

## **Sample Structure for a Curate/TI Supervision Meeting**

Curacy is a time of *formation* where the newly ordained minister and supervisor are attending to learning and development in the whole of life. This will include the personal, spiritual, ministerial and academic spheres. Supervision meetings are a core component of this formation, and they are only effective when the Training Incumbent is able to listen in an undefended way in order to create space for the curate to:

- share their experiences,
- theologically reflect with an experienced practitioner and
- be formed in their thinking about their own practice.

A secondary function of supervision is for the curate to receive information and feedback which will develop their own competency and inhabitation of the role of an ordained minister.

To this end, the following structure offers some questions and pointers which the TI would use regularly in a 1 – 1½ supervision session. Prayer should be incorporated as appropriate and natural throughout the session, with particular attention given to the power dynamic that can exist when ‘praying for someone’.

### **Agenda Setting**

#### **1. *What’s on your agenda?***

This is an opportunity for the Curate to ensure that what they have brought is given adequate time in the meeting. Agenda items will populate the reflection section below. Identifying these things at the start of the meeting means time can be allocated to them and urgent items can be prioritised.

### **Noticing and Naming**

The next three questions are an opportunity for the Curate to share how they are experiencing ministry in the present moment. Each question is designed to be answered first by the Curate and then (more briefly) by the TI. With an agreed set of questions, it will be possible for both TI and Curate to ensure they have an answer each time they meet.

#### **2. *Where are you seeing God at work at the moment?***

#### **3. *What are you excited about?***

#### **4. *What are you finding difficult?***

### **Reflection on Practice**

In this section of the supervision meeting the Curate will bring issues, questions, experiences or critical incidents which they would like to reflect on. It is vital that the Curate comes with at least one thing to each meeting and that this is given adequate time in the meeting.

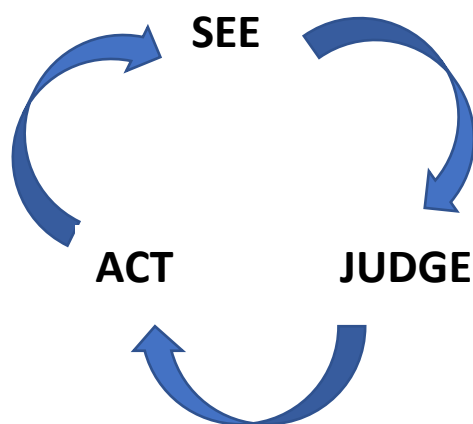
The Curate and TI should experiment with models of reflection to find one which works for them. The simplest is the SEE > JUDGE > ACT version of the pastoral cycle, although the Curate should be familiar with a wider range of models from their IME1 and IME2 training. The role of the TI is to listen to what the curate has brought and (without immediately offering advice) offer their perspective and experience as a contribution to the reflection. The TI should then facilitate the

setting of goals or outcomes in the action stage. The Curate will have been provided with a copy of *How to Do Theological Reflection* by Andrew Dunlop (Grove Booklets, 2022) if you need a refresher on theological reflection methods. Two simple diagrams are also included below.

### Feedback and Information

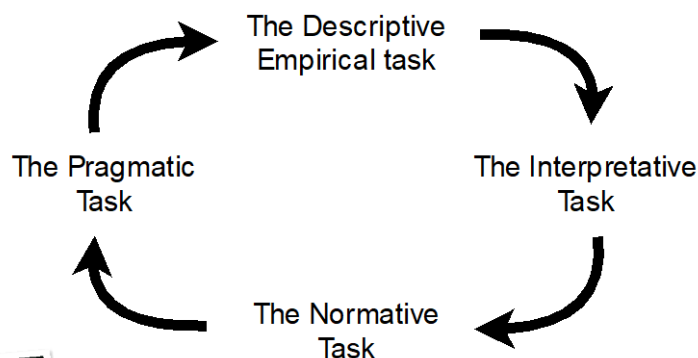
In the course of the reflection, the TI will have been able to offer feedback and guidance and to pass on information which will help the Curate in their understanding of their current context and develop their self-awareness. If there are specific things which the TI wants to raise, these should be done in this section, ensuring that there is adequate time for the Curate to respond to and reflect on that they are being told.

The Pastoral Cycle – The most common method of Theological Reflection



Joseph Cardijn (Belgium, 1882-1967)

### Richard Osmer: The Four Core Tasks of Practical Theology



*Descriptive-Empirical:*  
What is going on?

*Interpretative:*  
Why is this going on?

*Normative:*  
What ought to be going on?

*Pragmatic:*  
How might we respond?



Osmer, Richard Robert. 2008. *Practical Theology: An Introduction* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans). Page 11.