

Instructors

Dave Yoder

Dave and Ellie Yoder have been married for 48 years. They are blessed with six children and 23 grandchildren. He has taught in their local Christian school as well as SMBI and Faith Builders. He served as associate pastor of Central Mennonite Church for 39 years. They served for four years with Northern Youth Programs. They currently are assisting the Fellowship Haven congregation in Washington D.C. along with an active itinerant ministry.

Chester Weaver

Chester has been involved in Christian education for almost all of his adult life, serving as full-time Christian School teacher for 39 years. He also has taught 22 years at short term youth Bible schools. Presently, he and his wife, Barbara, parents of eight children, reside in Itasca, Texas.

Milo Zehr

Brother Milo and his wife Mary Sue live near their family at Long Island, VA. Milo is one of the founders of Faith Builders Educational Programs and served for 43 years as a pastor at Bethel Mennonite Church near Gladys, VA and Shalom Mennonite Church at Cochranton, PA. He is currently working part time for a farmer, mentoring people, writing, and participating in the local church.

Opportunities for individual consultation with the instructors will be available.

Costs

- The cost per minister is \$225 for one week. If your spouse is attending, the cost is \$250. If you are unable to attend all sessions, the cost is \$60 per day.
- Lodging arrangements as well as lunch and supper will be provided by the hosting congregation. For lodging, contact Chester Weaver at (817) 648-1863.

Minister's wives are welcome to attend with their husbands.

Board Members

Milo Zehr, Chairman

5121 Long Island Rd., Long Island, VA 24569
Ph: (434) 610-8655

Aaron Yoder, Secretary/Treasurer

5188 W 825 N, Leesburg, IN 46538
Ph: (574) 646-2123

Tom Mullet

9850 Golf Course Rd, Sugarcreek, OH 44681
Ph: (330) 852-3539

David M. Yoder

9815 W. Trail West Rd, Partridge, KS 67566
Ph: (620) 664-4402

Lowell Miller

12809 W. Clark Rd, Nickerson, KS 67561
Ph: (620) 728-9043

Verlon Miller

279 CR 617, Athens, TN 37303
Ph: (423) 920-2786



For brochures or further information, contact

Chester Weaver, Administrative Dean

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(817) 648-1863 | chesterweaver@pcfnet.net

www.theshepherdsinstitute.org



Cornerstone Mennonite Church

20000 County Road 655
Memphis, MO 63555

February 17 – 21, 2025



*Equipping church leaders
to be compassionate and
wise in pastoral care,
church administration,
and Biblical preaching.*

Supporting Statements

1. We believe the Bible is the inspired and complete Word of God and that it is our guide for faith and practice in all cultures for all time.
2. We believe Jesus has commissioned and equipped His followers not only to follow Him personally but also to disciple others; we believe it takes the brotherhood working together to do that discipling; but we believe church leaders are responsible for leading out in and giving oversight to the work.
3. We embrace historical Anabaptist theology and practice as reflected in the confessions up to and including the 1963 Confession of Faith.
4. We see many influences shaping conservative Anabaptist people and sometimes hindering the mission Jesus gave us. These influences include but are not limited to:
 - a. Protestant theology
 - b. Materialistic values
 - c. Pietistic emphases
 - d. Emergent church
 - e. Traditionalism
 - f. Modern Psychology
5. We observe that many conservative Anabaptist pastors feel ill-equipped to face the challenges of shepherding in this day, and we believe the need is urgent to provide help for pastors.

Evening Open to the Public

7:00 – 7:10 pm (Opening)

7:10 – 7:55 pm

Russian Mennonite History

Instructor: Chester Weaver

The Dutch/Prussian/Russian Mennonites experienced a very different story from the Swiss Brethren people. Today, we need to know both stories.

8:00 – 8:45 pm

The Fulfilling Wholeness of Modest Living

Instructor: Dave Yoder

How does the Christian navigate the cultural maze of instant gratification, self expression, latest gadgetry and fads, and the all encompassing American dream? The empty excesses of our pleasure crazed culture enticingly peels away the Biblical fabric of modest living. Gratefully, though disdained by many, there remains a freeing pathway for those who tire of the glamor of the empty facades that society embraces.

Course Offerings

Daytime Classes for Ordained & Licensed Ministers

Devotions (8:45 am)

First Period (9:00 – 10:30 am)

Servant Leadership

Instructor: Milo Zehr

This course looks at the role of the pastor and what it takes to become a servant of the Chief Shepherd.

Second Period (10:45 am – 12:15 pm)

The Preaching of the Cross

Instructor: Dave Yoder

Someone has said, "The cross is the soul and center of Christianity. From this pulpit Christ teaches us everything we need to know about God and man." This course will emphasize the essentials and means of cross-centered preaching.

Lunch (12:15 – 1:00 pm)

Third Period (1:00 – 2:30 pm)

Introduction to Theology

Instructor: Chester Weaver

People without anchors drift aimlessly. This course explains the importance of theology and then explores the biblical distinctiveness of Anabaptist theology.

Fourth Period (2:45 – 4:15 pm)

Round Table Discussion

The Round Table Discussion will be moderated by Milo Zehr.

Pastoring is not about learning techniques in handling people. Rather it is learning how to humbly partner with Christ so that His divine influences come to bear on human issues.

Application Form

Please fill out and send in prior to the first session.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email address: _____

Birthdate: _____

Number of years of formal education: _____

Check the appropriate boxes below:

Ordained

Licensed

Married

Single

Spouse Attending

Spouse's Name: _____

Please attach a separate sheet with responses to the following questions:

- Why would you like to attend TSI?
- Do you embrace Anabaptist theology and doctrine? If not, what theology do you embrace?
- Will you refrain from contentious discussion and instead contribute to a healthy spiritual environment, both during class time and otherwise?

Please send this application along with your \$20 application fee to:

The Shepherds' Institute

c/o Chester Weaver, Administrative Dean
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