

**BUCKEYE BRETHREN INSTITUTE**  
**SYLLABUS: TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THE CHURCH**  
**FALL TERM 2026**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Cindy Peel

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**DATES & TIMES:** August 28, September 11, September 25; 9:30am - 3:30 pm with an hour planned for lunch at approximately 12 noon

**LOCATION:** Class instruction will utilize Zoom and in-class attendance.

**PURPOSE:** An overview of the Scriptural and historical backgrounds of Christian education, with special emphasis on the various specialized teaching ministries of the local church in operation today. The pastor's role as leader of educational and meaningful church growth is also to be explored.

**OBJECTIVES:** Suggested Learning Objectives. By the end of the unit, the student will:

- A. Be able to describe some of the formal and informal ways in which teaching and learning take place in the Christian community.
- B. Be able to demonstrate skills in preparing and conducting a class session with a particular congregational group.
- C. Be able to identify some of the stages and passages of life that affect learning and faith development.
- D. Be familiar with some of the educational programs offered in the Church of the Brethren, including People of the Covenant and various curriculum series.
- E. Be able to articulate the role of the pastor in the educational ministries of the congregation.
- F. Be able to assess strengths and weaknesses of the educational programs in his or her congregation.

**COURSE TEXTBOOKS:**

1. Christian Education in the Small Membership Church  
Karen B. Tye, Abingdon (2010)
2. Basics of Christian Education  
Karen B. Tye, Chalice Press (2000)

## CLASS EXPECTATIONS

- Participation in 15 or more contact hours per course (We will have Saturday classes, 9:30am - 3:30 pm with an hour planned for lunch at approximately 12 noon)
- Attend each class unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances, as approved by director and instructor
- 35-45 hours of course work outside of class meetings
- Approximately 400 pages of required reading
- Completion of class work within time parameter set for the course

## COURSE SECHDULE/OUTLINE:

### August 23, 2026

- Foundations of Christian Education
- Course Development
- Strengths and weaknesses of educational programs in his/her congregation
- Formal and informal ways teaching and learning take place in the Christian community
- Foundational principles of an effective CE program
- CE in the small church

### September 11, 2026

- Be able to identify some of the stages and passages of life which affect learning and faith development
- Styles of learning
- Personality of the teacher and of the learner
- Gift assessment and utilization

### September 25, 2026

- Be able to articulate the role of the pastor in the educational ministries of the congregation
- Be familiar with some of the educational programs offered in the COB, including People of the Covenant and various curriculum series
- Student led discussions

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS;

### *Paper #1: My Experience with Christian Education*

The paper will include a personal statement of belief addressing the importance of Christian Education; personal history/experience with Christian Education; what was helpful or positive and what improvements you would make. **Due at first session or within 5 days of the first class.**

### *Paper #2: Reaction Papers to Current Articles on Christian Education's Relevance*

Choose three articles and respond and react to their relevance to your ministry setting. **Due at second session.**

**Possible articles TBA**

**Final Project:** Identify critical needs within your setting and using material from texts and lecture/class presentations, develop a strategy for improvement. Minimum 5 page paper. **Due on or before October 9, 2026**

**Reading Log:** Document all text, articles, and research related reading. **Due at third session.**

**Plagiarism Position as stated in BBI Handbook:**

This course complies with the Brethren Academy and BBI Policy on Citation Style and Plagiarism as described below: Integrity is central to life in community. In the Christian academic community, integrity means giving proper credit to people for the ideas and information we receive from them. It also means that the work we submit and represent as our own is really work we ourselves have done.

The Church of the Brethren 2008 Annual Conference Ethics in Ministry Paper (2008) Part III Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders states: ‘I will give credit for all sources quoted or extensively paraphrased in sermons and prepared papers. I will honor all copyrights’ (p. 8, Letter M). Plagiarism is using the work of other people without giving them credit, whether in written assignments, oral reports and sermons.

The consequences for plagiarism will vary according to the extent of the offense. These may range from rewriting the assignment, non-crediting the assignment, or non-crediting the course.

**Instructions for writing papers:**

Use a 12pt font. (Times New Roman, Calibri, Ariel)

Double space all documents and indent each new paragraph.

Demonstrate your understanding of the material—do not merely rehash.

Cite all sources within the document.

Putting quotes around a bunch of words without attribution is unacceptable.