

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership proudly offers

## Listening for the Sound of Genuine

MINISTERS ASSOCIATION PRE-CONFERENCE  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI

JULY 2-3, 2024  
[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

### Directed Independent Study Unit (DISU) Description and Objectives



In his book, *The Like to Never Quit Praisin' God: The Role of Celebration in Preaching*, Frank A Thomas reflects on the power of a sermon that “facilitates the experience of the assurance of grace.” When the hearers of such a sermon truly experience the good news of the Gospel, genuine praise follows. After extensive research into the power and genius of African American preaching, Thomas identifies several key components of preaching that can inspire such genuine praise. This course is a companion to the Brethren Ministers’ Association continuing education event on “Listening for the Sound of the Genuine” on July 2-3, 2024. The event will be led by Frank A. Thomas, who has studied and written about the role of the preacher in communicating genuine faith and celebratory praise.

Students who participate in this DISU will examine their own preaching, specifically what is said and how it is said. After completing this course, students will be able to:

- evaluate sermons for what is communicated through the words that are spoken.
- articulate the role of celebration in preaching.
- utilize practical resources for strengthening genuine and celebratory preaching.

#### Directed Independent Study Unit (DISU)

This course is available to:

- TRIM/EFSM students- fulfills 1 MS unit and AC experience
- CEU credit: 2 units
- Personal Enrichment

Course fee \$115.00

This is a two-step registration and payment process:

1. Fill out the attached registration form and return payment of \$115 to the Brethren Academy for the DISU credit (or go online to register and pay online at [Brethren Academy](#). Please include the course name and credit type.

2. Fill out the registration form for the Pre-Ministers Association event, (<http://www.brethren.org/ministryoffice/sustaining.html>) and pay the appropriate fee for the Brethren Minister’s Association Pre-AC Continuing Education Event:

- \$55 EFSM/TRIM fee (\$80 at the door)
- \$55 if first time attendee
- \$95 for individual (\$135 at the door)

Must also register for the Ministers Association Pre-Conference Event.

**Registration deadline:**  
**May 28, 2024**

### Speaker: Frank A. Thomas

Frank A. Thomas, PHD, serves as the Director of the new Compelling Preaching Initiative and the Nettie Sweeney and Hugh Th. Miller Professor of Homiletics at Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana. He has previously taught at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago; Memphis Theological Seminary in Tennessee; and United Theological Seminary of Dayton, Ohio. He is the CEO of Hope For Life International, Inc., which formerly published *The African American Pulpit*. Thomas has served as senior pastor for congregations in Matteson, Illinois and Memphis, Tennessee. Out of a lifetime practicing, studying, teaching, and writing about preaching, Dr. Thomas invites us to “Listen for the sound of the genuine.”

**Brethren Academy for****Ministerial Leadership**

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**Course Withdrawal Refund Policy**

100% of course fee prior to registration deadline

50% from the registration deadline to the first day of class

No refunds will be given once the class has begun

Exceptions require the approval of the Director of the Brethren Academy

**To earn CEU credit**

Participant will

- Meet the attendance requirement

-Complete the assigned reading

-Engage in the course through participation

-Complete reduced assignments as outlined in the syllabus

**Instructor: Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey**

Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey is the Coordinator of English-Language Ministry Training Programs for the Brethren Academy. She also serves as a co-pastor with her spouse, Tim, at the Oakton Church of the Brethren in northern Virginia. She is a graduate of Bridgewater College (BA), Bethany Theological Seminary (MDiv), and Wesley Theological Seminary (DMin).

**Required Texts to be Read Prior to Course**

1. Thomas, Frank A. *They Like to Never Quit Praisin' God: The Role of Celebration in Preaching* Revised and Updated. The Pilgrim Press, 2013. ISBN #0829819789
2. Thomas, Frank A. *The Choice: Living Your Passion Inside Out*. Hope for Life International Books, 2013. ISBN #0982016999
3. Other articles as assigned.

**Participants**

Students participating in this Directed Independent Study Unit will fully participate in the Brethren Ministers' Association Event as well as two sessions immediately prior to and following the event.

**Schedule**

**Week of June 24-28** (Date and Time TBD based on schedules) Zoom introduction .

**July 2:** 4:00-6:00pm – Arrive and register for event  
5:00-5:45 pm – Free Dinner provided by Brethren Ministers Association (recommended but not required)

6:00-9:00 pm – Attend the Brethren Ministers' Association event

**July 3:** 9:00-11:45 am, 1:15-4:00 pm – Attend the Brethren Ministers' Association event

4:00-5:00 pm – DISU Session (in-person)

**Other Expenses**

Registration for the event, transportation, lodging, and meals are the participants' responsibility.

**Listening for the Sound of Genuine – July 2-3, 2024**

[Register online](#) or fill out following information and return, along with payment to:

Brethren Academy \* 615 National Road West \*Richmond, IN \* 47374

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

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

Best contact phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I will be taking this course for: \_\_\_ TRIM credit \_\_\_ EFSM credit \_\_\_ CEU credit \_\_\_ PE

Course Fee: \$115 payable to Brethren Academy

Registration Deadline: May 28, 2024