



Called to Lives of Meaning & Purpose

News & Notes

March 2022

REGENT EXCHANGE
CHURCHES FOR THE COMMON GOOD

ABOUT EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES RESOURCES EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

REGENT COLLEGE HOME

REGENT EXCHANGE
CHURCHES FOR THE COMMON GOOD

A fresh expression of Regent College's longstanding commitment to integrative theology that embraces all of life. Rooted in God's story, we walk with churches in Cascadia connecting faith with all of life and contributing to the common good.

Resources from Regent Exchange: Churches for the Common Good at Regent College

By Rhonda McEwen, Project Director, and Christina Lui, Associate Director of Advancement in the Alumni & Church Engagement Office

VOCATION REIMAGINED: BEING THE CHURCH IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY

Seven months into the pandemic, Regent Exchange initiated a special issue of The Regent World, Regent College's online publication. We invited reflections on the particular challenges posed by the global pandemic, and asked contributors to explore the following questions: What is the church's vocation in this moment? How is the church called to serve the common good in our time? A diverse array of voices came together, including academics, poets, artists, practitioners, pastors, lay people, and students, to create "Vocation Reimagined: Being the Church in A Time of Uncertainty."

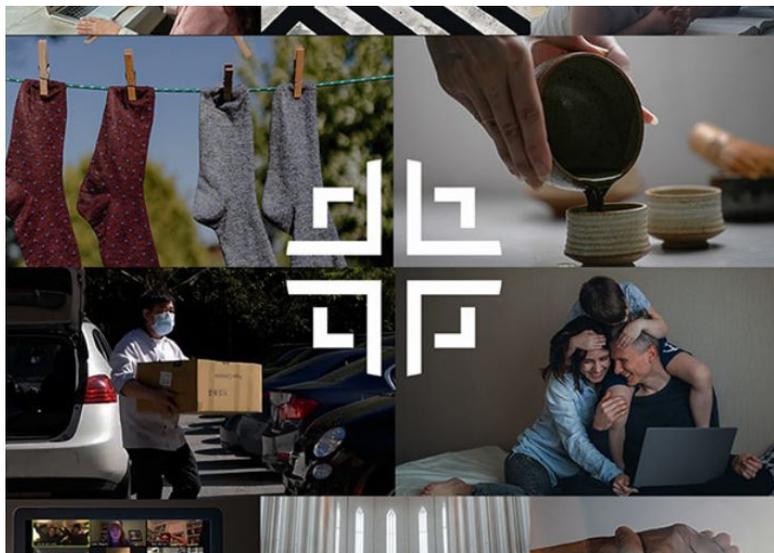
Coordination Calendar

April 19, 2022
from 2:00-3:00 p.m. CT:
Discussion of program
reports with project
directors & teams

Summer 2022: Field
research in congregations

August 3-5, 2022:
Meeting of project
directors in Collegeville,
MN

December 5-7, 2022:
Annual meeting in
Indianapolis, IN



We hope this publication stimulates the church to see the ways in which this extended period of society disruption can be an opportunity to discern God's call afresh, and to find hope in the creative engagement of fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Read the special "Vocation Reimagined" issue of The Regent World at <https://world.regent-college.edu/>.

CALLED TO THIS TIME WORKSHOPS

Regent Exchange, in partnership with Regent College's Church Engagement office and Dr. Mark Glanville (Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology), launched a workshop series entitled Called to This Time. These workshops invite pastors and church leaders to be rejuvenated and reinvigorated to lead their communities through various seasons in the liturgical calendar. Pastors and church leaders convene online and explore together what it looks like for God to be calling the church in this particular time in world history layered with the specific season of the church calendar. Each workshop also features a curated resource guide to equip leaders as they guide their congregations.

- Called to This Time: Advent explored the theological depth and importance of the incarnation and invited pastors to explore their church's calling as incarnational communities who celebrate what Christ celebrates and lament what Christ laments.
- Called to This Time: Lent explored Jesus' wilderness experience and how the church is called to be those who walk with others from baptism, through the wilderness, and into ministry.
- Called to This Time: Easter will explore Holy Week and Easter as the height of the Christian story, and the church's call to be resurrection communities. Register for the workshop on the Regent College event page.

Explore these and other resources at www.regent-college.edu/exchange/resources.

Faith Maturity and Theology of Calling

By Jennifer McClure

In 2021, the Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative surveyed attendees whose congregations are participating in one of the initiative's hubs. Overall, 2,363 attendees participated, representing 71 congregations and 10 hubs.

Using this survey, I explored how attendees' faith maturity relates with their theological views on calling. I have been able to measure two components of faith maturity:

- Vertical faith, which involves a life-transforming relationship with God
- Horizontal faith, which involves a consistent devotion to serving others

Here are the key takeaways.

People with a stronger vertical faith are more likely to agree that:

- God calls all Christians
- Each congregation has a communal calling
- Callings are particular to each person
- Callings are pre-planned by God
- Callings are focused on work, marriage, and family.

People with a stronger horizontal faith are more likely to agree that:

- God calls all Christians
- Each congregation has a communal calling
- Callings are particular to each person.

People with a stronger horizontal faith are less likely to agree that:

- Callings have to do with one's personal life and not social issues

Questions to Consider

Based on these results, what surprises you, and what makes sense? What views of calling would you like to nurture more intentionally in your congregations?

