

Louisiana Conference Board of Ordained Ministry Division of Local Pastors and Associate Members

Guidelines for Clergy Mentor/Coach

1. Connect once a month (at least by phone but face-to-face once a quarter) to discuss the call of the Local Pastor in ministry, to see how the local pastor is living out that call in their current appointment. Discuss the local pastor's growing edges in ministry (strengths and weaknesses). Discuss the local pastor's ministry plan to offer encouragement and suggestions.
2. Encourage spiritual and life disciplines. Looking at a holistic approach to ministry (physical, mental-emotional, social, and spiritual). The mentor/coach would ask the questions of how are you doing physically (personal health), mentally (books, reading, continuing education, just for fun stuff), emotionally (how are you maintaining balance in life and taking care of yourself), socially (who are you developing relationships with?), and spiritually (how is it with your soul, what are you doing for yourself spiritually)?
3. Encourage the local pastor to connect with people within the conference. The mentor/coach would monitor/hold accountable, the growth of relationships within the conference so the local pastor does not feel isolated. Do they have a "covenant group/support group" of other persons in ministry to meet with on a consistent basis for nurture and support?
4. The clergy mentor/coach is to send a progress letter* 1 time a year (by September 1st) letting the District Superintendent and the Division of Local Pastors and Associate Members within the Louisiana Conference know how the mentoring/coaching relationship is going: how often they have met, requests made and if those requests have been completed, etc.
5. Read and sign off required Course of Study paperwork.
6. For those serving as Other Fellowship (OF), encourage and support the completion of United Methodist History, Doctrine, and Polity studies (via correspondence or at Mt. Sequoyah) within the first two years of being appointed to a United Methodist congregation. Continue in ongoing conversation regarding Wesleyan theology, sacramental theology and administration, doctrine and polity of the UMC, and history of the UMC.

**Guidelines adopted by the Division of Local Pastors and Associate Members on
September 11, 2007**

**Guidelines approved as revised by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry on
January 25, 2010**

*The annual progress letter should include: name of the local pastor, how often you have met with the local pastor, if requests were made of the local pastor and if they were met (you do not need to list specifics of any requests or covenant agreement). The report is used to verify participation in the mentoring/coaching relationship. It is to be descriptive and non-evaluative in nature. The local pastor should sign the report along with the clergy mentor/coach before sending it to your District Superintendent and a copy to the CBOM registrar, Rev. John Edd Harper, 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802, by September 1st, to be included in the local pastor's file.