

# Living

## OUR FAITH

Exploring Brethren in Christ  
Core Practices

**NOVEMBER 5, 2021**

A virtual conference for Brethren  
in Christ pastors and lay people

Sponsored by the E. Morris and Leone Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah University

### SESSIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS

#### Session 1: The Spiritual Power of Habit for Christians

**Dr. J. Robert Douglass** ▪ Senior Pastor, Dillsburg (Pa.) BIC

This session will provide a theological framework for our examination and exploration of Brethren in Christ core practices by offering a "theology of habit." It will consider how our habits, routines and other embodied activities shape our hearts and offer transformative possibilities in making Christian disciples.

#### Session 2: Historical Core Practices Among Brethren in Christ

**Dr. John R. Yeatts** ▪ Professor Emeritus, Messiah University & Pastor Emeritus, Grantham (Pa.) Church

This session will examine Brethren in Christ history to identify the practices that historically shaped us as a church community, from plain dress to love feasts and more. It will show how core practices have long been part of our heritage, and have changed over time.

#### Session 3: Contemporary Core Practices in the Local Congregation

**Panel discussion**

In this session, panelists will share a "core practice" used in their congregation and how it helps shape Christian disciples. These living examples will help us to imagine what a list of Brethren in Christ core practices might look like.

#### Session 4: How Should We State Our Core Practices?

**Panel discussion**

As part of the "Project 250" initiative leading up to our sescentennial denominational anniversary, Brethren in Christ U.S. leaders have committed articulating "core practices" as part of our shared commitment to "reaffirming our identity as a community of Christ followers." In this session, several speakers will anticipate this process by answering the question, "What should we be thinking about when it comes to discerning and naming core practices as Brethren in Christ?" They will offer inspiration and wise counsel church leaders seeking to fulfill our 2028 vision.

### ABOUT THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE

This study conference will explore the importance of core practices for the Brethren in Christ. It will encourage leaders and laypeople to consider such questions as:

- What is the theological importance of habit, and what is habit's role in Christian discipleship?
- What habits and "core practices" of Christian faithfulness have characterized the Brethren in Christ Church in the past?
- What contemporary habits and "core practices" characterize Brethren in Christ congregations today?
- What might it look like to articulate a set of Brethren in Christ core practices?

### CONFERENCE DETAILS

The conference "Living Our Faith" is sponsored by the E. Morris and Leone Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah University. It will provide Brethren in Christ pastors, laypeople and friends from related denominations with the opportunity to reflect on important issues in theologically informed ways.

The conference will be held on **November 5, 2021**.

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and out of an abundance of caution and concern for the safety of our community, this year's study conference will be held online via Zoom.**

The conference requires a registration fee of \$10, which covers administrative costs related to the event.

**Attending this conference is an opportunity to fulfill one Lifelong BIC Learning credit, an expectation for all Brethren in Christ pastors within each renewal period.**



For more information, contact the Sider Institute at [siderinstitute@messiah.edu](mailto:siderinstitute@messiah.edu), or visit the Sider Institute website at [messiah.edu/siderinstitute](http://messiah.edu/siderinstitute).



### REGISTRATION CARD

This conference is open to all interested people.  
Registration deadline is **Friday, October 29, 2021**.



### REGISTER ONLINE

Visit [messiah.edu/siderinstitute](http://messiah.edu/siderinstitute) and click on the "Register" link.

### REGISTER VIA POSTAL MAIL

Send this form, along with the \$10 registration fee, to The Sider Institute, One University Avenue Suite 4033, Messiah University, Mechanicsburg PA 17055. Make checks payable to "Messiah University."

Name(s) (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional) ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Church affiliation (required) \_\_\_\_\_

#### For Brethren in Christ pastors:

Would you like Lifelong BIC Learning credit for attending?  Yes  No

#### I plan to attend (check all that apply):

All four sessions  Session 1  Session 2

Session 3  Session 4



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## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE *(All times in Eastern Standard Time)*

### NOVEMBER 5, 2021

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>11 a.m.</b>    | Session 1: The Spiritual Power of Habit for Christians           |
| <b>12:30 p.m.</b> | Session 2: Historic Core Practices Among Brethren in Christ      |
| <b>2 p.m.</b>     | Session 3: Contemporary Core Practices in the Local Congregation |
| <b>3:30 p.m.</b>  | Session 4: How Should We State Our Core Practices?               |



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*Address Service Requested*

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Mechanicsburg PA 17055*

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