

## REGISTRATION FORM

### Church of the Brethren Polity & Practice

October 23-24 & November 13-14, 2020

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

**Course fee: \$300.00**

#### I will be taking this course for:

\_\_\_\_\_ One TRIM Credit

\_\_\_\_\_ Two Cont. Ed. Units (ordained pastors)

\_\_\_\_\_ Denominational Requirement

\_\_\_\_\_ Personal Enrichment

Please mail this registration form with payment  
by **September 30, 2020** to:

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center  
One Alpha Drive  
Elizabethtown PA 17022

## TRIM INFORMATION

This Training in Ministry (TRIM) course is offered in cooperation with Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. It completes one unit in the area of Ministry Skills and fulfills a Brethren Studies requirement for the TRIM program.

## REGISTRATION

To register, clip Registration Form at left and mail with a check payable to SVMC.

**Course fee: \$300.00**

#### Refund policy:

- 100% of course fee if class has filled or if student withdraws prior to registration deadline.
- 50% for withdrawal between the registration deadline and the first day of class.
- No refunds will be given once the class has begun. Exceptions for extraordinary circumstances require the approval of the SVMC Executive Director.

## SCHEDULE

The course will be held at the Atlantic Northeast District Office, 500 East Cedar Street, Elizabethtown, PA. Classes run from 4 pm to 9 pm each Friday and 8 am to 4 pm each Saturday. Students should also budget time for a significant reading assignment before the first class.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center:  
Phone: 717-361-1450; Email: [svmc@etown.edu](mailto:svmc@etown.edu)

[www.etown.edu/SVMC](http://www.etown.edu/SVMC)

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center  
offers . . .

## Church of the Brethren Polity & Practice



October 23-24 and November 13-14, 2020  
Atlantic Northeast District Office

Elizabethtown, PA

Instructor:  
**Randy Yoder**

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☞ A TRIM Course ☞

# Church of the Brethren Polity and Practice

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to help students understand power and authority as discerned, covenanted and practiced by the Church of the Brethren for fulfilling meaningful missional ministry at all levels of the Church. Through reading, research, and class input and sharing, students will be enabled to understand the ecclesiology and polity of the Church of the Brethren. Included in this course will be the study of the relationship between the cultural context and organizational patterns of congregations and how polity is established to guide leadership and congregations in being true to their Pietist and Anabaptist traditions while striving to be relevant, vibrant and healthy for mission.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

- Church of the Brethren 2019 Manual of Organization and Polity* (download from the Church of the Brethren web page)
- Irving, Justin A. and Mark Strauss. *Leadership in Christian Perspective*. ISBN: 9781540960337
- Keifert, Patrick and Wesley Granberg-Michaelson. *How Change Comes to Your Church*. ISBN: 978-0-8028-7624-9
- Redekop, Benjamin W. *Power and Authority in the Anabaptist Tradition*. ISBN: 0801866057.

## INSTRUCTOR



**Randy Yoder, D.Min.**

Randy Yoder has served as a pastor, District Executive in Middle PA, and church coach. He also has served on the General Board (prior to its being the Ministry and Mission Board) and was an independent staff person for Brethren Benefit Trust as a specialist in long-term care insurance. In 2017 was interim District Executive for Atlantic Northeast District, and has served as Interim Pastor with Oakton Church of the Brethren in Vienna, VA. He has taught classes for TRIM and seminary-level students in the areas of leadership and polity and practice. He earned a D.Min. from McCormick Seminary in the area of not-for-profit organization and development.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

After successfully completing this course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand how we in the Church of the Brethren covenant and practice power and authority from an Anabaptist perspective and how that is represented in our polity and practice.
2. Articulate an understanding of ecclesiology in the Anabaptist and Pietist traditions in general and the Church of the Brethren in particular.
3. Identify and understand the changing nature of organization and polity in the Church of the Brethren based on cultural context and organizational patterns of congregations that are true to the values of our tradition and will continue to give purpose and relevance to our existence.
4. Gain insights about how our Congregational Polity supports a missional understanding of the practice of ministry.
5. Develop insights and skill in the practice of Servant Leadership, which fits the style of leadership that best supports positive health and growth within a congregation.