

**Need for Vocation Care is Common Theme in
New FTE Cultures of Call Grants**

\$125,000 Awarded to Congregations for Innovative Practices That Cultivate Leaders

ATLANTA, February 1, 2011 – [The Fund for Theological Education \(FTE\)](#) has awarded more than \$125,000 to 12 congregations to create innovative ways to cultivate future leaders.

Selected from a national pool of proposals through separate review processes, these 12 programs are the newest additions to an ecumenical Calling Congregations partnership designed by FTE to encourage vocational discovery among young people and adults in local churches.

The grants are awarded in two categories: VocationCARE Practice and Pastoral Internships. These two types of grants are united by FTE's commitment to care for vocation through congregations and other ministry contexts as generative places for new leaders for church and society—and as places where young adults may engage the practice of ministry in active discernment.

“We’ve seen the impact of supporting local practices that nurture vocation, including those that directly support ministry internships for students,” said Jim Goodman, Director of Congregational Grants at FTE. “In seven of nine previously funded programs, young people made a decision to attend seminary as a result of their participation. These new grants aim to expand and strengthen that kind of impact.”

Since the program launched in 2007 with funding from Lilly Endowment, Inc., FTE has awarded more than \$575,000 in grants to 61 congregations and church-related organizations. The Fund invites congregations and other groups to submit letters of intent for the [next grant cycle by February 2, 2011.](#)

New grant recipients for programs that practice VocationCARE are:

[The Episcopal Diocese of Western N. Carolina](#), *The Brother Skiles Vocation Project*: **\$10,000 for the partnership of campus ministry at Appalachian State University and St Luke's Episcopal Church in Boone, NC for practices of mutual mentoring and vocational discernment through service.**

[First Community AME Church](#), Grand Rapids, MI, *Leading Ladies: the Call, the Consecration and the Commitment*: **\$10,000 for a mentoring program for young women of the congregation and neighborhood by women (“griots” or grandmothers/elders) of the congregation.**

[Greater St John Church](#), Upper Marlboro, MD, *The Listening Tree*: **\$10,000 for a program, to demystify Christian vocation and the call to ministry through intentional intergenerational dialogue engaging young people, clergy and church leaders.**

St Mark's AME Zion Church, Dallas, TX, *Works of Piety, Works of Mercy*: \$10,000 to support the traditional Wesleyan small group model for the formation of disciples integrated with the VocationCARE practices of “asking self-awakening questions and reflecting together theologically.”

Joy Tabernacle AME Church, Dallas, TX, *The Macedonian Project*: \$5,000 for an outreach ministry empowering adolescent males through education, spiritual development and discipleship, life skills training and mentoring.

La Croix United Methodist Church, Cape Girardeau, MO, *Ministry as Career Track*: \$5,000 to engage the practice of establishing new ministry opportunities by providing support, encouragement, resources and one-on-one mentoring to youth called to ministry.

New grants for Pastoral Internship programs are:

Boston University Marsh Chapel: \$12,500 to support three undergraduate interns in the Marsh Chapel community to engage in pastoral practice and vocational discernment through active service in the Boston University and Greater Boston communities.

Church of the Master United Methodist at Otterbein University, Westerville, OH: \$12,500 to fund a 20-month *season of support* for young adults engaging a variety of ministry roles and discernment contexts.

First United Methodist Church, San Marcos, TX: \$12,500 to assist this mid-sized United Methodist congregation in a university community with offering a personalized approach to the practice of ministry which includes careful attention to personal and spiritual growth for interns.

The Institute for the Study of Asian American Christianity (ISAAC), New York, NY: \$12,500 for a pan-Asian cluster of churches in the New York City region. Ethnic Asian congregations in the New York/New Jersey area engage internships in a program first prototyped by a network of Chinese churches in the New York area.

Riverside Presbyterian Church, Sterling, VA: \$12,500 for a Washington, D.C. metro-area congregation serving a growing Hispanic membership to engage internships that have two seasons of practice (Summers 2011 and 2012) and reflective work during and in-between practice seasons.

The Park Church: an African American Baptist Congregation, Charlotte, NC: \$12,500 for an African-American congregation in North Carolina to host interns in a variety of ministry rotations, small group discernment and supportive coaching. This congregation has been connected with Project Rising Sun, an FTE leadership development academy for young pastors from diverse backgrounds.

Four of these inaugural six grantees are situated on or near college and university campuses with an available pool of internship candidates and three of them have prior histories in engaging college internships.

Calling Congregations seeks to establish a national network of congregational and church-related partners committed to the cause of raising future pastoral leaders. Visit www.fteleaders.org/callingcongregations or view [this map](#) to see what previous grant recipients are doing.

The Fund for Theological Education is a national, ecumenical organization dedicated to supporting a new generation of talented, diverse Christian leaders who renew the church and change the world through vocations in pastoral ministry and theological education. For more information, visit www.fteleaders.org.

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