## Course Description and Objectives

From the barrage of social media platforms to website presence, to electronic communications, to a 24/7 cultural expectation of availability, the role of a ministerial leader has shifted. In this digital age, how can one ensure that the practice of ministry remains grounded in the core principles of pastoral care and discipleship? How does the ministerial leader avoid substituting high touch ministry with high tech gadgets? What is the role of the ministerial leader in reminding communities of faith about healthy boundaries in the building of a community that furthers the life of discipleship through electronic platforms and social media? How does the ministerial leader maintain healthy Sabbath practices in a 24/7 connected world? This seminar-style course will explore the relationship of ministry to technology and investigates the practical tools that exist to enhance ministry. The class participants will examine the responsible engagement of these digital tools in the work of serving God's people as ministers of the Gospel.

**Objectives:**

- Students will demonstrate a theologically informed reflective practice focused on how technology informs and supports their practices in ministry.

- Students will identify a personal strategy for the use of technological tools in ministry which serves to develop community and enhance discipleship practices.

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of a healthy, balanced approach to ministry and life in a technological age.

## Instructor: Dan Poole

Dan Poole is the Assistant Professor of Ministry Formation at Bethany Theological Seminary. He earned his DMin from Columbia Theological Seminary in December 2018, focusing his work upon how to prepare persons for ministerial leadership in this new age. Dan is also a 1991 MDiv graduate of Bethany Theological Seminary and served two congregations over the span of eighteen years before being called to serve at Bethany. Dan lives with his spouse, Kelli, and their adult son, Kevin (who is also employed by BTS and ESR as an IT specialist) in Richmond, Indiana.

This course is available to:

- TRIM/EFSM students- fulfills one M/MS unit and BTS experience

- Those seeking Continuing Education Units (2.0 CEU)

- Anyone seeking personal and spiritual enrichment

Essentially, this course is open to ALL!

Course fee $300

**Registration deadline: September 29, 2022**

**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
- Complete reduced assignments that may be required by the instructor and outlined in the syllabus.

# Reading List (to be read prior to course)

Gaillardetz, Richard R. *Transforming Our Days: Finding God amid the Noise of Modern Life*. Liguori, MO: Liguori, 2007.

Hipps, Shane. *The Hidden Power of Electronic Culture: How Media Shapes Faith, the Gospel, and Church*. El Cajon, CA: Youth Specialties, 2006.

Gould, Meredith. *The Social Media Gospel: Sharing the Good News in New Ways*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2015.

# Schedule and Expectations

**Location – Online via ZOOM:** link will be provided to registered students prior to the class. **This course will also use Moodle.**

> November 3: 6-9pm EST
> November 11: 3-7pm EST
> November 12: 9am-5pm EST with breaks
> November 13: 2-5pm EST
> December 1: 6-9pm EST

Students are expected to read all the above required texts **before** the first day of class on November 3.

Distance learning, especially during intensives, requires students to be disciplined in their time management. In addition to the reading assignments, students will be doing take-home work during the course.

For using Zoom, students will need basic computer skills, an e-mail account, and access to the internet with up-to-date web browser (Firefox, Explore, Chrome, etc.). For best quality, broadband is preferred instead of dial-up internet. You do not need a personal Zoom account.

During a Brethren Academy course or event, you may be included in photographs or sound /video recording. Such photos and recordings, including quotes from you, may be included and identified in news articles, informational brochures, or social media on behalf of the Brethren Academy and/or Bethany Theological Seminary. If you wish to be excluded from such publications, please contact the Brethren Academy in writing by the start date of the course or event.

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**The Shape of Ministry in a High-Tech World: Nov 3, 11-13, Dec 1, 2022**
[Register online](#) or fill out following information and return, along with payment to:
BAML * 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: September 29, 2022