



The Scroll

Notes and News from the
Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

Summer 2020

Congratulations to the 2020 Graduates of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

Each of these students will receive their certificate during celebrations within their districts and be recognized at the Bethany Theological Seminary/Brethren Academy Luncheon at the Annual Conference 2021.

Cada uno de estos estudiantes recibirán sus certificados durante la celebración dentro de sus distritos y serán reconocidos en la Conferencia Anual 2021 en el Almuerzo del Seminario Teológico de Bethany/Academia de los Hermanos.

Training in Ministry (TRIM)

Robert Eugene Hollenberg, Northern Indiana

Kristie D. Prejean, Southern Plains

Ernest B. Shoemaker, Virlina

Mike Trott, Mid-Atlantic

Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano de la Iglesia de Los Hermanos (SeBAH-COB)

Arlyn Morales, Atlantic Northeast

Mayra Calix, Atlantic Northeast

Nertha Castro, Atlantic Northeast

Egda Franco, Atlantic Northeast

Aida Sanchez, Atlantic Southeast

Rebeca Zapata, Pacific Southwest

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:3-6, NRSV

Congratulations!

SPOTLIGHT ON UPCOMING COURSES

**Spiritual Practices for Ministry
online, M/MS credit or 2 CEUs
September 9-November 3, 2020**

In the midst of hectic lives, it's not easy to "be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10). Spiritual practices help ministers and congregations learn how to stop and notice God in everything they do.

During this class, **instructor Reba Herder** will guide students in exploring the following: what it means to pray without ceasing, ways to creatively honor the Sabbath, what the Bible says about spiritual practices, spiritual practices for different learning styles, how we get in the way of our relationship with God, and how spiritual practices can help congregations thrive.

As a result, students will gain a deeper theological basis for spiritual practices while developing the tools and experience needed to encourage spiritual growth within their ministry context.



Reba Herder

**Introduction to Hebrew Scripture
online, B/T credit or 2 CEUs
October 14-December 8, 2020**

While the Church of the Brethren has long held the New Testament as its focus, the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible is the basis of much of the New Testament's faith. In this course, **instructor Matt Boersma** will support students as they work through the various books of the Hebrew Bible and look at their ancient context. We will attempt to better understand how these books interact and how they influence the New Testament texts. We will also look at a number of modern theories about these texts and how these theories influence how these books are read today.

Students will: Critically analyze the text of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible; Identify and describe elements of the surrounding culture(s) informing the text of the Hebrew Bible; Interpret Hebrew Bible passages using the biblical text, scholarly commentaries, academic articles, and other external sources; and use this meaning from the text to a modern ministry-related application.



Matt Boersma

A Place of Refuge: Ministry in an Urban Context:

Eleven students (4 TRIM, 6 Bethany, 1 Continuing Education) took part in a ten-day immersion experience in urban ministry this past January. The course took place in Atlanta, GA where the

students and their instructors were hosted by staff and residents of the *City of Refuge*
<https://cityofrefugeatl.org/>.



This photo was taken following Sunday morning worship at Ebenezer Baptist Church, the home congregation of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Pictured left to right: Julia Wheeler, John Fillmore, Hope Staton, Dan Poole, Richard Wehrle, Jody Romero, Michelle Leonard, Vivek Solanky, Kim Therrien, Eric Kauffman, Jim Therrien, Janet Ober Lambert, and Blaine Miner

Education for Shared Ministry Kick-Off Weekend Miami First Church of the Brethren

Carrie Eikler, coordinator of English-language Ministry Training Programs, had the special delight of joining the Miami First Church of the Brethren in January. Miami First is the newest EFSM Congregation (Education for Shared Ministry) with the Brethren Academy. Kayla Alphonse, along with four members of the congregation, will embark on a three-year training program to empower and enhance the work and ministry of Miami First. Joining the team is Founa Badet of Miami Haitian Church of the Brethren. Founa will be the Supervising Pastor for Kayla and will assist the group in the EFSM program. Blessings to the Miami First congregation as they start this exciting new opportunity!



