

# AFFINITY GROUP 4 & 5

VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT COORDINATOR  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECRUITMENT  
UNNAMED PEOPLE DOING THIS TYPE OF JOB

REV TRIP LOWERY, DIRECTOR OF YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY DISCERNMENT AND ENLISTMENT



# PURPOSE

...AND YOUR POINT IS?

- THE INTENDED ROLE OF THE VDC
- CURRENT USE OF THE VDC
- SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES
- CALL SUNDAY
- YOUNG CLERGY INITIATIVE



## WHY A VDC IS IMPORTANT

While some of the candidacy process focuses more on application for ministry (background checks, meeting with the dCOM, completing written requirements...), **much of candidacy is meant to focus on vocational discernment as the candidate explores how to respond to God's call in the united Methodist church.**



## BIRTH & PURPOSE OF THE VDC

The Study of Ministry Commission *recommended* the implementation of a new BOM office called the vocational discernment coordinator. The BOM names this person to “coordinate the candidacy mentoring process” (¶ 635.1c).

Responsibilities include working with the BOM, dCOMs, and DS to **coordinate, implement, and strengthen the candidacy process** throughout the annual conference. This includes **recruiting, training, and assigning mentors to new candidates.**



## THE VDC ALLOWS FOR...

- The BOM to be involved in and coordinate candidacy mentoring among all districts in the annual conference.
- Naming one contact person who makes the candidacy mentoring process effective, and who can answer questions about the process.
- Building connections among dCOMs, BOMs, and district superintendents that ensure consistent sharing of information while making it more likely that candidates will receive helpful information when needed.



# ONE ROLE.... MANY NAMES

WHAT DOES YOUR AC CALL THE PERSON  
FULFILLING THIS ROLE?



**VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT**  
**COORDINATOR**  
A JOB DESCRIPTION



# VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT COORDINATOR

A JOB DESCRIPTION

- SUPERVISED BY THE BOM (OR OTHER)
- COORDINATE CANDIDACY MENTORING
- CONNECT DCOMs, BOMs, AND DSs TO ENSURE SHARING CONSISTENT AND HELPFUL INFORMATION WITH CANDIDATES
- COORDINATE, IMPLEMENT, AND STRENGTHEN THE CANDIDACY PROCESS
- BE AWESOME





## SOME CONSIDERATIONS...

- How will the VDC relate to the Group Candidacy program?
- Will this be an additional member for the BOM or will this responsibility be assigned to a current position?
- Will these responsibilities be assigned to an annual conference staff person or to a BOM member?
- What will be the VDC's responsibility in enrolling candidates, training candidacy mentors, and relating to district superintendents?



# HOW DO YOU GET IT DONE?

VDC FUNCTIONS BEING LIVED OUT IN WHERE YOU ARE



**CALL SUNDAY**



# CALL SUNDAY

- A SEASON OF FOCUS ON HEARING, DISCERNING, AND RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL
- FOCUSED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY
- NO SPECIAL COLLECTION



# COMPONENTS TO CALL SUNDAY

- Educational curriculum
- Retreat curriculum
- Connection to next steps
  - *Local church*
  - *Campus*
  - *Districts & Acs*
- Graphics package for worship and advertising
- Sermon starters
- Liturgy resources
- Videos of call stories
- Sunday School Curriculum for:
  - *Children*
  - *Youth & Young adults*
  - *High School & College*
  - *Senior adults*
- Retreat resources for youth and young adults (1-2 day)
- Supplemental material for:
  - *confirmation classes*
  - *Vacation Bible School*
  - *Graduation Sunday*
  - *Promotion Sunday*
- Ways to connect those leaning towards ordained ministry with:
  - *Local church leadership*
  - *Campus/Seminary leadership*
  - *District/Annual*
  - *Conference leadership*
- GBHEM DoM, DHE, Loans and Scholarships
- Those organizing District/Annual Conf/ Jurisdictional discernment events
- Communication resources:
- Social media
  - *Explorecalling.org*
  - *Discernment and Enlistment newsletter*
  - *Annual Conference resources*



# **THE YOUNG CLERGY INITIATIVE**

THE ELUSIVE SILVER BULLET



# PURPOSE

The Young Clergy Initiative is charged with increasing the number of young clergy within The United Methodist Church by encouraging opportunities that leverage for denominational change on systemic and cultural levels through various conversations, events, experiments, resources, research, and training.

