

Praxis Learning

Thomas Groome's work on *Shared Christian Praxis* is one of the most influential things in Christian Education since the 1980s (Harper & Row, 1980). The field of practical theology takes a range of approaches to theological reflection, including Groome's approach. Richard Osmer's *Practical Theology* provides the following summary of steps (Eerdmans 2008). Together with Groome they provide an excellent way of approaching almost any kind of learning that seeks to connect life and faith, including theological reflection on ministry practice. The sequence is actually circular and continuous

<p>Descriptive (Naming) Present experience</p>	<p><i>What is going on?</i> Information gathering to discern patterns and dynamics.</p>
<p>Interpretive (Analysing) Underlying or wider causes and effects</p>	<p><i>Why is this going on?</i> Drawing on understandings from the wider world to explore and explain.</p>
<p>Normative (Critiquing) Guiding beliefs and practices or future hopes and call</p>	<p><i>What ought to be going on?</i> A dialectic / dialogue with the Christian Story (past and present) and Vision (future) - where have we come from and where are we going in faith?</p>
<p>Pragmatic (Revising) Steps to more faithful practice</p>	<p><i>How might we respond?</i> Discerning actions to influence situations and explore emerging practice</p>