

The Scroll

**News from the Brethren Academy for
Ministerial Leadership**
~ ministry education for lifelong learners ~

Fall 2023

New Course Spotlight



Polarization as an Opportunity for Ministry

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is proud to offer a newly developed course entitled “Polarization as an Opportunity for Ministry,” taught by Dr. Russell Haitch.

Polls and studies show Americans are polarized. Many people have lost all patience. They think others, on the opposite side, are totally wrong. They suspect their opponents have evil motives. These sentiments can seep into church congregations. Thus polarization can be an obstacle to ministry. But it can also become a tremendous opportunity.

This course looks at both problems and solutions. We will examine ways that politics, a changing media landscape, and other forces have propelled the centrifuge of polarization. At the same time, we will explore how church leaders can help people find common ground—and higher ground—in situations of strife. We will consider both the theological content and pastoral skills that church leaders need to know, in order to be agents of reconciliation and Christ-centered unity in an era of polarization. Students are encouraged to come with their own questions or case studies, which we can work on together.

This timely course will be offered as a hybrid course, taking place on the Bethany Theological Seminary campus April 11-13, 2024, but also utilizing Zoom class time. This course is a ministry studies elective and fulfills the Bethany Theological Seminary experience requirement.

Interested persons can register for these courses at www.bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy.

TRIM UPDATES

2023 TRIM and EFSM Update

During our 2023 orientation, held August 8-10, the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership welcomed 4 new students into TRIM and EFSM. The two-and-a-half days at Bethany Theological Seminary were filled with worship, classroom experiences, information about their respective programs, and collegial relationship-building. Districts represented included: Atlantic Southeast, Michigan, Shenandoah, and South/Central Indiana.

The theme for Orientation was “The Summons” based on the hymn by the Scottish minister and musician John Bell and the call stories of various women and men in scripture. The new students were rooted in their sense of call so that they would enter into their training programs aware of God’s presence with them throughout their education.

The 2024 Orientation will take place July 23-25 at Bethany Theological Seminary.

From left to right: Anita George (TRIM), Mandy Polzin (TRIM), Kay Theel (EFSM), Sandy Schwaner (TRIM), and Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey (Coordinator of English-Language Ministry Training Programs).



SeBAH Noticias / SeBAH News

Educación Continua en Español Nuevos cursos en línea

La Oficina de Ministerios Hispanos de la Agencia Menonita de Educación ofrecerá dos nuevos cursos en noviembre. Estos cursos grabados están disponibles en su horario. Una membresía de un año al sitio cuesta \$125. Los nuevos cursos se publican a medida que están disponibles.

Actualmente disponible: *Sanando y Avanzando*. Impartido por Oscar Jaime Domínguez Martínez y Luis Tapia, este curso tratará sobre, como sobreponerse a una crisis como la pandemia de COVID-19, donde es común que los pastores, líderes y miembros de las iglesias hayan experimentado un aumento en los niveles de angustia y ansiedad.

Para más detalles, visit <https://hispanicmennoedu.org/cursos/>

Spanish-Language Continuing Education New Online Courses

The Mennonite Education Agency, Hispanic Ministries Office will be offering two new courses in November. These recorded courses are available on your schedule. A one-year membership to the site is \$125. New courses are posted as they are available.

Currently available: *Healing and Moving Forward*. Taught by Oscar Jaime Domínguez Martínez and Luis Tapia, this course will address how to overcome a crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, where pastors, leaders and church members have experienced increased levels of distress and anxiety.

For details, visit <https://hispanicmennoedu.org/cursos/>

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

or contact academy@bethanyseminary.edu or 765-983-1824.

