

## Continuing Education for Pastoral Ministry

### Congregations are expected to:

- Encourage life-long learning.
- Budget funds for professional growth.
- Allow at least 7 days (not more than one Sunday) a year.
- Help the pastor develop goals around learning in annual review.
- Join the pastor in being life-long learners.
- Contact the District if financial assistance is needed.

### Pastors are expected to:

- Initiate scheduling of events.
- Be proactive about seeking opportunities in line with learning goals.
- Prioritize Church of the Brethren options.
- Report to district *and* congregation.
- Invite congregation into your learnings.
- Obtain 5 CEUs every 5 years – one CEU in each area listed on the reverse

### Things to know:

- 1 CEU is 10 contact hours.
- Part-time pastors pro-rate their CEUs (e.g. half-time = 2.5 CEUs, etc.)
- CEUs offered by Brethren Leadership Institute or at district events count within the S/C IN district.
- CEUs offered by Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership or at denominational events count anywhere in the denomination.
- If seeking CEUs for other events, ask the District Executive Minister or BAML to review (preferably prior to event).
- Instructors need to have Master's-level or higher degrees.
- Contact hours do not include meals or worship except in special cases.
- To count **recordings**, they must be:
  - Church of the Brethren
  - No more than 10 years old
  - Originally offered for CEUs through BAML criteria
  - Submitted with a "CEU report for recorded material" form:  
[https://bethanyseminary.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/CEU\\_Report\\_Recorded\\_Event.pdf](https://bethanyseminary.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/CEU_Report_Recorded_Event.pdf)
- Requirements can be waived during degree-seeking education.
- Teaching a CEU class or workshop *for the first time* counts for the same amount of CEUs the students receive.

*\*\*based on 2023 Guidelines for Continuing Education and BAML website\*\**

Pastors are encouraged to work toward CEUs in at least 5 of the below focus areas during every 5-year span and to work toward completing CEUs in all of the areas within 10-15 years:

**Areas:**

- Biblical Studies
- Evangelism and Church Growth
- Financial Responsibility and Leadership
  - Congregational Stewardship Development
  - Personal Financial Responsibility
- Intercultural Competency
- Ministerial Leadership and Administration
- Pastoral Care
- Preaching and Worship
- Spiritual and Personal Formation
- Theology
- Special Ministry Areas
- Personal Enrichment

**Possible Sources:**

- Bethany Theological Seminary: Clergy seeking CEUs may apply as auditing, occasional, certificate, or degree students.
  - <https://bethanyseminary.edu/becoming-a-bethany-student/>
  - Admissions office: [contactus@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:contactus@bethanyseminary.edu) or 800-287-8822
- The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership  
<https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/>
- McPherson College, Ventures in Christian Discipleship,  
[www.mcpherson.edu/ventures](http://www.mcpherson.edu/ventures)
- Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center, <https://www.etown.edu/programs/svmc>
- The Office of Ministry, <https://www.brethren.org/ministryoffice/>
- Discipleship Ministries, <https://www.brethren.org/discipleshipmin/>
- On Earth Peace, <https://www.onearthpeace.org/events>
- Recorded events (don't forget to fill out the report form!)
  - COB Web Archives <https://www.brethren.org/webcasts/archive/>
  - McPherson Ventures  
<https://www.mcpherson.edu/ventures/archive-registration/>
  - Youth/Young Adults, <https://www.brethren.org/yya/webcasts/>

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