

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

**INQUIRING MINISTER:  
PRE-ORDINATION INTERVIEW GUIDE**

**For Ministry Inquiry Committee and District Ministry Commission**

Inquiring minister's name \_\_\_\_\_  
[last] [first] [middle]

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The 1999 Annual Conference adopted the “Ministerial Leadership” paper, which provides guidelines for interviewing and receiving ministerial leaders from other denominations. The reader should be familiar with the entire paper; however, items K - O in section III carry particular relevance for non-Brethren ministerial leaders who are interested in serving in the Church of the Brethren.

**II. MINISTRY INQUIRY COMMITTEE (MIC)**

This “Inquiring Minister: Pre-Ordination Interview Guide” (hereafter called Guide) is to be completed by the inquiring minister and given to the District Executive/Minister (DE/M) prior to the interview with the Ministry Inquiry Committee (MIC). After the completed Guide is returned to the DE/M, an interview will be scheduled with the MIC, and copies of the Guide will be given to the interviewers prior to the interview.

The MIC has several options to follow after the interview: (1) It may advise that the inquiring minister should be interviewed by the District Ministry Commission, reporting its affirmations and cautions relative to this person becoming a ministerial leader in the Church of the Brethren; (2) It may advise that the inquiring minister would not be “a good match” with the Church of the Brethren; (3) It may advise that the inquiring minister has good potential for leadership in the Church of the Brethren, but certain expectations need to be met before proceeding further, e.g., completing an educational program that is acceptable to the Brethren. (4) It may advise that the inquiring minister should be interviewed by the District Ministry Commission, but that the individual’s ordination should not be received until certain expectations are met. Again, the expectations might include ministerial training and specialized courses in Brethren polity and practices. The MIC may think of other helpful and relevant options.

### III. DISTRICT MINISTRY COMMISSION

The decision to interview an inquiring minister ultimately resides with the DE/M and the District Ministry Commission. If an interview occurs, this Guide is to be distributed to the members of the District Ministry Commission prior to the interview. The District Ministry Commission *may* request other types of information *prior to or following* the interview with the inquiring minister:

- A transcript of the grades
- A letter from the inquiring minister's current denomination relative to ministerial standing in that denomination.
- Completion of the Readiness for Ministry (RfM) program

In evaluating the inquiring minister's readiness for ministry in the Church of the Brethren, the interviewers, in addition to what they have learned from the Guide and the interview, should seek the counsel of others who know the individual—denominational executives, professors, employers, etc.

The District Ministry Commission's recommendation to receive the inquiring minister as a leader in the Church of the Brethren, in accordance with the standards and procedures in the 1999 "Ministerial Leadership" paper, is submitted to the District Board.

Affirmed by the Council of District Executives  
1/2000

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

**INQUIRING MINISTER: PRE-ORDINATION INTERVIEW GUIDE**

Name of Inquiring Minister \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

[Check appropriate boxes]

G Seeking to transfer my ordination in the \_\_\_\_\_ [name denomination] to the Church of the Brethren.

G Seeking to have my ordination in the \_\_\_\_\_ [name of denomination] recognized in the Church of the Brethren for a

G Term of Service

G Multiple Standing Ministry

Are you in good in good standing with your denomination? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If no, please explain:

Name of person(s) to be contacted for verification of your ministerial standing:

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign below, giving the DE/M permission to contact the above person(s) for information and to obtain the necessary forms relative to your ministry:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

***Application for Ministerial Leadership in the Church of the Brethren***

**I. Personal Data**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. resident: \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No  
[last] [first] [middle]

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
[street, box] [city/town] [state] [zip]

Phone [including area code]: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Date of ordination \_\_\_\_\_  
[month] [day] [year] [month] [day] [year]

Membership [*name of congregation*] \_\_\_\_\_

Address of congregation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Marital status: \_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_ Married \_\_\_\_ Widowed \_\_\_\_ Separated \_\_\_\_ Divorced

If married, spouse's name of spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Names and ages of children \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## II. Educational Preparation

If you have graduated or soon will be graduating from seminary, indicate:

Seminary \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Date of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

If you have graduated from college, indicate:

College \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Date of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not a college and/or seminary graduate, indicate the type of ministerial training you have completed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of completion \_\_\_\_\_

## III. Personal Interest

I am interested in ministerial leadership in the Church of the Brethren for the following reasons:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### **IV. Ministry in the Church of the Brethren**

Please provide your understanding of the following areas of ministry [*use extra sheets if needed*].