Winter 2023

Introduction to Pastoral Care,

Onsite Bethany Seminary, with a Zoom
call before and after

January 16-19, 2024

Instructor: Debbie Eisenbise

(credit: MS, FCR)

Registration Deadline: December 5, 2023

From Reformation to Today, online

January 24-March 19, 2024

Instructor: Josh Brockway

(credit: BHT, FCR)

Registration Deadline: December 19, 2023

Spring 2024

Practical Ministry Colloquium, online

February 14-April 9, 2024

Instructors: Carrie Eikler and

Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey

(credit: MS, FCR)

Students eligible for this course will be
auto-enrolled

Church of the Brethren Polity,

Zoom Intensive

March 22-23 and April 26-27, 2024

Instructor: Randy Yoder

(credit: BHT, FCR)

Registration Deadline: February 16, 2024

To register, contact Karen Hodges at

karenhodges@svmccob.org

Polarization as an Opportunity for Ministry

Onsite Bethany Seminary, with a Zoom
call before and after

April 11-13, 2024

Instructor: Russell Haitch

(credit: BHT)

Registration Deadline: March 7, 2024

Cultivating an Everyday Faith, online

April 17-June 11, 2024

Instructor: Joan Daggett

(credit: MS, FCR)

Registration Deadline: March 6, 2024

Summer 2024

Preaching

Onsite-Grand Rapids, MI

Directed Independent Study in conjunction
with the Ministers' Association Event during
Annual Conference

July 2-3, 2024

Instructor: Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey

(credit: MS)

Registration Deadline: May 28, 2024

Fall 2024

Interim Ministry, online

July 31-September 24, 2024

Registration Deadline: June 19, 2024

Church of the Brethren History, online

August 21-October 15, 2024

Registration Deadline: July 10, 2024

Rev. 9/26/23

*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: BDE – Brethren Denominational Experience,
BTS – Bethany Seminary Experience, IE-Intercultural/Interfaith/Ecumenical Experience,
BHT-Biblical/Historical/Theological, MS-Ministry Studies, FCR-Fulfills Curricular Requirement

Cursos en Español de la Academia de los Hermanos

Año académico 2023-24

Todos los cursos están disponibles para recibir crédito SeBAH-COB. Algunos cursos también pueden estar disponibles para educación continua (2 CEU) *.

Para solicitar más información o un formulario de inscripción para un curso, comunicarse con la oficina de la Brethren Academy en Academy@bethanyseminary.edu. Los cursos se ofrecen en asociación con la Agencia de Educación Menonita, la Oficina de Educación de Liderazgo y Pastoral Hispana.

2024

Espiritualidad y Discipulado Cristiano,
en línea

Enero a Marzo de 2024

Instructor: Luis Tapia Rubio (MEA)

Fecha límite de inscripción:

11 Diciembre de 2023

Seamos Iglesia,
en línea

Octubre a Diciembre de 2024

Instructor: Luis Tapia Rubio (MEA)

Fecha límite de inscripción:

16 Septiembre de 2024

2025

Metodología de la Reflexión Pastoral,
en línea

Julio a Septiembre de 2024

Instructor: Marcos Acosta (MEA)

Fecha límite de inscripción:

10 Junio de 2024

Pastoral de Acompañamiento,
en línea

Enero a Marzo de 2025

Instructor: Byron Pellecer (MEA)

Rev. 9/29/23

Brethren Academy Spanish-language Courses

Academic Year 2023-2024

All courses are available for SeBAH-COB credit. Some courses may also be available for continuing education (2 CEUs)*.

To request more information or a registration form for a course, contact the Brethren Academy office at Academy@bethanyseminary.edu. Courses are offered in partnership with the Mennonite Education Agency, Hispanic Pastoral and Leadership Education Office.

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 the following events.



Ventures in Christian Discipleship

*From Ukraine to Central Kansas:
A Positive Refugee Experience*
October 28, 2023

Presenters: Multiple Presenters

Hear the story of how McPherson Church of the Brethren and the community have helped Ukrainian families to settle in the community.

Meet the Matriarchs
November 18, 2023

Presenter: Bobbi Dykema

Spend time with the matriarchs, including Sarah, Leah, Rachel, as well as, Hagar, Zilpah, and others, and learn how they have been envisioned in picture and word.

To learn more about these courses, [click here](#).



