

# E-HEADLINER



## *Faith, Science, and COVID-19 Part Three*

### **FAITH, SCIENCE AND COVID-19 - PART THREE - JANUARY 21, 2021**

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday has announced plans for the next Moderator's Town Hall on January 21, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. The topic will be "Faith, Science, and COVID-19, Part Three." Dr. Kathryn Jacobsen will once again be the featured resource person.

The Town Hall will center on current trend lines related to the COVID-19 crisis along with relevant topics such as the rollout of vaccines to alleviate the pandemic. A special focus will be the role of churches in response to the crisis, as the faith community is called to grapple with the realities of both faith and science.

Dr. Kathryn Jacobsen is Professor in the Department of Global and Community Health at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. Dr. Jacobsen is a specialist in infectious disease epidemiology and global health who has consulted with several organizations during this pandemic. She is also a member of the Oakton Church of the Brethren, Oakton, Virginia, valuing her connection to faith and the Church of the Brethren.

To register for the Town Hall, please visit: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Y4nSfebGR-G8XU5sWY3RxQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Y4nSfebGR-G8XU5sWY3RxQ). Interested persons are encouraged to sign up early, as the event is limited to the first 500 registrants. Questions about registering for this event or any other administrative matters can be emailed to [cobmoderatorstownhall@gmail.com](mailto:cobmoderatorstownhall@gmail.com).

### **FISHER TO BE LICENSED TO MINISTRY - JANUARY 17, 2021**

William R. Fisher, a member of the Hopewell Church of the Brethren, will be licensed to the Gospel Ministry on Sunday, January 17, at 11 a.m.

### **BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRIES VOLUNTEER AND PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES**

Brethren Disaster Ministries continues to provide the opportunity for all interested individuals to serve in a meaningful and helpful way during the coming year. While persons with building trade experience are always needed, there is also a need for persons without apparent construction skills such as gofers, helpers and cooks. The following weeks have been set aside as designated weeks for disaster work in North Carolina and Dayton, Ohio, in 2021. Please note the dates and contact Ed or Susan McKimmy at [virlinaddrc@gmail.com](mailto:virlinaddrc@gmail.com) or (540) 354-5345 if you are interested in serving for one or more weeks.

Coastal NC	February 28-March 6	Virlina - Half group - Committed to 8 people
Coastal NC	March 21-27	OPEN - Half group - Need 8 people.
Dayton, OH	April 4-10	Virlina - Full group - Hollins Road
Dayton, OH	June 6-12	OPEN - Half group - Antioch - 8 people
Dayton, OH	August 8-14	OPEN - Full group - Need 14 people
Dayton, OH	October 10 -16	OPEN - Half group - Need 8 people
Dayton, OH	December 5 -11	OPEN - Half group - Need 8 people

In addition to providing volunteers for disaster projects, we continue to receive kit supplies, cleanup buckets and school kits at the District Resource Center. During these challenging times we can continue to share our call to serve others in Christ's name through disaster response. By doing so, we allow the love of Christ to shine through in a unique way.

If you want to help in any way with this ministry please contact our Disaster Coordinators, Ed and Susan McKimmy at (540) 354-5345 or [virlinaddrc@gmail.com](mailto:virlinaddrc@gmail.com). Disaster response is one of the ways that we are *Continuing the Work of Jesus: Peacefully, Simply, and Together*.

### **CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN POLITY COURSE - MARCH 10 - MAY 2, 2021**

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is offering a course on Church of the Brethren Polity from March 10 - May 4, 2021. Academy students will receive one credit in Bible/Theology upon completion and pastors will earn 2 CEU credits. The instructor for this online course will be Torin Eikler, District Executive Minister for the Northern District of Indiana.

*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."...Torin Eikler*

A brochure is available by contacting us at [nuchurch@aol.com](mailto:nuchurch@aol.com). Please give consideration to participating in this class. The deadline to register is February 3.

Successful completion of the course requires

- Meeting the attendance requirement set by the instructor,
- Completion of the assigned reading,
- Engagement in the course through participation.

A CEU or PE student is not required to complete assigned papers or exams. However, any student who completes papers or exams can expect feedback from the instructor. CEUs are awarded after the instructor has notified the Brethren Academy of successful completion of the course. Questions about taking an Academy course for CEU's or personal enrichment may be directed to Academy Director, Janet Ober Lambert at [oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu) or (765) 983-1820. Please contact Janet if you have any particular questions about the course.

### **QUEST FOR FAITH: A SELF-LED EXPLORATION OF FAITH FOR YOUTH - MARCH 11-12, 2021**

This year, in lieu of the traditional FaithQuest that we typically offer for youth in Grades 9-12, we are offering, "Quest For Faith: A Self-Led Exploration Of Faith For Youth."

Due to the continuing pandemic, we believe that FaithQuest cannot be held in the normal manner in order to keep people safe. As we pondered what to do we realized that the continuing true purpose of FaithQuest is to help youth connect with God and with one another. God can connect with us wherever we are.

Therefore, we developed "FaithQuest in a Box." This "Quest for Faith" in 2021 will come packed with devotionals, fun activities, as well as spiritually reflective information for youth to complete on their own or with their small youth groups.

