

Clergy Personal Reflection and Evaluation

The questions below are designed to guide clergy to reflect on key areas of personal and pastoral life. Answer them on your own in preparation for the bishop’s visit. During your meeting with the bishop, you can, if you choose, discuss each question or those most pertinent to your life and ministry. The purpose of this reflection and evaluation and the meeting with the bishop is honest assessment of how you are doing for the sake of encouragement, support, and care. Your responses and the content of the meeting with the bishop will be held in the highest confidence.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

SPIRITUAL LIFE

1. How would you describe your walk with God over the past year?
2. Which of these spiritual disciplines do you regularly practice?

[ ]  Devotional reading of Scripture [ ]  Journaling

[ ]  Fasting [ ]  Confession

[ ]  Prayer [ ]  Silence and Meditation

[ ]  Daily Office [ ]  Other:

1. Reflect on the significance of these disciplines in your life and ministry.
2. What words most characterize your daily spiritual life and your current experience of God?

[ ] Real [ ] Rich [ ] Dry [ ] Doubt [ ] Life-giving

[ ] Resignation [ ] Awake [ ] Slumber [ ] Absence [ ] Hurried

[ ] Joy [ ] Burdened [ ] Difficult [ ] Expectant [ ] Essential

1. Comment on or summarize your selections
2. Does someone hold you accountable? (Is it “true” accountability? Are you regularly asked the hard questions?)
3. Do you see a therapist or have a spiritual director? How often do you meet with them?
4. When was the last time you got away for a spiritual retreat for renewal, refreshment, or ministry planning?
5. What Biblical leader or leaders’ calling to ministry do you most identify with at this time in your life, and why? (e.g. Abraham, Moses, Jacob, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Peter, Matthew, etc.)

SEXUALITY

*(For female clergy, this section is optional. However, we strongly encourage you to take steps to ensure you are pursuing sexual health and wholeness.)*

1. Are you and your spouse both satisfied in your sexual relationship?
2. How (and with whom) do you process your sexual issues as a pastor?
3. How do you deal with the temptation of Internet pornography?
4. How do your issues with lust hinder your ministry, leadership at home, and leadership at church?
5. Who holds you accountable for sexual purity?

EMOTIONAL LIFE

1. Select the words which describe how you commonly feel during this season of life and ministry:

[ ]  Encouraged [ ]  Energized [ ]  Focused [ ]  Affirmed

[ ]  Innovative [ ]  Discouraged [ ]  Overlooked [ ]  Fulfilled

[ ]  Confused [ ]  Confident [ ]  Useful [ ]  Alone

[ ]  Challenged [ ]  Frustrated [ ]  Overworked [ ]  Grateful

[ ]  Stressed [ ]  Optimistic [ ]  Initiator [ ]  Concerned

[ ]  Integrated [ ]  Struggling [ ]  Overwhelmed [ ]  Organized

[ ]  Burned out [ ]  Growing [ ]  Appreciated [ ]  Unchallenged

[ ]  Creative [ ]  Flexible [ ]  Resourceful [ ]  Unfocused

1. Comment on or summarize your selections.
2. How are you responding to the demands and expectations of ministry compared to your perceived effectiveness?
3. How are you managing the demands of ministry in your context?
4. How are you dealing with the loneliness that often marks leadership?

FINANCIAL LIFE

1. Are you concerned about the finances of your family? In what ways?
2. What is your level of giving to Gospel ministry (% of income)?
3. Is your family living within the means provided by your income?
4. Have you accrued or are you accruing unreasonable debt? (Credit cards, student loans, etc)
5. What are your plans to deal with that?
6. Do you feel properly supported financially by your parish?

SOCIAL/RELATIONAL LIFE

1. Name two friends you would describe as safe and trustworthy in your life. Describe your friendship.
2. Name two couples you and your spouse would describe mutually safe and trustworthy. Describe your friendship.
3. Why do you feel this way about them?
4. How do you manage the tension between the competing demands of ministry, family, friendships?
5. Describe a new relationship you initiated and built with someone in the past year.

INTELLECTUAL LIFE

1. Name three books you hope to read in the next 6 to 12 months (e.g. biographies, skill development, cultural studies, theology, etc).
2. Do you have any plans or desires to pursue additional professional development?
3. What are you doing to understand the cultural trends in America and the broader cultural trends in the world?
4. With whom do you share your ideas?
5. Who shares their ideas with you?

PHYSICAL LIFE

1. Are you committed to eating a good and healthy diet? Do you need to make any changes?
2. Do you exercise regularly and adequately? If you don’t, consider what you need to do about it.
3. When was your last physical exam?
4. What are areas identified that need to be worked on?
5. What are your sleep patterns?
6. Reflect on any correlations between the way you manage your emotions and your present physical condition (including sleep, diet, exercise and overall physical condition).

CHILDREN

1. If you have children, are there any who are not following Jesus?
2. What difficulties are your children facing that are of particular concern to you? To what extent are those difficulties a byproduct of your being a ministry leader?