Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose

December 2020

The *in*Vocation Project

Hope College

The spring and summer months brought many challenges for congregations navigating COVID-19 and the deep and painful race divisions in our country. One of our churches, Maple Ave Ministries, approached The inVocation Project with an idea.

Pastor Denise Kingdom-Grier heard from several middle school girls who felt isolated due to the virus and were trying to process recent troubling events, including the murder of George Floyd. Desiring to respond to this expressed need, Pastor Denise reached out to us with the idea of launching a virtual program she designed and named the Vocation of a Freedom Fighter.

Twelve middle school girls from the congregation, looking to engage, listen and learn from one another, signed up for this weekly virtual gathering. In Pastor Denise’s words, “they are hungry and eager to become disciples and changemakers for the sake of their community and the Kingdom of God.”

Each week, participants discuss assigned readings facilitated by Pastor Denise and hear from several different female guest speakers on justice, advocacy, empowerment, and self-care. These gatherings are underway, and we look forward to seeing the vision board each girl will create to depict their respective calling to racial justice after the project concludes. One excited participant took this picture and shared with her church-wide small group how much she was looking forward to this opportunity!

