

# Essay Prompts

## Getting to Know You

- A 1-2 page reflection on your life story that includes the following:
  - Your family of origin.
  - The influences that have shaped you.
  - The primary relationships that are important in sustaining you today.
- A 3-5 page reflection on your faith journey and vocation that includes at minimum the following:
  - How your faith has changed, grown and matured over your lifespan
  - What beliefs are important to you?
  - How your beliefs shape your spiritual life and ministry
  - How you actively engage in and practice your faith?
  - How you have experienced and pursued your call to ministry
  - How have you experienced and lived out your pastoral identity and authority?
- A 2-4 page reflection of your identity as an Alliance of Baptists minister that includes at minimum the following:
  - When and why you became involved in the Alliance of Baptists
  - How you have been actively engaged in the Alliance of Baptists?
  - How you engage the Alliance Covenant and Mission in your life and ministry including any resistance and strong resonance (be sure to address all aspects of the Covenant and Mission paying special attention to: " Act to dismantle systems of white supremacy, patriarchy, and abusive power")?

- How you hope to nurture and deepen your relationship with the Alliance of Baptists
- A 2-4 page reflection discussing your call to specialized ministry that includes the following:
  - The story of your call to specialized ministry
  - Why you are seeking endorsement with the Alliance of Baptists
  - What institutions and/or organizations require your endorsement
  - Your present occupation and any plans/hopes for future employment
  - How your understanding of your Christian faith prepares you to minister in an ecumenical and interfaith setting
- A 1-2 page reflection describing your active participation in a local congregation that provides you with the opportunity to worship, learn, and grow, as well as to be supported, nurtured, and challenged in your faith. Demonstrate that it is a congregation where you can offer your sacred gifts as well as receive from others.
- A 3-5 page Spiritual Care Case Study that demonstrates your practice of spiritual care including your use of assessment tools and interventions. (See Appendix 2)

## **Case Study**

Use this template to describe a ministry experience that demonstrates your competence as a chaplain. (For individuals who have recently completed CPE this is not a verbatim. This is a time for you to “toot your own horn”—not seek educational consultation.) Your spiritual care case should be focused on the ministry context for which you are seeking endorsement (i.e. something related to death and dying if you are going into hospice work.)

This template includes four sections: Introduction, Dialogue, Spiritual Assessment and Analysis of Care Encounter. (Use 12 point font, single space, 5-7 pages.)

### Introduction

- Background information—How did you come to be involved in the situation? Did you have any prior knowledge of the care recipient? If so, please offer a brief synopsis. What was the location of the care encounter? Briefly describe what you noticed as the visit began (in yourself and around you).

### Dialogue Verbatim Record

- Provide the who's who of the care encounter using initials (i.e. Chaplain = Ch; care recipient = CR, etc)
- Use parentheses to include "stage directions" (i.e. Ch leaned in and was teary eyed; CR was staring at the wall as we talked.)
- Italics: Relevant internal emotions and thoughts that inform your care (i.e. I feel such deep sadness as she described her loss.)

### Spiritual Assessment

- Demonstrate your ability to assess the care recipient's spiritual and emotional resources and needs. (You can use a spiritual assessment tool.)
  - Assessment includes
    - Spiritual and emotional needs
    - Spiritual and emotional resources
  - What interventions did you offer?
  - What was the outcome?
- Where did you sense the Holy in this encounter? How did you respond to the Holy?
- What theological themes emerged from this encounter?

- What would you focus on if you saw this person again?  
What is the continued work to be done?
- Blessing—What is your wish/desire for this person (even if you don't see them again, what is your prayer for them?)

### Analysis of the Spiritual Care encounter

As you reflect on this now

- How did social location\* (yours and the care recipient's) impact the visit? (This includes distractions, biases/prejudices, transferences.)
- How did your care encounter demonstrate your understanding of the Alliance Covenant and Mission?
- How did the care you offered demonstrate your understanding of the Alliance Code of Ethics? (above in document)