

Personal Stories of Faith and Vocation
North Park University
August 17, 2009

Workshop Plan
Don Thompson & Cindy Miller-Perrin
Pepperdine University

This is a summary of the activities surrounding the workshop for North Park University on “Personal Stories of Faith and Vocation” that we will conduct on August 17, 2009. These activities are designed to meet the following objectives for the workshop participants: 1) to become better acquainted with school colleagues, 2) to explore personal stories as a means of articulating the integration of faith and vocation, and 3) to develop a better understanding of the concept of vocation and how it relates to work in the academy.

In order to accomplish these objectives, the workshop will include two components. The first component includes completion of activities prior to the workshop: a vocational discernment and action survey, several readings on vocation, and a reflective writing assignment designed to help you think about the path of your own calling. The second component includes the one-day workshop experience, focusing on how one defines vocation, how one discerns one’s calling, and an exploration of how to apply this knowledge and understanding in interactions with students and colleagues.

1. Survey

We have developed and administered a survey at Pepperdine University and other universities and colleges that we would like you to complete. It covers the following topics: definitions of vocation, personal experiences of vocation, barriers to vocational discernment and action, sacrifices associated with living out one’s vocation, mentoring and faith measures. We will provide a detailed analysis of the results of this survey when we convene the workshop.

Please complete the survey by **Friday, June 5**, before you complete the vocational reading and reflective writing assignment, described below. Be assured that all survey results are anonymous and will be held in strictest confidence. Here is the link to the instrument:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=D7SzSTKggSaT_2ffl8fxCuAw_3d_3d

2. Vocational Reading and Reflective Writing

We have also developed a collection of readings on vocation and calling. We would like for you to read these materials and then write a reflective autobiographical essay, returning this essay to us by e-mail. Follow this link to access the readings and the reflective writing instructions:

<http://dt.pepperdine.edu/projects/north-park-university/npu%20workshop.htm>

Please send your essay to Don Thompson: thompson@pepperdine.edu by Monday, June 22.

We will present a summary of the recurring themes we see from the survey and these essays when we convene the August workshop. Be assured that all essays will be held in strictest confidence. If you have any questions about the workshop or these pre-workshop activities, please feel free to contact either one of us. We look forward to being with you in August. Have a great summer.

Don Thompson, 310.506.4831, thompson@pepperdine.edu
Cindy Miller-Perrin, 310.506.4027, cperrin@pepperdine.edu