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KEY=CALLING - GUERRA THOMAS

AWAKENED TO A CALLING

REFLECTIONS ON THE VOCATION OF MINISTRY

The Fund for Theological Education (FTE) annually invites our nation 's premiere preachers to address a group of young adults who are considering a vocation in pastoral ministry. As part of the Excellence in Ministry Conference, these preachers have eloquently proclaimed God 's Word, especially in its relationship to vocational discernment. To honor outgoing president Dr. James Wait for his remarkable service as president of the FTE, these preachers have collected seven superb sermons. These sermons on vocation offer an important resource for high-school and college students making vocational decisions, for older adults considering vocational changes, and for all who teach and mentor in the area of vocational discernment and who help others sort out a commitment to professional ministry. The preachers are highly recognizable and respected individuals who serve as trusted and wise guides for discerning a ministry vocation, including Fred Craddock, Walter Brueggemann, Tom Long, Barbara Brown Taylor, Brad Braxton, and Jeremiah Wright. Pastors will find in these sermons a ready resource, a graduate gift, and a likely handout for anyone considering a ministry vocation.

SOMEBODY'S KNOCK-IN AT YOUR DOOR

A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON THE CALL TO CHRISTIAN VOCATION, MINISTRY, AND SERVICE

ENGAGING WITH VOCATION ON CAMPUS

SUPPORTING STUDENTS' VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT THROUGH CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR APPROACHES

Routledge Bringing together narratives and theory-based analyses of practice, this volume illustrates collaborative curricular and co-curricular approaches to promoting vocational discernment amongst students in a Catholic university setting. Drawing on cultural, religious, and secular understandings of vocation, Engaging with Vocation on Campus illustrates how contemporary issues around vocation, work, and careers can be addressed within the Catholic intellectual and spiritual tradition. Chapters presents a range of contributions from students, faculty, and staff from a single institution to highlight practical approaches to supporting students in this area, and acknowledge the complementary and intersecting roles played by student support services, academic staff, and on-campus ministry in helping students develop an individualised understanding of vocation. Considering the value of both curricular or non-curricular activities and processes, the volume highlights spiritual, personal, and community value in offering students explicit and tailored support. This text will benefit researchers, academics, and educators with an interest in higher education, religious education, and the Christian life and experience more broadly. Those specifically interested in career guidance, theological curriculum and pedagogy, and Roman Catholicism will also benefit from this book.

REFLECTIONS ON RENEWAL

LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY AND THE CHURCH

Liturgical Press The United States bishops ' document Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord is a vital resource for the ongoing development of lay ecclesial ministry. Building upon Co-Workers and affirming the recent renewal of the laity and the flowering of lay ministries, Reflections on Renewal contributes to efforts to reshape ministerial language and practices in the church today. It explores the theological and pastoral foundations of ministry, including how al ministry is rooted in the sacraments of initiation, and suggests ways of refining or redefining our understandings of lay ecclesial and ordained ministries so that we as church can respond more fully to the call of God in our lives and world. At the same time, the book recognizes that lay ministry developed organically as the work of the Spirit and is, foremost, a cause for rejoicing. This collection of essays is grounded in Fordham University's commitment to the church and its mission in the world. It honors the thousands of laypeople who have answered a call to serve the church in ministry. Donna Eschenauer is the director of religious education and the catechumenate at the Cathedral Parish of St. Agnes in Rockville Centre, New York. She received her PhD from the Fordham University Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education. Her recent publication A Second Look at the Directory for Masses with Children appeared as a featured article for Pray Tell, the blog of Liturgical Press and Saint John's School of Theology. Her book on the Triduum is forthcoming. Harold Daly Horell is an assistant professor of religious education at the Fordham University Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education. He received his PhD from the Boston College Institute of Religion Education and Pastoral Ministry. His publications include Human Sexuality in the Catholic Tradition (Rowman and Littlefield, 2007), edited with Kieran Scott, and Horizons and Hopes: The Future of Religious Education (Paulist Press, 2003), edited with Thomas H. Groome.

THE FABRIC OF THIS WORLD

INQUIRIES INTO CALLING, CAREER CHOICE, AND THE DESIGN OF HUMAN WORK

Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing This is an historical, philosophical, theological--and practical--exploration of work from an evangelical perspective, highlighting the Christian concept of vocation as articulated by Luther and Calvin, and making relevant applications for today.

