

Advising Relationship

The third component of the CEOP is an advising relationship with an established Covenant colleague. The close relationships among Covenant clergy have been a traditional Covenant distinctive. This advising relationship is designed to connect you with a veteran pastor from your area willing to listen to your experiences, answer your questions, lend advice, and help you become more firmly rooted in your local Covenant context.

Choosing an Advisor

Each CEOP student is required to choose an advisor. Students receive an “advisor selection card” with the application packet and should return it when signed by their proposed advisor. **Once received, the Department of the Ministry will approve the advisor choice.** Advisors must be active, ordained or commissioned Covenant ministers with at least five years of service in a local Covenant Church. Current enrollees in the CEOP therefore, do not qualify. Retired pastors are suitable advisors. Once an advisor is approved, the CEOP will send him/her an explanation of the External Orientation Program, guidelines for the relationship, and a form to complete and return signifying the fulfillment of the requirement.

Length of Relationship

The advising relationship officially begins with the advisor’s approval by the Department of the Ministry. This relationship, as a CEOP requirement, should last one year and include at least three evenly spaced meetings, i.e., one meeting every three or four months. Three meetings held during a two-week period would NOT fulfill completion of this requirement. Ideally, the advisor would attend local ministerium meetings and conference meetings with the student and introduce him or her to their peers in ministry.

Relationship Content

The guidelines sent to advisors by the CEOP will include a brief suggestion for each meeting. These suggestions are not meant to control the course of the Advising, but rather to provide a starting point for discussion.

- Meeting one: get acquainted; share why each has chosen the Covenant.
- Meeting two: debrief a specific Covenant Life Experience and discuss your life in the Covenant.
- Meeting three: review an Orientation Class and discuss how it relates to your Covenant ministry.

Completing the Relationship

After each encounter, the advisor will write a few sentences in summary of the meeting. Following the final encounter, the advisor will return the form notifying the CEOP of the student’s completion of this requirement. The Orientation Program requires that this letter be signed and returned by the advisor in order to grant the student credit for this requirement.

Advisor Selection Card

CEOP Student’s Name: _____

Advisor’s Name: _____

Advisor’s Address: _____

_____, _____, _____

Advisor’s Phone Number: _____

(Please note: the signatures of Advisor and enrollee indicate that each is in full agreement with the criteria of the Advising relationship as defined by the External Orientation Program.)

Student’s Signature: _____

Advisor’s Signature: _____



For office use: Guidelines sent to Advisor Date: __/__/__