

## **WHEN IT'S YOUR TURN TO PRESENT A CASE FOR THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION**

### **1. YOUR CASE MAY BE WRITTEN UP IN ONE OF TWO WAYS:**

- **BY DESCRIBING A SITUATION IN GENERAL OR**
- **BY GIVING WHAT IS CALLED A VERBATIM—A MORE OR LESS WORD-FOR-WORD ACCOUNT OF A CONVERSATION WITH SOMEONE OR A GROUP—OR**
- **BY USING SOME OF BOTH.**

### **2. WHAT YOU ARE DESCRIBING IS AN ENCOUNTER OR SITUATION THAT OCCURRED IN THE COURSE OF YOUR MINISTRY—A PASTORAL ENCOUNTER—THAT PROMPTED INSIGHT, LEARNING AND THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION FOR YOU. DESCRIBE IT AS ACCURATELY AND AS HONESTLY AS POSSIBLE.**

### **3. CHANGE THE NAMES OF PEOPLE TO PROTECT THEIR PRIVACY.**

### **4. TRY TO KEEP YOUR CASE TO 2-PAGES IF POSSIBLE**

### **5. REMEMBER THAT YOUR CASE IS THE STARTING POINT FOR THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION (SEE FRAMEWORK BELOW) FOR YOUR MENTOR GROUP. CHOOSE A SITUATION OR CASE THAT IS RICH ENOUGH FOR GOOD SHARING.**

### **Framework for Theological Reflection**

#### **1. Enter the Experience:**

a. What assumptions did I bring to this situation?

b. Dynamics of the Relationship

- *Interpersonal analysis:*

- i. What were you feeling?

- ii. What do you think others were feeling?

- iii. Do you find yourself recalling particular images or statements?

- iv. What revelations did you have about yourself and the other person(s)?

- *Theological analysis:*

- i. What does this pastoral encounter reveal about your lived faith?

- ii. What does it reveal/or challenge about your theological understanding?

- iii. What in our tradition, church teaching or pastoral setting relates to this experience?

- iv. What does this experience reveal about your identity and personal style as one preparing for lay ministry in the church?

2. What did you learn from this?

3. How will you change pastorally as a result of this?