

**NEXT ISSUE'S THEME:**

**FUTURE FORMS AND CONTEXTS  
OF MINISTRY**

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To mark the fortieth anniversary of *Reflective Practice* (and its predecessor, *The Journal of Supervision and Training in Ministry*), the Editorial Board invites writers to anticipate new ministries that will emerge or are emerging in response to the rapidly changing social and religious landscape. We use the word 'ministries' here to emphasize the practices rather than the leaders of these emerging religious institutions and organizations.

In what ways have traditional patterns of religious leadership become obsolete? In the future, are more ministers likely to be bi-vocational or part-time and without advanced education or formal training in their ministry? What new patterns of formation will support these non-professional ministries? How will our understanding of calling change? If specialized ministries increase while religious institutions decline, who will recruit, form, authorize, and support these specialized religious leaders? As ministries become more entrepreneurial and independent, what new forms of accountability will develop to maintain best practices? What are the issues and potential problems in understanding and treating ministry as a business?

Considering these trends, what patterns of formation and supervision do we need today to prepare leaders for future ministries yet unknown? How should we adapt the traditional theological curriculum, including CPE and field education, to adequately prepare women and men today for the challenges of tomorrow? Because many contexts for future ministries will be interfaith and multifaith, multicultural and multiracial, what human qualities and practical skills do we need to foster to prepare future religious leaders to function effectively in these contexts? How will new forms of ministry in the United States affect religious leadership around the globe? What can we in the westerns industrial nations learn from similar trends and practices on other continents?

