

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership proudly offers:

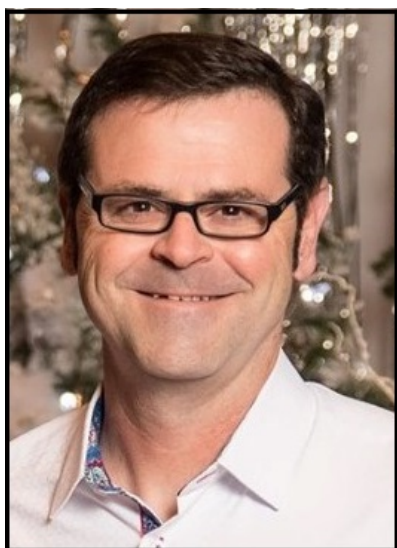
## *Church of the Brethren Polity*

MARCH 10 – MAY 4, 2021

8-WEEK ONLINE COURSE

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

### Course Description and Objectives



To speak about polity is to explore how groups are organized and governed. In the Church of the Brethren, polity is intertwined with our history, practices, and ecclesiology (who we are as a church). Talking about polity as ministers and members of the Church of the Brethren naturally uncovers who we are, what we do, and how we shape our lives together. In this course, we will engage the current and past polity of the Church of the Brethren in order to understand how it has, and continues to, shape “another way of living.”

Students will:

- Gain an understanding of ecclesiology in the Church of the Brethren and how scripture and our particular blend of Anabaptist and Pietist theological approaches inform our polity.
- Examine the changing nature of organization, polity, and practice in the Church of the Brethren.
- Have a greater understanding of the relationship between congregation, district, and denomination in the Church of the Brethren, as well as the wider church.
- Reflect on and understand the role of congregational and ministerial leadership through the lens of Church of the Brethren polity.
- Explore how polity creates structures of privilege and power within the Church of the Brethren and recognize the importance of ethical leadership in the use of that power within the church and in the secular world.

This course is available to:

- TRIM/EFSM students- fulfills one BT unit and FCR
- Those seeking Continuing Education Units (2.0 CEU)
- Anyone seeking personal and spiritual enrichment

Essentially, this course is open to ALL!

Course fee \$300.00

**Registration deadline:**

**February 3, 2021**

### Instructor: Torin Eikler

Torin Eikler has served as the District Executive Minister in the Northern Indiana District since 2014. A graduate of Manchester (College) University with a BA in Biology and Environmental Studies, he is a 6-year veteran of Brethren Volunteer Service, and received an MDiv from Bethany Theological Seminary. Prior to coming to district ministry he served as co-pastor to the Morgantown Church of the Brethren, in Morgantown, WV. He brings a passion for compassionate service and a systems-thinking approach to his ministry in the church. Torin lives in Goshen, Indiana (surrounded by Mennonites, Amish, and other Anabaptists) with his wife, Carrie, and three sons: Sebastian, Alistair, and Patrick.

**Brethren Academy for  
Ministerial Leadership**

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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

**Required Reading List:**

Church of the Brethren Manual of Organization and Polity  
2016 Edition (electronic copies supplied)

Bowman, S. Loren. *Power and Polity Among the Brethren*,  
chapters 1-2, 9-10. (electronic copies supplied)

Durnbaugh, Donald F., *Church of the Brethren: Yesterday  
and Today*. ISBN: 0871781514

Redekop, Benjamin W. & Redekop, Calvin W., *Power and  
Authority in the Anabaptist Tradition*. ISBN: 0801866057

Additional excerpts and articles supplied by the instructor.

**Suggested Reading List:**

Bowman, Carl F., *Brethren Society: The Cultural  
Transformation of a "Peculiar People"*. ISBN:  
0801849055

Brown, Dale W., *Understanding Pietism (Revised Edition)*.  
ISBN: 0-916035-64-6

## Expectations

Online learning requires students to be disciplined in their time  
management. Students are expected to spend 10 hours per  
week in course-related work

For online learning, students will need basic computer skills and  
access to the internet. If your computer is four years old or less,  
you should have the capabilities for this class. These  
capabilities include:

- Modem: Minimum 56 kbps speed is slow but  
adequate. A speed of 100 kbps (300  
recommended) is needed for podcasts and 300  
kbps (500 recommended) for videos
- An email account
- An up-to-date web browser; such as Firefox, Internet Explorer  
or Google Chrome

**Church of the Brethren Polity, March 10 – May 4, 2021**

[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: \$300 payable to Brethren Academy** Registration Deadline: February 3, 2021