

Catherine F. Garlid, Angelika A. Zollfrank, and George Fitchett, eds.,
Expanding the Circle: Essays in Honor of Joan E. Hemenway (Decatur,
GA: Journal of Pastoral Care Publications Inc., 2009), 292 pp.

How do we honor those who have gone before us? This festschrift—a collection of articles and essays written by Joan Hemenway during her life and additional articles written by her pastor, colleagues, and former students, who build on Joan’s ideas and life work—is an excellent tribute to her; but also a valuable resource for our ministry, teaching, and supervision.

Part I focuses on Joan’s work and ministry. In “Four Faith Frameworks,” Joan describes four authentic ways of being faithful and their implications for pastoral care (with case study examples). Another essay asks ten hard questions concerning the future of pastoral supervision and the pastoral care movement. Joan also writes the prayers, poems, and scripture readings she found helpful for ministry and during her hospitalization.

Joan reflects on how we can use diverse faith beliefs as a unifying rather than a dividing force for group formation and cohesion. She critically looks at storytelling and illuminates its dangers and offers a different approach across time (rather than the large block of time often done in orientation) to discover the stories that formed us and our students. She shows us how to teach clinical pastoral education (CPE) students to do a one short twenty-minute initial pastoral visit in seven steps.

Joan takes on the hard questions that continue to confront us even after years of supervision: How much difference is too much difference? What are the two essential needs of small group members? Does the authority issue ever go away?

Part II is focused on systems-centered training and CPE supervision, which Joan integrated into her small group supervision. This section is rich in a systems-centered approach to group work, illuminating boundary permeability, the process of discriminating and integrating information, functional sub-grouping, and phases of system development. It includes examples to differentiate between functional and non-functional use of personal storytelling and functional sub-grouping.

Part III, “Reflections on Supervision,” contains essays by colleagues on faith development theory; important considerations when working with African-Americans; and the important place of apology in the supervisory relationship, including five steps to craft a supervisory intervention in order to reclaim the lost art of apology. Teresa Snorton, building on Joan’s diversity questions, asks: “as CPE becomes more diverse, are the values and interpretations of CPE congruent or incongruent with world views of diverse backgrounds?” This essay includes concrete suggestions for reflective processes in addition to the written tools of verbatim and case study.

A real value of this collection is the short pieces that can be read and digested in a short amount of time. How many great books are on your desk with the hope you will read them, but there is never enough time? Here you can take fifteen minutes and read a piece in this collection that speaks directly

to a question you are pondering in your faith, your pastoral counseling, or your supervision. Also, reading the whole book is worth your limited and valuable time.

Rev. Sandee Yarlott
Retired ACPE supervisor