**Ministry Journal – Reflective Practice in Ministry
(Template 2: ‘Pastoral Theology as Attention’)**

*This form is designed to help you reflect systematically on your experience of ministry in order to help integrate learning and practice. It can be printed and used as it is, used as a template on your computer, or adapted to your own needs. Not all the questions will be relevant for every situation.*

*This template is structured on the model of ‘Pastoral Theology as Attention’ outlined in* Jane Leach (2006),Contact: Practical Theology and Pastoral Care *153, pp 19-32.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date / time:** |  | **Place:** |  |
| **The event:** |
| Date / time: Location:Nature of event:Describe briefly what happened: Describe your own role: |
| **Paying attention to the voices in this situation:** |
| What are they saying?What feelings are being expressed?What is not being spoken?Whose voice is dominant?Whose voices are absent or being silenced?Whose voices are being mediated by someone else – how does that nuance what’s being said? |
| **Paying attention to the wider / deeper issues implicit in this situation** |
| What academic disciplines (eg sociology, psychology) might help us understand the issues better?How does the past inform the present?What patterns of behaviour are being exhibited here?What are the deeper issues for the characters concerned? What are the implications for their relationship with other characters? |
| **Paying attention to your own voice** |
| What were you feeling at the time? What are you feeling now as you reflect?Who has your sympathy?What previous experience or forming shapes yor attitude to the issues raised here? |
| **Paying attention to the Christian tradition (scripture, liturgy, theology, biography, etc):** |
| What kind of God is suggested implicitly in people’s actions?What theological assumptions / principles are explicitly appealed to?What theological perspectives do you bring?Are there other theological resources that might illuminate the issues here? |
| **What, in the light of all this, is the mission of the Church?** |
| In the political arena?In the local context?In its scattered life?In its gathered life? |
| **What, within that, is your task and your calling?**  |
| What do I want to govern my response to this situation?Is there anything you need to do now? What are the implications for future practice? What specifically might you do differently in a similar situation, and why?  |
| **Books / resources to note** |
|  |
| **This reflection relates to the following Formation Criteria:** |
|  |