

FTE Awards Grants to Support Pastoral Internships for Young Adults

ATLANTA, March 27, 2012 – [The Fund for Theological Education \(FTE\)](#) has awarded more than \$62,500 in grants to congregations hosting young adults as pastoral interns in 2012 and 2013. Selected from a national pool of proposals through a review process by FTE staff and external partners in volunteer service and campus ministry, these five 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.

These grants for pastoral internships enable congregations to support at least two young adult interns within a period of 18 months and to accompany their active engagement of ministry through a discernment process developed by FTE known as [VocationCARE](#). VocationCARE is a blend of social processes and spiritual practices of discernment that help congregations become places where vocation is nurtured, especially the vocation and leadership of young adults.

“There is a great need for the cultivation of leaders in churches who not only are practiced in leading congregations but also in being a leadership presence in the larger community,” said Jim Goodmann, Director of Congregational Grants at FTE. “Connections to volunteer service programs like Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection (D.O.O.R.) and the Episcopal Service Corps enable young people to discern a call to ministry that is alive to this much-needed dual capacity.”

The five new pastoral internship grant recipients include:

[University Chapel](#), *Hearing the Bells Beyond the Stars*, Berkeley, Calif. A campus ministry context at the University of California, Berkeley, for an internship in an intentional community where vocational discernment is seeded by connections to the Episcopal Service Corps. Emphasis is placed on the formation of spiritual practices and vocational identity within the University of California, Berkeley.

[Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of Louisiana](#), *Living With Purpose Extension Initiative*, New Orleans, La. In company with the *Living With Purpose Extension Initiative* of the

Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, this site offers discernment contexts in three congregations: St Anna's in the Treme neighborhood; Holy Comforter near the University of New Orleans and Southern University at New Orleans; and Church of the Holy Spirit near Tulane University.

[Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection \(D.O.O.R.\), Urban Leadership](#)

Development in Denver, Denver, Colo. The D.O.O.R. community offers internships that serve His Love Fellowship, Tha MYX International, and Mennonite Church congregations. Interns will also supervise summer volunteers in the D.O.O.R. program and explore what it means to "see the face of God in the city." D.O.O.R. is located in the Latino community of the Westside of Denver.

[The Road Episcopal Service Corps program, Atlanta, Ga.](#)

A new Episcopal Service Corps site, The Road offers pastoral placements in the Church of the Holy Comforter and at Emmaus House Chapel, both mission parishes of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. Holy Comforter has a commitment to ministry with mentally ill and disabled adults; Emmaus House Chapel is in the economically distressed Peoplestown neighborhood of Atlanta.

[Nu'uaniu Congregational Church, College Summer Internship \(CSI\) Nu'uaniu, Honolulu, Hawaii.](#)

The *CSI Nu'uaniu* is a new internship program in a congregation renewed in their hospitality to young adult vocations, which will sponsor pastoral internships for young adults from across the Hawaiian Islands. The Nu'uaniu Congregational Church of Honolulu, Hawaii, also has richly engaged a culture of ambassadorship in service, having launched a visiting ministry on the island of Lanai to a United Church of Christ church with a significant outreach to Micronesian residents new to that community.

An additional round of pastoral internship grants will be awarded in December 2012 with letters of intent due by September 1, 2012. For more information about grants to congregations and church-related organizations, visit www.fteleaders.org/calling or [view our site map](#) to see what previous grant recipients are doing.

Calling Congregations seeks to establish a national network of congregational and church-related partners committed to the cause of raising future pastoral leaders. It offers regional workshops, a national conference, teaching tools, Web-based resources and other support.

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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