

Meeting 8 —Navigating Through Ministry: Leadership & Visioning (Up to 90 minutes)



**women
thriving
in ministry**
AN INITIATIVE OF ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The Gathering Time—5 minutes

- As people join the meeting, welcome them and create a place of hospitality. When all have arrived, open your time in prayer.

Conversation Starter—5 minutes

- Is there a pastor with whom you've worked whose leadership style you have especially admired?
- What about their leadership style have you appreciated or would like to emulate?

Sharing—Leadership—50-55 minutes

Homework before: Please watch the video below and spend some time in prayerful reflection and journaling:

As in the previous session, you may choose to watch just one set, or both!

Set 1 - Filmed by Cohort 1 mentors, 2021

Leadership and Vision - [Navigating Through Ministry - Leadership \(vimeo.com\)](#) (13 min)

Set 2 - Filmed by Cohort 2 mentors, 2022

Leadership and Vision - [Navigating Through Ministry - Leadership & Visioning](#) (19 min)

After watching, please spend some time journaling or considering the following questions:

- What did you appreciate about hearing the mentors share from their experience of leadership and casting vision?
- Was there anything shared that particularly resounded with your experience of spiritual leadership?
- What questions came up for you as you considered the mentor's experience along with your own?
- Is there anything that came up in your reflections that you want to give further consideration to?
- Are there any action steps that you feel compelled to take in response to this reflection?

To the Mentor: Please share these questions with your mentees and ask them to watch the video(s) and spend some time in prayerful reflection prior to your meeting. We hope that you can do the same. Mentees will share some of their reflections in 3 rounds of 3 minutes each in a Holy Listening Exercise. View the instructions on the document “Wholly, Holy Listening.” (Page 4). Keep this in mind: Feel free to use silence before and after sharing rounds. For the first round, you’ll ask mentees to share about their experience or one (or more) of their intentions following their reflection. Let them know in advance that there will be no cross talking while people are sharing and to lean into good listening. Use a timer. While deeper guidance is on the document, here is what the three rounds will include:

- The first round is for sharing what has come up for them in their reflection
- The second round is for going deeper in what has come up for them OR for sharing a question that they want to ask about someone else’s sharing
- The third round is for sharing another reflection OR a gratitude for the sharing time

The final two elements of the handout include closing in prayer. We encourage inviting that during the Closing Prayer section below.

Inviting Responses—10 minutes

- Confirm your next meeting time.
- Is there anything that you’ve wanted to say that you’ve not said yet?
- In a word or phrase, what are you thinking or feeling about Leadership & Visioning?

Closing Reflection—5-10 minutes

Invite someone to read John O’Donahue’s blessing, “For A Leader.” (page 3). Ask everyone to listen for a phrase, a word, or an idea that speaks to them. After it is read, ask them the following:

- What stands out to you from this blessing?
- Is there a word that you feel particularly challenged by in this current season of ministry?
- Is there a word that you think God might be encouraging or challenging you with for the season ahead?

Closing Prayer—10 minutes

Remind group members of the Group Commitments, one being prayer for one another. Are there any updates or new prayer concerns within this group? Share them now. Ask each person to pray for another person. Agree upon those people prior to praying.

For a Leader by John O Donohue

May you have the grace and wisdom to act kindly, learning to distinguish between what is personal and what is not.

May you be hospitable to criticism.

May you never put yourself at the center of things.

May you act not from arrogance but out of service.

May you work on yourself, building up and refining the ways of your mind.

May those who work for you know you see and respect them.

May you learn to cultivate the art of presence in order to engage with those who meet you.

When someone fails or disappoints you, may the graciousness with which you engage be their stairway to renewal and refinement.

May you treasure the gifts of the mind through reading and creative thinking so that you continue as a servant of the frontier where the new will draw its enrichment from the old, and you never become a functionary.

May you know the wisdom of deep listening, the healing of wholesome words, the encouragement of the appreciative gaze, the decorum of held dignity, the springtime edge of the bleak question.

May you have a mind that loves frontiers so that you can evoke the bright fields that lie beyond the view of the regular eye.

May you have good friends to mirror your blind spots.

May leadership be for you a true adventure of growth.

Wholly, Holy LISTENING

The Art of Deep, Spiritual Listening

Adapted by Ann Starrette from a program on The Spiritual exercises of Saint Ignatius

A format for creating space and opening hearts to hear the wisdom of the Holy Spirit

SHARING: 3 minutes each (adjust time depending on number of people and time available)

FIRST ROUND: Leader begins sharing (based on the topic provided) — followed by others. Leader will keep time allowing each person 3 minutes per round as others listen without interruption.

SECOND ROUND: When all have shared, leader opens the floor again for 3 minutes to elaborate on what they have shared or comment/ask a question on another person's sharing as others listen without interruption.

THIRD ROUND: One last time, the floor is open for 3 minutes each sharing one grace received from the time together and any sense of God's invitation moving forward.

Leader invites circle members to pray a short prayer for the person on their right (either aloud or silently) — or the leader invites people to partner up and pray for each other (again, either aloud or silently).

Leader closes the Holy Listening circle, inviting all to recommit to confidentiality and accountability as we move back into the world.