Pictured from left to right:

Founa Augustin-Badet
Shirley Encarnacion
Rick Davis
Renee Davis
Kayla Alphonse

Coping with COVID-19

Regular readers of *The Scroll* may have noted that there was no Spring issue this year. Like the rest of world, we have been coping with the pandemic. The current crisis has meant adapting some of our events and postponing others. It has also meant adding some new offerings to support our students and alumni. Below is a short list of the ways we have been engaged.

- * The onsite course *Faith and Science* moved to Zoom in late April.
- * A two-part webinar, *The Impact of COVID-19 on Pastoral Care*, was offered by Debbie Eisenbise in May.
- * Carrie Eikler provided a weekly student drop-in via Zoom during the month of April.
- * Academy staff provided support for Bethany's weekly Zoom call with clergy, *Ministering to Ministers*.
- * Academy staff helped to create a resource page for clergy on the Bethany Seminary website: <https://bethanyseminary.edu/covid-19-resource-list/>
- * Plans have been made to adapt this summer's TRIM/EFSM Orientation to a Zoom format.
- * The Directed Independent Study, *The Reward of Risk: Church Planting and Revitalization Emerging in Today's Current Dynamics*, has been postponed until May 2021.
- * The *Strength for the Journey* Clergywomen's June retreat was postponed. The cohort continues to meet via Zoom.
- * The Directed Independent Study, *Interpreting 1 Corinthians for the Twenty-First Century Church*, has been postponed until July 2021.
- * The annual, in-person celebration of the Academy 2020 graduates has been postponed until Annual Conference 2021. However, graduates have been recognized online and in print by the Academy, Bethany Seminary and the Church of the Brethren INC.



Introducing Aida Lymaris Sánchez

Greetings,

My name is Aida Lymaris Sánchez. I was born and raised in Puerto Rico where I met my beloved husband, Julio E. Colón. I have three beautiful children: Jayson (23), Bryan (18), and Keyshlian. (15).



In 2006, my family and I made the decision to move to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. There we were blessed to meet Pastor Fausto and Mercedes Carrasco. We became members of Nuevo Amanecer Church of the Brethren (COB) where the Carrascos served as pastors. They helped us grow and develop spiritually as they led us to know the Church of the Brethren in depth. Not long after, my husband and I were called to serve as co-pastors of the local church. In 2011, we joined the ministry training program SeBAH-COB (Hispanic Anabaptist Biblical Seminary). I thank God that I was able to complete SeBAH; and on February 22, 2020, I received my ordination. In Bethlehem, we served for 11 years. When Pastor Fausto and Mercedes Carrasco were called to serve as church planters in Florida, we decided to move to Florida to help them with this project. We've been living in this state for three years.

In addition to serving in different ministerial areas, I would like to mention with great joy that today I have the opportunity to work directly with both the staff and the students of the SeBAH-COB program! I am very grateful to have been a student in this program from which I learned a lot, met wonderful teachers and at the same time, shared with good ministry colleagues who have been part of SeBAH.

Finally, I encourage you to expand your ministerial knowledge by being part of our training programs which will be a blessing for your lives.

A strong hug,

Aida L. Sánchez

Coordinator of Spanish-Language Ministry Training Programs

sanchai@bethanyseminary.edu

[765.983.1821](tel:765.983.1821)

Introduciendo Aida Lymaris Sánchez

Saludos,

Mi nombre es Aida Lymaris Sánchez. Nací y fui criada en Puerto Rico lugar donde conocí a mi amado esposo Julio E. Colón. Tengo tres hermosos: Jayson (23), Bryan (18) y Keyshlian (15).



En el 2006 mi familia y yo tomamos la decisión de mudarnos a Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Allí tuvimos la bendición de conocer a los pastores Fausto y Mercedes Carrasco. Nos hicimos miembros de la Iglesia de los Hermanos Nuevo Amanecer donde los pastores Carrasco nos ayudaron a crecer y a desarrollarnos espiritualmente mientras nos encaminaban a conocer con profundidad la Iglesia de los Hermanos. No mucho tiempo después, nos nombraron co-pastores de la Iglesia local a mi esposo y a mí. En el 2011 fuimos licenciados seguido entramos al SeBAH-COB (Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano), un programa de entrenamiento ministerial de la Iglesia de los Hermanos. Le dio gracias a Dios que pude completar SeBAH-COB y en febrero 22, 2020 recibí mi Ordenación. En Bethlehem servimos por 11 años. Luego, los pastores Fausto y Mercedes Carrasco fueron llamados a servir como plantadores en Florida y nosotros decidimos mudarnos a Florida para ayudarles en este proyecto. Llevamos tres años residiendo en este estado sirviendo como líderes en la Iglesia de los Hermanos Nuevo Comienzo.

