

## 2022 NetVUE Conference

### Suggestions for Pre-Conference Reading

The following list of suggested readings may be useful as you prepare to participate in the 2022 NetVUE Conference. Because copyright restrictions do not allow us to post PDFs of book chapters to this website, this is merely a bibliography; however, most of the book chapters cited here should be available at many NetVUE member campuses, as they have been extensively used in reading groups and other professional development opportunities over the past few years. In some cases, and depending on your institution's library policies, excerpts may be available online. The list is divided into sections, based on the reader's previous degree of exposure to the growing national conversation about vocation and calling in higher education.

#### **For those who are relatively new to the conversation:**

The Introductions to the three books in the NetVUE Scholarly Resources Project are an excellent starting point. All are edited by David S. Cunningham and published by Oxford University Press: [\*At This Time and In This Place: Vocation and Higher Education\*](#) (2016); [\*Vocation across the Academy: A New Vocabulary for Higher Education\*](#) (2017); and [\*Hearing Vocation Differently: Meaning, Purpose, and Identity in the Multi-Faith Academy\*](#) (2019). In addition, the first chapter of Paul Wadell and Charles Pinches's book [\*Living Vocationally: The Journey of the Called Life\*](#) (Cascade, 2021) provides a good overview of the concept of vocation, and the two chapters that follow provide a bit more historical and narrative background as well.

In addition, three posts on the NetVUE blog ([www.vocationmatters.org](http://www.vocationmatters.org)) may be helpful: Hannah Schell's [\*Beyond Problem-Solving: The Mystery of Mentoring for Vocation\*](#), Carter Aikin's [\*Advising for Vocation: Ten Touchstones\*](#), and Jason Mahn's [\*The Tragedy of the Road Not Taken\*](#).

#### **For those with some exposure to the topic who are interested in digging a bit deeper:**

Some interesting reflections on the specific vocational issues that arise for adolescents and young adults can be found in Katherine Turpin's contributions (chapters 4 and 5) of [\*Calling all Years Good: Christian Vocation Throughout Life's Seasons\*](#) (Eerdmans, 2017). The specific positive outcomes of vocational exploration programs are vividly narrated in chapter 1 of Tim Clydesdale's [\*The Purposeful Graduate: Why Colleges Must Talk to Students about Vocation\*](#) (Chicago, 2015). To see how the intersection of vocation and interfaith issues might be explored on campus, Jacqueline Bussie's essay "[\*The Vocation of Church-Related Colleges in a Multi-Faith World: Educating for Religious Pluralism\*](#)" (in [\*Hearing Vocation Differently\*](#)) provides specific examples. Finally, some of the complexities and obstacles that may be faced by marginalized students who are being asked to enter the conversation about vocation are thoughtfully explored in Patrick Reyes's book [\*The Purpose Gap: Empowering Communities of Color to Find Meaning and Thrive\*](#) (Westminster/John Knox, 2020); chapters 1 and 2 are especially helpful in their critique about some of the standard assumptions about how questions of vocation might be addressed.

The following posts on the NetVUE blog, *Vocation Matters*, explore some of the complexities of vocation and vocational discernment in young adults: Anita Houck's series that [\*revisits the idea of vocation\*](#), taking into consideration issues of privilege and social location; Esteban Loustaunau on [\*Seeking the Courage to Know What Matters\*](#); Rachel Pickett on [\*vocation, identity, and multicultural\*](#)

[competency](#); Martha Stortz's series about [five metaphors that enable vocational reflection](#); and Kathy Talvacchia on the challenges that arise [when vocation is denied](#).

**For those who want to focus in on specific conference speakers and themes:**

The Introduction to Eddie S. Glaude Jr.'s recent book, [Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own](#) (Penguin/Random House, 2021), will provide excellent background to his keynote address (though you may find yourself driven to keep reading!). An introduction to Scriptural Reasoning, the subject of Nicholas Adams's plenary address on Friday, can be found under the "About" tab at [www.scripturalreasoning.org](http://www.scripturalreasoning.org); the website is worth exploring in depth. Background on the study that informs Kathleen Mahoney's closing plenary may be found in chapter 1 of [The Resilience of Religion in American Higher Education](#) (Baylor, 2018); indeed, opening the book at random will provide interesting insights into the data.

Several chapters in the NetVUE Scholarly Resources books are relevant to the conference theme of "Called to Community: Vocation, Engagement, and Difference." These include Bill Cavanaugh's ["Actually, You Can't Be Anything You Want \(And It's a Good Thing, Too\)"](#) in *At This Time and In This Place*; Rachel Mikva's ["The Change a Difference Makes: Formation of Self in the Encounter with Diversity."](#) in *Hearing Vocation Differently*; and Darby Ray's ["Self, World, and the Space Between: Community Engagement as Vocational Discernment."](#) in *At This Time and In This Place*.

Relevant posts on the NetVUE blog include Florence Amamoto on [vocation and diversity](#); Jeff Brown on [Wendell Berry, community, and vocation](#); Mindy Makant's [The Pursuit of Happiness and the Common Good](#); John Peterson's [Complex Turning Points: Vocation and Social Location](#); and Caryn Riswold's [Vocation Enmeshed](#). For some insights into Christine Jeske's work, see [Privilege and Lies: Some Problematic Myths about Vocation](#). For an interview with Chris Arguedas, see [Student Activism and Belonging](#). For a reflection inspired by James Baldwin's insight that people are trapped in history, see [this post by Matthew Sayers](#).