



ASSOCIATION FOR
EPISCOPAL DEACONS

ENGAGING THE DIAKONIA OF ALL BELIEVERS

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Open Space Report: Collaborative Deacon Formation

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Bexley-Seabury – the seminary beyond walls

They have been working with diaconal leaders for sometime regarding education for deacons. They began with Pathways for Baptismal Living. Communities of Practice is where the Deacons Talking on the Road to Emmaus live. Initially the courses were geared to the laity but now they are adding courses for deacons. <https://bexleyseabury.edu/pathways>. They are creating a very module curriculum for all four orders.

They are trying to do competency-based training for the deacons. There are many models such as monthly, quarterly, semester, customized, etc. It is mentor assessed and can be designed and contextualized for individuals so that they are never alone.

If someone has to miss a class, there are ways to find shared information. They want to provide alternatives so that students can direct their own learning and they can be trained as their Diocese needs. Students will work with mentors. Not only a faculty mentor, but also some mentor from the Diocese and a personal mentor (like a spiritual director). These three form a core for each student...about 1-4 hours/month time commitment.

Kellie shared that in Kentucky they have a strong program, but the person running it is moving toward retirement and so they are interested in seeing how this might be useful for them.

Hybrid meetings have proved to be very successful and with intentionality, they can be formed.

Utah is currently using Iona. How does Bexley-Seabury curriculum differ? BS offers administration, customized curriculum and access to the faculty. There is also access to the other members of the collaborative such as CALL, Kemper, Province 1, etc.

How do students have a voice? By being assessed by the team of mentors and they move through the self-study. There are ways to determine if a student needs to take a class based on the competencies. Classes are based on the needs of the Diocese.

Maine has discovered some pitfalls with self-designed programs. Dioceses need to participate substantially in the process. Do we all have internship programs? Is there a way to use the collaborative. Julie talked about using things already in place, but build where they must.

Human awareness: Being, Doing, Knowing – would be part of the training, assessed by the mentor team.

The pricing hasn't been set, but Julie thought it would be an amount per month by subscription. Julie offered to give this presentation to anyone who asked about it. They are also trying to set up an MDiv program.