

Theological Reflection on Experience

One of the most important aspects of the TFE program is the development of the capacity to reflect theologically upon experiences in ministry. As we continue in a time of rapid change in the church, it is important that all people in ministry are able to be self-aware, self-critical (of positives and of negatives), and be able to relate the current situation to scripture and the faith of the church. We face many difficult questions in the theology and practice of ministry and in living the Christian life these days. The method of theological reflection is intended to develop in all of us a way of integrating our experience and the story of our faith, so that we may hear the Spirit's voice.

The TFE program at Knox College uses 1 main resource for theological reflection: Howard Stone and James Duke, *How to Think Theologically*, 3rd ed. (Fortress Press)

Reflection Journal

Each student shall keep a reflection journal during their field placement in preparation for supervision and Integration group meetings. Reflection journals are an important resource for weekly supervision sessions.

In the journal the student will:

1. Identify significant event(s) or theme this week in your placement. (Please ensure confidentiality is maintained. Do not use names or any details that would make a person's identity obvious.)
2. Describe your self- awareness, underlying assumptions.
 - a. Your self-awareness re: feelings, thoughts, motivations, etc.
 - b. What assumptions are you aware of in your own interpretation of the event/theme? Where have these assumptions come from?
 - c. Your sense of possible boundary issue(s), power dynamics, etc.
 - d. Spiritual challenges?
3. Describe how you perceive the presence and call of the Holy Spirit within the event(s).
4. Integrate praxis and theological reflection: where did you see God at work in this event? What images of God come to mind?
5. What scriptural passages and/or theological themes invite further exploration through this week?
6. What ministry competencies (M.Div. or MRE) are you aware of through this week?
7. Describe a pastoral/educator image that reflects your experience of yourself this week.

Bi-weekly journals are due by email to the TFE Leadership Team and your Supervisor.

DUE dates: October 6	January 12
November 3	February 9
December 1	March 9

All reflection journals must be submitted for the student to get full credit for the placement.

The reflection journal is intended only for use in Knox College's Theological Field Education program and should not be used for any other purpose without written permission from the student. **Students should include this disclosure note at the top and the bottom of each of their journal submissions.**