

Why TRIM?

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus calls the first disciples to follow him so that he can teach them to be “fishers of people.” The narrator tells us that upon hearing the call they *immediately* leave their nets and boats to follow him. For the next few years, Jesus taught and trained these individuals to be faithful followers and leaders. Their lives were forever changed when they answered the summons, and they would go on to change the lives of many in Jesus’s name.

Those who heed the summons of Christ to enter a season of learning and training through TRIM are invited to leave behind their own versions of nets and boats in order to begin the journey of discipleship. And in doing so, join others who will go on the journey together, learning and training to “fish for people” in Jesus’s name.

Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?

The Summons (Hymn by John Bell)

Contact Us

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

615 National Road West
Richmond, IN 47374

Phone

1-800-287-8822
765-983-1824

Email

academy@bethanyseminary.edu

Website

[www.bethanyseminary.edu/
brethren-academy](http://www.bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy)



The Brethren Academy is a ministry
training partnership of the Church of
the Brethren and
Bethany Theological Seminary.

Revised June 2023



Training in
Ministry
(TRIM)

*Brethren Academy for
Ministerial Leadership*

Program Overview

What is TRIM?

TRIM is administered by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial leadership in partnership with Bethany Theological Seminary, Church of the Brethren, Inc., and the 24 districts of the Church of the Brethren. TRIM consists of studies in bible, church history, theology, and practical ministry. Through coursework and a series of engagements with the life of the church, students gain knowledge and experience for ministry.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me".

Isaiah 6:8

How do I enroll in TRIM?

1. Contact your district executive or district ministry commission.
2. Your district will submit a Prospective Student Profile.
3. You will complete a Student Application.
4. The Brethren Academy will review your application.
5. If accepted, you will begin TRIM at the next scheduled orientation.

Who is TRIM for?

TRIM partners well with the district licensing process for discerning a call to ministry. You may be eligible for TRIM if you are committed to Jesus Christ and his church and also:

- sense a call to ministry in the Church of the Brethren and are willing to test that call
- have a high school diploma (or equivalent) and the ability to do college-level work
- wish to fulfill education requirements for ordination or to upgrade previous training
- have gifts for ministry, discerned and affirmed by the congregation and the district
- have the self-motivation to pursue a disciplined course of study.

Graduation from TRIM meets the educational requirements for ordination in the Church of the Brethren.

An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

Proverbs 18:15

Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind...

Romans 12:2a

What do I do in TRIM?

The TRIM program includes:

20 courses

- 10 Biblical, Historical, and Theological Studies
- 10 in Ministry Studies

5 experiences

- Bethany Theological Seminary
- Brethren Denomination
- Ecumenical/Intercultural
- Annual Conference
- District Conference

A supervised ministry internship

Students learn about ministry by doing ministry with the guidance of a supervisor.

Additionally, TRIM students are supported by a District TRIM Coordinator, and a District ministry formation group.