

A taste of METHOD IN MINISTRY: THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION AND CHRISTIAN MINISTRY, Jas.D. Whitehead & Evelyn Eaton Whitehead (Seabury/81)

What's distinctive about this c.e. book is that it's do-it-yourself with built-in motivation. Figure 1 gives you the tennis game between ministry and theology, with four vertical factors. Figure 11 is a typical worksheet, with columns for action, collaboration, measurement, and responsibility-assignments. Figure 12 shows the tennis game with the three levels or steps: attending, assertion, decision-making. A good action-book for pastors on sabbatical as well as for formal c.e. seminars.

A CONTINUUM OF THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

	M I N I S T R Y				T H E O L O G Y			
	←----->							
scope	<u>immediate and concrete</u> (this pastoral question)			<u>intermediate</u> (this pastoral question in its Christian and cultural context)			<u>broad</u> (a theological question in its philosophical and historical context)	
length of reflection	<u>brief</u> (one or two sessions)			<u>intermediate</u> (several weeks or months)			<u>indeterminate</u> (complexity of reflection and commitment to insight rather than action; therefore, reflection is viewed as ongoing)	
conversation partners	personal and ministerial experience			theology and social sciences as well as experience			philosophy and history	
example: Christian community	This community's effort to live its Christian ideals; skills for community building and resolution of problems			This community's experience in explicit relation to the Christian Tradition and the American culture			Christian community as interpreted by scriptural images and historical understandings of Church; ecclesiology	

Figure 1

CVER

PASTORAL PLANNING WORKSHEET FOR 1981-82

Goal I. Subgoal A. "By 1986 St. Philip's Parish, acting as a Christian community, will assist senior parishioners to affirm and respond to the religious significance of their own lives by: (A) fostering a process of 'life review' culminating in the religious reminiscence of those in mature age."

(1) Action Recommendation	(2) Necessary Collaboration	(3) Measures of Achievement	Remarks
To conduct three weekend education training workshops involving one hundred senior parishioners.	Adult education committee and parish budget committee	Proper assessment of communication needs established; workshops conducted; evaluation by participants.	J. P. Burns responsible
To develop and implement "life-review" programs facilitated by the elders for other elders and their families.	J. P. Burns, adult education committee, and local seminary faculty team	Ten trained elders have each facilitated five "life-review" programs; evaluation of effectiveness made by participants and local seminary faculty team.	L. T. and B. D. Roy responsible
To purchase a parish van, equipped with special rigging for elderly passengers, for the exclusive use of this project.	Parish budget committee and L. Jones (purchasing agent for parish)	Van purchased and in operation. Following equipment installed: armchair seats, special lift for easy entrance and exit, emergency health equipment, air conditioning.	Brenda McCarty and Alice Jones responsible

Figure 11

THE CONTINUUM OF THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:
Analogous Skills are Required at Different Locations

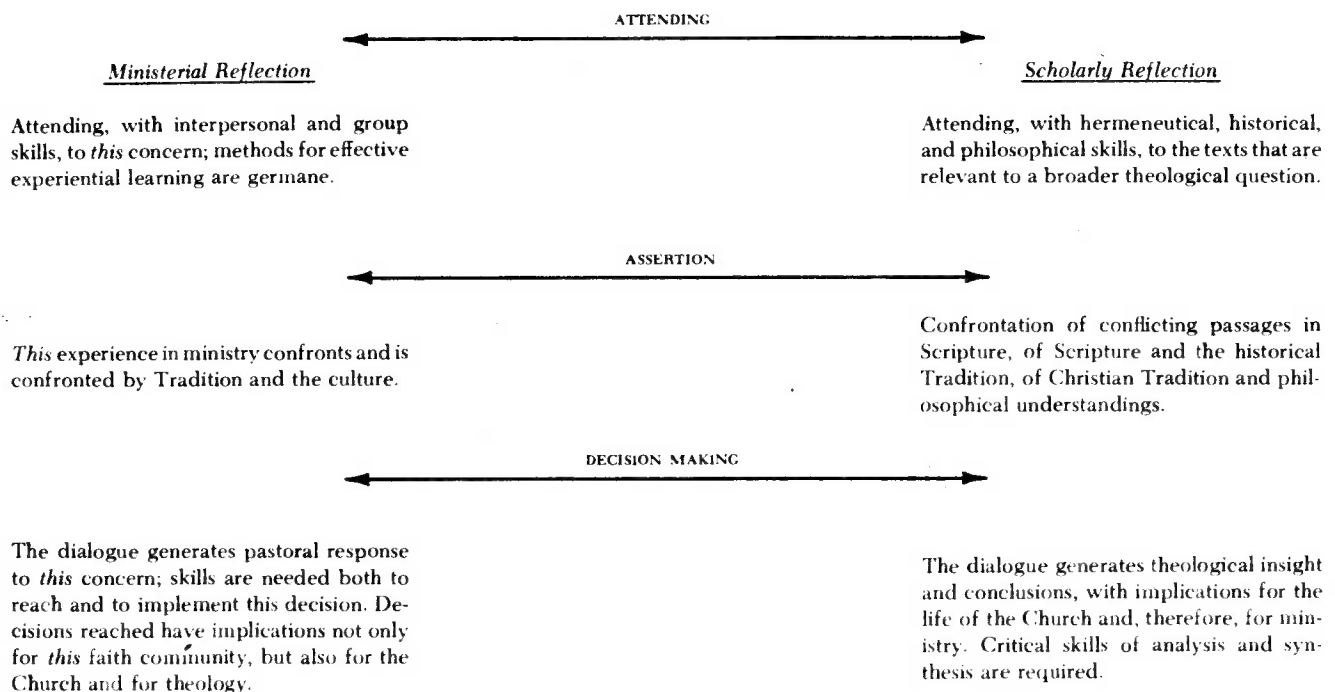


Figure 12