



Continuing Education Opportunities for the Mid-Atlantic District



ONLINE COURSE OFFERINGS FOR 2019-20 Season: Current Topics

SEPTEMBER 28, 2019 | 9-NOON CT | KIRK MACGREGOR

"God's Relation to the Natural World and Creation Care"

OCTOBER 26, 2019 | 9-NOON CT | SHARON YOHN

"Faith Through Action: Effective approaches to solving the climate challenge"

**NOVEMBER 9, 2019 | 9-NOON CT | MELANEE HAMILTON &
RICK POLHAMUS (ON EARTH PEACE PARTNERSHIP)**

"We'd Prefer to Avoid That: Conflict in the congregation"

FEBRUARY 29, 2020 | 9-NOON CT | DUSTIN WILGERS

"Examining the Disconnect between Society and the Environment"

MARCH 21, 2020 | 9-NOON CT | DAN ULRICH

"Creation Care and the Gospel of John"

APRIL 18, 2020 | 9-NOON CT | RHONDA PITTMAN GINGRICH

"Nurturing the Spirit of the Child without Squelching the Spirit"

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.MCPHERSON.EDU/VENTURES

New Ventures in Christian Discipleship season to begin September 28

The Ventures in Christian Discipleship program at McPherson (Kan.) College is moving into its eighth year of providing useful, affordable education to small church congregations. The first two online courses of the year will focus on Creation Care. All classes are donation-based and continuing education credit is available for \$10 per course.

On September 28 at 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CST, Kirk MacGregor will present the course "God's Relation to the Natural World and Creation Care." Many philosophers and theologians view God's relation to the natural world as parallel to the relation between our souls and our bodies. This course will examine this notion and explore its implications for creation care. Putting this notion in conversation with Jesus' parable of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:31-46), this course will argue that what we do, positively or negatively, to the natural world, we do to Jesus himself.

Dr. Kirk MacGregor is Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion and Department Chair at McPherson College. He is the author of five books, the most recent of which is *Contemporary Theology: An Introduction* (2019). Kirk is a member of the McPherson Church of the Brethren.

On October 26 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CST, Sharon Yohn will present the course "Faith Through Action: Effective approaches to solving the climate challenge." God calls on us to act when our brothers and sisters are in need. The destabilization of our climate is already causing immense human suffering, leaving us with a clear call to action. But how? When faced with a problem this large and complicated, it is hard to feel like our actions are meaningful. In this course we will explore three types of meaningful action you can take and the resources available to support those actions.

Dr. Sharon Yohn is an active member of the Stone Church of the Brethren in central Pennsylvania, as well as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Juniata College. She earned her B.S. in Environmental Science at Juniata College, and a Ph.D. in Environmental Geosciences from Michigan State University. Called to action by both her scientific understanding and her faith, Sharon has been acting as an advocate for climate action for several years. Sharon co-wrote a series of articles on faith and climate change for the Church of the Brethren magazine, The Messenger, and served on a denominational Creation Care Committee. She is the group leader for the Juniata Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby, a non-partisan organization building political will for a livable future.

To learn more about Ventures in Christian Discipleship and to register for courses, visit www.mcpherson.edu/ventures.

From the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center:

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

It is quite evident there is a great need for quality and qualified ministers within the life of the Church of the Brethren. The church is primed for a renewed passion and vision for calling persons to set-apart ministerial leadership. A new, creative initiative supported by the Office of Ministry is an emphasis for promoting “Calling the Called” events throughout the denomination. A special offering was lifted at the Greensboro Annual Conference designated to support this initiative. Additional information will be forthcoming distributed through the district offices and those responsible for calling and credentialing those in the set-apart ministry.

*Within the SVMC area, the Resource and Development Committee of the Governing Board has initiated an effort to promote this “Calling” emphasis. Persons from each of the five districts have been invited to share their “Calling” journey through the writing of short essays regarding their “call to ministry” journey. For the balance of 2019 through 2020, we will be highlighting “calling” stories of individuals who will share their unique perspectives on our theme: **Your Call...Your Journey...Your Education**. Joe Detrick, Chair of the Resource and Development Committee, and former pastor and District Executive, contributes the first essay.*

<https://conta.cc/2XZ3k0b>



Continuing
EDUCATION EVENTS

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center presents...

