

# VOICES & VOCATIONS THAT CHANGE THE WORLD



**Event:** Vocation CARE: Congregational Practices for Nurturing Church Leaders

**Date:** March 20, 2010

**Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Where:** Trinity Reformed UCC  
217 Second Avenue NE  
Conover, NC 28613

## An FTE Learning Event for Leaders Who Nurture Vocation

Is your congregation a place where women and men hear God's call to lives of faithfulness, service and leadership? Do the life, work and worship of your congregation inspire young people to ask what they will do with their lives as followers of Jesus Christ?

Join Stephen Lewis, the national director of the Fund for Theological Education's (FTE) Calling Congregations initiative for an exploration of the role and practices of congregations that nurture the voices and vocations of young people for ministry and service to the church and the world.

### What You Will Learn

In this event, congregational leaders will learn:

- Practices of calling congregations that move congregations to care about vocation—VoCARE. These practices are:
  - Create Space to Explore Vocation
  - Ask Self-Awakening Questions
  - Reflect Theologically
  - Establish Ministry Opportunities
- About resources available to assist congregations, including:
  - Coaching, grants and online resources
  - Workshops, conferences and training events

### Building a Movement

Through its Calling Congregation initiative, the Fund invites church leaders to join a nascent movement of congregations and church-related organizations committed to becoming communities of call. These leaders will encounter new companions, fresh visions, helpful tools and renewed hope for God's church and the next generation of leaders who will lead the church into its future.

To learn more or get involved, please visit our Web site: [www.thefund.org/calling](http://www.thefund.org/calling)

**Cost:** \$25 for the first person, \$15 for the second and \$10 for the third person.

### Registration Information

Please contact Margot Pickett at [Margot.Pickett@gmail.com](mailto:Margot.Pickett@gmail.com) or 919.493.2722 more information about the event.

God is still speaking.



Southern Conference  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



*This event is co-sponsored by the Southern Conference of the UCC and The Fund for Theological Education, a national, ecumenical initiative for encouraging and equipping local churches to raise the next generation of leaders for the church. FTE Calling Congregations provides connections and resources to congregations and church-related organizations to cultivate cultures rich in vocation care and where the call to ministry is honored.*



## Core Convictions

The assumptions that lead to the (disciplined) practice of vocation care in congregations are:

1. All Christians are called by God and have a vocation; that is, a way to participate in God's saving work in the world
2. The consistent witness of Scripture and our own lived experience tells us that discernment of call and vocation (care for vocation) is done in the company of others
3. God calls the church to this vocation—to listen together for God's call and to support one another in faithful action in response
4. Congregations are called now to reclaim practices of vocation care and practice them with their children

*A vocation conversation is a space in which to "hear one another into vocation."*

*Lives to Offer:  
Accompanying  
Youth on Their  
Vocational Quest*

*By Dori Grinenko  
Baker and Joyce  
Ann Mercer*

## Touchstones for Creating Hospitable Space

*Adapted from the Center for Courage & Renewal*

- ⊕ **Be 100% present, extending and presuming welcome.**
  - ⊕ **Listen deeply.**
- ⊕ **It is never "share or die."**
  - ⊕ **No fixing.**
- ⊕ **Suspend judgment.**
- ⊕ **Identify assumptions.**
- ⊕ **Speak *your* truth.**
- ⊕ **Practice confidentiality care.**
  - ⊕ **Turn to wonder.**

## **C**reate a space to explore vocation.

A vocation conversation is a space of practiced presence for the purpose of exploring Christian vocation, God's call and faithful responses. It is time spent together that forms authentic relationships and trusting companionship.

The conversation space is created by the VoCARE practices which are combined to create a quality of presence with one another and the Holy Spirit to explore vocation and call.

FTE *OnCall* BLOG

**A Conversation on Vocation**  
at: [www.thefund.org/blog](http://www.thefund.org/blog)