

Call Sunday



As United Methodists, we recognize that all persons have gifts to be used in leading the church. Laypersons as well as clergy are in service for accomplishing God's mission in the world (2012 *Book of Discipline*, ¶ 120-140). Clergy and leaders in the local church have a role in helping others hear God's call of ministry for themselves.

In his book *A Work of Heart*, Reggie McNeal recognizes that God uses culture, community, communion, conflict, and the commonplace to shape every leader's heart and define his or her calling. He writes, "The call is a mystery. It begins and ends with God, but it loops through a very human individual. It is personal, but bigger than the person.... Those who describe themselves as called mean that they have made a commitment of life into God's service, to be at his [*sic*] disposal, to be in his [*sic*] employ for the efforts of accomplishing his [*sic*] agenda."

Developing a culture of call in your local congregation can start by celebrating a Call Sunday. Here are some ideas to help you focus on Christian vocation and calling:

- Share your story of how you were lead into ministry. How did you discern your call? How did people help you in the journey?
- Invite people from the congregation to share how they live out their faith in their place of employment. It could be a truck driver, teacher, farmer, business person, or retiree.
- Invite a youth to share how their faith is influencing decisions they make about college and/or career.
- Include a Baptismal Renewal celebration reminding people that we are called into service by virtue of our baptism.
- Invite people who are wanting to make a deeper commitment to Christ, or to renew their commitment to come forward during the last hymn for a blessing and prayer.
- Check out all of the resources on our website at greatplainsumc.org/exploringcall. You will find resources for people discerning a call, for you to nurture that call and for steps into living out that call.
- Publicize this website of the General Board of Higher Education (<http://www.explorecalling.org/>) in your bulletin and on your website for those who are exploring a call. Also a resource for worship elements, sermon starters, and curriculum for children and youth.
- Invite a seminary student to come and share their story of calling. Check with your District Superintendent to see if there is someone from your district you can contact.
- Be sure to invite lay people (including children and youth) to have leadership roles in the worship service as scripture readers, communion servers, or giving the children's message.
- Check the Conference website (greatplainsumc.org) for other resources such as videos that you can share in worship. These are in development stages!

Suggested Scripture Readings

Old Testament Texts

Genesis 12:1-4
Exodus 3:1-15, 4:10-17
Judges 4:4-10
1 Samuel 3:1-10
1 Kings 19:9-13

Psalms 40:1-10
Psalm 71:5-18
Isaiah 6:1-6
Jeremiah 1:2-10

New Testament Texts

Matthew 4: 19-22
Matthew 9:9-13
Mark 1:16-20
Mark 2:13-14
Mark 8:34-38
Luke 1:26-28
Luke 5:26-27
Luke 24:1-11

John 1:43-51
Acts 8:26-38
Acts 9:1-20
Romans 10:12-17
Romans 12:1-7
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
1 Timothy 1:12-17

Hymn Suggestions

128 He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought
139 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
156 I Love to Tell the Story
159 Lift High the Cross
163 Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know
168 At the Name of Jesus
273 Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands
341 I Sought the Lord
344 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

354 I Surrender All
357 Just as I Am, Without One Plea
390 Jesus Calls Us
393 Spirit of the Living God
419 I Am Thine, O Lord
497 Send Me, Lord
577 God of Grace and God of Glory
581 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service
582 Whom Shall I Send?
584 Lord, You Give the Great Commission
593 Here I Am, Lord

Songs from *The Faith We Sing*

2101 Two Fishermen
2114 At the Font We Start Our Journey
2117 Spirit of God
2125 Come, Holy Spirit
2129 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus
2130 The Summons
2137 Would I Have Answered When You Called
2153 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
2165 Cry of My Heart

2172 We Are Called
2176 Make Me a Servant
2178 Here Am I
2184 Sent Out in Jesus' Name
2218 You Are Mine
2222 The Servant Song
2236 Gather Us In
2240 One God and Father of Us All
2241 The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve
2242 Walk With Me
2243 We All Are One in Mission

Songs from *Worship and Song*

3029 In the Desert, On God's Mountain
3095 Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door
3150 Father, We Have Heard You Calling
3152 Welcome

3155 The Lord of Life, a Vine is He
3156 One is the Body
3161 Gracious Creator of Sea and Land
3169 You Feed Us, Gentle Savior

We are good enough to do what we are called to do. Be yourself!
(Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*)