

A Theological Statement on Calling

Calling, and the necessity of nurturing callings, is at the center of the Christian life and congregational culture.

- ❖ We believe all callings are guided by love—loving God with all our mind, heart, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves.
- ❖ We believe God in Christ is calling us into loving relationships and that our loving response to God’s calling is discipleship.
- ❖ We believe vocation is a dynamic response to who we are, how we live, and what we give our lives to. (Kathleen Cahalan, *Calling All Years Good*)
- ❖ We believe every human being is called, whether they acknowledge their callings or not.
- ❖ We believe callings are discerned through relationships—God calls us through each other, and our calling is for each other.
- ❖ We believe calling discernment is a practice of individuals in the context of a faith community as well as a collective practice of a faith community.
- ❖ We believe that some callings are lifelong. They evolve over time.
- ❖ We believe that callings change over a lifetime. They are dependent on the capacities of the body as we grow and age.
- ❖ We believe that our participation in God’s activity in the world today is our response to callings, and that God sustains creation through callings.
- ❖ We believe vocation is animated by God’s spirit active in our lives through a diversity of gifts and charisms, through what we love and are passionate about.
- ❖ We believe God creates, sanctifies, and revels in our differences and that our differences are assets that mature and enrich the world through the process of calling.
- ❖ We believe callings are present in all aspects of life, including the particularities of life experienced in family, church, community, world; and not only what we do in our work life.
- ❖ We believe people discover callings in diverse ways based on their life situation and context; and that factors such as poverty, violence, and discrimination have a particularly prophetic impact on vocation.
- ❖ We believe people experience times of struggle, darkness, and brokenness in living their callings and being faithful to them, and that God brings life out of struggle, darkness, and brokenness, and that the faith community has a special role to support and encourage people during these times.
- ❖ We believe the call to church ministry is one type of calling; and that this calling specifically includes the responsibility to nurture all callings and lead the community of disciples to live their callings in the world.
- ❖ We believe living a calling is transformational for the person and for the world.

