

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership proudly offers

Introduction to Preaching

May 19-22, 2026

Onsite Intensive at Bethany Seminary

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)



Course Instructor:
Dava Hensley

This course is available to:

- **TRIM/EFSM** students:
Fulfills **BTS, MS, FCR**
- **CEU** credit:
Fulfills **2 Units**
- Anyone seeking personal or spiritual enrichment

Course Fee: \$300.00

Registration deadline:
March 24, 2025

Please wait to order books until after your registration has been confirmed by the Brethren Academy office.

Course Description:

This course explores preaching as a sacred and imaginative practice that shapes the life of a community. Students will learn to craft sermons with clarity and creativity and develop an authentic preaching voice rooted in pastoral awareness. Through theological reflection, narrative work, and guided practice, participants will gain the skills and confidence to preach with compassion, conviction, and a deep sense of connection to their listeners.

Learning Objectives:

To successfully complete this course students will demonstrate competency in preparing sermons that :

- Exegete scripture faithfully for preaching.
- Craft clearly focused and communicated sermons.
- Preach with pastoral awareness and cultural sensitivity.
- Develop an authentic preaching voice and embodied presence.
- Offer and receive constructive feedback.
- Practice effective delivery techniques, including pacing, tone, gesture, and the intentional use of silence.

In addition to bringing to class a sample sermon of about 5 minutes they have recently preached; students will prepare and present 1 sermon manuscript and sermon in person during class.

Course Reading Resources: Read prior to April 28

- Allen, Ronald J. , ed. Patterns of Preaching: A Sermon Sampler. St. Louis, Mo. Chalice Press. 1998. (Select and read any 4 chapters each from Parts 1, 2, 3, and 4: 16 chapters total) ISBN 0-8272-2953-4
- Childers, Jana, ed. Birthing the Sermon: Women Preachers and the Creative Process. St. Louis, Mo: Chalice Press, 2001. (Select and read any 6 chapters.)
- Long, Thomas G. The Witness of Preaching 3rd Edition. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2016. ISBN 9780664261429

Other Reading :

David B. Greiser and Michael A. King , Anabaptist Preaching: A Conversation between Pulpit, Pew, and Bible (Telford, PA: Cascadia, 2003); Chapters 1 and 5. This reading will be posted on Moodle.

(continued)

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

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bethanyseminary.edu

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Course Withdrawal Refund Policy:

- Full refund available before registration deadline
- 50% refund from registration deadline to course start.
- No refunds once the course has begun.

Exceptions require approval from the Brethren Academy Director.

Who should take this course:

This course is designed for:

- TRIM and EFSM students fulfilling BTS, MS, FCR credits.
- Pastors and lay leaders seeking CEUs.
- Individuals discerning a call to ministry.

Anyone longing to deepen their theological understanding and faith practice.

Course Format and Requirements:

This intensive course will require students to pace themselves to complete the reading prior to the first Zoom gathering. Other resources will be available on the Moodle site, but no regular discussion posts will be required. All course work will be completed prior to leaving the in-person intensive.

Technology Requirements: Basic computer skills and reliable internet. A device less than four years old is recommended.

For TRIM/EFSM Students:

- Fulfills **BTS, MS, FCR** requirements.
- Full participation, reading, and assignments are required.

For CEU Participants:

- Earns **2.0 CEUs**.
- Reading and participation required; papers and projects optional.

Schedule:

Tuesday April 28, 2026, Evening, time TBD. Zoom

Tuesday May 12, 2026, Evening, time TBD. Zoom

Tuesday- May 19, 2026, Travel to Bethany Theological Seminary

Wednesday and Thursday- May 20-21, 2026, 9:00-12:00 p.m. (1 hour lunch break)
1:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m.

Friday May 22, 2026, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Class wraps up

Instructor: Dr. Dava C. Hensley

Born and raised in Eden, North Carolina. Professor Hensley was ordained in the Church of the Brethren in 2009. She served as Pastor at First Church of the Brethren-Roanoke for eighteen years. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina-Greensboro with a B.A. in Psychology. She received her Master of Divinity degree from Bethany Theological Seminary in 2009. She graduated in 2020 from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary with her doctorate and an emphasis in preaching. She has served in her local church, Virlina District, and various leadership roles in the Church of the Brethren including Moderator of the Church of the Brethren, 2025.

Introduction to Preaching, Onsite Hybrid, May 19-22, 2026

[Register online](#) or fill out the 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

_____ CEU credit

_____ PE

Course Fee: \$300 payable to Brethren Academy (BAML)

Registration Deadline: March 24, 2025