



## News from the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership ~ Ministry Education for Lifelong Learners ~



**Instructor:**  
**Darla Kay Deardorff**

### **New Course Spotlight**

#### ***Ministering Across Cultures: Building Bridges Through Intercultural Competence***

Onsite at Bethany Theological Seminary

This course isn't technically new to the Brethren Academy, but it has been a long time since it was offered. We are excited for Darla Kay Deardorff to teach an updated intercultural course entitled *Ministering Across Cultures: Building Bridges Through Intercultural Competence*. Darla is the UNESCO Chair on Intercultural Competence at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, as well as the Founding President of the global nonprofit World Council on Intercultural and Global Competence. She is also a Research Scholar at Duke University and holds faculty appointments at universities in South Africa, China, Japan, and Canada.

Rooted in the multicultural vision of Revelation 7:9, this course will equip church leaders with the skills, knowledge, and insight needed to engage with and minister to diverse neighbors. In addition to these practical skills, students will explore how cultural values, beliefs, and practices shape experiences and interactions and develop an awareness of one's cultural lens while learning to recognize the lens of others.

This course is open to anyone who desires to better connect with the diverse community around them. This course is an intensive, taking place on the campus of Bethany Theological Seminary, March 17-19, 2025. The Brethren Academy is providing a travel stipend of up to \$300 for 8 pastors or church leaders who register for this course. The stipend is to offset the travel costs to get to Bethany Theological Seminary. Reimbursement will be made upon submission of travel receipts.

## **CLERGY TAX SEMINAR**

Saturday, February 1, 2025  
11:00 am - 4:00 pm (EST)



**Annual Conference 2025**  
Greensboro, North Carolina  
July 2-6  
Koury Convention Center  
3121 W Gate City Blvd



## 2024 TRIM Graduates

At the Bethany Theological Seminary/Brethren Academy luncheon during the 2024 Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, we recognized two Training in Ministry (TRIM) graduates in absentia – Randall Westfall and Roger Elkins.

Randall Westfall is from the Illinois/Wisconsin District. Randall is currently serving as camp manager at Camp Emmaus. Roger Elkins is from the Western Plains District. Roger is currently discerning the next steps.

Brethren Academy graduates receive their certificates at an event in their district. Congratulations to Randall and Roger. Blessings to you both as you follow God's calling in your lives.



## 2024 New Student Orientation



At the end of July, two Training in Ministry (TRIM) students began their ministry training journeys. Even though the plan was to meet on the Bethany Theological Seminary campus for Orientation, plans changed as flights were canceled due to the Microsoft outage. Orientation quickly transitioned to Zoom and while different than expected, new students were welcomed into the program and given the tools to begin their training experience. We welcome Joshua and Emmanuela into the Brethren Academy family.



## The Brethren Academy leads an Annual Conference Equipping Session

Janet Ober Lambert (Director) and Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey (Coordinator of English-Language Programs) led an Equipping Session at the 2024 Annual Conference entitled “Building Bridges in a Fractured World.” During this equipping session, we discussed the various forces that are fracturing our world. Participants named things like fear, tribalism, politics, social media, inability to listen, misinformation, and so much more. Luckily, the conversation did not end there. Participants were also given the opportunity to think about their congregations and the specific forces that are fracturing their communities. Once identified, they began to think creatively about how to intervene in these forces so that they could build bridges across differences. The conversation was rich, and many creative ideas were shared.

The equipping session comes as a part of a Building Bridges initiative the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is working on alongside Bethany Theological Seminary. Over the next few years, courses, workshops, and events are being planned to help leaders in the church address issues of diversity and division. Join us for this relevant conversation!

### Upcoming Courses in this Series

*Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

Online with Zoom Sessions

January 15-March 11, 2025

*Ministering Across Cultures: Building Bridges through Intercultural Competence*

Onsite at Bethany Theological Seminary with Zoom Sessions

March 17-19, 2025

*Leadership and Administration for the Now and Future Church*

Online

August 13-October 7, 2025

*Introduction to Preaching*

Onsite at Bethany Theological Seminary with Zoom Sessions before and after

February 17-20, 2026



## Spotlight on Upcoming Course: Effective Leadership for Times Such as These

This course will focus on transformational and servant leadership. When the Body of Christ is struggling for effective life and mission in a world needing Good News, it calls for creative thinking that is outside the box of the usual. Change is difficult for any system and requires special insights and skills to prepare an organization for another way of living and practicing mission. The leader must be transformed as well as the church system.



