



# **Ministers United for Ministerial Development 2023 Dr. O.E. Piper Annual Conference**

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Thursday, October 26, 2023  
Facilitator: Dr. Michael Oyedokun II

# Ministry Formation

*For we are God's workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so that we may do them.*

**Ephesians 2:10**





From  
**SPIRITUAL** FORMATION  
TO  
**MINISTRY** FORMATION

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**You cannot develop Ministry Formation  
if you haven't developed Spiritually!**

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping diamond and triangular shapes in teal, green, and yellow colors, arranged in a pattern that suggests movement or a path.

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**The question in consideration is:**

How can I form a Ministry that already has been formed? If you have made it to the place where your ministry is FULLY formed, then it might be time to retire.

# Why Ministry Formation?

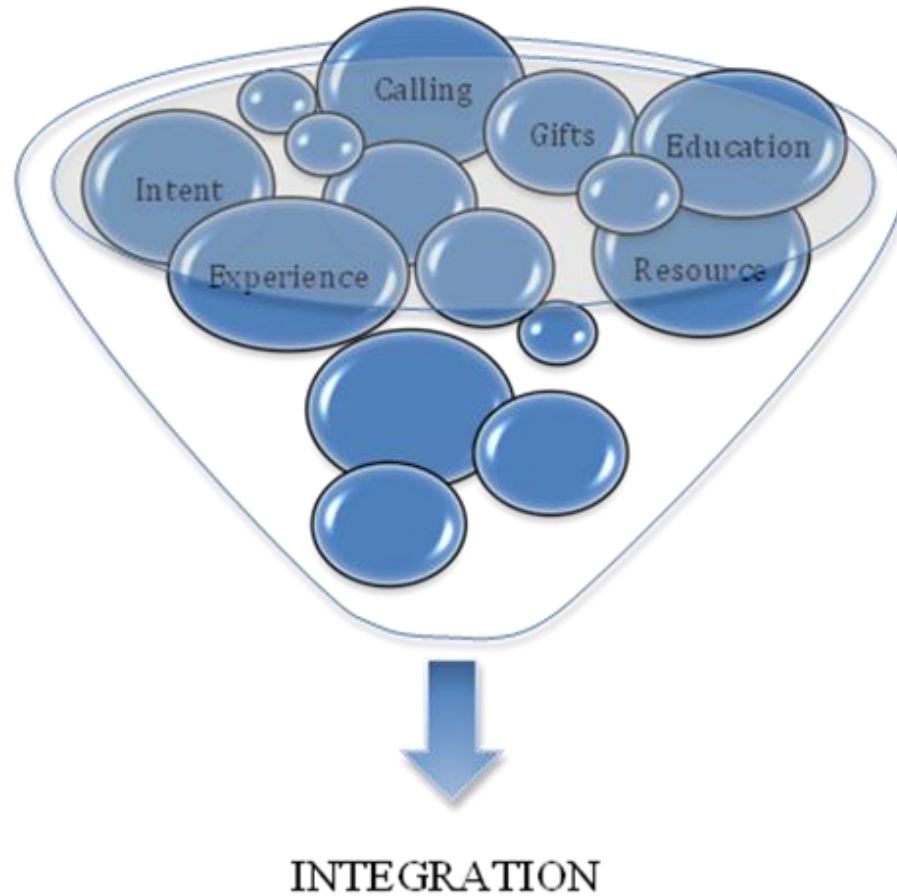
Ministry formation inspires participants to consider their calling in a contemplative way, find deeper meaning in their work and realize their gifts as they grow in service to the community and one another. Pastoral formation challenges ministers, encouraging them to become more mature and effective ministers of the Gospel. They develop an ability to recognize how God is actively and profoundly present within every life experience through theological reflection.




# INTEGRATION

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**CALLING**  
**GIFTS**  
**INTENT**  
**EDUCATION**  
**EXPERIENCE**  
**RESOURCE**





There are many pastors who do not even consider practicing or processing **THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION** in their ministry. They believe that their ministry is isolated to just preaching and not **MINISTRY** in relation to those whom they serve.

## Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus in Ephesians 4:11-12

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“11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”



## Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus in Ephesians 4:11-12

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The word “pastor” is poimen, “a shepherd.” The words “pastors” and “teachers” are in a construction called Granvill Sharp’s rule which indicates that they refer to one individual. The one who shepherds God’s flock is also a teacher of the Word, having both the gifts of shepherding and teaching the flock. God’s ideal pastor is one who engages in a didactic ministry, feeding the saints on expository preaching, giving them the rich food of the Word.

# Theological Reflection

*Theological reflection is the practice of reflecting on life events in relation to one's Christian faith. This can be done individually or corporately. Theological reflection attempts to bring faith and everyday life together. Methods of theological reflection are often promoted within the spiritual formation movement.*



# Theological Reflection



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Theological reflection attempts to see God's presence in our experiences, to understand the difference His presence makes in our lives, and to know what God expects as a result of this knowledge.

# Theological Reflection



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The practice of reflecting theologically, likewise, is an essential ingredient in the process of spiritual discernment. It holds the inherent possibility of discerning God's presence and/or leading. When entered into from a "contemplative stance", theological reflection on one's experience is to be receptive to being guided by the Holy Spirit.

# Theological Reflection



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The goal of **THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION** is a deeper understanding of the mystery of God and a wisdom born out of life experience seen through the lenses of God, His Word, the church, and dialogue with other believers.

# Theological Reflection



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The process of theological reflection is often prescribed in steps like this:

- **Reality** – Be honest about what is going on in you and around you.
- **Reflection** – Take time to digest your experiences in the light of your faith and your understanding of God.
- **Revelation** – Wait for insight.
- **Respond** – Be spurred on to new action or to continue with a renewed sense of vision and motivation.

(adapted from “What is Theological Reflection?” Williamson, J., <http://onerockinternational.com/theological-reflection>, accessed 4/25/22)

# CONSIDERATIONS FOR MINISTRY FORMATION



# PERCEPTIVITY OF OTHERS

(the ability to recognize other people's emotions with accuracy)





# PASTORAL CARE

(after discerning another person's emotions are you willing to engage)



# PASTORAL RESPONSE

(exhibits mature and effective skills  
of ministering to others)



# **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR MINISTRY FORMATION**



# TEACHABLE

(are you willing to change based on  
new (good) information or  
learnings)



# HUMILITY

(do you understand your personal value in relationship to God and to others. Sometimes there is a inclination to devalue others or yourself)



# PIETY

(is there an acute sense of God's holiness and grace through cultivating appropriate disciplines, and showing evidence that your affections for God is growing)



# OBEDIENCE

(suggest there can be passive-aggressive tendencies or an unwillingness to submit to authorities)



# GUARDEDNESS

(engages in self-protective behaviors that negatively impact your ability to serve. This will also indicate someone who is overly cautious, rude or withdrawn.)





# DOMINEERING TENDENCIES

(an unhealthy need to succeed or be right regardless of the situation or people involved. Can be perceived as bullish and controlling.)



# SELF AWARENESS

(a healthy practice of recognizing and managing their own emotions and behaviors)



# CLARITY OF CALLINGS

(understanding of how their abilities and experiences align with God's direction and their roles.)



# FORMAL COMMUNICATION

(do you communicate well, written  
and verbally, when it comes to  
preaching and teaching.)



# INTERPERSONAL AND RELATIONAL SKILLS

(works well with others in a variety  
of settings.)



# CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

(healthy responses and beliefs  
towards disagreements with others.)



# ADMINISTRATION

(how you engage with tasks effectively)



# STEWARDSHIP

(how you manage resources, like time and money, in effective ways.)





# DELEGATION

(willingness to use delegation to build the body of Christ. Clarify whether you can become too task oriented and lose focus of the outcome or the people who benefit from the task.)



# CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

(propensity to encourage others  
that the body of Christ should make  
a positive impact to your  
community.)



# INTERCULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

(interacting in communities of people whose lived experiences differ from your own. These differences may be related to ethnic, racial, socioeconomic, ideological, gender, and age differences.)





# Questions

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