"FaithQuest in a Box" will be available for pick-up, for those who register for the activity, at the District Resource Center on March 11 and March 12, 2021 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. We are also able to ship boxes upon prior request. A flyer is attached for posting on your congregational bulletin board and inclusion in newsletters or other communications. For more information, contact Joy Murray, Coordinator of Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministries at [virlinayouthministries@gmail.com](mailto:virlinayouthministries@gmail.com) or by private message on the Virlina Young Facebook page,

### **DEFINING SET-APART MINISTRY WITHIN THE MULTIVOCATIONAL REALITY - APRIL 7 - JUNE 1, 2021**

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is offering Defining Set-Apart Ministry Within the Multivocational Reality online from April 7 - June 1, 2021. Participants will receive one credit in Ministry Skills upon completion. The instructor for this online course will be Sandra Jenkins.

Multivocational ministry is a reality in many denominations. It is not only a calling, but a necessity; part-time ministry placements often outnumber full-time placements. This class will explore the set-apart ministry within the multivocational context, including the rewards and challenges for both pastor and congregation.

Attached is the brochure with more information. Please give consideration to participating in this class. The deadline to register is March 3, 2021.

### **THE REWARD OF RISK - A VIRTUAL NEW AND RENEW EVENT - MAY 13-15, 2021**

"The Reward of Risk" is a virtual NEW AND RENEW EVENT sponsored by Discipleship Ministries of the Church of the Brethren. This online event will provide a space to explore new forms of mission, church planting, church renewal and shaping community. This year, the keynote speakers will be Christiana Rice and José Humphreys. Offered in at least three languages, we will be providing opportunities to network with others as we learn and grow. An interpretive document is available - in Spanish, Haitian Creole and English. If you want a copy, please contact us at [nuchurch@aol.com](mailto:nuchurch@aol.com)

Registration opens February 1, 2021. Further information will be sent in the new year. The website link for all things related to the 2021 NEW AND RENEW EVENT including registration for the conference and updates <https://www.brethren.org/discipleshipmin/newandrenew/>

### **COMPELLING VISION BIBLE STUDY SERIES**

The Compelling Vision Team is developing a 13-session Bible study series around the Compelling Vision. Designed for use by youth and adults, the series will be available at no cost on the Compelling Vision webpage in February 2021. (Sample sessions will be posted in mid-January.) Recognizing the importance of discerning the mind of Christ through communal study of scripture, it is our hope that this Bible study series will serve a two-fold purpose: to help congregations engage more deeply with the Jesus in the Neighborhood vision and to help

Virlina District  
Church of the Brethren

3402 Plantation Road, NE  
Roanoke, Virginia 24012

Phone: 540 362-1816  
Fax: 540 362-1817  
Toll Free: 1-800-VIRLINA  
E-mail: EHeadliner@aol.com

We're on the web  
[www.virlina.org](http://www.virlina.org)

*Continuing the work of Jesus.  
Peacefully.  
Simply.  
Together.*



congregations and their delegates prepare for the conversations to take place at Annual Conference as we move toward affirmation of the vision.

Each of the thirteen sessions has as its focus a question that invites participants to explore a different word or phrase in the vision and has been written by a different person, creating a series that is rich in both breadth and depth. The project is being edited by Joan Daggett. Plans are also underway to translate this resource into both Spanish and Haitian Kreyol. For an outline of the lessons and writer's names please contact us at [nuchurch@aol.com](mailto:nuchurch@aol.com).

### **BRETHREN FAITH IN ACTION FUND GRANTS AVAILABLE**

Formed by funds generated from the sale of the upper campus of the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, the Brethren Faith in Action Fund provides grants to fund outreach ministry projects that serve their communities, strengthen the congregation, and expand the reign of God. Such ministries will honor and continue the legacy of service that the Center has epitomized while also addressing the dynamics of the present age. Grants of up to \$5,000 per congregation or ministry project per year are awarded, with a maximum of \$15,000 allocated to any one ministry project over multiple years.

#### **Who May Apply**

Any United States Church of the Brethren congregation, fellowship or project.

#### **Application Process**

Grants will be awarded as determined by the Grant Oversight Committee each month. A grant application will require basic information such as amount requested, description of the project, budget, affirmation that congregation will provide match as recorded in the minutes of the congregation's decision-making body, and a statement of support from the district executive.

For details

Go to <https://www.brethren.org/faith-in-action/>

### **A WORD FROM THE RACE EDUCATION TEAM OF THE VIRLINA DISTRICT**

A Race Education Team has been formed by the Commission on Witness in this time of tension. The team's purpose is to increase our understanding about racism's affect on our congregations and communities. Members of the team include Eric Anspaugh, Dava Hensley, Anne Mitchell, Ellen Phillips and Jennie Waering.

They have developed a video presentation on race titled "Necessary Conversations" with special guests Barbara Pendergrass Richmond of Bethel AME Church and Ron Robinson, a Roanoke City Police Officer, of the Roanoke-Oak Grove Church. This can be found on the team's Facebook page.

The team is committed to providing individuals, groups and congregations throughout the district with a variety of resources to help them better understand this difficult and continuing problem. They would appreciate the opportunity to meet with your group or congregation. All virtually for now, but hopefully in person in the not so distant future. For further information, please email the team at [virlinaret@gmail.com](mailto:virlinaret@gmail.com).