

Christian Vocation Resource

Encouraging Young People

Ten Things Learned About Encouraging Young People Toward Ministry *(And One Fundamental Theological Assertion)*

Think about the work of encouraging young people toward ministry with one fundamental theological assertion:

Young people must first become disciples of Christ and, if they are to be called into ministry, they will hear that call in the context of relationships and in partnership with a holy mystery.

Based on relationships with young people, ten practices have been identified that embody our fundamental theological assertion and open the way for bright, gifted, passionate young people to hear a call to ministry as a life's work:

1. A significant relationship with at least one adult in ministry (i.e. pastor)
2. Opportunities for exercising leadership in the church and trust in their leadership
3. Relationships with peers asking vocational questions
4. Experiences in faith formation that integrate faith, the life of the mind, and the needs of the world
5. Connections with the denomination or to church bodies outside the local congregation
6. A tap on the shoulder
7. Financial support
8. Educating parents about the goodness of ministry
9. A pastor talking about his/her love for the work
10. Events for learning about ministry

Congregations do not have to spend a lot of money to engage most of these ten practices. So, get going. See what happens.

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