

Meeting 9 — Navigating Through Ministry: Collegiality (Up to 90 minutes)



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

The Gathering Time—10 minutes

- As people join the meeting, welcome them and create a place of hospitality. When all have arrived, open your time in prayer.
 - As part of the homework, would you find a picture, image or symbol to share with your group that exemplifies connection between people? You'll be invited to share it with your group, without explanation at this time, as a way of introducing your shared understanding, hope, or need about collegiality.
 - To the Mentor: Please share the instructions above and make sure that your Zoom link allows everyone to share their screens. Let this time be a prayerful/offering time, but don't let it become story-hour. They'll be able to speak to their image at the end if they really want to do so.

Conversation Starter—5 minutes

- Describe your approach to a new situation: A.) Find (or make) a friend and spend the duration hanging with that person, B.) Get to know as many people as you can, or C.) Step away for some alone time as often if you can.

Sharing—Collegiality—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

Collegiality - [Navigating Through Ministry - Collegiality](#) (12 min)

Set 2 - Filmed by Cohort 2 mentors, 2022

Collegiality - [Navigating Through Ministry - Collegiality](#) (18 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 collegiality?
- Was there anything shared that particularly resounded with your experience of building (or not building) relationships with colleagues?

- What questions came up for you as you considered the mentors 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 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?
- Think back to the exercise we did at the beginning with the pictures. Is there anything you want to say about the picture/symbol that you shared? Is there anything you want to share about your group member’s pictures? What do you think is important for us to carry with us from these images about our connection with clergy colleagues?
- In a word or phrase, what are you thinking or feeling about collegiality?

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 one other person. Agree upon those prior to praying.

Close with Ted Loder’s prayer, “I Want So to Belong.” (Page 3). Share it on the screen and ask someone to read it as a closing.

I Want So to Belong

Ted Loder

O God, I want so to belong;
 teach me to accept.
I want to be close;
 teach me to reach out.
I want a place where I am welcome;
 teach me to open my arms.
I want mercy;
 teach me to forgive.
I want beauty;
 teach me honesty.
I want peace;
 show me the eye of the storm.
I want truth; show me the way to question
 my unquestionable convictions.
I want joy;
 show me the way of deeper commitment.
I want life;
 show me how to die.

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.