Pastoral Care and Crisis Intervention, Part II

Family and Small Group Care

Saturday, October 26, 2019

9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.)

Newville Church of the Brethren, 16 Carlisle Road, Newville, PA 17241

Presenter: Dale Leverknight

Dale Leverknight currently serves as pastor of the Montgomery Church of the Brethren in Western PA. He draws on years of experience in pastoral care, counseling, and emergency services. He has a BS degree in Biblical Studies/Theology and an MA in Christian Counseling, both from Eastern Mennonite University.

Pastoral Care and Crisis Intervention is a series of four sessions (March 30 and October 26, 2019, and two TBA in 2020), which will provide the most basic skills pastors need to begin to offer spiritual support and comfort to persons in our care. The sessions will benefit deacons and other lay leaders, in addition to pastors. While the sessions build upon one another, you will gain valuable information even if you can attend only one session. **NOTE: This registration form is ONLY for Part II on October 26, 2019. The remaining sessions will require separate registration at a later time. The cost, below, is for one session on October 26.**

Topics to Be Covered:

- Vocabulary and Family/Group Dynamics during Crises
- Listening Skills
- Biblical Foundations
- Understanding "What affects one...affects all!"
- Group Practice

Please check ☒ your option.

☐ \$60.00 (includes light breakfast, lunch, and .5 CEUs)

☐ \$50.00 (includes light breakfast, lunch, and NO CEUs)

REGISTRATION FORM – Please register by October 11, 2019. Thank you.

<p>Please make checks payable to "SVMC".</p> <p>Mail completed registration form and payment for "Pastoral Care & Crisis Intervention Part 2" Oct. 26</p> <p>Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center</p> <p>One Alpha Drive</p> <p>Elizabethtown, PA 17022</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Contact us at: 717-361-1450 or svmc@etown.edu.</p> <p>Thank you!!</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Congregation _____ District _____</p> <p>Email _____ Phone _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$60.00 (includes light breakfast, lunch, and .5 CEUs)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 (includes light breakfast, lunch, and NO CEUs)</p>
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Science Fiction and Theology: Connections with Culture

Saturday, November 9, 2019

Juniata College (The Sill Board Room in von Liebig Center for Science)

9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.)

Presenter: Steven Schweitzer

Steve Schweitzer (PhD, Notre Dame) is Academic Dean and Professor at Bethany Theological Seminary. He regularly teaches a graduate seminar on Chronicles-Ezra-Nehemiah and a course on Science Fiction and Theology. Steve has preached, taught, and led workshops for several congregations and districts. Steve and his wife, Jill, have 3 children. They attend Cedar Grove Church of the Brethren in the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District.

Science Fiction is extremely popular in our wider culture. This genre is filled with theological themes: who is God, what does it mean to be human, what is the nature of evil, how is it overcome, is war or violence necessary, to name only a few. Based on a course Steve teaches at Bethany Seminary, examples from widely popular SciFi series – Star Wars, Star Trek, and Doctor Who – that allow connections between theology and culture - will be explored.

Registration due by October 25, 2019: _____ **\$60.00 (includes light breakfast, lunch and 0.55 CEUs)**
 _____ **\$50.00 (includes light breakfast, lunch, and NO CEUs)**

REGISTRATION FORM

<p><u>Please make checks payable to "SVMC".</u></p> <p>Mail completed registration form and payment for "SciFi & Theology" to:</p> <p>Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center One Alpha Drive Elizabethtown, PA 17022</p> <p>Questions: Contact us at: 717-361-1450 or svmcc@etown.edu Thank you!!</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Congregation _____ District _____</p> <p>Email _____ Phone _____</p> <p>Meat or Vegetarian Lunch _____ Other Dietary Restrictions _____</p> <p>Amount Enclosed _____ \$60 for 0.55 CEUs _____ \$50 for NO CEUs</p> <p>Where did you hear about this event? _____</p>
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Brethren Academy Courses Academic Year 2019-2020

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.

