

THEME: THE NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE

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In recent decades, greater attention has been given to the role and importance of story in a variety of disciplines. In psychotherapy, for example, narrative therapy has emerged as a distinctive approach to the understanding and healing of persons. Those who are responsible for the formation and supervision of religious professionals resonate with this emphasis as well. Because religious literature often comes in the form of story or narrative, the form of narrative has become a significant part of religious reflecting. Stories shape lives and narratives provide the framework for the human journey.

Volume 35 of *Reflective Practice*, (including 25 volumes of *Journal of Supervision and Training in Ministry*), will examine the use of narrative around these questions: "How has this emphasis on narrative shaped, or even re-shaped, our work as a theological educators, ministerial supervisors, or spiritual mentors? How do we employ story in the work of formation and supervision? How might students be encouraged to self-reflect critically on the stories they tell in ministerial formation? How does the multicultural and diverse religious perspectives of our age interface with this emphasis upon the narrative?" Articles around this theme, as well as essays outside the theme, are welcome.