



Mentor Training

This session is being recorded for future training.

Goals

- Clarity of process
- Role/Responsibilities of Mentors
- “How to” Mentor
- Updates to the process



Two Kinds of Mentors

- Candidacy Mentor (349.1a)
- Clergy Mentor (349.1b)



Mentors are . . .



Ordained deacons

Ordained elders

Associate Members

Local pastors who have completed Course of Study

Why Mentoring

How did Jesus mentor?

Mark 3:13–15

Rooms 1, 4, 7

Luke 9:1–6

Rooms 2, 5, 8

John 21:15–19

Rooms 3, 6, 9

Purpose

- Mentor Candidates or Local Pastors
- Creates a safe place for reflection and growth in community
- Supportive relationship
- Moments of encouragement, comfort, and affirmation
- Moments of challenge, accountability, and raising hard questions
- Mentoring groups or one-on-one mentoring
- Not evaluative or supervisory

Responsibilities

Pray for candidates/local pastors.

Establish covenant and meeting schedules as a group.

Reflect theologically on call, vocation, & ministry.

Establish and maintain confidentiality.

Responsibilities

Reflect theologically on the practice of ministry.

Be familiar with Candidacy Process or Course of Study.

Complete Annual Mentor Report form.

Discernment guide.

The Mentor Process

Mentoring begins when a candidate is admitted.

1st Target: Become a Certified Candidate.

Mentoring continues during candidacy.

2nd Target: Become Licensed or Provisional Member.

Mentoring continues as Licensed or Provisional Member.

FIRST MEETING

- Establish a covenant together (pg. 4-5).
- Include learning goals and expectations.
- Explain confidentiality with mentors.
- Set meeting times for next 3-6 months. (Or plan month-to-month based on the needs of your group).
- Share your call story.
- Set the “stage” for a successful mentoring relationship by modeling what is expected.

RECOMMENDED MEETING FORMAT

- Pages 9 and 15.
- Time of prayer and spiritual formation (practice a discipline together).
- Time of personal sharing - successes, difficulties (10-15 minutes)
- Focused time on reflection of a pre-determined topic.
- Planning for next time together.
- Closing Prayer.

Admitted to Certified Candidate

Focus

- Clarity of call
- Encouragement to complete checklist
- Reflect on set apart ministry
- Basic understanding of United Methodist theology

Resources

- *Blessed Wrestling* by Jessie Colwell
- *Answering the Call* from GBHEM
- Wesleyan Ways video series

The Certified Candidate

- 12-year limit
- Eligible for seminary scholarships
- Renewed annually by Charge Conference & the dCOM, until a local pastor or provisional member.
- Annual Mentor Report needed for renewal

Certified Candidate to Local Pastor

Focus

- Role & function of a local pastor
- Prepare for dCOM interview
- Increased understanding of United Methodist theology

Resources

- *Blessed Wrestling* by Jessie Colwell
- *Living Our Beliefs* by Ken Carder
- Wesleyan Ways video series

Certified Candidate to Provisional Member

Focus

- Be familiar with historic questions (para. 324.7)
- Converse easily with peers and mentors
- Reflect theologically on the practice of ministry

Resources

- *Blessed Wrestling* by Jessie Colwell
- *Section 4 - Our Theological Task*
- Wesleyan Ways video series

The Local Pastor

- Required to complete Course of Study or seminary (University Senate approved)
- Required to be mentored first 5 years and until educational requirements are met
- May pursue provisional membership or Associate Membership
- license is renewed annually; no license = no appointment

Local Pastor Mentor Groups

Focus

- Encouragement to complete educational requirements
- Reflect theologically on studies & the practice of ministry
- Practice spiritual disciplines

Resources

- *Blessed Wrestling* by Jessie Colwell
- *Section 4 - Our Theological Task*
- Wesleyan Ways video series

Local Pastor to Provisional Member

Focus

- Be familiar with historic questions (para. 324.7)
- Converse easily with peers and mentors
- Reflect theologically on the practice of ministry

Resources

- *Blessed Wrestling* by Jessie Colwell
- *Section 4 - Our Theological Task*
- Wesleyan Ways video series

LOCAL PASTOR TO ASSOCIATE OR PROVISIONAL MEMBER

1. Completed the educational requirements.
2. Should schedule a meeting with Rev. Jessie Colwell to discuss process, etc.
3. If they have questions, send them to Jessie.

Tracked in Minute
Questions; Cabinet
has most current
updates.

COURSE OF STUDY

1. Local Pastors are required to begin within the first year of appointment.
2. Can be completed all online.
3. 20 Core Courses (pg. 17)
4. Full-time = 4 courses a year
5. Part-time = 2 courses a year
6. If not meeting the expectations, must write letter to DS, dCOM, and BOM to request extension.
7. Can get credit for seminary courses - email Jason.

NO SHOWS

1. Mentor has a one-on-one with the candidate.
2. Mentor invites Mentor Coordinator and candidate to discuss.
3. Reflect on Mentor Report Form.

Report Forms

- Complete online (vaumc.org/dcomresources - scroll to Mentoring)
- Submitted form goes to candidate/local pastor for “approval”
- Copy is sent to candidate/local pastor to upload in Unity.
- See samples in Guidebook pages 20-25.

QUESTIONS?

1. Consult final page of Mentor Guidebook regarding who to direct questions to.
2. If unsure, ask Jason.
3. If you have concerns, keep Mentor Coordinator in the loop.
4. If the concerns reach red flag level, include Jason in that loop.

Questions?