

Theme Statement for Volume 39 (2019)

Formation, Supervision and Gender Diversity

In the last few decades there has been a significant change in how gender and human sexuality is understood. Correspondingly there has been an expression of greater gender diversity among the general population. So it is then, more seminarians or students preparing for religious leadership, do not identify with or transcend conventional gender norms.

How does this change in how gender is understood and the increasing presence of nonconventional gender students in our seminaries or clinical training programs invite us to rethink how we form or prepare students, spiritually and professionally, for religious leadership?

How do such changes shape or change how we do supervision, either in the context of clinical pastoral education and/or field education? Should gender issues, including gender biases and gender equality be important foci of clinical theological training? Furthermore, how do we prepare future religious leaders, regardless of their own personal gender preferences, to minister effectively to needs of gender diverse peoples? The Editorial Board of *Reflective Practice* invites scholars and practitioners on the cutting edge of these issues to contribute essays that might explore this theme. As usual, we also welcome essays, poems, case studies on subjects outside of the stated theme. We look forward to an illuminating and engaging 39th volume of *Reflective Practice*.

For more information or to express your stated interest in writing for Volume 39, please contact Scott Sullender, Editor, *Reflective Practice*. Email: ssullender@sfts.edu.

