

Brethren Theologians Network Charter

Introduction

The network exists to articulate and communicate a positive theological vision for the essence (who we are), expression (what we do), and goals of the movement (why we do).

Theological Focus

We will focus on developing an operational theology for the church using the dimensions of essence, expression and goal of the church. Each dimension has multiple elements for reflection which may be undertaken from a biblical, historical, theological, ministry, or integrated perspective.

Vision

(a) Reflection

- To stimulate thorough Biblical and theological reflection on who we are and what we do as “Brethren,” being an evolving movement of churches of nineteenth century historical emergence, NT consciousness and 21st century aspirations.

(b) Dialogue

- To nurture discussion as part of the International Brethren Training network for both the purposes of accountability and an expression of unity in Christ.

(c) Networking

- To recognise and work in with related key interest groups, including Brethren Archives, the Historian Network (BAHN), and other research groups within the movement.

(d) Culture

- Promote the importance of theological thinking within our movement and encourage a culture of reflection and learning that serves to strengthen our churches.

Functions

(a) Writing

- Journal – Commence writing on two levels
 - i. Academic – Network peer reviewed journal articles etc.
 - ii. Church leaders – More practical articles for church leaders
- Help to identify and disseminate papers, articles and books that relate to theological reflection relevant to the Brethren-related movement of churches.
- Stimulate, catalyse and support research into relevant areas.

(b) Online

- Website – connected to BTN
- Forum – Online forum to connect theologians
 - i. Accept all who have completed their first degree upon the recommendation of existing members.
 - ii. Forum to be topic based and monitored.

(c) Face to face – every 2 years

- Run a theologians meeting before or after each IBCM conference
- Run a theologians meeting before or after each BTN consultation.

(d) Database

- Maintain a database of key thinkers, teachers and communicators across our movement who have a theological ability in these relevant areas.