

TRIM Learning Covenant

submit to the Brethren Academy

by October 31st

The TRIM program is a program for discovering, exploring, and developing one's gifts and calling through academic courses, a supervised internship, ongoing ministry formation, and individual discernment and reflection. As such, this learning covenant is a tool for noticing and naming gifts as well as exploring areas of growth. It will also help outline desired outcomes and identify a process in order to meet one's goals.

While a portion of this learning covenant will best be completed by individual, prayerful reflection, it is intended to be a jumping-off place for conversation with your district TRIM coordinator. Additionally, it will be a guidepost to help you on your way, as you seek direction while in the program, and as you reflect on your growth at the completion of the program.

I. Personal and Ministry Discernment

(please attach answers to this document)

1. What gifts do you feel you have for ministry? (150-300 words) You may see these gifts you see in yourself or there may be gifts that others have expressed seeing in you that you may not have fully realized or claimed yet. Consider the areas of preaching and teaching, worship planning, scriptural interpretation, pastoral care, spiritual direction, prayer, organization and leadership, community engagement, and theological reflection, just to name a few.

2. What areas of growth do you feel you need to attend to while in ministry training? (150-300 words) Part of ministry training is not just to improve upon your gifts, but also to strengthen areas in which you feel less competent. Again, consider the areas of preaching and teaching, worship planning, scriptural interpretation, pastoral care, spiritual direction, prayer, organization and leadership, community engagement, and theological reflection, etc.

3. What is your vision for your personal ministry? (150-300 words) To what context, area, or situations do you feel called to utilize your ministry training? Describe how you see yourself applying your gifts in this specific context.

II. Learning and Support Plan

1. Coursework - What courses do you anticipate taking within the first year of your ministry training? Building on the momentum of orientation, it is helpful to outline a strong plan for the first year. This can help you start ministry training on solid, confident footing. Given the courses offered through the Brethren Academy (see "Upcoming Courses" listing in your TRIM manual)

4. Ministry/spiritual formation support in your district

Where are you in the district credentialing call process?

approval for licensing in the Church of the Brethren

licensed in the Church of the Brethren

credentialed in another denomination (please list credentialing)

other (please describe)

Are you part of a calling cohort?

Yes

No

Please describe:

In addition to your district TRIM coordinator, is there a mentor or spiritual friend with whom you are discerning your call to ministry?

Yes

No

Please describe:

Do you feel clear about the credentialing process within your district and the steps you need to go through in order to become credentialed in the Church of the Brethren?

Yes

No

Somewhat

What questions do you have?

5. In conversation with your district TRIM coordinator, outline a plan of communication and support.

What is the best way for you to meet?

How often will you meet?

Skype, Zoom, or other online platform

Monthly

in-person

Bi-Monthly

phone

Quarterly

district ministry formation groups

combination (please explain)

Please indicate other issues or plans for communication and support you have discussed with your district TRIM coordinator.

III. Covenant Summary and Signatures*

By signing this covenant, we (TRIM student and district TRIM coordinator) agree to the goals, outcomes, and plan named above.

In this relationship focused primarily on the student, we agree to a relationship marked by:

- **Honesty** - We will speak the truth in love.
- **Confidentiality** - We will not share issues and concerns outside this relationship without permission except when someone is in danger or is being hurt.
- **Safety** - We will honor personal and professional boundaries within a safe environment and relationship.
- **Vulnerability** - We will share conversation about life, ministry, and development issues.
- **Punctuality** - We will be prompt for appointments and calls out of respect for each other.
- **Preparedness** - We will come prepared to each meeting.

“Before God and each other we commit ourselves to this relationship”

TRIM student: _____

Date: _____

District TRIM coordinator: _____

Date: _____

*Appreciation is given to our colleagues in the Journey program at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary for providing the model on which this covenant is based.

Return to Carrie Eikler by October 31st
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