

INTERNSHIP

Module Nine



Episcopal Diocese of Florida

Deacon School

June 2020

Opening Reflection

Reflect on these words prior to beginning this module and then, again when you complete all assignments.

So many terrible things happen every day that we start wondering whether the few things we do ourselves make any sense. When people are starving only a few thousand miles away, when wars are raging close to our borders, when countless people in our own cities have no homes to live in, our own activities look futile. Such considerations, however, can paralyze us and depress us.

Here the word call becomes important. We are not called to save the world, solve all problems, and help all people. But we each have our own unique call, in our families, in our work, in our world. We have to keep asking God to help us see clearly what our call is, and to give us the strength to live out that call with trust. Then we will discover that our faithfulness to a small task is the most healing response to the illnesses of our time.

Henri Nouwen

Objectives

After completing this module, the Postulant will be able to:

- ✓ Articulate and demonstrate a call to pastoral ministry;
- ✓ Articulate a theology and methodology for preaching in The Episcopal Church;
- ✓ Be comfortable carrying out the deacon's role in all liturgies (except proclaiming the Gospel) of The Episcopal Church; and
- ✓ List specific servanthood ministries into which s/he feels called to lead the congregation in being the Body of Christ in the world.

Internship Requirements

After the successful completion of Modules 1-8 and CPE, the Postulant will write a letter to the Bishop indicating the completion of academic work and request candidacy. The Commission on Ministry will schedule a meeting with the Postulant to assess readiness for the Postulant to move forward in the process. Upon the successful completion of these steps, the Bishop will issue a letter of Candidacy to the Postulant. The Bishop will assign the Candidate to a church for a 6-month internship.

The Candidate and the Internship Priest will complete and sign the Internship Placement Agreement and forward it to the Deacon School Co-facilitators. The attached agreement is a sample of what the agreement may include. The Priest and Intern should feel free to add areas to enrich the experience for the Candidate and benefit the congregation.

The Candidate will be expected to spend at least 10 hours per week, including Sundays at the Internship Church placement. The Candidate and Internship Priest will agree upon a schedule and appropriate services, meetings and activities. The Candidate should be available for mid-week services, Vestry meetings, staff meetings and other meetings and/or classes as agreed upon.

Proclaiming the Gospel during worship by the Postulant is not permitted during the internship.

The Intern shall meet regularly with their internship church supervisor(s), to reflect upon ministry experiences, ministry development and how his/her call to ordained ministry is or is not confirmed by the experience.

It is also recommended that the Postulant have at least one quiet day away.

Required References

The following two books were read in earlier modules. They are references that should be used during the internship.

Craddock, Fred B., *Preaching (25th anniversary edition)*. Nashville, TN: Abington Press, 2010.

In this standard textbook on the art and craft of preaching, Craddock weaves history, theology, and hermeneutics to answer the fundamental question: How does one prepare and deliver a sermon?

Plater, Ormonde, *Deacons in the Liturgy, 2nd ed.* New York: Church Publishing, 2009.

Ormonde Plater has served as Archdeacon of the Diocese of Louisiana and editor of *Diakonia*. In this book, he explains his passion for and deep understanding of liturgy and the deacon's role in liturgy. This is a practical, "how to" guide which spells out the deacon's function in various rites and liturgies of The Episcopal Church.

Supplementary Resources

Beckmann, Kim, *Prepare a Road: Preaching Vocation, Community Voice, Marketplace Vision*. Boston, MA: Cowley Publications, 2002.

Lutheran pastor Kim Beckmann presents a challenging new method for engaging scripture in the preparation of sermons for the parish.

Johnston, Graham, *Preaching to a Postmodern World: A Guide to Reaching 21st Century Listeners*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.

Johnston shows how church leaders can reach the present age without selling out to it. The book discusses how to distinguish between modernism and postmodernism, understand postmodern worldviews, change the style of preaching without compromising the substance, take advantage of new opportunities provided by the cultural shift and show an inattentive society the relevance of God's truth.

Long, Thomas G., *The Witness of Preaching, 2nd ed.* Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005.

Tom Long helps those engaged in the ministry of proclamation think more deeply about what they do and why they are doing it. He also reminds preachers that they are not as alone as they may sometimes feel.

Mitchell, Leonel L., *Pastoral and Occasional Liturgies*, Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications, 1998.

Mitchell gives ceremonial and liturgical tips for those who conduct or assist in services other than a regular Sunday morning Eucharist such as Confirmation, Ordination, Confession, and the Daily Office.

Mitchell, Leonel L., *Lent, Holy Week and Easter: A Ceremonial Guide*, Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications, 1996.

Mitchell provides step-by-step guides to the liturgical services of Lent, Holy Week and Easter. The book is written for a medium-size parish with typical resources; however, the guidelines are useful for churches of any size and facility.

Taylor, Barbara Brown, *The Preaching Life*. Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications, 1993.

Taylor, an Episcopal priest, was named one of the 12 most effective preachers in the English-speaking world by Baylor University. Taylor begins her book with a series of personal reflections on her life, her perception of the Church, and issues

of vocation, imagination, Bible, worship, and preaching. The second half of the book consists of 13 of Taylor's sermons, which continue her emphasis on story.

The Episcopal Handbook, Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 2008.

This "handbook" provides historical and theological information about the Episcopal Church alongside fun-filled facts and practical tips on being a churchgoing follower of Jesus Christ. Complete with illustrations, the resource presents a combination of vast truths, complex details, and bits of humor about the Episcopal understanding of the Christian life.

Troeger, Thomas, *Imagining a Sermon*. Nashville, TN: Abington Press, 1992.

Troeger shares secrets of presenting imaginative sermons by teaching preachers to observe daily events in ways that can energize homiletics.