### *Meet the Instructor*

Randy Yoder has served as a pastor, District Executive in Middle PA, and church coach. He also has served on the General Board (prior to it being known as the Ministry and Mission Board) and was an independent staff person for Brethren Benefit Trust as a specialist in long-term care insurance. He has served as Interim District Executive for Atlantic Northeast and Western Plains Districts, and Interim Pastor at Oakton Church of the Brethren in Mid-Atlantic District. He has taught classes for TRIM and seminary-level students in the areas of leadership and polity and practice. He earned a D.Min. from McCormick Seminary in the area of not-for-profit organization and development.

**Course Fee: \$300**

**Registration deadline: March 4, 2025**

This course is offered through Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center (SVMC). Interested persons can

register here: [SVMC](https://www.svmc.org)

[www.eton.edu/programs/svmc/trims.aspx](http://www.eton.edu/programs/svmc/trims.aspx)

### Course Objectives:

1. Clarification about leadership and congregational transformation from a movement perspective and why each is important.
2. Gaining insights about servant and transformational leadership styles that speak to effectiveness for this time.
3. Gaining a renewed commitment and important insights to make Christ the focus and the body of Christ the emphasis for practicing vital and effective mission in the neighborhoods of our unique congregations.
4. Addressing why pietism and anabaptism practices are relevant to growing the Kingdom of God with today's generational challenges.
5. Learning three key elements of an effective body of Christ.
6. Expand and practice learned understandings of how to read a congregation's life-cycle.
7. Developing learning skills to be Christ in the neighborhood.
8. Learning practices for reading congregational and community culture and how to work at creating a missional culture.
9. Envisioning evangelism from the perspective of growing the Kingdom of God.
10. Learning to manage conflict that arises in a transformational process.



# Habitar en Armonia

¡Mirad cuán bueno y cuán delicioso es Habitar los hermanos juntos en armonía!  
Salmo 133.1



En mi rol de Coordinadora de los programas de Capacitación de Ministerios de Habla Hispana, tuve el privilegio de participar por primera vez en la conferencia anual y conectarme con estudiantes de los programas SeBAH y EPMC. Fue una experiencia profundamente conmovedora compartir y escuchar historias de vida y testimonios, que nos permitieron formar un profundo vínculo espiritual centrado en el espíritu de nuestro Señor Jesús. A través de estas sinceras interacciones, tuve el honor de presenciar y ser tocada por las extraordinarias cualidades de fortaleza, compasión, perseverancia y fe inquebrantable mostradas por cada estudiante. Fue innegablemente una bendición que

dejó una marca indeleble en mi corazón, y estoy segura de que formaba parte de un plan divino. Para muchos nuestras historias son sólo historias, pero para mí son refrescos para el alma. Cada uno de nosotros tiene algo que contar, muchas veces con risas, pero otras con lágrimas y como dice el apóstol Pablo todas las pruebas son con el propósito de ser consolados para consolar a otros. Al inicio de este artículo compartí parte del Salmo 33 porque precisamente estos días pasados compartir en armonía con los estudiantes fue una bendición enviada por Jehová.

Bendiciones.

Arlyn A Morales

Coordinadora de los programas de formación  
del Ministerio de la Lengua Española

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En la foto de izquierda a derecha:  
Roger Padilla Morenoes estudiante actual de SeBAH y Presidente de la Iglesia de los Hermanos de Venezuela.  
Arlyn A. Morales es el Coordinador del Programa de Capacitación Ministerial en Español de Brethren Academy.  
Manuel Cruzes un estudiante actual de SeBAH del distrito de Virilina.



