

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership proudly offers

The Multi-Vocational Pastor Full-Bodied Ministry in the Part-Time Context

8 Week Online Course

August 19-October 13, 2026

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)



John Fillmore

Course Description:

Every church is a full-time church. No matter the size of the congregation, life for each member happens around the clock, every day of the week. Yet the reality is that many smaller congregations are unable to support a full-time minister. The tension between part-time hours and full-time demands can be challenging for multi-vocational or part-time pastors. Pastors serving in part-time contexts realize that their ministry is as full-bodied and challenging as a lead pastor in a multi-staffed church, yet often find themselves without guidance when forced to navigate the complexities of multiple demands on their time and emotional energy. This course will examine what it takes to have a vital and authentic ministry that is rooted in the multi-vocational reality.

This course is available to:

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

Course Fee: \$300.00

**Registration
deadline:
July 15, 2026**

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

Learning Objectives:

- Reflect on the unique challenges and rewards of multi-vocational ministry.
- Learn about setting and maintaining appropriate boundaries.
- Examine the congregation as a mutually influencing emotional system.
- Begin to develop life-giving rhythms and practices that can lead to sustainable ministry.
- Explore ways to activate the gifts of the congregation for shared ministry.

Course Reading Resources

- *Barton, Ruth Haley. Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation*
- *Edington, Mark D. W. Bivocational: Returning to the Roots of Ministry*
- *MacDonald, G. Jeffery. Part-Time is Plenty: Thriving Without Full-Time Clergy*
- *Olsen, David C. and Nancy G. Devor. Saying No to Say Yes: Everyday Boundaries and Pastoral Excellence*
- *Steinke, Peter L. How Your 21st Century Church Family Works: Understanding Congregations as Emotional Systems*
- *Other readings will be posted or linked on our Moodle site.*

(continued)

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

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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 MS or Elective 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 asynchronous online course allows for flexibility in scheduling while maintaining weekly participation and assignment expectations.

Time Commitment: 10–12 hours per week.

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

For TRIM/EFSM Students:

- Fulfills MS or Elective requirements.
- Full participation, reading, and assignments are required.

For CEU Participants:

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

Distinctive Course Feature:

Explore theology through creative expression. Students will engage weekly in poetic reflection and collaborative sermon analysis—drawing connections between Scripture, doctrine, and imagination.

Instructor: John Fillmore

John is the 3/4 time pastor of the Nampa Church of the Brethren in Nampa, Idaho. In addition to serving his local congregation, he is the District Executive of the Idaho and Western Montana District, and a Circuit Rider with the denomination's Part-Time Pastor, Full-Time Church Program.

John is a graduate of Bethany Theological Seminary, and holds a Doctor of Ministry in Leadership and Spiritual Formation from George Fox University's Portland Seminary. He balances his ministry with family time with his wife Tatia, hikes in Idaho's mountains, and occasionally reads a book that isn't about theology or pastoral ministry.

Church of the Brethren Multivocational Ministry – August 19-October 13, 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: July 15, 2026