



Michael Paterson and Liz Crumlish. *Pastoral Supervision: Creativity in Action*. Edinburgh: IPSRP Publications, 2021. 241 pages.

Pastoral Supervision by Michael Paterson and Liz Crumlish is a book which invites us to go beyond supervision by numbers, beyond an ‘exchange of information’ to a more creative response in supervision. It is radical, in the literal sense of that word, for it goes back to the roots of pastoral supervision, and someone new to this work would find all they need in terms of a process model and the basics of how to make use of the supervisory space. But then we are taken beyond the law to the prophets. We are asked to reconsider. We are led to imagine supervision as an engagement with ‘wild soul’ which requires the supervisor to turn up with the whole of themselves (without taking centre stage).

This is supervision which is soulful, intimate, relational, creative – which touches us, challenges us, changes us. The book contains the most comprehensive and practical exploration of creativity in supervision that I have yet read – sound and music, embodiment, objects, imagery and art, drama and role, language and story.

Here is just one example:

Weaving with Paper – on a large piece of paper and whatever colours you have to hand, depict the high point of your working life in recent weeks. On another sheet of paper, depict the low point of your working life in recent weeks. Tear each picture into strips of equal width and weave them together. What do you see? What causes you to wonder? What do you realise? (131) I really want to try that!

This is also a collegial book, greatly enhanced by the poems and creative writing of Liz Crumlish – and many others. I love the range of thought-provoking quotes and the use of photos.

Bob Whorton
Pastoral Supervisor for the Methodist Church
March, Cambridgeshire