# Living in Harmony

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!  
Psalm 133:1



I had the privilege of participating in the Annual Conference for the first time in my role as the Coordinator of Spanish Language Ministry Training programs. I connected with students from the SeBAH and EPMC programs and had a deeply moving experience sharing and listening to life stories and testimonies. This allowed us to form a deep spiritual bond centered on the spirit of our Lord Jesus. Through these heartfelt interactions, I was touched by each student's extraordinary qualities of strength, compassion, perseverance, and unwavering faith. It was undeniably a blessing that left an indelible mark on my heart, and I am certain it was part of a divine plan. Our stories are not just stories; they are refreshments for the soul. Each of us has something to share, sometimes with laughter, sometimes with tears. As the apostle Paul says, all trials are meant for comforting others. At the beginning of this article, I shared a part of Psalm 133 because, these past days, sharing with the students was a blessing sent by Jehovah.

Blessings!

Arlyn A Morales  
Coordinator of Spanish Language Ministry Training Programs  
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Pictured left to right:  
Roger Padilla Moreno is a current SeBAH student and President of the Church of the Brethren of Venezuela.  
Arlyn A. Morales is the Coordinator of the Spanish-Language Ministry Training Program for the Brethren Academy.  
Manuel Cruz is a current SeBAH Student from the Virilina District.

# Brethren Academy English-Language Courses

Academic Year 2024-2025

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

Register and pay for courses online:

<https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/brethren-academy-course-registration-annual-trim-payment/> or call 765-983-1824

## Winter 2024

*A Place of Refuge* (Travel Seminar)

Onsite - Atlanta, GA

January 7-15, 2025

Instructors: Josh Brockway, Maggie Elwell, and Dan Poole

(credit: 2 MS, BTS, IE, 3 CEU)

**Registration Deadline: November 1, 2024**

## Spring 2025

*Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

Online with Zoom sessions

January 15-March 11, 2025

Instructor: Christy Waltersdorff  
(credit: MS, FCR)

**Registration Deadline: December 11, 2024**

## **Church of the Brethren Polity**

Online

February 12-April 8, 2025

Instructor: Torin Eikler  
(credit: BHT, FCR)

**Registration Deadline: January 8, 2025**

## **Ministering Across Cultures: Building Bridges Through Intercultural Competence**

Onsite with Zoom sessions before & after  
March 17-19, 2025

Instructor: Darla Kay Deardorff  
(credit: MS, BTS)

**Registration Deadline: February 10, 2025**

## Spring 2025

*Effective Leadership for Times Such as These*

Zoom Intensive – 2 weekends

April 4 & 5, and May 2 & 3, 2025

Instructor: Randy Yoder  
(credit: MS, FCR)

**Registration Deadline: March 4, 2024**

Register for this course online through [SVMC](#)

## *Practical Ministry Colloquium*

Online with Zoom sessions

April 16 – June 10, 2025

Instructor: Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey  
(credit: MS)

**Students eligible for this course will be auto-enrolled**

## *New and Renew DISU*

Onsite Hybrid (w/two Zoom sessions)

New and Renew Conference, Elgin, IL  
May 14-16, 2025

Instructor: Stan Dueck  
(credit: MS, FCR - Evangelism)

**Registration Deadline: April 2, 2025**

Registration for the New and Renew Conference is required

Updated: 10/09/2024

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



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

<https://bethanyseminary.edu/events-resources/continuing-education-opportunities/>

**Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available for the following events:**



Events Offered by the Church of the Brethren, INC.

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



Events Offered by the Ventures in Christian Discipleship

<https://www.mcpherson.edu/ventures/>



**The Question of Leadership: Why It Matters**

**Saturday, Nov 16 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Elizabethtown College or Zoom**

**Presenter: Jeff Carter**

What does it mean to lead in today's church and world? The American protestant church is in steep decline. The Church of the Brethren is experiencing schism. The pandemic accelerated the already changing patterns of religious life. Resources are scarce. What does it mean to lead in today's church and world? Leadership begins by asking the first question and having the willingness and curiosity to pursue the second question. It is a way of thinking that results in effective doing. And yes, it is something we do together.

