



Diaconal Mentoring - Mentee Information

It is a blessing that you and others have discerned a call to the (vocational) diaconate! As part of your continued journey through this time, you will be assigned an experienced deacon who will be your mentor for a season. This time of mentoring begins with the assignment of your mentor and your completion of the mentoring covenant. While you may also develop relationships with your field education supervisor(s) (which may also be a deacon) and other deacons, your relationship with a mentor allows you to explore the wide open space of becoming a clergy person/deacon for the 21st century - in a safe, trusting and non-judgmental space.

Your conversation with your mentor is confidential and can only be shared by others if you and your mentor both agree to share it.

As the person who will have a mentor (aka, a “mentee”), you are responsible for determining a few items to discuss at each meeting. While a formal agenda is not needed, the time set aside for you and your mentor to meet is for your benefit and growth. Your conversations together can be times to share stories, to bring up tough issues, to ask for help in problem solving, to share joys. While the mentor should not tell you what to do in all circumstances, they can help you work thru issues and situations, they can help draw healthy boundaries and assist you in navigating new relationships with both lay persons and other clergy. Questions both deep and ordinary can be shared - since this person will be journeying with you through these times of discernment. Anything from preaching ideas, to clerical attire questions to “have you ever experienced this....” are all fair game for your conversations.

Your mentor will listen to your questions and respond in a faithful, respectful way which helps you grow and learn as you progress thru your discernment. Feel free to share stories – lots of stories - those of successes and those of challenges - as you meet over the next several months/years. You have an opportunity to receive feedback on

different facets of yourself, your discernment and ministry. Please prayerfully use this information to further your growth.

You are responsible for meeting with your mentor - for setting up the times, for determining the methods (virtual, in-person, phone, etc.). While you are asked to meet no less than every other month - the frequency of your conversations will be driven primarily by you.

Lastly, if you are comfortable, you may want to share your Spiritual Autobiography with your mentor. This gracious act will allow them to become more acquainted with your “backstory” and will allow for some deeper conversations.

May God who has brought you to this day, continue a good work in you as you continue along the pilgrim way.