

Journey Toward Ordained Ministry Mentor Guide

Timeline

Session 1 (September)

One month after the JTOM retreat

Topics:

- Reconnect with the scholars
- Reflect on the retreat
- Discuss their plans for the fall semester

Session 2 (3rd week in December)

Three months since JTOM retreat.

Topics:

- Remind about the opening of the scholarship portal
- Reflect on the end of the semester

Session 3 (after Spring Break in March)

Six months since JTOM retreat.

Topics:

- Remind about the closing of scholarship portal.
- Prepare for dCOM interviews
- Prepare for graduation (if applicable)
- Prepare for receiving an appointment, summer field education, and/or internship

Group Mentoring Session Agenda

Opening Prayer, Scripture Verse, and Brief Meditation (5 min)

Check In (20 min)

3 minutes/person

- How have you been since our last gathering?
- Have you had interactions with your annual conference, candidacy mentor, district superintendent, or others?
- What questions do you have?

Discussion Topics (35 min)

Mentor provides a brief prompt for the group to consider and respond “popcorn-style”.

Next Steps (15 min)

- Next focus for JTOM scholarship program
- Any follow-up plans with annual conference, dCOM, etc.?

Prayer (10 min)

- Any prayer requests?
- Mentor closes time in prayer

Depart

Session 1

Self-Awareness: Knowing the Person God Is Calling

Objectives

- Reconnect with one another following the JTOM retreat
- Recognize and name personal observations of self, influence upon call

Suggested Scripture (choose one)

- Psalm 139:1-14, or
- Romans 12:3-8

Choose *one* of these scriptures. How have these scriptural ideas shaped or guiding the understanding of your call? Offer a memory or experience as a candidate for ministry: Who and/or what helped shape your understanding of call and your gifts?

Check in (choose one or two questions)

3 minutes/person

- How have you been since our last gathering?
- Have you had interactions with your annual conference, candidacy mentor, district superintendent, or others?
- What questions do you have?

Discussion Prompts

- As you reflect on your call, how do you understand God leading you through your discernment?
- What context are you most drawn to right now? (e.g., local church, non-profit organization, academic research, etc.)
- How does your identity as a Christian shape the way you lead and love others?

Reminders for Candidates

- Contact Marcie (mbigord@gbhem.org) with any scholarship questions
- Contact Kami (kkinlaw@gbhem.org) with any expense/reimbursement questions

Schedule the Next Meeting & Pray

Session 2

Introspection: Tending the Inner Life for Authentic Service

Objectives

- Reflect on the previous semester and new insights you've gained on your call and your current studies.
- Observe any growth in your understanding of, and self-confidence for, connecting with annual conference leadership

Suggested Scripture (choose one)

- Psalm 51:1-12, or
- Philippians 2:1-8

Choose *one* of these scriptures. Think of your work in ministry and in balancing your time with family, friends, and your community. How do you practice self-care and holy living in order to lead others well? Share your thoughts with the group and offer a brief prayer.

Check in (choose one or two questions)

3 minutes/person

- How have you been since our last gathering?
- How did your coursework challenge your understanding of scripture? How did it challenge your understanding of the role of the church in the world?
- Are you learning more about required steps in preparation for interviews? Do you have a clearer understanding of your call toward the elder or deacon track?

Discussion Prompts

- What practices help you remain joyful in your coursework and local church service and avoid burnout?
- How do you stay grounded in your faith when course work and/or experiences in ministry feel overwhelming? Who can you lean on for support?

Reminders for Candidates

- Reapply for the JTOM scholarship if you're not graduating in spring 2026.
- Contact your references well ahead of the scholarship deadline.

Schedule the Next Meeting & Pray

Session 3

Anticipation: Preparing for Ministry with Vision and Faith

Objectives

- Final reflections on your experience with the JTOM mentoring.
- Anticipate how you will use what you've learned to continue growth as a candidate for ministry.

Suggested Scripture (choose one)

- 2 Timothy 1:6–7, or
- Matthew 28:18–20

Choose one of these passages to share with the group. Offer something you've learned in your experience of mentoring JTOM scholars this year. How do you see your own growth as clergy through your experience in JTOM? Do you still find your calling challenged as you serve in different ways? Share your thoughts with the group and offer a brief prayer.

Check in (choose one or two questions)

3 minutes/person

- How have you been since our last gathering?
- What plans do you have for the summer? Will you be serving as a ministry intern? Will you be taking an appointment?
- When is your next interview? If you've already had one this spring, what can you share about this interview? Did you feel prepared?

Discussion Prompts

- What part of ministry is the most exciting for you? Is there a piece of ministry that feels more challenging or less aligned with your gifts?
- How are you including and empowering diverse voices as you lead?

Reminders for Candidates

- Finalize your JTOM scholarship application before the deadline.
- If you, as a mentor, would like to continue supporting the scholars in this group (although this is not required), make sure they have your contact information.

Schedule the Next Meeting & Pray