AGENDA

Part 1: The Journey
Part 2: The Lay Committee
Part 3: The Process
Part 4: The Assessments
Part I – The Seminarian’s Journey to Candidacy

Applicant/Aspirant

Postulant
SEMINARY LIFE

- Lay Committee
- VTS
- FE Supervisor
- Seminarian
SEMINARY LIFE

The Commission on Ministry (COM) or The Committee on Priesthood (COP)
THE CANDIDATE

* Ordination to the diaconate (for some)

* Graduation

* First post-seminary call
SENIORS

Senior/Anglican Lay Committee Members will be honored at a Eucharist and dinner at VTS in April
PART II – THE LAY COMMITTEE

Section 1: The Lay Committee’s Context and Relationships

Section 2: The Lay Committee’s Purpose & Role

Section 3: Seminarian’s and Lay Committee’s Expected Outcomes
To assist the seminarian in his or her development as a Christian minister, and

To walk with the seminarian as fellow pilgrims and disciples who share in common joys and struggles of life and faith, growing and learning together.
LAY COMMITTEE’S ROLE

- Develop relationships
- Maintain confidentiality
- Understand seminary life
- Support seminarian
- Offer feedback
The Lay Committee’s Role

Developing Relationships:
* Background
* Journey
* Aspirations
* Gifts
* Learning Goals

Understanding Seminary Life:
* Transition
* Reflection
* Learning
* Growth
The Lay Committee’s Role

Supporting Your Seminarian

* Listen well
* Reflect
* Share insights
* Offer feedback
* Maintain confidentiality
The Role of Convener

- Sets agenda
- Schedules and convenes meetings
- Liaison with VTS
Expected Outcomes

Seminarian
- Spiritual depth
- Leadership skills
- Knowledge gains
- Character strength

Lay Committee
- Deeper spiritual life
- Greater community support
- Increased knowledge
PART III – THE PROCESS

The Seminarian Lay Committee Process
Calendar Issues

- Fall and Spring Breaks
- Christmas
- Summer
- Hybrid Field Ed. Students
Meeting Schedule

- Four meetings per semester
- One meeting per month
- Anglican Studies and One Year Students
- May meeting
Possible First Meeting

- Supervisor’s presence and role
- Member’s role
- Group norms
Suggested Meeting Content

- Members’ spiritual journeys
- Participation in life of church
- Areas of responsibility
Suggested Meeting Content

- Seminarian Learning Covenant
- Academic choices
- Pastoral Theology
- Sermon feedback
- Seminarian Report & Seminarian Field Ed. Site Reflection Paper Assignments
- Personal adjustments affecting ministry
A Seminarian with your committee for only one year needs special attention:

- A Senior who changed field sites
- An Anglican Studies student
- A Middler committed to a site for one year
One Year Field Ed. Students

Requires an accelerated startup

Involves a faster pace than a two year seminarian
From the Field Education webpage, click on Downloadable Forms. Scroll down past the Colloquy, Seminarian, Supervisor boxes until you get to the Lay Committee Box, then click on the desired file to open it.
Field Education

Department of Field Education facilitates and oversees a series of courses and programs involving the practice of ministry and reflection on both the practice and the context. Our hope is that the integration of practice with study will produce church leaders who pray and think theologically about their ministry.

During the junior year, seminarians are encouraged to visit a variety of churches among the more than 60 parish field sites in the greater Washington area available each year. Experienced, trained supervisors, who minister out of a diversity of liturgical and theological traditions, serve in a variety of church settings: urban, suburban, rural, church-plants, multi-cultural congregations, historic churches, no staff and multi-staff. Through a process of reflecting on the visits with the director of field education and interviewing with supervisors, seminarians negotiate a field placement of twelve hours a week which begins in September of the middle year.
The Seminarian and Lay Committee Assessments
The Lay Committee’s Process

Convener Assessment

Member Assessment

Each Assessment Presented and Discussed

Seminarian Responds

Group Discussion and Consensus, if possible

Convener Submits Report to the Supervisor by due date

Convener Writes Summary Report Using the Consensus

Convener Submits Report to the Supervisor by due date

Convener Writes Summary Report Using the Consensus
Challenges/Possibilities

Qualifications
- Ministry is a two way street
- Importance of communication

Objective and Subjective
- Seminarian Learning Covenant
- Internal Data
1. Ministry at your site

2. Growth (observed and hoped for) in:
   - A. Knowledge
   - B. Skills
   - C. Spiritual Formation

3. Leadership
   - A. Exercise of leadership
   - B. Leadership style

4. Progress toward ordained ministry

5. Further Comments
Feedback to the Seminarian

* Present as a group
  * Each member gives feedback and the seminarian responds.
  * The convener sums up the collective assessment of the committee and the seminarian responds.

* Present individually
  * Each member meets with the seminarian before meeting as a group.
Feedback Style

- Discuss
- Accentuate strengths
- Note growth areas
  - Descriptive
  - Specific
  - Timely
  - Considerate
The Supervisor’s and Seminarian’s Process

- Supervisor Receives Lay Committee Report
- Supervisor Writes His or Her Evaluation
- Seminarian Writes a Self-Evaluation
- Supervisor and Seminarian Discuss Evaluations
- Convener Submits an Evaluation of the End of Year Lay Committee Work
- Evaluations Submitted to Field Education Department
- Supervisor’s and Seminarian’s Evaluations
End of Year Evaluation of the Lay Committee Work

- Agendas
- Meetings
  - Location
  - Format
  - Content
- Use of guidelines
- Useful processes
- Support and training (comment on what worked)
- Satisfaction (by committee)
Ideas for Resolving Potential Lay Committee Challenges

- Deciding on agendas
- Monopolizing discussions
- Absenteeism
- Committee dissension

- Convener’s role
- Group norms
- Guidelines
- Meeting spaces
- Replacing dropouts
- Addressing issues
Support for Resolving Potential Lay Committee Challenges

* Contact Helen, Allison, or Carol for assistance (see back of agenda for contact information)

* Focus is on the effective working of the group in its relationship to its seminarian.

* These consultations are not part of any evaluation of the seminarian.
Nancy DeForest’s Lay Committee Decalogue

- Pray for them, with them.
- Guide them.
- Love them.
- Understand their uniqueness.
- Give them the inside track at your site.
- Promote and support them.
- Be a listening ear, a safe haven.
- Share your joys and sorrows.
- Let them share their visions and passions.
- Help them grow.