



# *The Scroll*

Notes and News from the  
Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

Fall 2020

## **TRIM Orientation 2020**

Everyone has been rethinking ministry, work life, family, and church since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. While much of the work of BAML continued (thanks to our largely online course offerings), we did have to shift our thinking when it came to the new student orientation 2020!

This year six students gathered from coast-to-coast for an abbreviated Zoom-based orientation and introduction to the TRIM program. While meeting via Zoom doesn't capture the depth of what we accomplish during a traditional orientation, the good humor, patience, and openness of this new class made it a successful gathering. The 2020 student cohort will plan to join the new 2021 students on campus at Bethany next July to meet and deepen their work and relationship together.

The 2020 student cohort includes: Troy Barnhart (MPA), Daniel Klayton (PNW), Shana Leck (WPLNS), Heather Manalo (SOY/KY), Eric Poteat (MPA), and Josiah Reimold (ANE).

Welcome new TRIM students!



Top: Troy Barnhart (MPA), Carrie Eikler (Academy staff), Daniel Klayton (PNW)  
Middle: Shana Leck (WPLNS) Eric Poteat (MPA), Heather Manalo (SOH/KY)  
Bottom: Josiah Reimold (ANE)

## SPOTLIGHT ON UPCOMING COURSES

### **Introduction to Theopoetics** **November 20-22, 2020, Zoom Intensive**

At a time in the church and broader culture when many are confessing that they are more “spiritual than religious,” there is a welcome turning from theo-logics to theopoetics. Since the scriptures are filled with poems, songs, prayers, stories and confessions of faith, theopoets ask why so much modern theology is heavy with doctrines and systems. *Instructor Scott Holland* will lead this course in studying poetry, but will also examine how narratives, confessions, music, art and other creative expressions of faith and life help us name ourselves and render God’s name in history.



Scott Holland

### **Elements of Preaching** **January 11-15 and 18, 2021, Zoom intensive**



Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm

Sermon preparation and preaching are major components of the life of ministry – not only pastors, but for all who offer themselves in public service, speaking of God with and for others. Study, prayer, writing, and the presentation of our insights and stories are all part of an integrative process that can enrich our spirits and enliven others. They are also practices that may be learned (for the novice) and honed (for the more seasoned preacher/speaker). *Instructor Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm* will guide the class through readings, lectures, discussions, and assignments, as students learn the art and practice of preparing and presenting sermons for diverse settings and ministries.

### **Church of the Brethren Polity** **March 10-May 4, 2021, Online**

To speak about polity is to explore how groups are organized and governed. In the Church of the Brethren, polity is intertwined with our history, practices, and 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, we will engage the current and past polity of the Church of the Brethren in order to understand how it has, and continues to, shape “another way of living.”



Torin Eikler

## SeBAH Noticias / SeBAH News

Entendiendo que la vida de la iglesia en general depende de la estabilidad, la visión, el compromiso y de la preparación ministerial bajo la guía del Espíritu Santo, La Academia de Los Hermanos para el Liderazgo Ministerial ofrece el programa de EPMC para entrenar a todos aquellos que desean poner por obra en su Iglesia local los dones que Dios le ha dado.

El programa EPMC, Educación para un Ministerio Compartido, nace del programa EFSM (Education for a Shared Ministry). El EPMC es un programa de capacitación ministerial congregacional para personas de habla hispana de la Iglesia de los Hermanos. Este programa le ofrece la oportunidad a cada estudiante del ministerio educarse de una forma más flexible mientras les permite a los estudiantes a trabajar en equipo con personas laicas. ¿Quiénes califican? Congregaciones que desean formar un equipo ministerial, aquellos que desean ejercer un ministerio especializado y ministros multivocacionales que buscan aprender juntamente con personas laicas de su iglesia.

El equipo que trabajará bajo el programa de EPMC, se llama Grupo de Entrenamiento Congregacional (GEC) y se compone de uno o varios Ministros en Entrenamiento (MeE), varias Personas Laicas en Entrenamiento (PLE) y un pastor Supervisor. Juntos planificarán, apoyarán y ayudarán al o los Ministros en Entrenamiento (MeE) durante su proceso educativo.

Nuestro mayor ejemplo lo vimos en Jesús quien tenía el poder y la capacidad de hacer todas las cosas a solas sin embargo, escogió doce formando un equipo ministerial preparándolos a ser parte de la expansión del Reino de los Cielos. Y tú,

¿Qué estas esperando?

Aida L. Sánchez  
 Coordinadora de Programas de Entrenamiento  
 Ministerial en Español  
 Coordinator of Spanish-Language Ministry  
 Training Programs  
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 765.983.1821

Understanding that the life of the church in general depends on the stability, the vision, the commitment, and the ministerial preparation under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership offers the EPMC program to train all those who wish to put to work in their local church the gifts that God has given them.