Ordination:

Ministerial power/Authority:

Connection between a congregation and the district and denomination:

Baptism:

Anointing for healing:

Love feast/Communion/Feetwashing:

Peace/Nonresistance:

Simple life/Nonconformity:

#### **V. Creedal Statements**

The Church of the Brethren does not believe in formalized creedal statements. We say our only creed is the New Testament. Explain what that statement means to you.

**VI. Type of Ministry**

What type of ministry are you seeking in the Church of the Brethren (check appropriate blanks)?

<input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral	<input type="checkbox"/> Christian Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministry
<input type="checkbox"/> Overseas Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative
<input type="checkbox"/> Chaplaincy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service Ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecumenical Work
Other (specify) _____		
_____		
_____		

**VII. Faith Journey and Development**

Please share a brief statement about your faith journey, indicating your obedience to God, commitment to Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord, openness to the continual infilling of the Holy Spirit, your understanding of the nature and mission of the church, and the meaning and purpose of scripture:

Ability and Interest (3 is high; 2 is average; 1 is low). Circle a number in each area:

	<i>Ability</i>			<i>Interest</i>		
Preaching	3	2	1	3	2	1
Worship	3	2	1	3	2	1
Teaching	3	2	1	3	2	1
Pastoral care	3	2	1	3	2	1
Pastoral visitation	3	2	1	3	2	1
Pastoral counseling	3	2	1	3	2	1
Evangelism	3	2	1	3	2	1
Administration	3	2	1	3	2	1
Small group work	3	2	1	3	2	1
Ecumenical ministry	3	2	1	3	2	1
Denominational work	3	2	1	3	2	1
Community ministry	3	2	1	3	2	1
Disciplined study	3	2	1	3	2	1
Leading Bible study	3	2	1	3	2	1
Devotional life	3	2	1	3	2	1
Other _____	3	2	1	3	2	1
Other _____	3	2	1	3	2	1

Describe your vision for ministry:

Describe your leadership style:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**VIII. Other Issues**

Are there any issues you want to share with the Ministry Inquiry Committee and the District Ministry Commission not covered in this paper?       Yes     No

If yes, explain:

**IX. Ministerial Ethics**

The Church of the Brethren has an “Ethics in Ministry Relations” paper. You have been or will be given a copy of the paper. Are you willing to accept the paper’s requirements and procedures?  
 Yes     No

If no, please explain:

Have you read the 1999 paper on “Ministerial Leadership”?  
 Yes     No

Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor other than traffic offenses or had that conviction stricken from your record?  
 Yes     No

If yes, explain how it was resolved:

Has a formal complaint of sexual misconduct ever been filed against you?  
 Yes     No

If yes, explain how it was resolved:

**X. Affirmation**

If my ordination is accepted in the Church of the Brethren, I will . . .

- G Support and promote the teachings, practices, and beliefs of the Church of the Brethren.
- G Support and promote the decisions made and programs initiated within the Church of the Brethren.
- G Accept the guidance and discipline of the district and denomination.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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SPACES BELOW TO BE COMPLETED BY DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Name of Inquiring Minister \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation of the Ministry Inquiry Committee \_\_\_\_\_

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Interviewers \_\_\_\_\_

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendations of the District Ministry Commission \_\_\_\_\_

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Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

District Board action \_\_\_\_\_

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Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Affirmed by Council of District Executives  
1/2000