

POTENTIAL MENTORS IN THE PROGRAM

If you are receiving this file, it means you have been asked by a participant/staff team member to mentor a participant in the ECLDN program. This reading is to help you get a broad picture of mentoring as a starting point. We will spend more time in the Mentor Equipping sessions talking about the what and how of mentoring. This file is to give you a taste of why we mentor. The next page will also give some examples of types of mentors.

We all know the story of Barnabas – the ‘son of encouragement’. In Acts 11: 23-24 we hear why he was called that. Barnabas serves as a great role model for mentors- he walked alongside to encourage, prepare, equip and help others succeed. And if Paul needed a Barnabas, we can be sure that we do to. Each participant in the LDN needs someone to come alongside, to listen to them, ask them questions and help them clarify their calling. Mentoring is an important biblical role that we can play in helping others become all God desires them to be.

Hebrews 10:24-25 calls us as believers to spur one another on to love and good deeds. Another biblical call to mentoring! Mentors are just ordinary believers who have the opportunity and the privilege of coming alongside others and helping them reach their potential. Often people who join the LDN are like explorers who are not sure of the journey ahead but know that they are being called to keep moving. Mentoring is a way of improving the map as the journey continues. Mentors can come alongside to help them think through options, encourage successes and talk through failures; to give someone a clearer view of how God sees them and of the gifts they have to offer to his kingdom. God intended us to join together in walking down this road of growth.

We can all think of a million reasons why I can't be a mentor- I don't have all the answers, I'm still journeying myself, who am I to think I have something to offer here? However, all these reasons show a misunderstanding of mentoring. Mentors are not answer givers, they are fellow journeyers. They are not an authority figure; rather they support, ask questions and listen. Mentors want people to hear what God is saying to them so their job is to listen and reflect back, not give advice.

God has called us to walk together on this journey of life. Mentoring is an intentional way of doing that. And the most amazing thing happens when we put ourselves in this place, God uses it to bring growth and newness in our journey too! Over and over, mentors tell us that they have received as much as they give, if not more. What an amazing God we serve- that when we give to others, we receive from him.

If you have more concerns or questions, another mentor at the LDN would be a great person to talk to about this experience. Email Barb at barbvangiessen@sympatico.ca and she will find another mentor for you to talk to.

Blessings on you as you think and pray about your role in the LDN. We are grateful that you would consider giving of your time and energy to help and support the participants. God Bless!

Barb Van Giessen and Ben Vandezande

Source: Coaching 101
Logan & Carlton

What Does a Mentor look like?

At the LDN we use the term mentoring but as you can see below, even that term can have many meanings. Below are nine different types of mentors, and their major accents or thrusts. Most mentors will do more than one of these but no one can do them all. These are given here as an example of the types of mentors we as believers need in our lives.

No one can do all of these and that is one reason we ask that your mentoring relationship come to closure each summer so that both you and your mentee can reassess the type of mentor needed next for the mentee.

1. **Discipler:** A discipler is a more experienced follower who imparts to a new believer the knowledge, skills and basics to grow in Christ. Disciplers affect the new believer's character and behavior.
2. **Spiritual Guide:** A spiritual guide mentor is a mature follower of Christ who shares knowledge and skills related to greater spirituality. Spiritual guides offer accountability and insights for the mentee's spiritual growth.
3. **Coach:** This mentor knows how to do something well and how to communicate that particular skill.
4. **Counselor:** This mentor provides counsel and advice at crucial times, such as decision making and transition times.
5. **Teacher:** The teacher provides knowledge and the ability to communicate that knowledge. Teachers offer perspective and enhancement to ministry.
6. **Sponsor:** The sponsor has credibility, positional, or spiritual authority within an organization, which enables a mentee to develop and advance within that organization. Mentors often provide influence and protection.
7. **Contemporary Model:** This is an exemplary person who indirectly imparts skills, lessons for life, ministry and values. Often this person could be an author of a book and not directly known by the mentee.
8. **Historical Model:** This is a person from the past who serves as a model through books, biographies, and autobiographies. Empowerment comes through example, ministry lessons and life values.

9. **Divine Contact:** The divine contact is a mentor whom God brings into contact with a person at a critical, unplanned moment in order to bring new insight, or discernment.

Source: Connecting,
Clinton and Stanley