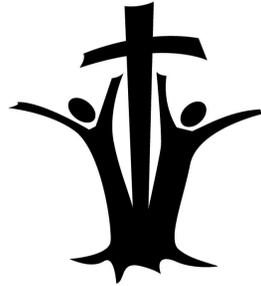


Getting Started

- ▶ If your congregation wishes to explore EFSM as a training opportunity for shared ministry, contact your district executive.
- ▶ The district executive submits a congregational profile to the Brethren Academy. A national staff member may present the EFSM process at an information meeting in the congregation. Check with your district executive for deadline dates for approving congregations who wish to enter EFSM.
- ▶ The district appoints two key leaders who meet monthly with the congregation: a local supervisor who works closely with the Minister-In-Training and a district representative who serves as liaison between the congregation and the district.
- ▶ Coordination of denominational ministry training programs, including EFSM, happens through the Ministry Advisory Council. Representatives of the districts, the Brethren colleges, Bethany Theological Seminary, and the Church of the Brethren, along with the Executive 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

and

Bethany Theological Seminary
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Education For A Shared Ministry

Brethren Academy
For Ministerial Leadership

A Vision ...

- ▶ exemplifying a model for ministry that assumes the calling of all God's people to ministry
- ▶ providing a commitment to the validity and vitality of the small church
- ▶ helping congregations to define their calling and to set specific objectives to fulfill that calling
- ▶ responding to the special needs of the small church, including finding and training adequate leaders
- ▶ focusing on training the pastor and lay leaders within the local congregation
- ▶ assisting congregations with a modest financial subsidy for the outside learning experience

*The gifts God gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.
Ephesians 4:11-12*

A Partnership ...

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

History and Purpose

EFSM was initiated in 1977 with a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. EFSM is a three-year program, open to congregations with an average worship attendance of fewer than 100 and an annual budget of less than \$50,000, and to free ministry congregations of any size.

EFSM engages the resources of small congregations for ministry and features educational experiences for one minister-in-training, for five participating lay persons, and for the whole congregation. Within EFSM, the programs and concerns of the local church become the very substance of ministry training.

A Three Year Adventure ...

Year One

- ▶ Orientation for Minister-In-Training
- ▶ Kick-off Workshop in local congregation

Year Two

- ▶ Bethany Weekend Workshop in the Congregation
- ▶ Program evaluation and goal-setting meeting

Year Three

- ▶ Second program evaluation meeting
- ▶ Celebration of completion of program

Activities

- ▶ Congregational Training Group (CTG) meets monthly
- ▶ Minister-In-Training (MIT) attends District and Annual Conference
- ▶ MIT completes learning units
- ▶ Laypersons-In-Training (LITs) and MIT work together in ministry