Church of the Brethren

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

<http://www.brethren.org> "Events"



**Offered by the
Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center**

*Choose Life: Deuteronomy's Message
for Today*

October 10, 2023

Juniata College

Presenter: Steve Schweitzer

The book of Deuteronomy is a central text containing key themes that shape the Old Testament and its relationship to the New. In this study, we will explore the historical, literary, and theological contexts for understanding the message and content of Deuteronomy.

*Walter Brueggemann's Prophetic Imagination:
Reviewed, Recovered, and Restored*
November 2, 2023

Presenter: Conrad Kanagy

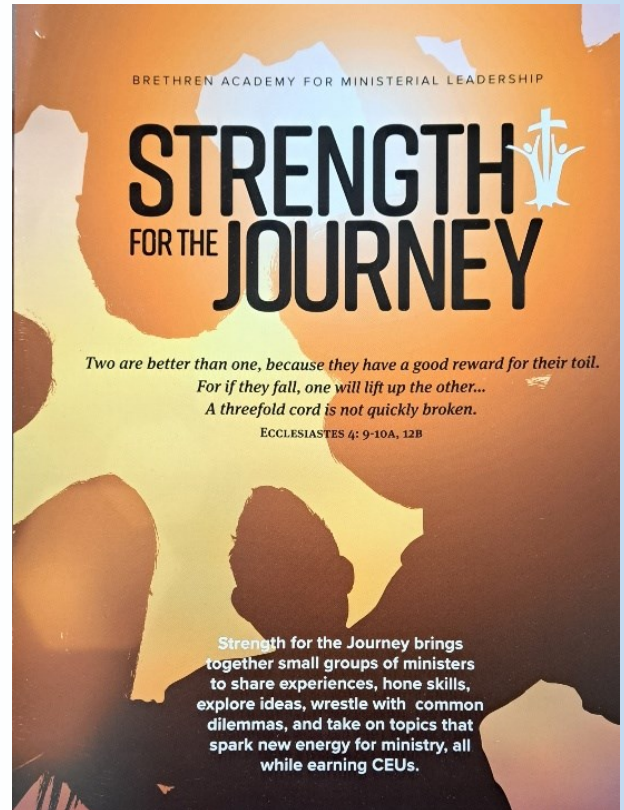
This seminar will address current challenges facing the church, its leaders and its mission. The theological contributions of Walter Brueggemann to these challengers over the past five decades will be reviewed.

For more information, or to register for these and other events, [click here](#).

Strength for the Journey 2024 Application Now Being Accepted!

New Strength for the Journey cohorts are forming this fall, with plans to begin meeting in January 2024. Applications are available at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/strength-for-the-journey/> and will be accepted through October 31.

Strength for the Journey is a continuing education opportunity provided by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. The program provides support to groups of ministers to help them meet and discuss topics of mutual interest and gather for worship and prayer. Gatherings take place on Zoom 10 to 12 times over the course of one year. To learn more, use the link above or contact the Brethren Academy.



**Though one may
be overpowered,
two can defend
themselves.
A cord of three
strands is not
quickly broken.**

Ecclesiastes 4:12



Director's Page

It has been a difficult season for the staff of the Brethren Academy. With the loss of loved ones, injuries, and illness, we find ourselves dancing with grief even as we are unsure of the steps.

Throughout this season, I am reminded that just as we are doing this dance, others are as well, often quietly and privately. I do not know what burdens or sorrows others carry.

I can only regard them as I hope to be regarded, with grace and kindness.

There is a mediation, based on Psalm 46:10, that has become a companion over the last month or so. I share it here in case it may help you, in this season or in a time to come.

Peace...be still...and know...that I am God. Peace...be still...and know...that I am.

Peace...be still...and Know.

Peace...be still.

Peace...be.

Peace... Peace... Peace¹

May the Peace of God accompany you in every season,

Janet

¹Peace Pilgrim, *Peace Pilgrim: Her Life and Work in Her Own Word* (Santa Fe, New Mexico: Ocean Tree Books, 1992, 71.



A ministry-training partnership of the Church of the Brethren and Bethany Theological Seminary,
providing non-graduate certificate level ministry training and continuing education

www.bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/

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