CONSCIENCE AND CALLING

ETHICAL REFLECTIONS ON CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CHURCH VOCATIONS

A&C Black "This volume probes the meaning and ethical implications of the powerful symbol of vocation in a transformed social context. Patrick analyzes the complex responses of Catholic women to injustice and describes a post-Vatican II shift in understandings of virtue, with particular attention to the experiences of U.S. sisters and laywomen. Intended as a follow-up to Liberating Conscience: Feminist Explorations in Catholic Moral Theology ..."--P. [4] of cover.

MISSION TO THE WORLD

COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL IN THE 21ST CENTURY: ESSAYS IN HONOR OF KNUD JORGENSEN

Wipf and Stock Publishers

HARVESTING MARTIN LUTHER'S REFLECTIONS ON THEOLOGY, ETHICS, AND THE CHURCH

Fortress Press As profound as Martin Luther's ideas are, this giant of church history was concerned above all with practical instruction for daily Christian living. Harvesting Martin Luther's Reflections highlights this concern of Luther, mining his thought in key areas of doctrine, ethics, and church practice. Gathering noteworthy contributions by well-known Luther scholars from Europe and the Americas, this book ranges broadly over theological questions about baptism and righteousness, ethical issues like poverty and greed, and pastoral concerns like worship and spirituality. There are even rare discussions of Luther's perspective on marriage and on Islam. As a result, Harvesting Martin Luther's Reflections is both a state-of-the-art discussion of Lutheran themes and an excellent introduction for newcomers to Luther's work.

BECOMING A NEW CHURCH

REFLECTIONS ON FAITH AND CALLING

Wipf and Stock Publishers Since church membership has entered into a period of rapid decline, the church is being challenged to renew and redefine itself and its ministries by liberating itself from past constraints and crafting new ways of being "the church". "Becoming A New Church" offers Malcolm Warford's well-reasoned, articulate reflections on what meeting this challenge means. For Warford, renewal is not a matter of restoring what already has been, but being committed to thoughtful, faith-based innovation. He invites us to think of ourselves as pilgrims in a community where there are no clearly marked road signs, but where we have a shared memory of Jesus who made us free to live open to the world and its potential for transformation.

GUIDELINES FOR LEADING YOUR CONGREGATION 2013-2016 - HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

CONNECTING WITH STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Abingdon Press This ministry area is responsible for interpreting and recommending to the church council ways for implementing the church's mission in higher education and campus ministry. This team is on the "front line" in the important work of identifying and developing the leadership for the church and for the world. This Guideline is a how-to plan that leads you through the biblical, theological, and practical aspects of your church's ministry in higher education. This is one of the twenty-six Guidelines that cover church leadership areas including Church Council and Small Membership Church; the administrative areas of Finance and Trustees; and ministry areas focused on nurture, outreach, and witness including Worship, Evangelism, Stewardship, Christian Education, age-level ministries, Communications, and more. To see a full list of Guidelines, search by typing keywords: "Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation 2013-2016," and click "search".

DOING GOOD, WELL

THE APPLICABILITY OF LEADERSHIP THEORY TO FAITH-BASED LEADERSHIP

WestBow Press This book is an attempt to synthesize the logic of mathematics, organizational behavioral/ management policy of an MBA and ecclesial scholarship of a Doctorate of Strategic Leadership into the pages of one book. This book begins with the premise that, similar to corporate leaders, faith-based leaders are also capable of implementing these skills and resources to maximize the efficiency of church organizations. It is critical that they have a full toolkit of resources to leverage when administering their organizations. It also acknowledges and recognizes that a life fully engaged in active ministry doesn't necessarily allow time to pursue degrees in each of the aforementioned subjects. As a result, Dr. Bell has attempted to create a medium through which ecclesial practitioners and scholars may review these various topics to obtain insight. Similar to survey courses in college, readers should see it as a beginning point for further exploration. Take from it what you will and apply it to your God-given vision. Use it as a springboard to the progressively revealed Will of God for the effective administration of your call.