Aida Sánchez

The EPMC program (Educación para un Ministerio Compartido) was born from the EFSM program (Education for a Shared Ministry). The EPMC is a congregational ministerial training program for Spanish-speaking people in the Church of the Brethren. This program gives each ministry student the opportunity to educate themselves more flexibly while working with a team of lay leaders. Who qualifies? Congregations that wish to form a ministerial team, those who wish to pursue a specialized ministry, and multivocational ministers seeking to learn alongside the lay people in their church.

The team that will work under the EPMC program is called the Congregational Training Group (GEC) and consists of one or more Ministers in Training (MeE), several Lay People in Training (PLE), and a Supervising Pastor. Together they will plan, support, and assist the Ministers in Training (MeE) during their educational process.

Our greatest example was seen in Jesus who had the power and ability to do all things alone, yet he chose twelve by forming a ministerial team preparing them to be part of the expansion of the Kingdom of Heaven.

What are you waiting for?

## Upcoming Brethren Academy English-language Courses

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

*Register and pay for courses online:*

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

*or contact [academy@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:academy@bethanyseminary.edu) or 765-983-1824.*

### **Summer/Fall 2020**

#### ***Church of the Brethren Polity and Practice***

Annville Church of the Brethren or Zoom  
October 23-24 and November 13-14, 2020

Instructor: Randy Yoder

(credits: MS)

***Registration Deadline: September 30, 2020***

***To Register, contact [hodgesk@etown.edu](mailto:hodgesk@etown.edu)***

#### ***Introduction to Theopoetics*** Zoom intensive

November 20-22, 2020

Instructor: Scott Holland

(credits: BT, BTS)

***Registration Deadline: October 16, 2020***

### **Winter/Spring 2021**

#### ***Elements of Preaching***, Zoom intensive

January 11-15 and 18, 2021

Instructor: Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm

(credits: MS, BTS)

***Registration Deadline: December 7, 2020***

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

March 10-May 4, 2021

Instructor: Torin Eikler

(credits: BT, FCR)

***Registration Deadline: February 3, 2021***

#### ***Defining Set-Apart Ministry Within the***

***Multivocational Reality***, online

April 7-June 1, 2021

Instructor: Sandra Jenkins

(credits: MS)

***Registration Deadline: March 3, 2021***

#### ***Doing Church Differently: Ministry in Times of Crisis***, online

May 5 – June 29, 2021

Instructor: Debbie Eisenbise

(credits: MS)

***Registration Deadline: March 31, 2021***

#### ***The Reward of Risk: Church Planting and Revitalization Emerging in Today's Current Dynamics***

Directed Independent Study in conjunction with

Church Planting Conference, Elgin, IL

May 12-14, 2021

Instructor: Stan Dueck

(credits: MS, BCE)

***Registration Deadline: April 7, 2021***

### **Summer/Fall 2021**

#### ***Interpreting I Corinthians for the Twenty-First Century Church***

Directed Independent Study in conjunction with

the Ministers' Association Pre-conference Event

Annual Conference, Greensboro, NC

June 29-30, 2021

Instructor: Dan Ulrich

(credits: MS, AC Experience available)

***Registration Deadline: May 28, 2021***

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

September 14–November 8, 2021

Instructor: Tara Hornbacker

(credits: MS)

***Registration Deadline: August 10, 2021***

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

October 12–December 6, 2021

Instructor: Matt Boersma

***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*

## Brethren Academy Students and Graduate Courses at Bethany Theological Seminary

*Brethren Academy students who wish to enroll in Bethany Seminary graduate courses for Brethren Academy credit (TRIM, EFSM/EPMC, SeBAH, ACTS) will*

Obtain permission to take the course from the instructor, academic dean, and the director of the Brethren Academy.

Apply to Bethany as an **Auditor** by filling out the application and writing the application essay.

Applicants must be approved by the Admissions Committee before enrolling in the course.

Once admitted, pay the \$350 Auditor fee. (The \$50 application fee will be waived.)

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.

Successfully auditing a graduate course for Academy credit results in one credit toward a student's program. In order for this credit to be applied, the instructor must notify the Brethren Academy in writing

*Brethren Academy students who wish to enroll in Bethany Seminary graduate courses for graduate credit (to be applied to a graduate transcript), will*

Obtain permission to take the course from the instructor, academic dean, and the director of the Brethren Academy

Apply to Bethany as an **Occasional Student**, select "**Academy student for graduate credit.**" Complete the application essay. Provide new transcripts.

Applicants must be approved by the Admissions Committee before enrolling in the course.

Once admitted, pay the \$500 fee. (The \$50 application fee is waived.)

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. In order for Academy credit to be applied, the instructor must notify the Brethren Academy in writing

An Academy Student for Graduate Credit will also receive access to the ATLA Religion Database to support lifelong learning. The Database is the premier index to journal articles, book reviews, and collections of essays in all fields of religion.

## Making Recorded Webinars Count

It has long been the practice of the Church of the Brethren to require live participation in educational events in order for clergy to receive continuing education units (CEUs). However, a new policy from the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, in partnership with the Ministry Advisory Council, is changing that.

Recognizing that live participation is becoming increasingly difficult for multivocational ministers and given the growing library of recorded webinars available from denominational agencies, the Brethren Academy is offering clergy the opportunity to view and report on prerecorded webinars and other educational events for CEUs. A standardized reporting process will provide the necessary accountability.

