

Questions about Pastoral Observations

The following questions are useful guides in learning to *notice* pastoral situations when they arise, *evaluate* them, and *respond* to them.

The questions are structured around the 6 basic question words:

- Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

The presenting action:

a) Basic questions (What? ...):

- What happened?
- When?
- Where?
- How was it done?

b) Motives (Why?):

- Is there more than one motive?
If so what?
- How does the person hope that you will respond?

c) Others (Who?):

- Who else is involved?
- Who is in authority in this situation?
- How does it relate to church leaders?

Your proposed response:

a) Purpose (Why?):

- Do you need to respond? Why?
- Was the original action divisive or constructive?
- Is there a kingdom opportunity here?
- Is there a need to guard yourself?
- Is there a need to guard the church?

b) Other Basic Questions (What? ...):

- What should the response be?
- Who should make it?
- When?
- Where?
- How?

Pastoral Questions Mind Map

