

SECTION 3 REFLECTING ON PRACTICE



Editor's Introduction

The soul of *Reflective Practice*, expressed in our very name, is reflecting critically and theologically upon the practice of ministry. It is our conviction that we improve our effectiveness as practitioners of the arts of ministry by taking time to reflect upon our practice. Furthermore, we believe that in the act of reflecting upon the practice of ministry we are doing theology. We are engaging in theological reflection upon the lived experience, upon the living human documents, and upon the workings of the Holy One among us, and this kind of theological reflection is as legitimate a way of doing theology as any of the more academic theological disciplines.

This section includes two essays that illustrate and advocate for this core principle of *Reflective Practice*. Board-certified Army Reserve Chaplain Joshua J. Morris reflects on his experience as a counselor of soldiers facing the moral ambiguities of modern warfare in "The Army Chaplain as Counselor: An Exploration of Self-Reflexivity and Denominational Particularities." Morris explores the nature and dynamics of the role of chaplain and counselor in the military cultural setting. Further, he explores the unique resources he brings to the counseling relationship from his denomination's particularities, articulating the positive, useful, and affirmative resources available to him through his denomination's history and faith stance. He notes that critical reflection upon oneself and one's role as counselor is at the heart of reflecting upon the practice of ministry.

Secondly, I commend to your thoughtful review an essay by Chaplains TK Kang and Karl-Erik Tysk, from Norway and Sweden respectively, who describe their theory and theology of supervision and argue that reflection is the core of all good supervision. To illustrate their theory, they begin their essay, "Reflection as the Core of Supervision," by describing their supervi-

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sory method and a typical supervision session. They then build their theory of supervision, drawing on storytelling and moral theory among the resources and scholars. Together, Kang and Tysk have over 35 years of professional experience as supervisors for the Church in Sweden and Norway. They bring a richness and depth to this paper that can come only from seasoned professionals.

Scott Sullender
Editor