

## Opportunity

- ▶ If you wish to explore TRIM as an educational opportunity for ministry training, contact your district executive or district ministry commission chair. After receiving the support of the district, a Prospective Student Profile is submitted to the Brethren Academy. Profiles are approved year round for a student to begin TRIM at the next scheduled orientation.
- ▶ Each District appoints a Coordinator who oversees student progress, arranges a Ministry Formation group experience and reports to the District Ministry Commission.
- ▶ Coordination of denominational ministry training programs, including TRIM, happens through the Ministry Advisory Council. Representatives of the districts, Bethany Theological Seminary, and the Church of the Brethren, along with the Director of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, meet to design, review and evaluate training for ministry.



For more information contact:

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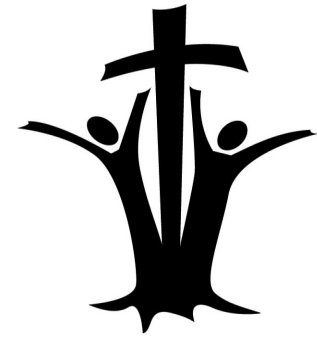
The Brethren Academy is a ministry  
training partnership of the  
Church of the Brethren

[www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org)

and

Bethany Theological Seminary  
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# Training In Ministry (TRIM)

Brethren Academy  
For Ministerial Leadership

## ***Commitment***

TRIM is open to individuals serving in or preparing for ministry who

- ▶ are committed to Christ and to faithful membership in the body of Christ
- ▶ sense a call to set-apart ministry and are willing to test that call
- ▶ show gifts for ministry that others have also discerned and affirmed
- ▶ are eager to grow and to pursue a disciplined course of study to facilitate that growth

## ***A Road to Ministry***

- ▶ recognizing individual gifts
- ▶ encouraging self-motivation and self-discipline toward higher education
- ▶ contributing limited scholarship monies toward a student's educational program
- ▶ creating flexible frameworks for individuals with diverse educational backgrounds and local commitments
- ▶ providing a context for Brethren formation of ministers who come into the church from other church backgrounds

## ***A Partnership ...***

- ▶ administered by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership
- ▶ sponsored by Bethany Theological Seminary, the Church of the Brethren, and the 24 participating districts
- ▶ coordinated with other ministry experiences and education through the Brethren Academy
- ▶ facilitated through the Ministry Advisory Council

## ***History and Purpose***

TRIM was launched in 1987 with four districts and is now an option in all districts. Authorized by Annual Conference, TRIM offers a flexible model for training, utilizing a variety of educational opportunities, including online and onsite courses arranged by the Brethren Academy.

TRIM is designed to address the needs of individuals for whom full-time college and seminary training are not feasible. Most of the requirements of the program can be completed from a student's current location.

## ***Educational Program***

A TRIM Student

- ▶ Takes ten general education courses completed at an accredited college or university
- ▶ Takes TRIM classes online, and/or onsite:
  - Ten to be completed in Bible and Theology
  - Ten to be completed in Ministry Skills
  - Selected Bethany classes qualify
- ▶ Participates in a Supervised Ministry internship
- ▶ a Bethany Seminary experience
- ▶ a Brethren College experience
- ▶ an Ecumenical or Intercultural event
- ▶ Annual Conference participation
- ▶ District Conference participation
- ▶ a Ministry Internship

## ***Activities***

A TRIM Student

- ▶ Meets regularly with a District TRIM Coordinator
- ▶ Participates in a spiritual formation group