

Clergy Group Mentoring Models

Three different models are shared below that can be adapted for your specific mentoring group.

Model 1: Focusing on a Case Study

Opening Worship	Light a candle and set a table in keeping with the liturgical season, read and reflect on a biblical text, spend time in extended prayer. Be creative and intentional. Creating a holy space may be the most important thing you do for your group.
Check-In	Participants take time to share, usually one at a time, how they are doing physically, mentally, and/or spiritually. Agree on how long each person will share and keep time. New clergy, in particular, appreciate having an opportunity for longer check-ins. Encourage members of your group to develop a practice of preparing what they would like to share before they arrive, so that the time is used well. You may have this be open-ended or choose a focus question.
Focus	A case study is presented by a member of the group on a particular problem or situation.
Clarifying Questions	Before launching into a discussion of the case it may be helpful to make sure that any questions for information or clarification are asked. Ask the presenter: "What would you like for us to focus on in this case study?" "What help do you need in particular?"
Interaction around the case	Encourage the group to interact with the presenter by attending to the type of feedback he or she is requesting.
Checking in with the presenter	Following the interaction around the case, ask the presenter, "What are you taking away from this discussion?" "What do you want to do or not do differently?"
Group Reflection	In these sessions in which there has been primarily one case presenter, go around and ask each participant to reflect on what he/she has learned from this case for their own ministry or what issues/concerns the case brought up for him/her. "What are you taking away from this case for your own ministry?"
Housekeeping details	Touch base on: Who will be doing the case next time, etc. Remind everyone of the next meeting.
Closing Prayer	Close with a prayer or blessing.

Model 2: Focusing on a Topic

Opening Prayer	Be creative and be intentional. Creating a holy space for prayer and reflection may be the most important thing you do for your group.
Check-In	Participants take time to share, usually one at a time, how they are doing physically, mentally, and/or spiritually. Agree on how long each person will share and keep time. New clergy, in particular, appreciate having an opportunity for longer check-ins. Encourage members of your group to develop a practice of preparing what they would like to share ahead of time, so that the time is used well. You may have this be open-ended or choose a focus question. (Examples are included in this manual).
Focus	This may be a discussion on a particular practice of ministry (e.g., rites and sacraments, leading through conflict; living a balanced life; stewardship; seasonal preaching).
Clarifying Questions	Before launching into a discussion of the topic it may be helpful to make sure that any questions for information or clarification are asked. What do you want to focus on regarding this topic? What questions or concerns are you bringing?"
Interaction around the topic	This can be done in a variety of ways. Discuss a topic that everyone has had time to reflect on during the past month. Reflect on an article that everyone has read together ahead of time. (A few samples are included in this resource manual). Share resources that everyone has brought from their own practice. (e.g., stewardship materials, wedding or baptism services, sermons, adult ed. lesson plans).
Group Reflection and Evaluation	Following the interaction around the topic, ask each group member: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "What are you taking away from this discussion for your own ministry?"• "What do you want to do or not do differently?"
Closing Prayer	This may be a familiar prayer or a prayer offered by the leader to close the group, or a blessing that members offer one another.

Model 3: Great Plains Curriculum

Framework for Group Meetings

- Worship/Devotional and Prayer
- Group Meal (optional)
- Review Group Covenant/ Guidelines for the Group
- Check-Ins / Introductions
- Sharing about previous take-home
- Focus of Meeting
 - [PARTS \(Pastoral, Administrative, Ritual, Theological, System\)](#)
 - While slightly outdated, the [Group Mentoring Guide](#) has 10 lesson plans for 10 different competencies for clergy. Consider pulling out some specific lessons that might be helpful for your particular group.
- Review of new assignments