

KOINONIA CHURCH
INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING IN MINISTRY
2026–2028 PROGRAM GUIDE

First-Year Common Courses • Second-Year Ministry Tracks

Opening Day: Saturday, September 5, 2026

Every Saturday • 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

Welcome to iTIM

The Institute for Training in Ministry (iTIM) is a church-based ministry training program designed to equip God's people for works of service and to build up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11–16). iTIM combines biblical learning, spiritual formation, and practical ministry experience.

The program follows a two-year pathway. Year One provides a common foundation for every learner. Year Two allows participants to pursue one of four specialized ministry tracks according to calling, gifting, experience, and ministry goals.

HEAD • HEART • HANDS

iTIM uses a Head–Heart–Hands approach: truth is learned (HEAD), applied to life and character (HEART), and practiced in ministry (HANDS). Each course includes practical application and a ministry practicum.

Program Objectives

- Build a strong biblical and theological foundation.
- Develop Christlike character, spiritual maturity, humility, and a servant's heart.
- Equip participants to study, understand, apply, and communicate Scripture faithfully.
- Develop practical ministry skills for serving the local church and reaching the community.
- Help participants recognize and pursue their God-given calling and ministry direction.
- Prepare qualified participants for specialized leadership, Bible teaching, shepherding, or church planting.

Program Structure

Year	Focus	Purpose
Year 1	Common Courses	Shared biblical, spiritual, and ministry foundation
Year 2	Specialized Track	Focused preparation for a ministry calling
Year 2	Church Planting Residency	Supervised practical church-planting development

Christianity 101 Requirement: Christianity 101 is the foundational discipleship course of Koinonia Church and serves as the normal prerequisite for iTIM. Participants who are currently enrolled in Christianity 101 may begin iTIM concurrently. Those who have not yet completed Christianity 101 may be admitted provisionally with the expectation that they complete the course during their first year.

YEAR ONE — COMMON COURSES

All Year-One participants take the same six courses. The sequence moves from biblical and theological foundations to service, Bible study, prayer, and mission.

Truth That Transforms

Fall • Sep–Dec 2026

Explores essential Christian truth and doctrine and shows how biblical truth shapes thinking, character, decisions, relationships, and ministry.

Learning Objectives:

- Strengthen biblical and theological convictions.
- Understand how doctrine shapes Christian life.
- Apply biblical truth to everyday life and ministry.

A Panorama of the Bible

Fall • Sep–Dec 2026

Provides a big-picture view of Scripture, tracing God's redemptive plan from Genesis to Revelation and highlighting the unity and major themes of the Bible.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the storyline and structure of Scripture.
- Recognize major biblical themes.

- Connect individual passages to the larger story of redemption.

Learning to Serve: Jesus as Role Model

Winter • Jan–Mar 2027

Examines Jesus as the model servant and calls believers to humility, faithfulness, sacrificial service, and a ministry mindset.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop a servant's heart.
- Identify biblical principles for healthy service.
- Practice faithful service in the local church.

How to Study the Bible

Winter • Jan–Mar 2027

Introduces practical principles for observing, interpreting, and applying Scripture for personal growth and ministry.

Learning Objectives:

- Study passages responsibly.
- Interpret Scripture in context.
- Apply biblical truth accurately.

Your Ministry of Prayer

Spring • Apr–Jun 2027

Develops a biblical understanding of prayer and equips participants to cultivate a deeper prayer life and participate in prayer ministry.

Learning Objectives:

- Grow in dependence on God through prayer.
- Develop biblical prayer practices.
- Strengthen prayer ministry in the church.

Outreach as a Lifestyle

Spring • Apr–Jun 2027

Equips believers to live missionally through everyday relationships, conversations, hospitality, service, and gospel witness.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop a heart for people far from Christ.
- Learn practical ways to share the gospel.
- Practice missional living.

YEAR TWO — SPECIALIZED MINISTRY TRACKS

After the common foundation, learners may pursue one of four tracks. Track placement should reflect calling, gifting, experience, ministry needs, and the recommendation of ministry leaders.

Church Leadership Track

For current and emerging ministry leaders, including ministry directors, deacons, elders-in-training, and other leaders.

Bible Teaching Track

For small-group leaders, Bible teachers, discipleship leaders, Sunday school teachers, and those preparing for deeper teaching ministry.

Shepherding Cohort Track (Pastoral Ministry)

A guided cohort for those sensing a calling to shepherd people through teaching, discipleship, pastoral care, and spiritual leadership.

Church Planting Residency

The Church Planting Track includes a residency beyond the iTIM courses. The residency will provide supervised ministry experience, coaching, field learning, and practical development in areas such as vision and mission, evangelism, disciple-making, launch-team development, leadership, ministry systems, finances, community engagement, conflict management, and church-planting strategy. Additional resources may be assigned according to the participant's context.

Participant Expectations:

- Attend Saturday sessions consistently and arrive prepared and on time.
- Complete assigned lessons, readings, projects, and practicums.
- Participate actively in discussion, prayer, peer learning, and ministry practice.
- Demonstrate teachability, humility, integrity, and a willingness to serve.
- Remain actively involved in the local church and practice what is learned.

- Meet with assigned mentors or ministry leaders when required by the track.

Ministry Practicum

Koinonia iTIM is designed to move learners from classroom knowledge to ministry practice. Each course will include a practicum appropriate to the subject, which may include serving in church ministries, leading a small group, evangelistic engagement, prayer ministry, Bible study preparation, teaching, visitation, leadership projects, or supervised ministry assignments.

Completion and Advancement

Successful completion of Year One requires regular participation, completion of course work and practicums, and evidence of growth in biblical understanding, Christian character, and ministry readiness. Year-One completion does not automatically determine second-year track placement. Track selection will be prayerfully considered with ministry leaders and may include an application, interview, or recommendation process.

A Pathway for Equipping the Church

Koinonia iTIM is more than a classroom program. It is a pathway for developing disciples who become servants, servants who become leaders, and leaders who equip others. Our desire is to see every participant grow in the knowledge of God's Word, the character of Christ, and the practical ability to serve God's mission.

“...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:12

Program Information

Opening Day: Saturday, September 5, 2026

Meeting Day: Every Saturday

Time: 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

Program Length: Two years

Location: Koinonia Church, Mount Vernon, Washington