

How to Begin a Priesthood Mentor Program

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The process of setting up a mentoring program to supplement the priesthood development in a jurisdiction can be accomplished in a variety of ways. One possible model for such a program is:

1. The congregation or jurisdiction implements program by appointing a committee to select possible mentors for various priesthood offices. A workshop to orient potential mentors to the program and concept of mentoring should be held in preparation.
2. The ordinand accepts the call.
3. The selection of the mentor is made by the mentee from the list provided by the committee or in consultation of the committee. (If the mentee doesn't find a compatible mentor, a list of two or three possible mentors could be submitted to the committee.)
4. The committee reviews the choices and makes their recommendation.
5. The mentor is notified and given opportunity to accept the relationship.
6. The relationship is begun at a designated meeting, with an orientation under the leadership of the committee. At that time, the partners establish their goals for the relationship. It is helpful if the committee can be informed of the goals so that they can help with follow-up and evaluation.
7. The mentor begins by assisting the mentee in the completion of the pre-ordination requirements.
8. The partners can share in the ordination service planning if desired.
9. The partners continue to meet, formally and informally, during the first year of the ordinand's priesthood experience.
10. The education and mentoring process should include shared ministry, mutual study, and attendance at special seminars or visits to those with special ministerial expertise.
11. The relationship should include a minimum of eight contacts during the year. Hopefully there will be many more.
12. The relationship ends when the goals and activity requirements are completed, when evaluations (developed and administered by the committee) are completed by both partners, and when the committee has been notified of the completion of the relationship. (The committee should make periodic contacts to monitor progress and provide support to the partners, or the partners can access the committee at any time.)