

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 higher degree from an ATS accredited theological seminary).
2. Your mentor should have 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 with whom you 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 that he or she is 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. He or she should be available for regular conversation, coaching and consultation throughout your coursework; as well as timely in completing assessments as you complete your 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 Microsoft Office Suite programs (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, or their equivalent in other formats).
8. It is expected that your mentor in **M28** will have the capacity to help you evaluate your progress toward identified competency goals with each course, as well as in the overall program. In other words, your mentor will help you order your life to find educational moments within your ministry context, adapt your assignments to those moments, monitor and evaluate progress toward your goal(s).
9. It is expected that your **M28** mentor will collaborate with the Region's Dean/Administrator and you in the design of your learning path.
10. It is expected that your **M28** mentor be attentive to your progress, help you stay on course, and – if/when necessary – help spur you forward to greater achievement (accountability).
11. It is expected that, when you feel ready to have your mastery of an educational outcome/course assessed, your mentor will offer timely, personal and constructive evaluation to you and report the same to the Dean/Administrator.
12. It is hoped that *all* **M28** mentors are people who wish 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 you (a colleague) grow and develop.