LEAVING A CAREER TO FOLLOW A CALL

A VOCATIONAL GUIDE TO THE MINISTRY

Wipf and Stock Publishers

ENFOLDED IN CHRIST

THE INNER LIFE OF THE PRIEST

Canterbury Press

LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY

THE STATE OF THE QUESTIONS

USCCB Publishing A must for all active church ministers and for those preparing for such ministry. Presenting a summary of the Leadership for Ecclesial Lay Ministry project, the Subcommittee on Lay Ministry invites the bishops to determine the future course of the project in order to serve the need for leadership at the national level and provide practical assistance at the local level.

REFLECTIONS ON MY CALL TO PREACH

CONNECTING THE DOTS

Chalice Press Travel with revered preacher and author Fred Craddock through his early years as he considers what made him take to the pulpit. "For some reason, I felt I had to say 'Yes' or 'No' to the ministry so I could feel free again. My siblings and friends talked almost casually about options and preferences as to careers, but with no evident sense of urgency. Not so with me. I did not then, nor do I now know whether the burden of choice was a trait of personality, a kind of super-conscientiousness, whether the calling to ministry itself carried a weight, a burden, peculiar to the task itself. Rightly or wrongly, when I thought of possibly becoming a journalist, that would be a choice, 100 percent mine. When I considered becoming a minister, that was not totally my decision; I was responding to God's will for me. Of course, I had been told that journalists, lawyers, teachers, merchants, farmers-all could understand their lives as a vocation, a calling, but what I am telling you is that I perceived, I felt, I experienced the idea of being a preacher as

different, and that difference was sobering, even burdensome. That's why advice about not being in a hurry, taking my time, was not helpful even if wise. If it was my decision, why could I not make it now; if it was God's decision, why did not God tell me, or at least tell my father or my mother? I prayed for the ache to leave me." -Excerpt from Reflections on My Call to Preach.

THE PATTERN OF OUR CALLING

MINISTRY YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

SCM Press Ministry has always changed, adapting to time and place. But the pace of change has increased. There is a greater need for success and less tolerance of diversity. A few high-achievers hold up their heads whilst others struggle or wonder how to make sense of what feels like failure. Our theology is impoverished and we are so quick to adopt new models that we have forgotten our own past. David Hoyle explores the changing theologies of ministry during the church's history with the aim of challenging the lack of theological reflection in some of today's results-driven understanding of ministry that seems more influenced by the business world than by Christian theology and tradition. Setting out to explain why theologians said what they said about ministry, why it might matter, and why it might be exciting, Hoyle covers nearly two thousand years of theological reflection from the Didache to Michael Ramsey and current writers, and provides a synthesis not found anywhere else. The book offers realistic sustenance to practitioners struggling with the new demands on clergy.

AWAKENING VOCATION

A THEOLOGY OF CHRISTIAN CALL

Liturgical Press Does God have a specific plan for each of us, or is it more like general guidelines for all of us? How do my gifts and abilities, my personality and particular circumstances, impact my vocation? What is the role of the church in this process? What are the needs of the world that call us to respond? Awakening Vocation explores these questions and breathes new life into an ancient idea - rousing vocation from a centuries-long slumber. Inspired by the broad and inclusive Vision of the Second Vatican Council, the book traces the history of Catholic reflection on vocation and offers a constructive proposal for the present. In plain language, Edward Hahnenberg argues that Catholic thinking on vocation has been frustrated by a deficient theology of grace and that the key to reclaiming the notion of God's call today lies in a Vision of God's self-gift reaching across all of human history and into every human heart. Rethinking vocation in light of a revitalized theology of grace helps move beyond earlier dead ends, opening up new ways of imagining discipleship and discernment within our wonderfully diverse and yet deeply divided world.

IN THE NAME OF THE CHURCH

VOCATION AND AUTHORIZATION OF LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY

Liturgical Press In the Name of the Church: Vocation and Authorization in Lay Ecclesial Ministry presents insights generated in the 2011 Collegeville National Symposium on Lay Ecclesial Ministry, a gathering designed to prioritize the theological foundations for vocation and authorization in lay ecclesial ministry, and make recommendations to advance excellence in this expanding ministry. The essays presented by seven theologians at the Symposium are included, along with thoughtful input drawn from the experiences of lay and ordained ministers who gathered to amplify the voice and strengthen the national will to promote effective ecclesial leadership practices identified within Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord.

