



This definition of Pastoral Supervision is taken from the website of the Association of Pastoral Supervisors and Educators in the UK. Transforming Practices is affiliated with this association and the Transforming Practices Pastoral Supervisors or also accredited with this Association.

Pastoral Supervision

Pastoral Supervision is

- **a regular, planned intentional and boundaried space** in which a practitioner skilled in supervision (the supervisor) meets with one or more other practitioners (the supervisees) to look together at the supervisees' practice
- **a relationship** characterised by trust, confidentiality, support and openness that gives the supervisee freedom and safety to explore the issues arising in their work
- **Spiritually/theologically rich** – works within a framework of spiritual/theological understanding in dialogue with the supervisee's world view and work
- **psychologically informed** – draws on relevant psychological theory and insight to illuminate intra-personal and inter-personal dynamics
- **contextually sensitive** – pays attention to the particularities of setting, culture and world-view
- **praxis based** – focuses on a report of work and /or issues that arise in and from the supervisee's pastoral practice
- **a way of growing** in vocational identity, pastoral competence, self awareness, spiritual/theological reflection, pastoral interpretation, quality of presence, accountability, response to challenge, mutual learning
- **attentive to** issues of fitness to practice, skill development, management of boundaries, professional identity and the impact of the work upon all concerned parties

Pastoral Supervision is not

- **Spiritual accompaniment** – for the sole or primary purpose of exploring the spiritual life and development of the supervisee(s). Aspects of this may arise in Pastoral Supervision but are not the main focus.
- **Counselling** – for the purpose of helping the supervisee(s) gain insight into their personal dynamics, or helping the supervisee(s) to resolve or live more positively with their psychosocial limitations. Aspects of this may arise in Pastoral Supervision and, if necessary, the supervisee(s) may be encouraged to seek counselling support.
- **Line management** – for the purpose of addressing professional practice and development issues in relationship to the supervisee(s)'s performance and accountability (whether paid or voluntary) to her/his employer. Aspects of this may arise in Pastoral Supervision but are not the main focus.