Summer/Fall 2019

Death and Dying, online
September 4-October 29, 2019
Instructor: Debbie Eisenbise
(credits: MS)
Registration Deadline: July 31, 2019

The History of the Church of the Brethren
Two weekend intensive, Elizabethtown, PA
Sept. 27-28 and Nov. 15-16, 2019
Instructor: Jeff Back
(credits: BT)
Registration Deadline: August 15, 2019

Interim/Transitional Ministry: More than Mere Maintenance, online
September 25-November 19, 2019
Instructor: Tara Hornbacker
(credits: MS, BTS)
Registration Deadline: August 21, 2019

Church of the Brethren History, weekend intensive
October 10-13, 2019
Miami Haitian COB, Miami, FL
Instructor: Denise Kettering Lane
(credits: BS, BTS, IE)
Registration Deadline: September 6, 2019

Introduction to the New Testament, online
October 16-December 3, 2019
Instructor: Matt Boersma
(credits: BT, FCR)
Registration Deadline: September 11, 2019

Winter/Spring 2020

A Place of Refuge: Urban Ministry, 2-week intensive
January 6-16, 2020
Atlanta, Georgia
Instructor: Joshua Brockway
(credits: 2 MS units, IEI, BTS)
Registration Deadline: November 1, 2019
Runs concurrently with Bethany Seminary Course

Faith Formation for a Changing World, online
January 22-March 17, 2020
Instructor: Rhonda Pittman-Gingrich
(credits: MS)
Registration Deadline: December 18, 2019

Spiritual Practices in Ministry, online
April 15-June 9, 2020
Instructor: Reba Herder
(credits: MS)
Registration Deadline: March 11, 2020

Science and Faith, weekend intensive
April 29-May 3, 2020
Bethany Theological Seminary
Instructor: Russell Haitch
(credits: BT, BTS)
Registration Deadline: March 25, 2020

Church Planting, Directed Independent Study
Begins with the Church Planting Conference
May 2020 (date TBD)
Instructor: Stan Dueck

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: BCE – Brethren College/Connections Experience,
BTS – Bethany Experience, IE-Intercultural/Interfaith/Ecumenical Experience, BT-Bible/Theology,
MS –Ministry/Ministry Skills, FCR-Fulfills Curricular Requirement]

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership proudly offers Ministry in an Urban Context

JANUARY 6-16, 2020

ONSITE IN ATLANTA, GA

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)



Course Description and Objectives

This course represents an educational partnership with Pastor Bruce Deel and City of Refuge Ministries®, along with Discipleship Ministries of the Church of the Brethren. This course will also explore the ministries of other faith-based groups in metro Atlanta that will expose students to a variety of styles and strategies for addressing the complex issues of ministry in large urban contexts. This will be an immersive urban experience with a focus on the ministries of care in Atlanta dedicated to the goals Jesus outlined in Matthew 25.

Students will also be introduced to the networking approach to capacity building that is necessary for partnerships that minister with marginalized communities in the city. This will involve an exploration of the "collective impact" that results when leaders from the three main sectors--non-profit, public and government - advocate for the voiceless through collaborative efforts.

This course is available to:

- TRIM/EFSM students- fulfills 2 MS units and BTS and IE Experiences
- Those seeking Continuing Education Units (2.0 CEU)
- Anyone seeking personal and spiritual enrichment

Essentially, this course is open to ALL!

Course fee \$295.00

Registration deadline:
November 1, 2019

- *Think critically* about the complexities of ministry with marginalized communities in an urban context.
- *Identify* the major challenges of ministry with marginalized populations in an urban context.
- *Define* the core theological concepts that inform ministry in an urban context in a manner that reflects an understanding of ministry that is *inspirational, incarnational and improvisational*.

Instructor: Joshua Brockway

Joshua Brockway is the director of spiritual formation and co-coordinator for Discipleship Ministries of the Church of the Brethren. He holds a PhD in Church History from The Catholic University of America and has served in ministry in Indiana and the city of Atlanta.

Travel Grant

The Brethren Academy will provide a travel stipend of up to \$300 for Academy students to offset travel costs, reimbursement upon submission of travel receipts.

**Brethren Academy for
Ministerial Leadership**

615 National Road W
Richmond, IN 47374
800-287-8822 x1824
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

A CE or PE student is not
required to complete any
assigned papers or exams.