HEARING VOCATION DIFFERENTLY

MEANING, PURPOSE, AND IDENTITY IN THE MULTI-FAITH ACADEMY

Oxford University Press, USA Many colleges and universities have begun using the language of vocation and calling to help undergraduates think about the future direction of their lives. This language is used in both secular and religious contexts, but it has deep roots in the Christian theological tradition. Given the increasingly multi-faith context of undergraduate life, many have asked whether this terminology can truly serve as a new vocabulary for higher education. If vocation is to find a foothold in the contemporary context, it will need to be re-examined, re-thought, and re-written; in short, higher education will need to undertake the project of hearing vocation differently. In this third volume on vocation from editor David S. Cunningham, the thirteen contributing scholars identify with a wide variety of religious traditions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Sikhism. Some contributors identify with more than one of these; others would claim none of them. The authors met on multiple occasions to read common texts, to discuss agreements and differences, and to respond to one another's writing; some of these responses are included at the end of each chapter. Both individually and collectively, these contributors expand the range of vocational reflection and discernment well beyond its traditional Christian origins. The authors observe that all undergraduate students--regardless of their academic field, religious background, or demographic identity--need to make space for reflection, to overcome obstacles to discernment, and to consider the significance of their own narratives, beliefs, and practices. This, in turn, will require college campuses to re-imagine their curricular and co-curricular programming in order to support their students' reflection on issues of meaning, purpose, and identity.

LIVING THE CALL

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE LAY VOCATION

Encounter Books Since 1965 the number of priests in the United States has fallen by some 30,000. But over that same time period, more than 30,000 laypeople have come into the employ of parishes and other Church institutions. Laypeople have stepped up to serve in a variety of new ministries, and they are relieving their pastors of many administrative burdens, enabling them to focus on their proper priestly duties. Lay teachers now outnumber nuns, brothers, and priests in Catholic schools by at least 19 to 1. In the history of the Church, laypeople have never been asked to do so much. William E. Simon, Jr. and Michael Novak call attention to this great shift in Living the Call. The first part of the book tells the personal stories of nine faithful laypeople now serving the Church in new and diverse ways. Simon and Novak's insight is that more and more who work in the Church feel the need to shape their lives in a new way, matched to their different needs and adjusted to the new base of knowledge about the world with which they begin. In response to this need, the second part of Living the Call offers practical examples and reflections on a number of themes, including entering into the presence of God and learning different forms of prayer, reading that refreshes the mind and deepens the soul, and the graces of the sacraments and how being a spouse contributes to holiness.

THEOLOGY FOR MINISTRY

AN INTRODUCTION FOR LAY MINISTERS

Liturgical Press Theology for Ministry is for beginning ministry students, seasoned lay leaders, and anyone in between who wants to learn more about the faith that feeds their call to serve. Six easy-to-read chapters introduce the main areas of theology that every lay minister ought to know: the notion of vocation, the doctrine of God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, church, and ministry. By sharing personal stories and simple examples, Edward Hahnenberg brings the Bible to life and dusts off ancient church doctrines—revealing the many ways our tradition can inspire the work of lay ministers today.

IRISH AND BRITISH REFLECTIONS ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION

FOUNDATIONS, IDENTITY, LEADERSHIP ISSUES AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Springer Nature This volume presents an interdisciplinary and systematic review of Catholic Education Studies across Ireland and Britain. Taken together, the chapters drill down to the foundations, identity and leadership matters in Catholic education and schools. It is in reading the complete volume that a more precise picture of Catholic education in Ireland and Britain develops into sharper focus. This is important because it reflects and crystallises the complexity which has almost organically developed within the field of Catholic Education Studies. It also provides a powerful antidote to the naïve reductionism that would boil Catholic education down to just one or two fundamental issues or principles. Contemporary Catholic education, perhaps globally but certainly in Ireland and Britain, is best depicted in terms of being a colourful kaleidoscope of differing perspectives. However this diversity is ultimately grounded in the underlying unity of purpose, because each of the contributors to this volume is a committed advocate of Catholic education. The volume brings together a rich range of scholars into one place, so that these voices can be listened to as a whole. It includes contributions from leading scholars, blended with a plethora of other voices who are emerging to become the next generation of leading researchers in Catholic education. It also introduces a number of newer voices to the academic context. They present fresh perspectives and thinking about matters relating to Catholic education and each of them confidently stand alongside the other contributors. Moreover, these reflections on Catholic education are important fruits to have emerged from the collaboration made possible through the creation of the Network for Researchers in Catholic Education, which was established in 2016 under the auspices of Heythrop College, University of London.

