

Forming a TIM Group

From the Pastoral Excellence Network at Christian Theological Seminary -

<http://www.cpx.cts.edu/network>

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Purpose of New Clergy Groups

To strengthen and sustain pastors by:

- Offering care, support, and accountability
- Nurturing practices of spiritual discipline
- Developing “the craft” of ministry and strengthening practices of pastoral leadership
- Engaging in theological reflection on pastoral identity and congregational ministry
- Fostering a sense of ministry as a shared endeavor
- Forming life-sustaining friendships
- Preparing for a church whose future we cannot yet see or imagine.
- Assisting new pastors in making a strong transition into ministry with the support and guidance of a mentoring community
- Providing space to reflect on and learn from the firsts in ministry (first baptisms, communions, weddings, funerals, first full liturgical years, first conflicts)
- Developing and honing good habits and practices of ministry from the start.

Steps

1. Identify a Facilitator - Role of Facilitator
 - Host the group
 - Serve as administrator
 - Serve as Worship Leader
 - Facilitates the group process, listening, asking questions, drawing conversations, review learning, evaluate group process, discern next steps
 - Covenant Keeper
2. Develop a group covenant
 - The covenant includes items such as the arrangements for meeting, expectations for participants, sharing “airtime”, developing trust, developing learning practices, holding one another accountable, holding one another in prayer, authorizing the facilitator, stewardship of the group.
 - Encourage agency – group writes its own covenant. Participants are responsible for their own learning and committed involvement.

- Sample Group Covenant – See the example (<http://ministerscouncil.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/SampleGroupCovenant.pdf>) adapted from the Manual of the Colleague program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

3. Hold Group Meeting

First Meeting Outline

- Opening Worship
- Introductions
- Orientation and Creating a Covenant
- Group Formation

Case Study Meeting Outline

- Opening Worship
- Check In
- Presenter shares a case study
- Ask Clarifying questions
- Interaction around the case
- Check in with the presenter to understand what they are taking away from the discussion
- Group Reflection
- Housekeeping details – next meeting, who is leading the next case.
- Closing prayer.

Worship for Clergy Group

- Opening Call to Worship
- Prayer
- Scripture readings
- Silence
- Shared Reflection
- Blessings