

## **2024-2025 Supervisor Gatherings Calendar**

Boston University School of Theology Contextual Education Office ([sthope@bu.edu](mailto:sthope@bu.edu))

Rev. Dr. Anastasia Kidd & Rev. Nikki Renée, co-facilitators

Leo Roberts, Senior Program Coordinator

### **Introduction:**

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a supervisor for a Boston University School of Theology student undertaking their Contextual Education placement during this school year! Because of this, you are part of this year's Supervisor Cohort, an auspicious group of pastors, non-profit leaders, educators, administrators, and activists doing the work of mentoring students. We in the Contextual Education Office thank you for your willingness to support the theological education of up-and-coming religious leaders in such a direct way. Time spent in reflection with a caring supervisor can shape a student's experience of their placement, their professional self-understanding, and even their personal formation in profound ways. Your time and energy are not only appreciated; they're vital for your student's growth.

The goal of our Supervisor Gatherings throughout the school year is not to form you into a supervisor. There's no doubt that you have many skills for mentoring already, given your own personal and professional development over the years. So, while there will be some "Supervisor 101" content to make sure we all have shared language and best practices of the BUSTH Contextual Education program, the majority of our time together will be spent exploring content that we hope will help you dig deeper into your own understanding of what it means to be a resource and guide for the next generation of religious leaders. The most excellent supervisors among us are those who are able to read the institutional, personal, and societal contexts around them and help their student(s) do the same.

### **Supervisor Gatherings Throughout the Year:**

All supervisors are encouraged to attend as many Supervisor Gatherings as possible throughout the school year as these provide an opportunity for connecting with one another, troubleshooting any issues, and delving deeper into the practice of mentoring students. Most of the events will be held on Zoom, except for a "Supervisor Orientation" event at the start of the Fall semester and a "Thank You Luncheon" at the end of the Spring semester. Those two events will take place on-campus.

### **Supervisor Certification:**

Supervisors who want to be certified with the BUSTH Contextual Education Office must complete at least 10 hours of training during the school year by attending Supervisor Gatherings. All supervisors who complete 10 hours of training or more will be considered "certified" for future school years. Supervisors who complete 10 hours of training and would like one Continuing Education Unit (CEU) along with their certification should let Leo Roberts ([sthope@bu.edu](mailto:sthope@bu.edu)) know by April 1st.

Thank you again for giving of yourself through supervision this school year. We hope the experience of mentoring a student will be edifying to your own leadership and formation!

Never hesitate to reach out to [sthope@bu.edu](mailto:sthope@bu.edu) if we in the ConEd Office can help in any way.

## **Supervisor Gathering Meeting Dates & Topics:**

### **Tuesday, August 27th, 10am - 2pm**

*Meeting will be at the Boston University School of Theology, Room B-23 (Hartman Room), which is on the Lower Level of 745 Commonwealth Avenue; Boston, MA 02215.*

**Theme: An Orientation to Contextual Education at Boston University**

**Leaders: Rev. Nikki Renée & Rev. Dr. Anastasia Kidd, BU School of Theology**

- Review of the Supervisor Handbook, Student Syllabus, & policies and procedures of ConEd
- Transformative Learning Theory as a model of the experience of theological education
- Considering the Role of Supervision in Supporting Students Through Crises of Faith
- Lunch and Networking with Other Site Supervisors and Contextual Education Office Staff

### **Tuesday, October 1st, 10am - 12noon**

*Meeting via Zoom <https://bostonu.zoom.us/my/akidd> & Meeting ID: 704 866 3024*

**Theme: Trauma-Informed Theological Reflection Strategies & Exploring Silences in Your Student's Work**

**Leader: Rev. Nikki Renée, BU School of Theology**

- Trauma-informed supervision practices
- Dealing with an overly positive/optimistic student who maintains "I'm fine!" in lieu of tackling harder issues
- Reading "between the lines" and evaluating the "margins" of stale or disengaged student reflections/written work
- Deepening theological reflection conversations by exploring what's below the surface

### **Tuesday, November 12th, 10am - 12noon**

*Meeting via Zoom <https://bostonu.zoom.us/my/akidd> & Meeting ID: 704 866 3024*

**Theme: Resilient Leadership for Anxious Times**

**Leader: Rev. Barb Lemmel, Harvard Epworth Church**

- An introduction to Family Systems Theory basics
- How both individuals and organizational systems can be anxious & how this affects our work
- What religious leaders can do to manage anxious behavior in their organizations, volunteers, employees, and themselves

## **Tuesday, January 14th, 10am - 12noon**

Meeting via Zoom <https://bostonu.zoom.us/my/akidd> & Meeting ID: 704 866 3024

**Theme: Leading Change that Lasts**

**Leader: Rev. Barb Lemmel, Harvard Epworth Church**

- Change can make individuals and organizational systems anxious
- In what ways does sabotage show up in times of change?
- What does solid leadership look like in times of change, and how can it make a difference in the organizational system's anxiety?

## **Tuesday, March 4th, 10am - 12noon**

Meeting via Zoom <https://bostonu.zoom.us/my/akidd> & Meeting ID: 704 866 3024

**Theme: Ending well: Wrapping Up Your Supervisory Relationship**

**Leader: Rev. Dr. Anastasia Kidd, BU School of Theology**

- Introduction to the C.A.R.E. model of saying goodbye
- Boundary awareness and setting clear expectations
- Creating a closing ritual for your supervisory relationship
- Considering next steps (if any) with your student
- Reflecting on one's supervisory practice and/or one's context as a site of learning (i.e. "If I could do it all over again, what would I do differently? Now that I know, how can I better prepare this space for the next student leader?")
  - "Running Through the Thistles:" Learnings from a leave-taking study

## **Tuesday, April 29th, 11:30am - 1:30pm**

*The Castle: Boston University | 225 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215*

*Please let [sthope@bu.edu](mailto:sthope@bu.edu) know by April 22nd if you need a parking pass for this event.*

**Theme: "Thank You" Luncheon for All Supervisors**

This gathering will not count toward supervisor certification training hours but will be a wrapping up of the school year with time for reflection and gratitude as well as a nice lunch where we can celebrate together. If you served as a supervisor at any point in this school year, you are invited to attend.