

MINISTRY LEARNING OPPORTUNITY
Week II | Transitional Ministry Workshops

The Ministry Learning Opportunity (MLO) is a required Week II assignment designed to help you learn from an experience in your current (recent) ministry. By sharing your experience and reflecting on it with others, you will grow and your colleagues will gain insights from your experience.

A Ministry Learning Opportunity is **one** specific situation, event, or interaction from which you hope to learn. It involves four parts: Learning Goal, Experience, Observations, and Making Connections. Using the format below, write out **your** experience, **your** reflections and questions, and what **you** are learning as a result of this experience.

Complete the MLO (800 words total) by the beginning of the Transitional Ministry Workshops.

1. Learning Goal (One or two sentences)

In one or two sentences, state what you hope to learn from this experience, or what you would like more clarity about. Remember this is about what you would like to learn about **you**, not what you would like to know about others. For example, *“I would like to know/learn more about how I/my”* (It may be easier to write this after you have written the Experience, Observations, and Making Connections parts.)

2. The Experience (Who, What, Where, & When):

Briefly, describe an important, single, concrete experience in **your** current (or most recent) ministry setting that **you** would like to learn from. The experience might be one that puzzles **you**, or one that **you** do not fully understand, or one that **you** might have handled differently; it might be an event **you** felt less effective or did something that make matters worse; it might be one that is not yet resolved in **your** own mind—one that **you** continue to reflect upon.

Hint: focus on the who, what, where, and when of the experience—resist speculation on the “why” of the experience. Share what **you** did and how others responded/reacted. Be factual and descriptive of what happened. (400 words)

3. Observations (What did you/are you learning):

Share **your** own observations about the experience. What were the results of the experience? How did it affect you? What did you notice about **yourself** during/after the experience? What did you notice about others? What are you learning about this experience? What are you learning about yourself? Your observations *should not expand on the experience* but focus on the dynamics of the experience. What was meaningful to **you** about the experience? What do **you** observe about how this experience affected (or didn’t affect) the ministry? (200 words)

4. Making Connections:

How does this experience fit within the larger transitional ministry framework? What does it reveal about the larger system? What’s changing, what’s staying the same? How does this experience relate to the larger issues going on in the congregation? How do you understand what happened? What new ideas or insights come to mind as a result of this experience? What have you learned from/and what questions remain about this experience? (200 words)

Each participant of the Week II workshops will present a completed MLO in order to receive a certificate of completion. Presentation will involve reading the completed MLO to other participants with a brief time for group reflection.