

## MID-POINT REFLECTION REPORT

### Christian Formation & Ministry Internship Wheaton College

Please complete these questions at the mid-point of your internship (date assigned by Dan Haase) and mail or email it to him. This should be typed & double-spaced.

It is also recommended that this report be shared and discussed with your supervisor/mentor.

#### **Include the following:**

Date:

Name:

Internship site and address:

1. List the major activities of the past weeks and approximate number of hours completed.

Construct your answers for the next three questions (2-4) around the following grid of writing a practical theology (i.e. each question should include an answer addressing these four parts – **see next page also**):

**What is going on (or not going on)?**

**Why is this going on (or not going on)?**

**What ought to be going on (or not going on)?**

**What strategies of action might achieve desired goals?**

2. How is the *Statement of Expectation, Responsibilities, and Activities* being met?
3. Describe how you are fulfilling your spiritual growth goal(s).
4. Name at least one thing have you learned from your mentor/supervisor professionally and spiritually?
5. What are you learning about your *strengths* in ministry? Have there been circumstances when you wished you had done something different? Please describe one circumstance.
6. What are you learning about your *weaknesses/limitations* in ministry? Have there been circumstances when you wished you had done something different? Please describe one circumstance.
7. What are you learning about ministry as a vocation? Is this experience impacting your personal and professional goals?
8. What support or help do you need from Dan or the department?
9. List some specific requests for prayer.

Send to:

Wheaton College ~ CFM Dept.  
c/o Dan Haase  
501 College Ave.  
Wheaton, IL 60187

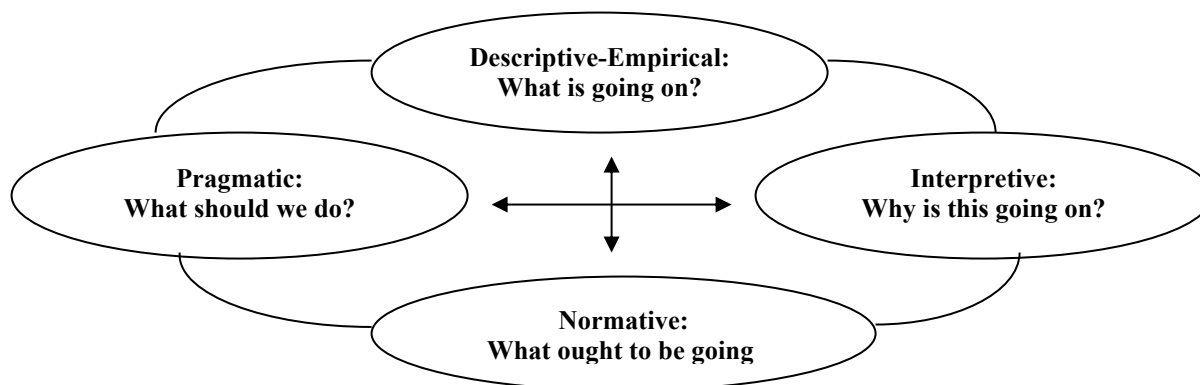
E-mail: [Daniel.Haase@wheaton.edu](mailto:Daniel.Haase@wheaton.edu)

## Constructing a Practical Theology<sup>4</sup>

**Practical Theology:** “is that branch of Christian theology that seeks to construct action-guiding theories of Christian praxis in particular social contexts.” A “how-to” informed by a strongly developed theory of “why-to.”

### The Four Inter-related Tasks of Practical Theology

(note, this is not a linear model—“there is no one starting point in the circle of practical theological reflection; a practical theologian may enter the circle at any point”)



#### **The Descriptive-Empirical Task** (Asks: *What is going on?*)

- “It focuses on the actual state of some form of Christian praxis in a particular social context.”
- Gathering Information...describing specific facts: focus on the particular situation, condition, problem, opportunity, etc. within your spiritual formation into Christlikeness...*what is happening specifically (physically/spiritually) – what: where, when, how*

#### **The Interpretive Task** (Asks: *Why is this going on?*)

- “The data of empirical research is not self-interpreting. It must be placed in a more comprehensive framework, offering an explanation of patterns of behavior, attitudes, and ideas.”
- Reflective Observation...analysis of issues: focus on probing beneath the surface aspects of the chosen theme(s)...*why do you bother, what’s the point, what fears/lies and truths do you entertain?*

#### **The Normative Task** (Asks: *What ought to be going on?*)

- “It focuses on the construction of theological and ethical norms with which to assess, guide, and reform some dimension of contemporary Christian praxis.”
- Theoretical Reflection...begin to synthesize gathered data and interpretations: interact with scripture, tradition, reason, experience (i.e. What ought to be normative?)...*what’s missing, what do you intend to happen, what is your vision/goals/expectations? (value hierarchy?)*

#### **The Pragmatic Task** (Asks: *What strategies of action might achieved desired goals?*)

- “How might this area of praxis be shaped to more fully embody the normative commitments of the Christian tradition in a particular context of experience? It focuses on the development of action-guiding models and rules of art (open-ended guidelines about how to carry out some form of Christian praxis).”
- Application...how will you implement your theoretical insights: primary focus is to be on the “how to” Consider what you will “put on” & “put off”...*what tangible/specific steps to take?*

<sup>4</sup> The model and quotations are from Richard Robert Osmer, *The Teaching Ministry of Congregations* (Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, KY), xiv-xvi, 303, 304.