

Instructors

John Coblentz

John and Barbara Coblentz live in Guys Mills, Pennsylvania. They have seven children and twenty-four grandchildren. John served as a marriage counselor at Deeper Life Ministries for twelve years and then served as Campus Pastor and instructor at Faith Builders Educational Programs for twenty years. Over the years John has authored numerous books. He currently spends time writing and serving in itinerant teaching/preaching ministry.

Clyde Byler

Clyde and Wanita Byler have been married for 38 years, and are grateful for their six children and seven grandchildren! Clyde is lead pastor at the Living Hope Mennonite Church in Cable, Ohio, and has taught part-time at the Elnora Bible Institute since 2004. He and Wanita live in Mechanicsburg, Ohio.

Milo Zehr

Brother Milo and his wife Mary Sue live near their family at Long Island, Virginia. They are blessed with three children, fourteen grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Milo is one of the founders of Faith Builders Educational Programs and has served in pastoral ministry for 55 years. He is currently mentoring people, writing, and serving as lead pastor at Bethel Mennonite Church near Gladys, VA.

Lowell Miller

Lowell and Judy Miller live in rural Nickerson, Kansas. They are blessed with three children and five grandchildren. The Miller family served five years in Nicaragua. Lowell also taught different terms at Calvary Bible School and for the last number of years has been involved in cross cultural international teaching ministry.

Opportunities for individual consultation with the instructors will be available.

Costs

- The cost for the event is \$500 CAD per pastor. Details are included in the registration form accessed by the QR code on last panel.

Minister's wives are welcome to attend and learn alongside their husbands. Formal and informal interaction between pastor's wives in past events have created long term friendships.

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Hillside Christian Fellowship

Willingdon, AB 5105 49 St.
Canada

February 15 – 19, 2027



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

Interpersonal Relationships

Instructor: John Coblentz

Jesus said that “all the law and the prophets” hang on the two greatest commands: loving God and loving our neighbors. God’s guidelines for interpersonal relationships, then, simply explain how Christians as lovers of God, are to love others well. In these sessions, we will explore some of these basic “laws of love.”

8:00 – 8:45 pm

Christ’s Triumphant Church

Instructor: Lowell Miller

In Matthew 16, Jesus is telling Peter about the church that He will build. It will be a triumphant force that the very gates of hell cannot withstand. Somehow, it seems that we fall short of Christ’s vision for his church. How can we replace what has become anemic and apathetic with something passionate and powerful? Much of Christ’s teaching was in parables where he told short simple stories from everyday life to convey some deep spiritual truth. The New Testament offers various metaphors to describe Christ’s church. An in depth unpacking of those word pictures can help us recapture our fundamental call and commitment to Christ’s Triumphant Church.

Course Offerings

Daytime Classes for Pastors & Leaders & their wives

Devotions (8:45 am)

First Period (9:00 – 10:30 am)

Principles of Growth and Change (Pastoring)

Instructor: Milo Zehr

This course considers the process of growth and change in sanctification, the working of God’s grace as believers cooperate with God, and the role of community in spiritual growth and change.

Second Period (10:45 am – 12:15 pm)

Studying & Communicating Biblical Truth Effectively (Preaching)

Instructor: Clyde Byler

What all of us need the most is truth. And that truth comes to us in a Person and in a Book. In this course we will look at how we can effectively communicate the unchanging truth of the Living Word of God to a dying world that seems to be forever changing.

Lunch (12:15 – 1:00 pm)

Third Period (1:00 – 2:30 pm)

Intruduction to World Views (Theology)

Instructor: John Coblentz

What are the prevailing world views in our western culture today? The course examines several worldviews and concludes that the Theistic worldview is the only adequate worldview to explain reality.

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

Please scan the following QR code and fill out the digital application.



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The Shepherds’ Institute

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