

## SECTION 2 ACPE: THE STANDARD FOR SPIRITUAL CARE AND EDUCATION

### *Editor's Introduction*

This issue focuses upon community, location, and place. As with most articles in *Reflective Practice*, this thematic focus aims to consider human agency in relation to the externals of place. We hope to do two things. First, we're considering ourselves. Second, we're considering our places. This issue, as have others, turns us to personal and internal locations as well as to external locations. In other words, the authors invite us to reflect upon self and environment.

Places matter. Settings matter. Of course, we matter too. Howard Thurman wrote in *The Luminous Darkness* that "any society is apt to be so viable that things are always shifting and are constantly being influenced by the larger community of the country and the world."<sup>1</sup> Thurman, a theologian and mystic, analyzed concrete realities of segregation, spoken and unspoken rules, and the ways environments were shaped to stifle change of the intolerable. While he was interpreting segregation as the "throbbing reality" of Black experience, he was also pointing to how settings and individuals interrelate. He reminded us that social settings emerge from social individuals. As we read this issue, we can hold to Thurman's clarity. Together, the individual's location and the external setting help us continue to practice justice-seeking ministries of care and education with increasing faithfulness.

Faithfulness is another way to think about consistency. It is a word related to values. We create, foster, inspire, and supervise learning, and in doing so we participate in our own consistent life, work, and vocation. Educators contribute to the transformations of others, and we also change. Peers and colleagues work with and affect each other. Moreover, we change in relation to and because of the people and the places. Those with whom we work impact us, and the places where we work influence and shape us.

James Clapper offers a careful review of a single encounter. His retelling starts with a descent into "the sapphire sea below" and ends with a slight flicker. How does meaning emerge, and what places might we travel to in order to locate it?

Craig Katzenmiller shares an adapted curriculum considering the needs of CPE students and residents around ethics and reflects upon curriculum development. He appreciates and provides insights on the resources available to his program and discusses strategies for implementing similar approaches given curricular revisions, certification processes, and concerns emerging from the practice of spiritual care.

Lynne Mikulak provides two articles emphasizing the integration of a culture of safety into CPE. These complementary works stem from Lynne's years of supervision with students, continued service to ACPE, and overarching vision for operationalizing a culture of safety in specific, explicit ways in ACPE. She calls for the organization to work with the associated theories and methods described in her articles to promote emotionally and psychologically safe relational dynamics throughout ACPE.

Mary Parks suggests that inner relationship focusing is a meaningful tool for self-exploration. Connecting it to her own learning in CPE, she discusses how tuning in enables a welcoming of the body and an acceptance of the self.

William Selig provides a reflection upon the practice of ministry and discernment. While working to illuminate dimensions of discernment, he presents bedside encounters from his work as a chaplain to lift "staying with someone" as a central gesture for spiritual caregivers.

These reflections encourage us to keep searching the places around us, the settings in which we accomplish our life tasks, and the rooms in which we care, learn, and live. They remind us to enter these places with increasing self-awareness, regard for the safety and wellness of everyone involved, and wisdom.

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## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Howard Thurman, *The Luminous Darkness: A Personal Interpretation of the Anatomy of Segregation and the Ground of Hope* (Harper & Row, 1965), 9.