



Discerning a vocation to ministry can be a daunting, life changing process, made more daunting scarier by a lack of people to talk to who aren't formally connected to the selection process. Sometimes it's comforting just to have that solid shoulder to lean on when things get difficult.

This is why we have built a [directory of mentors](#) who can offer support throughout discernment and training.

Our trained mentors reflect a wide diversity of traditions. Their task is to act as a caring and knowledgeable friend, walking alongside a fellow Christian exploring a vocation to ministry. Mentoring has been found to be particularly valuable for encouraging and supporting diversity, inclusion and belonging.

Our [Ministries Mentor Directory](#) enables those entering the journey towards ministry with an experienced volunteer who can walk alongside them as a knowledgeable friend.

Five benefits for mentees

1. Confidence in the journey
2. A role model
3. A listening ear
4. A thinking and knowledgeable friend
5. An available companion

Five benefits for mentors

1. An opportunity to serve
2. Help build a culture of inclusion and belonging
3. Foster the church of the future
4. Expand your own networks
5. Possible vocations project

Mentors are separate from the formal shared discernment process. Their task is to help and



encourage. They can provide practical guidance on how to approach obstacles, and emotional support when the pressure feels overwhelming.

Mentors are not their mentee's advocate. They cannot interfere with the decisions of Bishops, Dioceses, Panel Advisers, Theological Education staff, or anyone else formally part of the shared discernment process.

Anyone with mentoring experience (whether formal or informal) and an understanding of the discernment process has the potential to be an Ministries Mentor. It is not compulsory for mentors to be ordained themselves, lay mentors are equally valued, and full training is provided.

Mentoring is part of our commitment as a Church to growing the number and diversity of people answering the call to ministry, so we can continue to faithfully live out our mission for generations to come.