

SECTION 4 PRACTICAL THEOLOGY



Editor's Introduction

H*ic sunt dracones*: Here be dragons. So begins M. Jan Holton's fine article in this section. It's a fitting introduction to this group of articles written by practical theologians. Each of our contributors identifies dragons that lie in the way of one's formation and the corresponding challenges that reflective supervisors, professors, and colleagues face. Taken together, we are enriched by the range and depth of their exploration of flourishing.

Mary C. Carroll explores the traditional four pillars of formation—human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral—by following Kevin through his seminary journey and into ministry. Kevin's wrestling with ego needs, spiritual transformation, and growing pastoral competency are explored through the eyes of an empathic mentor and professor.

Eileen Campbell-Reed has been exploring the formation of pastoral imagination and its implications for seminary education for over a decade. She writes of the Learning Pastoral Imagination Project (LPI): "The LPI Project focuses on learning in practice, and we gather instances of how the practice of ministry is cultivated across time and in various circumstances." Mentoring relationships, internship structures, the freedom to pursue (and to fail), and more all factor into the formation of this special intelligence for effective ministry explored in Campbell-Reed's richly informed article. Note especially her key factors for starting and ending well.

In "Wayfinding," M. Jan Holton asserts that "to focus only on the destination diminishes our practice of paying attention to our place along the journey and the ways the journey can bring meaning to our lives." She then takes us on a deep dive into an alternative and attentive way of navigating,

wayfinding, which alerts us to the touchstones of hope, joy, and meaning making on the journey of ministry and formation.

Finally, Scott Sullender draws on his fifty years of experience to investigate and affirm that “ministers who are most likely to flourish in ministry (a combination of being successful in ministry and enjoying it) maintain a high degree of balance across several domains in their life and work.” Sullender draws on his experience with psychological instruments, personality theories, practices for resilience, and theological insight to get at this tightwire challenge that clergy face.

Dragons indeed!

Matthew Floding
Editor