

NEXT ISSUE'S THEME:

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PLACE, REFLECTIVE PRACTICE,
AND FORMATION**

VOLUME 46 (2026)

For volume 46, we invite authors to consider the relationship between place, formation for religious leadership, and reflective practice. How does place condition reflective practice and formation? How might emerging and critical understandings of place shape approaches to reflective practice and formation?

Places—regions, nations, cities, neighborhoods, ecosystems—are constructed realities. The geographical boundaries that give shape to particular places; the histories of human settlement, cultural production, demographic change, etc., which give places their distinctive character; and the structural realities (economic, political, cultural, etc.) that determine how human communities experience place—and much more—are all complex products of human agency. Places are not found; they are made. Places are not given; they are constructed. Indeed, theorists have long theorized place as a product of human meaning-making rather than simply a stable, objective spatial or geographical reality.

Jennifer Ayres's helpful definition of place captures the essence of these discussions: "A location becomes a *place* when it is imbued with meaning, with histories, and contestations. Indeed, a shorthand for what is meant by 'place' is 'space plus character,' attending to the relationship between geographical location and the human soul." Moreover, as in any category of human meaning, place is shot through with the dynamics of power. Thus, theorist Tim Creswell defines place as "space invested with meaning in the context of power."

With dramatic changes in the "American religious landscape," North American faith communities are experimenting with new places of gathering. Communities of faith might understand the primary place of gathering as a neighborhood, a city, a community garden, an ecosystem. Some hospitals and health care systems have reimagined the place of health care as a whole community ecosystem rather than simply a clinical setting in a downtown building.

We invite authors to submit articles to *Reflective Practice* by November 1, 2025. Submissions to the journal should not exceed 5,000 words. Authors can find the author guidelines [at the link here](#).