**Identifying and Responding to Suicide Risk**

**January 28 9:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Zoom only**

**Presenter: Julie Guistwite**

Individuals considering harming themselves often seek guidance from spiritual care professionals over mental health providers. This interactive and engaging workshop discusses suicide risk factors and warning signs across generations and provides clergy guidance in responding. Engaging with an individual considering suicide forms the basis of a small group role-play activity. Attendees will gain practical knowledge and skills relevant across settings

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



Join us for this informational and instructive seminar!

# CLERGY TAX SEMINAR

Saturday, February 1, 2025

11:00 am - 4:00 pm (EST)

Students, clergy, and anyone who deals with clergy finances are invited to participate in this online Zoom seminar.

1. Learn how to prepare clergy taxes correctly and legally.
2. Comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions.
3. Earn 0.3 CEUs - for the first 2 sessions only.

## Registration and Cost:

Registration is \$40 per person (generally nonrefundable to keep fees and overhead low). Current BAML, BTS, and ESR students may attend the seminar at no cost, although registration is still required to allow us to provide you with web access to the seminar.

## Schedule:

**11:00am - 12:30pm EST (0.15 CEUs):**  
Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Clergy Taxation, part 1.

**1:00pm - 2:30pm EST (0.15 CEUs):**  
Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Clergy Taxation, part 2.

**3:00pm - 4:00pm EST:** Completing the Clergy Tax Return.

## Registration Deadline:

**January 24, 2025**

For quality reasons, registrations may be capped at **eighty-five people**

## Register online:

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



**Deb Oskin** has been doing clergy tax returns since 1989, when her husband left seminary to pastor a small rural Church of the Brethren congregation. As a pastor's wife and later as a tax professional, she learned the tax problems and pitfalls associated with the IRS's identification of clergy as "hybrid employees." In 2011, after twelve years with H&R Block, Deb left to start her own tax practice, specializing in clergy taxes. Clergy clients now make up 90 percent of her client base. She has been teaching and presenting nationally on clergy taxation to clergy, treasurers and administrators, and tax pros since 2004. Other than the fact that she really likes to teach, Deb does this because of her deep belief that clergy can devote more of their energy to ministry if they aren't stressed by tax debt. Deb is an experienced presenter, and despite the complexity of the material, you'll find yourself laughing. Learn and enjoy!



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Learn from an expert in the field about how addiction/SUD changes the brain and how to support someone in recovery

### TRAUMA

Expert explains the impact of trauma on physical, psychological, and spiritual wellbeing and ways to support those in your span of care.

- 18 hour, online course
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- Cohort of church & lay leaders
- \$149 per person (ask about early bird & group discounts)
- Certificate & Pastoral CEUs incl.

### CHURCH STRATEGIES

Develop strategies to reduce the stigma around mental health discussions in your church, and increase empowering knowledge and support within the church.

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Expand crisis intervention knowledge and strategies to assist, support, and link to help someone in an emergency situation

### SELF-CARE

Discuss the practice of compassionate self-care through refueling your emotional and spiritual wellness

### BOUNDARIES

Discover ways to protect & set healthy boundaries to balance roles and prevent burn-out

Register - [CHURCHES CARE ONLINE COURSE](#)

**Click the link above or scan the QR code on the front to register.  
Email [health-team@weriseinternational.org](mailto:health-team@weriseinternational.org) for more information.**

[www.weriseinternational.org](http://www.weriseinternational.org) - We Rise International is a 501c3 nonprofit



## Director's Page

At the Brethren Academy, we are grateful to be engaged in the work of equipping church leaders to be builders of bridges during these divisive times. The courses that Audrey outlines in this issue on page 4 will help clergy and lay leaders guide their congregations and communities in the months, perhaps years, to come. And even as we offer these courses, we know we are not alone in this effort. Many of you are engaged in similar work in the places where God has called you. As I consider all this good work, I am reminded of a line from the hymn, "This Is My Father's World, Though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is ruler yet.

Therefore, let us have courage.

Let us build up rather than tear down.

Let us be quick to listen but slow and thoughtful in responding. (James 1:9)

As much as it is up to us, may we live peacefully with all (Romans 12:18).

In this, may God make us able,

*Janet L. Ober Lambert*

Janet Ober Lambert



**Director:  
Janet Ober Lambert**

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

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