LAY MINISTRY

A THEOLOGICAL, SPIRITUAL, AND PASTORAL HANDBOOK

Wipf and Stock Publishers

GOD AT WORK

YOUR CHRISTIAN VOCATION IN ALL OF LIFE

Crossway When you understand it properly, the doctrine of vocation—"doing everything for God's glory"—is not a platitude or an outdated notion. This principle that we vaguely apply to our lives and our work is actually the key to Christian ethics, to influencing our culture for Christ, and to infusing our ordinary, everyday lives with the presence of God. For when we realize that the "mundane" activities that consume most of our time are "God's hiding places," our perspective changes. Culture expert Gene Veith unpacks the biblical, Reformation teaching about the doctrine of vocation, emphasizing not what we should specifically do with our time or what careers we are called to, but what God does in and through our callings—even within the home. In each task He has given us—in our workplaces and families, our churches and society—God Himself is at work. Veith guides you to discover God's purpose and calling in those seemingly ordinary areas by providing you with a spiritual framework for thinking about such issues and for acting upon them with a changed perspective.

GUIDELINES FOR LEADING YOUR CONGREGATION 2013-2016 (SET OF 26)

FOR EACH MINISTRY OF YOUR CHURCH

Abingdon Press

ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Bloomsbury Publishing Ordained Anglican ministry is changing rapidly. Soon the majority of clergy are likely to be volunteers and, especially in rural areas, female. All mainstream Churches recognise that new contexts need new forms of ministry. Ordained Local Ministers (OLMs) are priests specifically called out by their local congregation and ordained to minister in that locality. Half the dioceses in England and elsewhere in the Anglican Communion including Australasia, Scotland and North America have established formal schemes to enable this type of ministry. Some dioceses believe the process has helped to revitalise parishes and raise the spiritual temperature of congregations. Others have called a halt, believing their schemes have somehow gone wrong or have not 'delivered'. The time has come for a calm assessment of available evidence about an experiment into which the Church has poured considerable time, effort and money over the last twenty years. Does it have ongoing value, or is it just one more bright idea that has flourished for a season and has now had its day?

ENCOUNTERING MISSIONARY LIFE AND WORK (ENCOUNTERING MISSION)

PREPARING FOR INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY

Baker Academic This new volume in the award-winning Encountering Mission series is for current and future missionaries. It provides practical guidance regarding getting ready for the mission field and the realities of life on the field. The authors are well qualified to write such a manual, each having served as a missionary for more than twenty years and each having taught missions in seminary. The authors begin by examining the contemporary context for missions, including the recognition that the world's mission fields are in constant and often rapid change. They then discuss aspects of preparing oneself for the mission field, beginning with home-front preparations and moving to on-the-field preparations. The final section deals with practical issues and challenges of missionary life.

THE CHRISTIAN AS MINISTER

AN EXPLORATION INTO THE MEANING OF GOD'S CALLING

United Methodist Publishing House An introduction and explanation of the different types of ministry available for people considering God's call to ministry in The United Methodist Church.

