Liturgy Formation Pathway

Step 3: Initial formation and discernment for liturgical ministers

Liturgy Reflection Guide for companions and prospective ministers

The members of the community invite people to discern their call to liturgical ministry because they recognise that the person has the gifts for a particular ministry.

Ideally, during the time of initial formation and discernment, the prospective minister is accompanied by an experienced minister. During this time, the prospective minister observes their companion when s/he ministers and together they reflect on and discuss these experiences.

The following questions are offered as a guide. Two or three would be enough for one conversation. They may all be pondered over time. Other questions will also emerge as the participants continue to reflect.

For the prospective minister

Liturgical ministry is an act of service. How does this ministry serve the worship of the Assembly?

What did you notice about the ministry?
Did anything in particular stand out for you?
What added to its quality?
Did anything detract from its quality?

What did you experience as you received the service of this ministry? What feeling did it evoke in you?
How did this ministry contribute to your experience of God present in the liturgy?
In the liturgy, how do the members of the Assembly respond to this ministry? What do they do? Say?

What gifts are essential to this ministry?
Which of these gifts do you have?
What skills are essential to this ministry?
Which skills do you have?
Which would you need to develop?

What have you learnt about this ministry from this experience and reflection?
What questions do you have about this ministry?
Can you imagine yourself exercising this ministry?
What would you need to help you prepare for, and to feel confident in, this ministry?

For the companion

What is it like to serve the worship of the community through the service of this ministry?
What feelings does this ministry evoke in you?
How is your liturgical ministry impacting on your relationship with God/Jesus?
How does it impact on your relationship with the community?

How is your liturgical ministry changing you? How is it shaping your life as a disciple?

How has your liturgical ministry changed the way you worship/the way you participate in worship as a member of the Assembly?

What have you learnt through your ministry?

What have you come to know about yourself through your liturgical ministry?

How do you prepare for ministry? Each time? Over a year?