



The Nourishing Vocation Project: Phase 2 *Where Are We Now?* Parish Gathering 2

Beloved in Christ:

This is the worksheet for the second of our *Parish Gatherings*. You are invited to prayerfully and thoughtfully think and reflect upon the questions listed below. Using the *Vocare* spiritual practice, we will consider together our congregation's present life and ministry.

THE TASK: Respond to the areas below and on the next pages to prepare yourself for discussion. This reflection upon who we currently are is critical to discerning who we are called to be, what we are called to do, and why we are so that we can more intentionally engage in ministry on purpose for the common good.

Please respond to the following areas as they relate to the congregation's ministry now.

- A. What words or phrases would you use to describe the most important beliefs of this congregation.

- B. Review **Values** from Phase 2, Step 2 (see attached). What would you add or change at this point?

- C. List the things our congregation is being asked to be **open** to at this time. Note how you personally respond to each invitation. (EX: Sharing leadership with a neighboring congregation – apprehensive; Connecting with the neighborhood food bank – positive; Repaving the parking lot – neutral; Adding a Wednesday night, intergenerational formation experience and eliminating Sunday School – open but grieving).

This resource is provided by the Nourishing Vocation Project through the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community at St. Olaf College.

- D. Summarize our congregation's current understanding of its **call**. The things to which you are called can be concrete actions (Ex: We are called to worship), informative and expansive experiences (Ex: We are called to listen to young adults), or transformative (Ex: We are called to holy-endings of specific ministries).
- E. List all the things in which the congregation currently invests its time and **attention**. List them for the most attention to the least attention. Do not list anything in which the congregation does not currently invest time and attention.
- F. What are the present **regrets** of the congregation?
- G. How, when, and where does the congregation currently **experience God's presence** in its everyday life and mission?
- H. In one or two sentences, summarize the congregation's financial status.
- I. In one or two sentences, describe the status of the congregation's property, and its connection to the congregation's ministry.

J. In one or two sentences, summarize the current points of energy and excitement in the congregation.

K. In one or two sentences, summarize the current points of concern in the congregation.

L. What else is important to note about *who we are now* as a congregation?