

Ministry Development Module IV – reflective practice in ministry

A. Aims

- To develop skills in reflective practice in the context of ministry;
- To enable reflective learning for the student and others in the local church;
- To integrate formal learning from Diocesan Post-licensing Training or other contexts;

The module consists of:

1. Reflection on ministerial experience and practice
2. Professional development for new ministers

Each element will be developed in turn.

Reflections on ministerial experience and practice

a. A key element in a new ministry, or in a new phase of ministry, is the opportunity for reflection on practice with experienced and skilled supervisors and practitioners. The training relationship with the training incumbent focuses this, and is formalised for this module by:

i. Ensuring that once a month a minimum of 90 minutes is specified as a meeting for reflection on practice. We assume that this would take place in the usual pattern of staff/supervision meetings.

ii. Using 4 of these meetings as formal occasions at which an external consultant/tutor will be present to reflect with the student and training minister on the process of learning using the learning journal (see below)

b. The learning journal will be the basic tool to structure deepening reflection on ministerial experience. A range of issues, themes, questions will be common to the whole year, exploring changes in role, understanding of ordained or licensed ministry, with structured questions and annotations. The journal can be used as part of any meeting with the training minister, but it forms the focus of the 4 meetings at which the external consultant/tutor is present. (4,000 words)

c. In addition to the ongoing process of reflection on general practice, three particular issues or experiences will be chosen for more extended reflection, to be agreed with the training minister and external consultant/tutor. For example reflection on:

- A new ministerial context and its implications for ministry (a requirement for all who have moved to a new location)
- the conduct of a funeral and the preparation for this pastorally and theologically;
- an experience of visiting in a situation of crisis;

- a situation of conflict;
- leading a group;
- the practice of prayer and what sustains that practice;
- an experience of mission or evangelism;
- a situation of 'failure'
- a placement experience in a specialist ministry?

Two of the issues/experiences will be written up in the form of a case study (2,000 words each) and included within the learning journal. One issue, chosen for its potential for more extended treatment will be written up as a 4,000 word short dissertation, and included in the learning journal.

Professional Development for new Ministers

The Diocese also provides a programme of CME. Each trainee will keep a log of such events attended. The journal provides an opportunity to consider how the learning from those events relates to ministerial experience in the parish. Relevant input may typically include:

- Church law
- Ministry in schools
- Teams and working with volunteers
- Marriage preparation and practice
- Group dynamics
- Funerals and bereavement
- Evangelism and modern culture
- Chaplaincy

Revised May 2007. A separate document covers Methodist arrangements.