For recordings to be eligible for CEUs, they must: 1) have been created by a Church of the Brethren agency, 2) be no more than ten years old, and 3) have been originally offered for CEUs according to the criteria set forth by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership.

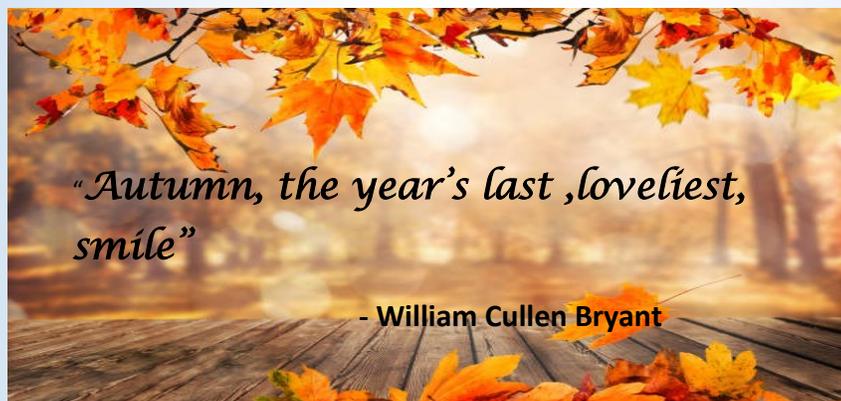
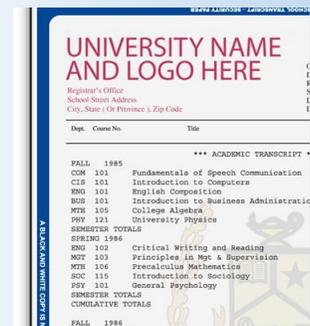
To read the full policy, visit <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/>

Participating in live events continues to be valuable for the Church of the Brethren. Gathering in person provides opportunities to ask questions, exchange ideas, build relationships, as well as pray and worship together. The Brethren Academy hopes this new opportunity will supplement rather than replace live events. The intent is to expand opportunities to learn for all who minister, for the glory of God and our neighbor's good.

## Transcripts for Brethren Academy Students and Graduates

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.



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

**Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available for all of the following events.**



**Events Offered by the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center**

**"Science Fiction and Theology: Connections with Culture" via Zoom**  
**November 11, 2020 —Steve Schweitzer, Academic Dean and Professor at Bethany Theological Seminary**

Science Fiction is extremely popular in our wider culture. This genre is filled with theological themes: who is God, what does it mean to be human, what is the nature of evil, how is it overcome, is war or violence necessary, to name only a few. Based on a course Steve teaches at Bethany Seminary, examples from widely popular SciFi series -- Star Wars, Star Trek, and Doctor Who - that allow connections between theology and culture -- will be explored.

Register [here](#)



Church of the Brethren

**Events Offered by the Church of the Brethren, INC.**

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

**McPherson College**

## Ventures in Christian Discipleship

*Understanding Transitions: Gender in our Christian Context*

**October 17, 2020—Eleanor Hubbard**

A safe space to consider questions, concerns, and issues about the transgender experience and explore together what it means to be a good Christian neighbor to the transgender community.

*Leading at the Speed of Change*

**November 21, 2020—Stan Dueck**

Exploring the challenges and possibilities that change provides to congregations and how to move forward in these changes as a church.

*The Gift of Multivocational Ministry*

**February 20, 2021—Dana Cassell**

Exploring the gift of Multivocational ministry and its possibilities for shared ministry today. This course will highlight current realities, encouraging possibilities and theological roots of shared ministry for today.

*Please check the Ventures website for more information about CEU credit or to register for their upcoming season of webinars:*  
**Ventures in Christian Discipleship.**

## Director's Page



*Though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me.*  
(Psalm 23:4, NRSV)

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you ..., they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.* (Isaiah 43:2, NRSV)

After months of pandemic, civil unrest, and more, I am now watching the west coast of the United States burn. In particular, I am watching fires burn in or near places I know well – places where I raised my family, places people I love still call “home.” As I watch, the tears come. After months of being resolute, addressing each crisis in turn, this has tipped the balance; and I weep. I weep not from despair, but because it is so much. It is just so much.

Undoubtedly, we have all had our tipping points and experienced tears, anger, frustration, exhaustion, and more. Some of us just want life to return to “normal.” Others are hoping for an improvement on what was previously considered “normal.” All of us, I suspect, want life to be easier, at least easier than it feels right now.

Yet easy is not God’s specialty. There was a reason Jesus invited his followers to take up a cross. The life of faith is filled with love, joy, hope, and peace, but it is rooted in a commitment to the way of Christ, to sacrificial love, and to the hard work of justice and peace building. And that’s with or without a pandemic

And so, let us walk through this time, feeling all of our feelings, yet knowing that we walk with purpose and that we are not alone. Through every valley, flood, and firestorm, God is with us. Thanks be to God.

*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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