

How Reflective Practice Grew

Rod Seeger

It all began with an email correspondence between Paul Giblin, editor of the *Journal of Supervision and Training in Ministry* (JSTM), and Herbert Anderson on January 5, 2006. Giblin invited Anderson to consider becoming the editor of the journal and moving the center of leadership to the Bay Area of California. That set in motion a number of decisions resulting in a gathering initiated by Herbert Anderson in the fall of 2006 in the Great Hall at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, where his wife, Phyllis Anderson, was the seminary president and he was serving as an adjunct faculty.

Our first meeting was to decide if we were willing to take up where the *Journal of Supervision and Training in Ministry* was leaving off. JSTM had been edited and published in Chicago for twenty-five years. The leadership there had decided to suspend publishing the journal. Acting on the invitation to take editorial leadership, Anderson, who had served on the editorial board previously in Chicago, was named editor. The next item of business was what was the focus of the journal was going to be and what its name would be. By meeting's end, a new name, *Reflective Practice: Formation and Supervision in Ministry*, had been chosen and an expanded focus had been adopted.

Rod Seeger is Managing Editor of *Reflective Practice*. Email: rodseeger@aol.com

Reflective Practice: Formation and Supervision in Ministry

ISSN 2325-2847 (print)* ISSN 2325-2855 (online)

* © Copyright 2022 *Reflective Practice: Formation and Supervision in Ministry*
All Rights Reserved

At that time, the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education was overseeing the distribution of JSTM. They collected the subscription payments, paid whatever bills there were, and kept a stockpile of copies of previous journals. That practice continued for two years. In 2010, the Editorial Board decided to apply for nonprofit status, open its own bank account, and begin distributing the printed volumes. Rod Seeger, a board member who had been the book review editor, was selected to be the managing editor. Scott Sullender was selected from the board to be the book review editor. At that time, approximately 150 volumes of the new *Reflective Practice* were being distributed throughout the world. Libraries, CPE supervisors, chaplains, spiritual care directors, and seminary field educators were subscribers to the newly formed *Reflective Practice*, the successor to JSTM.

In 2011, while Herbert Anderson was visiting his son in Europe, his son suggested to his dad that *Reflective Practice* should go online and be free and open access. Anderson was very excited when he returned to Berkeley. He and Rod Seeger immediately began looking for an online server that could host the journal. Simon Fraser University in Canada had a respected free open access web hosting program. An agreement was secured with them. Volume 31 was the first volume of *Reflective Practice* that was available free open access to anyone with internet access anywhere in the world. Recent analytics indicate that people from sixty countries around the world have accessed the journal online. Volumes 22 through 26 of JSTM have also been uploaded to the website. Currently, volumes 22 through 41 are available free open access online.

In 2014, Anderson announced that he would retire, so a new editor needed to be selected. Scott Sullender, who had served as the book review editor, was asked, and he accepted the position of editor. There was a grand celebration of the success of the first seven years under the leadership of Herbert Anderson. Sullender had been on the Editorial Board from the beginning. He invited all of the board members to be available to him as he began this new position.

Under the leadership of Sullender, the board began to meet at the Graduate Theological Union Library in Berkeley, California. We now meet in a conference room that is electronically outfitted to conduct virtual board meetings. The board saw this as an opportunity to expand the membership of the board to include people from anywhere in the United States. To be-

gin with, board members were added from southern California. Currently, we have board members from several states throughout the United States.

Scott Sullender successfully oversaw the next six years of annual journals for *Reflective Practice*. Landon Bogan, a current board member, became the book review editor, a position he continues in. The book review section of the journal has always been a valuable resource for practitioners out in the field of clinical training and supervision and for people who are primarily working with individuals in their ministry practice. Newly published books, classic texts, and practical books are routinely reviewed.

At a board meeting about one year before he was to retire as the editor, Sullender announced that volume 40 of *Reflective Practice* would be his last. The board discussed it and concluded that since we have the electronic capabilities to meet as a board with people living in many different places, we would expand the search for an editor to include anyone in the United States. After communications with several people about becoming the new editor, it was decided that we had two excellent candidates who would be an asset to the Editorial Board. Why not pursue co-editors? This was ideal for them because the two candidates we were considering were employed in full-time positions and could not take on the responsibilities of being the sole editor. In August 2020, Nancy Wood and Matthew Floding were selected as co-editors of *Reflective Practice*.

As most people remember, on March 17, 2020, it was declared that the United States was besieged by a pandemic. The Editorial Board agreed with Wood and Floding's suggestion that the theme for volume 41 would be "Formation in a Time of Crisis." The word was circulated among the many members of ACPE and ATFE. Many articles and reflections were submitted.

When the new co-editors began, they requested of the board that the publication schedule be made earlier in the year. The routine publication schedule since the beginning of *Reflective Practice* had been late spring. They indicated that late spring was the busiest time for the journal's readers and that an earlier publishing date would allow for application of the content to their practice. It also allowed the new theme to be addressed by contributors during the summer months and early fall. Beginning with volume 41, the new publishing date is March 1.

There have been many changes over the years. Some of the original board members continue to serve. New board members have been added as others have retired from the board. With the advent of virtual meetings,

board membership has expanded to include board members from various parts of the United States. With the new leadership of the co-editors and new members on the board, the introduction of a new website, and more diversity on the board, *Reflective Practice* is positioned to move forward into many years of publishing and serving its supporting constituencies.