Además de servir en diferentes áreas ministeriales, con gran gozo quiero mencionar que hoy tengo la oportunidad de trabajar directamente tanto con el personal como con los estudiantes del programa de SeBAH-COB. Estoy muy agradecida el haber sido una de las estudiantes de este programa de la cual aprendí muchísimo, conocí maravillosos profesores y a la vez compartí con buenos colegas de ministerio los cuales también forman o formaron parte de SeBAH-COB.

En fin, les animo a que amplíen sus conocimientos ministeriales formando parte de nuestros programas de entrenamiento la cual será de bendición para sus vidas.

Un fuerte abrazo,

Aida L. Sánchez

Coordinadora de Programas de Entrenamiento Ministerial en Español

sanchai@bethanyseminary.edu

765.983.1821

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.

Summer/Fall 2020

Spiritual Practices for Ministry, online

September 9– November 3, 2020

Instructor: Reba Herder

(credits: MS)

Registration Deadline: August 4, 2020

Introduction to Hebrew Scriptures, online

October 14-December 8, 2020

Instructor: Matt Boersma

(credits: BT, FCR)

Registration Deadline: September 9, 2020

Church of the Brethren Polity and Practice

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center

October 23-24 and November 13-14, 2020

Instructor: Randy Yoder

(credits: MS)

Registration Deadline: September 30, 2020

Introduction to Theopoetics; intensive*

Bethany Theological Seminary

November 20-22, 2020

Instructor: Scott Holland

(credits: BT, BTS)

Registration Deadline: October 16, 2020

*location subject to change

Winter/Spring 2021

Elements of Preaching, onsite intensive

Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, IN

January 11-15, 2021

Instructor: Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm

(credits: MS, BTS)

Registration Deadline: December 9, 2020

Now the Silence, Now the Song:

Congregational Worship, online

February 3-March 30, 2021

Instructor: Lee-Lani Wright

(credits: MS)

Registration Deadline: December 17, 2020

Introduction to Pastoral Care, onsite intensive

Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, IN

DATE TBD

Instructor: Debbie Eisenbise

(credits: MS, BTS)

Registration Deadline: TBD

Church of the Brethren Polity, online

March 10-May 4, 2021

Multivocational Ministry, online

April 7-June 1, 2021

The Reward of Risk: Church Planting and Revitalization Emerging in Today's Current Dynamics, onsite DISU

COB General Offices, Elgin, IL

Directed Independent Study in conjunction with Church Planting Conference,

Date: May 12-14, 2021

COMING: Summer/Fall 2021

The Church in 1 Corinthians: Challenges for Today, onsite DISU

Greensboro, North Carolina

Directed Independent Study in conjunction with Ministers Association Pre-Conference Event

Rev. 6/9/20

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]

Two ACTS Programs Recertified

The Academy Certified Training Systems (ACTS) of both the Christian Growth Institute (CGI) and the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center (SVMC) have been recertified by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. These two programs were the first of their kind and, together, represent 7 districts: Atlantic Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southern PA, Middle PA, Western PA, Shenandoah and Virlina.

ACTS programs provide district-based, in-person ministry training. To be certified, each program must meet standards developed by the Brethren Academy in partnership with Bethany Seminary and the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry. Like all Academy training programs, ACTS combine academic work, experiences in church life, and ministry formation. ACTS programs are considered for recertification every five years.