IT'S REAL MINISTRY

HOW PART-TIME AND BI-VOCATIONAL CLERGY ARE CHALLENGING AND EMPOWERING THE CHURCH

FriesenPress Time to challenge your current thinking about ministry! Probe your assumptions about congregational well-being. Address your assumptions. Open the possibility of unleashing a significant new wave of Christian mission. Find new, fulfilling opportunities. In our time of specialization, it is of little wonder that we have left the trained and skilled professionals in charge of our churches and ministries. But did you know that full-time ministry is a relatively recent phenomenon? It's Real Ministry: How Part-Time and Bi-Vocational Clergy Are Challenging and Empowering the Church reveals the richness that has existed and can exist again in part-time and bi-vocational ministry. It breathes hope and richness into what are often seen as depressed or impoverished communities of faith. And it offers insight into where congregations and clergy need to make choices and adaptations. Anchored in the findings of the largest survey of part-time, bi-vocational clergy that has been undertaken in a mainline Canadian denomination, It's Real Ministry begins to address the current issue of declining congregational attendance, delves into the meaning that part-time and bi-vocational ministries might have for local communities of faith, and discusses new ways of imagining leadership. While the data is specific to the United Church of Canada, this study offers points of reflection for many denominations in Canada and beyond, offering positive insight and a starting point for clergy and laity to rethink of what they consider as age-old traditions.

DIRECTIONS OF A PASTORAL LIFETIME

PART IV: STUDIES

AuthorHouse These "Studies" comprise the bulk of my more or less academic-styled searching toward understanding of aspects of my ministry, particularly with regard to ministry itself, to the life of prayer, to ecumenism and various other aspects of ministry as I encountered them along the way.

METHOD IN MINISTRY

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION AND CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Rowman & Littlefield Theological Reflection and Christian Ministry James & Evelyn Whitehead Topics ranging from Tradition and the minister to the broad concerns of theology in conversation with culture.

DEVELOPING IN MINISTRY

HANDBOOK FOR EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN LEARNING AND TRAINING

SPCK This book describes how, in adopting an organic approach to ministry development, it is possible to make a real impact on people's lives and ministries; this approach is based on the organics model proposed by James Hopewell. Backed by thorough research, and wide reading in the literature, this book nevertheless keeps in touch with what is happening in the grassroots and is realistic as well as hopeful, about what can be achieved.

LISTEN! GOD IS CALLING!

LUTHER SPEAKS OF VOCATION, FAITH, AND WORK

Augsburg Books The Christian faith has implications for all of life. Yet, many Christians do not make the connection between the resources of their faith and the challenges they face in daily life and work. God's call to faithful living is often understood primarily in terms of being involved in church-sponsored ministries. In Listen! God Is Calling! author D. Michael Bennethum presents Martin Luther's teaching on vocation as a resource both for individual believers, helping them find deeper meaning in their ordinary daily labors; and for congregations, encouraging them to develop a climate that supports their members at work.

DISCERNING VOCATIONS TO MARRIAGE, CELIBACY AND SINGLEHOOD

Wipf and Stock Publishers From a relational and evolutionary perspective on the mystery of vocation, the authors develop the principles of discernment for Christian marriage, celibacy, and singlehood. They see the vocational core of marriage as a calling by God of each spouse to be a unique instrument of transformation and purification in the other's spiritual journey. They identify the vocational core of celibacy as the relationship between Jesus and the celibate rendering the celibate unmarriageable for the sake of Christ and the Gospel. They view the vocational core of singlehood as witness to a certain independence for the sake of the reign of God. In the light of each vocational core, the authors discuss specific signs which indicate and authentic calling. This book appeals to those seeking to discern their personal vocation as well as to those guiding them.

ROOTS AND ROUTES

CALLING, MINISTRY, AND THE POWER OF PLACE

Abingdon Press Randy Litchfield's fresh look at the perennial question of vocation combines theological reflection on the development of personal spiritual identity with a thoughtful look at the significant dimension of place - how the realities of our contexts call for particular responses to vocation in specific times and places. Roots and Routes helps pastors and leaders claim a rich vocational imagination for recognizing God's ongoing call to partnership in the specific, concrete locales of ministry. The Carnegie Institute's rich ethnographic studies of graduate education in the professions reveal that guiding experiences of risk are at the heart of professional development - combining call with experiences in the actual realities of professional life. Hence the emphasis on field education and internships. But how can we help pastors and leaders see calling as a life-long process of discernment and response? With ministerial burnout (and confusion) at an all-time high, connecting the dots between the ongoing call of God and the specific locales of ministry is an interpretive life-skill necessary for pastors, leaders, and disciples of Jesus Christ. Failed vocational imagination obstructs the effectiveness of individuals and the church as a whole in fulfilling their mission of partnership with God's creating, redeeming, and sustaining work in the world. The primary audience for the book is seminary educators and students and pastors. It also has congregational leaders in mind.