To that end, the YCI invites grant requests that:

- **Prepare** young people to hear God's call to ordained ministry,
- **Assist** young people in responding to God's call to ordained ministry,
- **Develop** young people in spiritual and theological formation, and
- **Nurture** young clergy for lifelong transformational ministry.



# THE PLAYERS





# STAFF TEAM

LISTED IN ORDER OF MEASURED VERTICAL LEAP

- Kim Cape
- Allyson Collinsworth
- Meg Lassiat
- Trip Lowery
- Beth Ludlum
- HiRho Park
- Myron Wingfield
- Bridgette Young Ross



# ADVISORY (DREAM) TEAM

LISTED IN ORDER OF ONE-ARMED PUSH-UPS COMPLETED

- Sophia Agtarap
- Quincy Brown
- Kenda Dean
- Beth Downs
- Drew Dyson
- Brad Farrington
- Shonda Jones
- Sam Kim
- Casey Langley
- Trip Lowery
- Beth Ludlum
- Robin Minthorn
- Melissa Wiginton



# SELECTION TEAM

LISTED IN ORDER OF MINUTES BREATH CAN BE HELD

- Jennifer Copeland
- Kim Ingram
- Ianther Mills
- DJ del Rosario
- Rachel Wright



# THE PROCESS



**Application  
Received**

• *GBHEM*

**Application  
Reviewed**

• *Staff Team*

**Award  
Determined**

• *Selection Team*

**Evaluate  
Project**

• *Staff Team &  
Recipient*

**Follow Project**

• *Staff Team*

**Award  
Distributed**

• *GBHEM*

**Report to GC**

• *GBHEM*



# THE TIMELINE



Rd 1  
submission  
deadline

• Feb 5, 2014

Rd 1  
award  
notifications

• May 2, 2014

Rd 2  
submission  
deadline

• July 2, 2014

Rd 2  
award  
notification

• Aug 8, 2014

Evaluation  
submission  
deadline

• May 29, 2015

GC Report  
submission  
deadline

• Aug 31, 2015



# THE GRANTS





**Exploration  
Events**

**Mentoring  
Experiences**

**Internships**

**Missional  
Immersion  
Experiences**

**Covenant  
Groups**

**Intentional  
Communities**



# THE AWARDS



164

**Total Received**



75

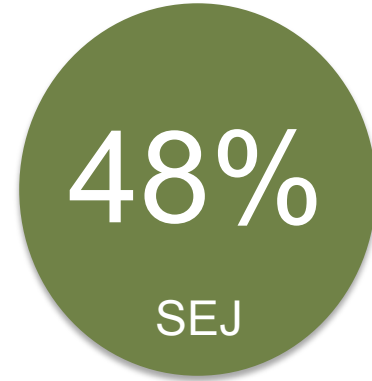
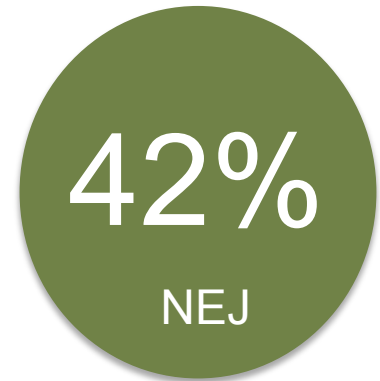
**Total Awarded**





Awarded by  
Jurisdiction





**% Awarded of Requested  
by Jurisdiction**



# WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WHEN YOU GET HOME?

