

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership proudly offers

Polarization as an Opportunity for Ministry

ONSITE AT BETHANY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
RICHMOND, IN, WITH ZOOM SESSIONS BEFORE AND AFTER

APRIL 11-13, 2024
[REGISTER ONLINE](#)



This course is available to:

- TRIM/EFSM students-fulfills:
 - ✓ 1 Biblical/ Historical/ Theological
- Those seeking Continuing Education Units (2.0 CEU)
- Anyone seeking personal and spiritual enrichment

Essentially, this course is open to ALL!

Course fee \$300.00

Registration deadline:
March 7, 2024

Course Description and Objectives

Surveys and research show Americans are deeply divided. Many have lost all patience. They believe people on the opposing side have wrong thinking and bad motives. These sentiments can seep into church congregations. While this polarization presents formidable challenges, it also offers distinct opportunities for ministry.

This course looks at both problems and solutions. We will examine ways that politics, evolving media, AI, and other forces are driving divisions. At the same time, we will explore how leaders can help people find common ground—and higher ground—in situations of strife. We will address both the theological content and pastoral skills that leaders need in order to be agents of reconciliation and Christ-centered unity in an era of polarization.

Course work will include readings, discussion, and 12 pages of writing. Each student will also choose a topic or case study to research and present to the class.

Instructor: Russell Haitch

Russell Haitch is the Professor of Theology and Human Science at Bethany Theological Seminary. His books include *Eyes of the Heart: Seeing God in an Age of Science* and *From Exorcism to Ecstasy: Eight Views of Baptism*. He earned his PhD at Princeton Theological Seminary and is ordained in the United Methodist Church.

Travel Grant

The Brethren Academy will provide a travel stipend of up to \$300 for 8 pastors or church leaders who register for this course. The stipend is to offset travel costs, reimbursement upon submission of travel receipts. To qualify for a travel grant, individuals must be currently and actively serving a congregation. Those who wish to apply for a travel grant may email the Brethren Academy at academy@bethanyseminary.edu for an application.

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

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Richmond, IN 47374
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765-983-1824
academy@
bethanyseminary.edu

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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 as outlined in the
syllabus

Required Texts to be Read Prior to Course

- Chua, Amy. *Political Tribes: Group Instinct and the Fate of Nations*. New York, NY: Penguin Books, 2019; pages 1-210.
- Haidt, Jonathan. *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion*. New York, NY: Random House, 2013; pages 1-216.
- Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 1989; pages 1-65, 155-170.
- Short articles, book excerpts, or videos may be added.

Participants

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.

Schedule

Pre-class Zoom session (2 hours)

Location – BTS, 615 National Road W., Richmond, IN 47374

Thursday, April 11 4:30-8:30 pm (with breaks)

Friday, April 12 9:00 am-8:00 pm (with breaks)

Saturday, April 13 9:00 am-3:00 pm (with breaks)

Post-class Zoom session (2 hours)

Travel and Lodging

Transportation, lodging and meals are the participant's responsibility. The Brethren Academy office will be glad to provide contact information for area lodging.

Polarization as an Opportunity for Ministry, April 11-13, 2024

[Register online](#) or fill out following information and return, along with payment to:
Brethren Academy * 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: March 7, 2024