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANITY AND LGBT SEXUALITIES

Routledge The subject of gay and lesbian sexuality is perhaps the most vexed issue in the contemporary Christian Church. Many churches have been forced to confront the matter, both theologically and pastorally and in consequence, controversies have proved divisive within the Church, most notably between conservative and liberal orientated denominations, as well as evangelical churches. This book explores these themes from a sociological perspective, addressing not only gay and lesbian sexualities, but also bi- and transgendered sexualities. With rich empirical material being presented by a team of experts, this book constitutes the first comprehensive sociological study of 'non-hetero' sexualities in relation to contemporary Christianity. As such, it will appeal to sociologists, scholars of religion and theology as well as readers across a range of social sciences

WHEN JESUS CALLS

FINDING A SIMPLER, HUMBLER, BOLDER VOCATION

Canterbury Press When Jesus Calls considers the new approach to vocation in the Church of England and offers a guide for those who are exploring a call to licensed ministry, lay and ordained, and for those with responsibility for encouraging and discerning vocations. It introduces the categories of the Church's new discernment framework, and brings them into conversation with the historic Anglican understanding of priestly vocation (the Ordinal) and the wider missional 'manifesto' of the Anglican Communion (the Five Marks of Mission). Its unique approach offers a comprehensive and up-to-date treatment which is attuned to the 'simpler, humbler, bolder' vision of the post-pandemic Church of England. It will be an essential resource for every diocesan vocations team and will also have value as a basic text for Anglican ministerial theology in IME 1.

FORGETTING OURSELVES ON PURPOSE

VOCATION AND THE ETHICS OF AMBITION

John Wiley & Sons In the wise and often witty *Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose*, Brian Mahan considers the question of how it is possible to create a meaningful spiritual life while living in a culture that measures us by what we have rather than who we are. Drawing on nearly two decades of teaching experience, Brian Mahan shares stories of personal struggle and triumph that demonstrate how those who seek meaning and purpose have recalibrated their authentic selves by resolving the inevitable tension between personal ambition and spiritual vibrancy.

REFLECTIONS ON MY CALL TO PREACH

CONNECTING THE DOTS

Chalice Press Travel with revered preacher and author Fred Craddock through his early years as he considers what made him take to the pulpit. "For some reason, I felt I had to say 'Yes' or 'No' to the ministry so I could feel free again. My siblings and friends talked almost casually about options and preferences as to careers, but with no evident sense of urgency. Not so with me. I did not then nor do I now know whether the burden of choice was a trait of personality, a kind of super-conscientiousness, whether the calling to ministry itself carried a weight, a burden, peculiar to the task itself. Rightly or wrongly, when I thought of possibly becoming a journalist, that would be a choice, 100 percent mine. When I considered becoming a minister, that was not totally my decision; I was responding to God's will for me. Of course, I had been told that journalists, lawyers, teachers, merchants, farmers—all could understand their lives as a vocation, a calling, but what I am telling you is that I perceived, I felt, I experienced the idea of being a preacher as different, and that difference was sobering, even burdensome. That's why advice about not being in a hurry, taking my time, was not helpful even if wise. If it was my decision, why could I not make it now; if it was God's decision, why did not God tell me, or at least tell my father or my mother? I prayed for the ache to leave me." Excerpt from *Reflections on My Call to Preach*

THE LAITY AS PARTICIPANTS IN THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

A THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION IN THE LIGHT OF THE ECCLESIOLOGY OF VATICAN II WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE CHURCH IN SOUTHEAST NIGERIA

Xlibris Corporation The church is made up of both the clergy and the laity. And for it to properly fulfill the mission for which it was instituted by Christ, all its members, each according to his or her God-given gift, must contribute both to the upbuilding of the church and to its mission. On the part of the laity, their active participation in the general mission of the church ad intra and ad extra has been a great challenge in the life and practice of the church throughout its history. The Second Vatican Council, in its spirit of *aggiornamento*, makes some positive difference. This work critically examines the conciliar documents, some relevant postconciliar documents, and theological reflection of some theologians. And finally, it proffers solutions that will enhance the active participation of the laity in the mission of the church in general and the church in Southeast Nigeria in particular.