And when the first students in Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano de la Iglesia de Los Hermanos (SeBAH-COB) graduate next summer, it will be a credit to Roxanne's encouragement and mentoring. We are grateful for her ministry.

The following is Roxanne's letter to her students, ministry partners, and all those who help us in the Spanish-language training programs.

- Janet Ober Lambert, Director

It with some sadness that I am writing to inform you that as of August 30, 2019, I will be done with my time as coordinator of Spanish-language ministry training programs.

The decision to leave my position was not an easy one to make. After prayer, reflection, and discernment, I have determined the best thing for me and my family is for me to focus on my personal health and working full-time to help provide for my family's needs.

I have learned so much about ministry, the Church of the Brethren, and the Latino church by doing this job. I have also met many wonderful people and I was able to provide training and preaching in Spanish during EPMC weekends.

This position allowed to me to travel to Annual Conference and meet many of you in person.

My hope is to return to ministry work and continue my theological education when my health is better and my family's needs are different. My personal email is Aguirre.rox@gmail.com. Please feel free to contact me if you ever need anything that I am able to do.

*Many blessings to you all,
Roxanne Gaxiola Aguirre*

Estimados estudiantes, socios del ministerio y todos los que nos ayudan en los programas de capacitación en español,

Con cierta tristeza les escribo para informarles que a partir del 30 de agosto de 2019, habré terminado con mi tiempo como coordinadora de programas de entrenamiento ministerial en Español.

La decisión de dejar mi puesto no fue fácil de tomar. Después de la oración, la reflexión, y el discernimiento, he determinado que lo mejor para mí y mi familia es concentrarme en mi salud personal y trabajar a tiempo completo para ayudar a satisfacer las necesidades de mi familia.

He aprendido mucho sobre el ministerio, la Iglesia de los Hermanos y la iglesia latina haciendo este trabajo. También conocí a muchas personas maravillosas y pude brindar capacitación y predicación en español durante los fines de semana de EPMC.

Esta posición me permitió viajar a la Conferencia Anual y conocer a muchos de ustedes en persona.

Mi deseo es volver al trabajo del ministerio y continuar mi educación teológica cuando mi salud mejore y las necesidades de mi familia sean diferentes. Mi correo electrónico personal es Aguirre.rox@gmail.com. No duden en ponerse en contacto conmigo si alguna vez necesita algo en que les puedo ayudar.

*Muchas bendiciones a todos,
Roxanne Gaxiola Aguirre*

Director's Page

Mindful of the recent passing of Warren Groff, the fifth president of Bethany Theological Seminary, I dedicate this page to his memory and accomplishments, particularly those that were foundational for the Brethren Academy of Ministerial Leadership.

During Dr. Groff's presidency (1975-89), Bethany launched two programs which have become the flagships of the Brethren Academy. Education for Shared Ministry (EFSM) was introduced in 1977 to train gifted lay leaders of small congregations who had not completed college and were, therefore, not eligible for seminary. With a focus on serious academic work as well as helping congregations find their voice and vision, EFSM graduated forty-one ministers by 1989.



Following the success of EFSM, Training in Ministry (TRIM) was established in 1984. TRIM was designed as a program for second-career students who had completed at least some college credit. Among its graduates, TRIM can count numerous pastors, chaplains, denominational leaders, and at least one Annual Conference moderator and one Bethany professor.

From the beginning, EFSM and TRIM were established as partnerships between Bethany Theological Seminary and the Church of the Brethren Parish Ministries. Today, these programs are administrated by Brethren Academy yet still sponsored by that same partnership.

Dr. Groff died this past June. Yet, his gifts still bless us in many ways. We here at the Brethren Academy are grateful for the way these gifts have touched our lives. On behalf of our alumni, our students, and all those whom they serve, we say "Thank you, Dr. Groff."

Janet Ober Lambert

Historical information for this article is from Bethany Theological Seminary: A Centennial History, written by William Kostlevy with additional material by Eugene A. Roop, published by Bethany Theological Seminary and Brethren Journal Association, 2005, pp 163-66.



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



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