Weil, Louis and Price, Charles P. *Liturgy for Living, rev. ed.* Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 2000.

First published in 1979, this book remains a classic text in the field of Anglican/Episcopal liturgy. This highly readable overview explores the meaning of worship from a theological, historical, and spiritual perspective. It then examines the history, theology, and meaning of specific Anglican liturgies including: Holy Baptism, Confirmation, the Daily Office, the Holy Eucharist, and the various pastoral offices.

Wilson, Paul Scott, *The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching*. Nashville, TN: Abington Press, 1999.

Doing justice to the complexity of the preaching task and the questions that underlie it, Wilson organizes both the preparation and the content of the sermon around its "four pages." Each "page" addresses a different theological and creative component of what happens in any sermon.

Internship Placement Agreement

Information

Postulant Name: _____

Home Congregation: _____

Sponsoring Priest: _____

Internship Congregation: _____

Internship Mentoring Priest: _____

Contract Period: _____

Signatures

Supervising Clergy

Date

Candidate

Date

Internship Placement Agreement

Check all that apply	Agreements
	Preach 5 times during Internship
	Teach both adult and children's formation at least once during Internship
	Assist in Pastoral Care.
	Attend all Vestry Meetings during Internship
	Participate in Worship Planning
	Pre-Wedding Planning (not Pre-Marital Counseling, but the actual planning of the service), when possible
	Funeral Planning, when possible
	Baptismal Preparation Class when possible
	Clergy Meetings (e.g. regular meetings if multiple clergy church, clericus, continuing education class, etc.)
	Identify ways to expose congregation to importance of the role of deacon – may include teaching, small group meetings, etc.
	Play a leadership role in Outreach Ministry of the congregation
	Other Agreements

In a separate document, develop specific goals for each area applicable to the Candidate's internship.

MODULE 9 ASSIGNMENTS

INTERNSHIP

Mentors: Assigned Priest - TBD

- 1) Develop goals that you and your mentor agree will be accomplished during your internship. These goals should be documented on the Parish Placement Mentorship Contract. The signed document must be submitted to the Co-facilitators at the beginning of your internship.
- 2) As you progress through your Internship Placement, participate in as many of the diverse forms of the Eucharist, daily offices and other liturgies as are possible.
- 3) Schedule regular (no less than monthly) meetings with your Internship Mentor to help make your internship a valuable experience. Keep a journal and after each meeting write a paragraph or two on what you discussed and what you learned from your discussion.
- 4) Research the community surrounding your assigned congregation to which you are assigned in order to determine the needs of that community. With the support of your internship priest, work with the outreach team to evaluate the outreach work of the church as it relates to the needs of the community. Help the church evaluate whether its outreach is focused in the most needed areas. Document what you did, why you did it, how it turned out, what you have learned and what you will do differently next time.
- 5) Determine if any of the following ministries are active in your internship community: homeless shelter, literacy program, Kairos weekends or other prison ministry, hospice care, wounded warriors, or addiction centers. Choose two to which you feel particularly drawn. Write at least one paragraph describing the specific ministry. Reflect upon your possible call to participate in any of these areas of ministries and describe why you feel drawn to them. If your internship church is involved in these ministries, become actively involved with the team and write a one-page document on what you learned by participating.
- 6) **SYNTHESIS** – Write a theological reflection on your pastoral internship experience and what it means to your call to diaconal ministry. What does it mean to be a Deacon in the church and in the world? How has your pastoral internship influenced your call? Explain how the experience contributed to your spiritual, pastoral, academic and human formation. Summarize what you learned about yourself as you continued your formation and discernment. In other words, describe your areas of strength, as well as your areas of needed continuing growth. Submit this reflection to The School co-facilitators and your internship priest. Be prepared to discuss this reflection with The School Co-facilitators.

Module Nine Evaluation

Internship

Postulant: _____

The mentor assess the Postulant's work on each assignment in the module. The mentor will document on this form, whether the assignment was completed satisfactorily. The mentor may add additional comments if desired. If the assignment is not completed satisfactorily, the mentor must add comments regarding the deficiencies. The mentor will review the evaluation with the Postulant and the Deacon School Co-facilitators.

	Assignment	Complete/Incomplete
1	Develop goals that you and your mentor agree will be accomplished during your internship. These goals should be documented on the Parish Placement Mentorship Contract. The signed document must be submitted to the Co-facilitators at the beginning of your internship.	
2	As you progress through your Internship Placement, participate in as many of the diverse forms of the Eucharist, daily offices and other liturgies as are possible.	
3	Schedule regular (no less than monthly) meetings with your Internship Mentor to help make your internship a valuable experience. Keep a journal and after each meeting write a paragraph or two on what you discussed and what you learned from your discussion.	
4	Research the community surrounding your assigned congregation to which you are assigned in order to determine the needs of that community. With the support of your internship priest, work with the outreach team to evaluate the outreach work of the church as it relates to the needs of the community. Help the church evaluate whether its outreach is focused in the most needed areas. Document what you did, why you did it, how it turned out, what you have learned and what you will do differently next time.	
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6	<p>SYNTHESIS – Write a theological reflection on your pastoral internship experience and what it means to your call to diaconal ministry. What does it mean to be a Deacon in the church and in the world? How has your pastoral internship influenced your call? Explain how the experience contributed to your spiritual, pastoral, academic and human formation. Summarize what you learned about yourself as you continued your formation and discernment. In other words, describe your areas of strength, as well as your areas of needed continuing growth. Submit this reflection to The School co-facilitators and your internship priest. Be prepared to discuss this reflection with The School Co-facilitators.</p>	
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Signatures:

Mentor:

Postulant:

Date: _____

Date: _____