

Resources



Resources for Mentor Conferences/Student Dialogue for Teaching and Preaching in the Congregation

In your Teaching Parish, you and your mentor will have time to reflect together on vocation (calling) and on the ways in which a sense of call is strengthened and supported. A time of prayer and conversation, the “Mutual up-building of the Saints,” is a long standing Christian tradition.

These resources can expand or deepen your conversation together:

Suggested texts

Foster, Richard *Prayer* [Varieties of prayer]

Hall, Douglas John *Why Christianity?* [the relevance of theology in contemporary society]

Hartman, Olov, *Holy Masquerade* (a novel that investigates the honesty of the minister as [he] [dated] follows his vocation.)

Norris, Kathleen *Dakota* (appropriate for rural, small town ministry) – and for diaconal or lay ministry preparation

Taylor, Barbara Brown *The Preaching Life* [Enjoy elegant language]

Luther’s Large and Small Catechism [Timeless, basic, reflection on ordinary life]

Robinson, Marilynne *Gilead* [fascinating and moving novel of the interpersonal and intrapsychic trials of a rural minister]

Bernanos, Georges *Diary of a Country Priest* [novel set in rural France of a young curate’s spiritual lows and highs]

Suggested Prayer and Discernment Themes

Draw a lectio text from relevant lectionary text for the day and then choose one of the following themes for reflection with your mentor.

1. Share with one another some description of your prayer life.
2. Discuss expectations of what the student might hear when she or he asks congregational members about their individual prayers.

3. Describe personal experiences of relinquishment, of change, of letting go.
4. What role does prayer play in the corporate decision making work of the congregation?
5. Relate prayer to being called to public ministry in a congregation.
6. What is the relationship of prayer to preaching? When is your Sabbath time, and where is your holy rest? Luther's Large Catechism on the Sabbath-(3rd Comm) Found in Book of Concord
7. What are your experiences of healing prayer?
8. How can we use our prayer to care for others?
9. How does the prayer of the gathered community reflect the needs of the world?
10. How do you understand prayer in the Holy Spirit?