Transcripts for Brethren Academy Students

The Brethren Academy makes it a practice to send current students copies of their transcripts during the academic year. Academy graduates who need a copy of their transcript may request one by completing the fillable "Transcript Request Form" and sending it to our office. The form is located on the Academy webpages under "Frequently Used Forms": <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/>. There is no transcript fee for Academy graduates. The Brethren Academy will not release copies of a graduate's transcripts without the graduate's written permission.

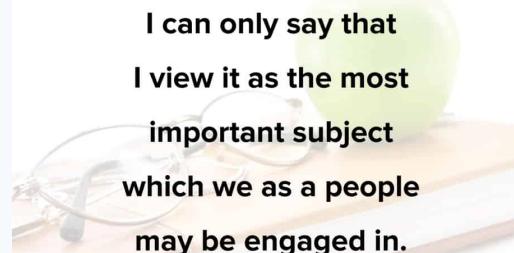
Graduate Courses for Academy Credit

On occasion, Academy students wish to enroll in Bethany courses for Academy credit. To do this, Academy students need to take the following steps:

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 meaningful participation
 - completing reduced assignments that may be required by the instructor

Students interested in taking a Bethany course for Academy credit may contact Janet Ober Lambert, Director of the Brethren Academy, at oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu.

Upon the subject of education ...



I can only say that
I view it as the most
important subject
which we as a people
may be engaged in.

Abraham Lincoln

EVERYDAY POWER

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.

Events Offered by the Church of the Brethren INC

<http://www.brethren.org/webcasts/>

There is no 'should' in social media

June 16, 2020; 5:00 PM PDT/ 8:00 PM EDT
Led by Jan Fischer Bachman.

With congregations unable to meet in person, you may feel pressured by the technology and skills that you feel you "ought" to have. This webinar will ask you to consider your "why," focusing on skills and assets you already have and the needs of your group. We will look at some of the most popular social media tools, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube, with practical tips on setting up, scheduling, and using them.

Registration link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HfmP5L10T0iNIU11BYcGMw

Ventures in Christian Discipleship

SPECIAL Ventures Course: Tuesday, July 7 from 6:30pm – 8:00pm (Central)

Brethren in the Age of Pandemic: A century ago and today

What happened to the Brethren a century ago, and what lessons can we learn as we redefine what it means for us to be the church? This special hour and a half Ventures course will explore the history of Brethren in times of pandemic.

Presenter Frank Ramirez is a pastor and a prolific writer, well known for his feature "Out of Context" in the *Guide For Biblical Studies*.

To register, click here.

Please check the Ventures website for more information about CEU credit and for their upcoming season of webinars: [Ventures in Christian Discipleship](#).

SAVE THE DATE:

A free Zoom webinar from the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership:

**Thursday, August 13, 2020
7 pm - 8 pm (Eastern)**

Defining Set-Apart Ministry Within the Multivocational Reality

Exploring the special rewards and challenges of pastoral ministry in a multivocational context.

Presenter: Sandra Jenkins is the pastor of Constance Church of the Brethren in Hebron, Kentucky, a full-time teacher and a regular instructor for the Brethren Academy.

Director's Page

Dear Friends,

In this season of change, the Brethren Academy has been very happy to celebrate something new. That is, *someone* new. In March, we added to our team Aida Lymaris Sánchez as the new Coordinator for Spanish-Language Ministry Training Programs. Aida joined us just before the nation shut down and has been working steadily to familiarize herself with the Academy's programs, partners, students, faculty, and staff. She is using her time well!



Aida will oversee two Spanish-Language training programs, Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano de la Iglesia de Los Hermanos (SeBAH-COB) and Educación para un Ministerio Compartido (EPMC). SeBAH-COB offers academic courses taught online by Mennonite and Brethren instructors. EPMC provides congregationally based, independent study under the supervision of seasoned pastors. Each program includes experiences in church life at the local, district and denominational level.

Aida has written an introduction to herself which can be found on pages 5 and 6. I encourage to you to read it and to reach out to Aida to make her feel welcome.

Through all of life's changes, God is ever faithful.

With gratitude,

Janet Ober Lambert



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



Administrative Assistant

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

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

**Coordinator of Spanish-Language
Ministry Training Programs**
Aida Sánchez
765-983-1821
sanchai@bethanyseminary.edu