

## EDITORIAL POLICY



Good practice relies on constant reflection. And the capacity for critical self-reflection is an essential dimension of any habitus for ministry and religious leadership. Pastoral supervision is itself a practice that occurs in relationships that encourage such critical reflection in ministry. When formation is added to supervision, the practices are expanded to include the many ways by which people are prepared for and sustained in religious leadership. This journal, *Reflective Practice: Formation and Supervision in Ministry*, seeks to provide a framework for reflection on supervision and formation for a range of ministries, in a variety of contexts, and from different faith traditions. The mission statement of this journal supports that goal:

*Reflective Practice: Formation and Supervision in Ministry* is a journal that seeks to understand, expand, and promote theory, learning, and reflection in the practice of supervision and formation in various ministries from diverse ethnic and religious perspectives.

This journal is a continuation of the *Journal of Supervision and Training in Ministry* that was founded in 1977 to foster critical reflection and writing on supervision for ministry. Over the years *JSTM* expanded beyond its original contexts of clinical pastoral education and pastoral counseling to include supervised field education and formation for spiritual direction. Each time another context or discipline has been added to the conversation about supervision, the task of holding together the increasingly rich diversity of theoretical perspectives and ministry practices becomes more complicated.

Although the Journal has changed its name and its editorial location, supervision remains the central practice for reflection. *Reflective Practice: Formation and Supervision in Ministry* is the new name and the San Francisco Bay Area is its new editorial home. The various educational centers provide a richly diverse religious, theological, and clinical context in which to explore the future of formation and supervision.

As an Editorial Board, we are committed to that diverse dialogue. We are determined to enhance the richness of reflective practice through soliciting articles from a variety of religious and ethnic/cultural perspectives. With this issue, Elizabeth Liebert, Lynn Rhodes, and Peter Yuichi Clark leave the Board. The wisdom of these Board members during the transition to *Reflective Practice* and its location in the Bay Area has been beyond measure. Thank you. We are grateful that Peter Yuichi Clark will continue as the ACPE Theory Paper Editor with the added responsibility of choosing the annual recipient of the Cederleaf Award. We are grateful for the willingness of the following individuals to join the Edito-

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rial Board as we begin our transition to electronic publishing: Susan S. Phillips, Kamal Abu Shamsieh, Eva Marie Lumas, SSS, and Carrie Bruckner. We have not lost any wisdom, and we have gained greater diversity.

We hope that readers will learn from reflecting on the practice of supervision and formation in disciplines and contexts quite different than their own. We invite you to send your comments about this Journal and its focus through our Web site [www.reflectivepractice.org](http://www.reflectivepractice.org). And of course we hope you will submit for publication your reflections on the practice of supervision and formation in ministry.

The Editorial Board  
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### Theme for Volume 31 of *Reflective Practice* FORMATION AND SUPERVISION IN A DIGITAL AGE

How we live has already been profoundly affected by digital communication and the rapidly emerging tools of social media are likely to change forever how we solve problems and create social renewal. Patterns of communication, revolutionized access to information, shifted the balance of power between experts and amateurs, expanded collaboration in solving problems, redefined the way that we think about membership, and created new possibilities for social intimacy. Digital technologies and the new media landscape are also transforming the church. This shift will accelerate in the coming years. As *Reflective Practice* begins its own digital era with Volume 31, it is timely that we focus on this theme: **Formation and Supervision in a Digital Age.**

- What needs to be done to form a new generation of pastors and supervisors for whom digital technology is natural?
- What might the success of distance learning teach us about digital supervision?
- Is it necessary to balance electronic meetings in supervision with face-to-face meeting with a supervisee?
- How will the fluidity of personal boundaries in social networks like MySpace affect the willingness to be vulnerable in formation or supervision?
- How will confidentiality be secured if the internet is the vehicle for formation and supervision?
- How will the specter of predators who use the internet to attract victims affect forming learning communities of trust?
- Although sharing may be more intimate online, how might the absence of in-person connections affect the sustainability of relationships limited by distance from the outset?
- How will digital formation/supervision affect people with different levels of skill and adaptability to the technology?

More than ever, it is important that young pastors, supervisors, and leaders in ministerial formation write about this topic at this time. Proposals are welcome any time. Articles should be submitted to Herbert Anderson, Editor, by December 1, 2010, for inclusion in Volume 31.