

Exploring Mentor Job Description

What an Exploring Mentor does:

- Enters into a covenantal relationship with candidate
- Leads candidate in an in-depth exploration of forms of ministry
- Submits report on issues explored
- Monitors development of candidate's educational, spiritual, and vocational goals
- Maintains the mentoring relationship on behalf of the dCOM and BOM
- Leads candidate on a spiritual journey, which is central to the purpose of the Exploration process
- Carries out the purposes (Chapter 6, page 5 of BOM Handbook) of the Exploring stage
- Provides counsel and guidance
- Frees the candidate to realize God's call
- Encourages the candidate to personal growth and vocational commitment
- Allows candidate freedom in developing his/her own insights and responses
- Maintains confidentiality

An Exploring Mentor is:

- Accepting and flexible, recognizing and appreciating the uniqueness and individual differences of each candidate
- Effective in ministry
- Genuinely committed to the ministry of the church
- Spiritually mature with a deep and continuing commitment to God and to growing in grace and love

An Exploring Mentor is not:

- Rigid in expectations of the candidate and the process
- Unenthusiastic about ministry
- Domineering
- Closed to possibilities
- Judgmental

Exploring Mentors will...

- Receive assignments of candidates and information about candidates from Exploring Mentor Chair.
- Review information received, which will help you become acquainted with your candidates.
- Be familiar with the Candidacy Summit, Candidacy Road Map, and Exploring Curriculum.

July/August

- Attend and facilitate group of candidates at the Candidacy Summit.
- Begin building relationships with and among your candidates at the Candidacy Summit by spending time with them as you facilitate the group and informally.

Teach/Lead *Fulfilling God's Call* by February 1:

- **Summit Retreat – Session I** (In person, at Candidacy Summit.)
- **Session II** (Can happen in person or via conference call, video phone, instant message, chat room.)
- **Session III** (Can happen in person or via conference call, video phone, instant message, chat room.)
- **Final Retreat – Session IV** (Must happen in person.)

Fall

- Remind candidates to schedule Psychological Testing Interviews.

January

- Help candidates prepare for P/SPRC interviews
- Write recommendation letter for each candidate
- Discuss ministry tracts and letters of recommendation at final retreat
- Report names of candidates who will complete Candidacy Guidebook to Exploring Mentor Chair
- Report to District office, dCOM, and Candidacy Registrar names of candidates who will complete the Candidacy Guidebook
- Send signed final letters of recommendation to District Office

Note: Because Exploring Mentors will work with a group of candidates, they will not be able to be present with each candidate at each dCOM certification meeting. The Exploring Mentor should make sure that the candidate has their Senior Pastor or another representative with them as they go before the dCOM

Assist the candidates in completing the following steps/documents for dCOM Certification:

- Biographical information, Form 102
- Medical information report, Form 103
- Declaration of Candidacy/Charge Conference Recommendation, Form 104
- Reference letters from pastor and P/SPRC
- Written applications to the district superintendent
- Written responses to statements in Discipline, Paragraph 311.3b

February

- Help candidates prepare for P/SPRC interviews
- Help candidates prepare for Charge Conferences
- Help candidates prepare for dCOM interviews

March 1 – 15 Certification Interviews Scheduled and Candidates Notified

Note: Please help District offices and dCOMs be sensitive to college and seminary students' locations and schedules and the cost of returning to their District for an interview. Districts should plan interviews during school breaks whenever possible.

March 15 – April 14 dCOM Certification Interviews

Note: Candidates who either do not complete the exploring phase of candidacy or are delayed by the dCOM will continue with their Exploring Mentors on a one-on-one basis to work through the process for a second year. If candidates do not complete the process after the second year, they will be invited to either withdraw from the process or begin again with a new Exploring Mentor and group at the next Candidacy Summit.

After Certification

- Celebrate decisions made by the dCOM in appropriate ways
- Certified candidates will be honored during Clergy session at annual conference

Thank you for your vital ministry!