

**NEXT ISSUE'S THEME:
FORMATION FOR FLOURISHING
Volume 42, 2022**



We have all been changed.

In 2020, we all learned a good deal about how to educate, provide spiritual care, learn, engage in corporate worship and meditation, and cultivate self-care practices all while being socially distanced, often in virtual spaces. In the past year, systemic racism has been raised in many persons' consciousnesses and its public health effects are now being studied and documented more than ever before. In the face of last year's monumental natural disasters due to climate change, many of us are engaging in a more concerted and global effort to care for our precious planet and the most vulnerable who inhabit it.

In 2021, we are slowly entering a new normal. It seems, then, to be a good time to wrestle with a theme that encourages us to reflect on our experience and identify what practices we will incorporate in the new normal such that our perspectives on our work and our world might continue to challenge and sustain us. In this moment, we see the lens of "flourishing" as a particularly important way to focus our reflection, research, and writing.

Matt Bloom at Notre Dame University has been researching well-being in the workplace for more than two decades. Supported by a Lilly Grant, he and his research team have been able to take their wealth of research and focus on what well-being, specifically flourishing, look like in the life of ministry. They asked big questions like, "What are the significant characteristics of well-being for clergy?" and "What factors and conditions foster flourishing, and what factors and conditions impede or diminish it?" The fruit of their research has been published by Bloom in *Flourishing in Ministry: How to Cultivate Clergy Wellbeing*.

We are committed to the formation of reflective practitioners who embody practices that promote well-being and flourishing. In the next issue of Reflective Practice, we invite CPE Educators, Theological Field Educators, Practical Theologians, Spiritual Directors, Social Scientists, and others to explore the many facets of flourishing.

Essays, poems, and case studies outside of this theme are also welcome. We look forward to an inspiring Volume 42 to encourage and inform our work in this new world.

For more information, or to express interest in contributing to Volume 42, please contact co-editors Nancy Wood, nancyelizabethwood@gmail.com or Matthew Floding, mfloding@div.duke.edu. The deadline for submissions to Volume 42 is October 1, 2021.