Required Texts to be Read Prior to Course

Deal, Bruce. **Trust First**. New York, NY: Optimism Press, 2019.

Leong, David P. **Race and Place**. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2017.

Lupton, Robert D. **Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (and How to Reverse It)**. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2011.

Participants

This course is offered at the Academy level and is open to Brethren Academy students and clergy.

For TRIM students, successful completion of this course will earn two Academy Level units in **Ministry/Ministry Skills** studies and complete the requirement for the **Bethany Seminary Experience** and **Ecumenical Experience**. Pastors will earn two continuing education credits (2.0 CEUs).

This course will be held in conjunction with a graduate level course taught by Bethany's Assistant Professor of Ministry Formation, Dan Poole.

Housing will be in dormitory-style accommodations provided on the campus of City of Refuge.

Students will travel to Atlanta on January 6, 2020. Class sessions are planned for January 7 through January 15. Students can plan to arrange for return travel on either the evening of January 15 or on January 16.

As an attendee of this event, you may be included in still photos, videotaped footage, news articles, informational brochures or other media used to interpret the mission and purpose of Bethany Theological Seminary, the Church of the Brethren, and the Brethren Academy.

There are five (5) spots available for Brethren Academy students.

Ministry in an Urban Context, January 6-16, 2020 – Atlanta, GA

[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: \$295 payable to Brethren Academy

Registration Deadline: November 1, 2019

SPECIALIZED GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

learning for life and ministry

Biblical Peacemaking ■ Intercultural Biblical Interpretation
Just Peace and Conflict Transformation ■ Theology and Science
Theopoetics and Theological Imagination

COURSES IN
MULTIPLE FORMATS
AND LOCATIONS

SPECIAL TUITION ARRANGEMENT
COMPLETE IN TWO YEARS
AT THE COST OF ONE

APPROVED FOR
CONTINUING
EDUCATION CREDIT



So that the world **flourishes**

Biblical Peacemaking New

REQUIRED COURSES

- Gospel of Peace
- Interpreting Romans as a Resource for Peacemaking
- Practicum

Choice of one -

- Conflict Transformation
- Mediation as a Social and Spiritual Practice
- Restorative Justice

Choice of one -

- Ecological Theology
- Environmental Ethics in Theological Perspective

Choice of one -

- Just Peace
- Peace of the City and Quest for Public Theology
- Religion as a Source of Terror and Transformation

Theology & Science New

FIVE ELECTIVE COURSES

- Eco/Green Bible
- Ecological Theology and Christian Responsibility
- Environmental Ethics in Theological Perspective
- Introduction to Theological Reflection
- Ministry across Generations
- Science and Religion
- Science Fiction and Theology
- Science, Theology, and Ministry
- Taking Church beyond the Walls

Intercultural Biblical Interpretation

REQUIRED COURSES

- Introduction to Old Testament
- Introduction to New Testament
- A course in exegetical hermeneutics
- A course in exegetical methods

ADDITIONAL COURSE

- Bible and Pastoral Care
- Chronicles and Ezra-Nehemiah
- Gospel of Matthew
- Gospel of Peace
- Hebrew
- Images of God
- Israel's Wisdom Teachings
- New Testament Foundations for Ministry
- New Testament Greek
- Preaching the Gospels
- Psalms
- Writing Midrash

Just Peace & Conflict Transformation

REQUIRED COURSES

- Conflict Transformation
- Just Peace: An Ecumenical Call

THREE ADDITIONAL COURSES

- Feminist Theological Perspectives on Conflict
- Gospel of Peace
- Interfaith Dialogue
- Introduction to Pastoral Care
- Meditation as Social and Spiritual Practice
- Pastoral Care with Family Systems
- Religion as a Source of Terror and Transformation
- Restorative Justice

Theopoetics & Theological Imagination

REQUIRED COURSES

- Introduction to Theological Reflection
- Theopoetics

THREE ADDITIONAL COURSES

- Ecological Theology and Christian Responsibility
- Science Fiction and Theology
- Environmental Ethics in Theological Perspective
- Modernity, Postmodernity, and Belief
- Bonhoeffer, War, and Peace
- The Theological Imagination

Let's talk.

admissions@bethanyseminary.edu
765.983.1828