

BOOK REVIEWS



Jim Wilson and Earl Waggoner, *A Guide to Theological Reflection: A Fresh Approach for Practical Ministry Courses and Theological Field Education* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020), 177 pp.

In *A guide to Theological Reflection*, Jim Wilson and Earl Waggoner seek to educate the reader in the art of theological reflection. The book begins with the story of Moses striking the rock at Meribah from the Hebrew Scripture. The authors invite the reader to reflect on how differently this event could have turned out had Moses only paused and reflected in the moment. They invite the reader to explore “the pause.” What follows is a description of theological reflection using the “action-reflection-action model” that is so familiar in the CPE world (chapter 2). Many may appreciate the brief descriptions of various theological reflection models in the first half of chapter 3. They are concise yet helpful in understanding the many approaches one can take to reflecting theologically. In the last half of chapter 4, the authors introduce their own reflection model, the “theological loop,” which focuses on “identifying, aligning, and exploring.” A number of the example questions would be easily translatable for use in CPE verbatim discussions. Section 2, including chapters 4 through 8, offer ways in which to best implement the theological loop. The importance of mentoring, peer relationships, journaling, and goal-setting are all given their own chapters, with some interesting and helpful examples.

One drawback of the book lies in its intended audience. Both Wilson and Waggoner teach at Christian colleges (Gateway Seminary and Colorado Christian University, respectively) and write to the Christian pastor. This emphasis would be difficult to overlook in a multifaith education context. However, to the authors’ credit, the concept of the theological loop is broad

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enough it is not tied to one specific theological perspective. The authors also recognize that, for their intended audience, theological reflection is a new concept. Overall, for a Christian minister exploring theological reflection for the first time, this book is full of new and challenging information presented in a way which demonstrates that one can reflect in a Christian context. For multifaith programs, while this book offers a good description of theological reflection and provides a new approach with some good leading questions, it may be too tied to the Christian tradition to be anything more than a reference book.

Gerald L. Jones
Sutter Roseville Medical Center
Roseville, California