

CALL TO MINISTRY

ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

01



A church member senses a call to set apart ministry in the Church of the Brethren through personal discernment and mentoring relationships.

02



The individual and pastor process the sense of call together, noting COB beliefs and practices and discernment journey of the individual.

03



The congregational leadership team votes to affirm the individual's pursuit of ministry call. Written affirmation, including date of vote and discernment steps, are sent to the District Executive.

04



The District Executive meets with the individual and pastor, providing information on licensing within the Church of the Brethren. The candidate receives a packet of materials to complete and submit for approval.

In the Church of the Brethren, the call to set-apart ministry is of God. The discernment process, while deeply personal, is not solely a private affair. Individuals are called by God and the church through both a profound inner conviction and the affirmation of such conviction by a congregation.

Calling begins in the congregation. Either a person who feels led by God to explore whether he or she may be called to ministry or a congregation who has experienced gifts of ministry in one of its members may initiate the call. Congregational leaders observe the spiritual maturity and commitment of all persons within their congregation, anticipating that some will be ready to answer God's call to ministerial leadership. Congregations should provide encouragement and positive role models for those considering ministry. The process of discernment is critical for both the ministry candidate and the church.