



# Guidelines for Selection of a Student Mentor

Selection of the right mentor is a key piece in your participation with M28. The following guidelines should be kept to the front of your discernment process. Remember, final approval of a mentor is subject to the Administrator/Dean of each participating Region.

- 1. YOUR MENTOR SHOULD BE SOMEONE WITH A THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION (PREFERABLY AN M.DIV. OR HIGH DEGREE FROM AN ACCREDITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OR ATS ACCREDITATION.)**
- 2. YOUR MENTOR SHOULD BE SOMEONE WITH AT LEAST FIVE YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL MINISTRY EXPERIENCE IN A LIKE FIELD TO WHICH YOU ASPIRE. IF YOU ARE A PASTOR, OR HOPE TO SERVE AS A PASTOR, YOUR MENTOR SHOULD BE SOMEONE WITH AT LEAST FIVE YEARS OF PASTORAL EXPERIENCE. THE SAME WOULD HOLD TRUE FOR THOSE PURSUING OTHER VOCATIONAL CALLS SUCH AS YOUTH MINISTRY, SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY, CHAPLAINCY, ETC.**
- 3. YOUR MENTOR SHOULD BE SOMEONE YOU LIKE, AND SOMEONE WHO LIKES AND BELIEVES IN YOU. YOU WANT TO CHOOSE SOMEONE FROM WHOM YOU WISH TO LEARN AND ARE WILLING TO DEVELOP A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP. THIS SHOULD BE SOMEONE WHO WILL BE AVAILABLE TO YOU, HOLD YOU ACCOUNTABLE, BE OBJECTIVE YET CONSTRUCTIVE, AND COMMIT TO WORKING WITH YOU THROUGH THE M28 PROGRAM AND REGIONAL ORDINATION PROCESS, SHOULD THAT BE YOUR OBJECTIVE. \*NOTE: THIS COULD WELL BE A MULTI-YEAR RELATIONSHIP. IT WILL WORK BEST IF THE MENTOR AND MENTEE COMMIT TO BEING CO-LEARNERS IN THE PROCESS.**
- 4. YOUR MENTOR SHOULD BE SOMEONE WITH A WINDOW INTO YOUR VOCATIONAL LIFE AND MINISTRY CONTEXT. THIS NEED NOT MEAN THEY ARE INVOLVED DAY TO DAY, BUT CLOSE ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT, ITS CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES.**
- 5. YOUR MENTOR SHOULD BE SOMEONE WITH AVAILABLE TIME TO DEVOTE TO THIS RELATIONSHIP. THEY SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR REGULAR CONVERSATION, COACHING AND CONSULTATION THROUGHOUT YOUR COURSEWORK; AS WELL AS TIMELY IN COMPLETING ASSESSMENTS AS YOU COMPLETE COURSES.**
- 6. YOUR MENTOR SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH YOU AND THE DEAN/ADMINISTRATOR OF YOUR REGION FOR ONBOARDING AND DESIGN OF THE DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS VIA ZOOM. FURTHERMORE, HE OR SHE SHOULD BE SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS AND BELIEVES IN COMPETENCY BASED THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION.**
- 7. YOUR MENTOR SHOULD BE COMPETENT IN THE USE OF TECHNOLOGIES LIKE ZOOM CALLS, SURVEY MONKEY TYPE ASSESSMENTS, AND OPERATION OF BASIC OFFICE SUITE PROGRAMS (WORD, POWER POINT, EXCEL OR THEIR EQUIVALENT IN OTHER FORMATS).**
- 8. IT IS EXPECTED THAT A MENTOR IN M28 WILL HAVE THE CAPACITY TO HELP A STUDENT EVALUATE PROGRESS TOWARD THEIR IDENTIFIED COMPETENCY GOALS WITH EACH COURSE, AS WELL AS IN THE OVERALL PROGRAM. IN OTHER WORDS, MENTORS WILL HELP STUDENTS ORDER THEIR LIVES TO FIND EDUCATIONAL MOMENTS WITHIN THE STUDENT'S MINISTRY CONTEXT, ADAPT ASSIGNMENTS TO THOSE MOMENTS, MONITOR AND EVALUATE PROGRESS TOWARD THE GOAL(S).**
- 9. IT IS EXPECTED THAT M28 MENTORS WILL COLLABORATE WITH THE REGION'S DEAN/ADMINISTRATOR AND THE STUDENT IN DESIGN OF THE STUDENT'S LEARNING PATH.**
- 10. IT IS EXPECTED THAT M28 MENTORS BE ATTENTIVE TO STUDENT PROGRESS, HELP THE STUDENT STAY ON COURSE, AND – IF/WHEN NECESSARY – SPUR THEM FORWARD TO GREATER ACHIEVEMENT. (ACCOUNTABILITY)**
- 11. IT IS EXPECTED THAT WHEN A STUDENT FEELS PREPARED TO ASSESS THEIR MASTERY OF AN EDUCATIONAL OUTCOME/COURSE THAT THE MENTOR WILL OFFER TIMELY, PERSONAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE EVALUATION TO THE STUDENT, AND REPORT THE SAME TO THE DEAN/ADMINISTRATOR.**
- 12. IT IS HOPED THAT ALL M28 MENTORS ARE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE MINISTRY LEADERS AND TAKE INTEREST AND JOY IN DOING SO. THIS IS A “PAY IT FORWARD” OPPORTUNITY WHERE REWARD COMES IN SEEING A COLLEAGUE GROW AND DEVELOP.**