

Post graduation year of service: Opportunity to pursue meaning and purpose

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Fund for Theological Education

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the homepage of the Fund for Theological Education (FTE). The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.thefund.org/>. The website features a navigation menu with links for ABOUT FTE, PROGRAMS & FELLOWSHIPS, GREAT STORIES, MAKE CONNECTIONS, SEARCH SCHOOLS, RESOURCES & TOOLS, and GIVING. The main content area includes a search bar, a large photograph of a young woman, and several featured stories and articles. The taskbar at the bottom shows various open applications, including Microsoft Word, Yahoo! Messenger, and several browser tabs.

FTE
THE FUND FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Help for the Journey

FTE offers support to help gifted young people explore and respond to God's calling in their lives. Our mission is to advance excellence as we encourage caring, capable and courageous young adults from diverse backgrounds on their journey to become pastors and scholars—the next generation of leaders for the church.

ABOUT FTE | PROGRAMS & FELLOWSHIPS | GREAT STORIES | MAKE CONNECTIONS | SEARCH SCHOOLS | RESOURCES & TOOLS | GIVING

Joseph Smith
FTE Ministry Fellow
"Seminary just feels like the highest and best place to apply my gifts and my passion." [More](#)

Ingrid Rasmussen
FTE Ministry Fellow
"What is God calling the church to be and do in this time and place? What is the role of pastoral leaders in that call?" [More](#)

IN FOCUS:

Time Magazine and FTE explore need for pastors in rural communities
[Read More](#)

Innovative Congregations Selected to Receive "Cultures of Call" Grants
[Read More](#)

Watch Featured Video

Related Sites: www.exploreministry.org, www.rtxv.org

Lilly Endowment –HS program

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following elements:

- Browser Title Bar:** Lilly Endowment, Inc. - Theological School Programs for High School Youth - Lotus Notes
- Address Bar:** http://lillyendowment.org/religion_tphsy.html
- Navigation Menu (Left):** Community Development, Education, Religion, National Clergy Renewal Program, Application materials for 2009 Program, Request for Proposals, Proposal Tips - What Makes a High-Quality Proposal?, Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations, Application materials for 2009 Program, Request for Proposals, Information Meeting Invitation, Proposal Tips - What Makes a High-Quality Proposal?, Theological Programs for High School Youth, Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation, Transition-into-Ministry, Sustaining Pastoral Excellence, News Releases, The Endowment, Communications, Guidelines.
- Header:** Lilly Endowment Inc. logo and name.
- Main Content Area:**
 - Section Header:** Religion
 - Image Collage:** A row of five small black and white photographs showing diverse young people, some holding documents.
 - Section Title:** Theological School Programs for High School Youth
 - Text:** In 1998 Lilly Endowment announced this initiative which supports theological schools in establishing or sustaining programs for high school youth that 1) stimulate and foster an excitement about theological learning and inquiry and 2) identify and encourage talented Christian youth to consider vocations in the ministry. The immediate goal of these projects is to nurture in young people ways of thinking, practices and disciplines essential to the Christian life and to encourage youth to think theologically about contemporary issues. The long-term goal is to recruit a cadre of theologically minded Christian youth who will become ordained ministers and committed lay leaders in their churches and society.
 - Text:** Who will be the next generation of Christian pastors? Who will lead the church in the new millennium? When and how will these young people be recruited, called, and trained? How can churches encourage youth to consider their vocational and life choices in light of their faith commitments and theological traditions? And how can they attract young people with spiritual gifts into Christian ministry?
 - Text:** The Endowment believes that theological schools can play a critical role in addressing these important questions. Seminaries and divinity schools are centers of inquiry, teaching and learning where difficult questions about the human condition are asked, where theological texts and

The taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications: Start, Lilly Endowment..., Yahoo! Messenger..., evaluation Keen V..., VEV evaluation re..., case material for ..., Lilly, VEV project, Microsoft PowerPo..., and the system clock shows 10:51 AM.

Lilly's PTEV college program

evaluation Keen VEY Report Jan 09 (2).rtf - Microsoft Word

PTEV | Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation - Lotus Notes

Address: http://ptev.org/

PROGRAMS FOR THE THEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF VOCATION enter search terms here go

PROGRAMS FOR THE THEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF VOCATION

02.04.09

■ about ptev
■ ptev resources
■ our community
■ contact us

what's new

Welcome!
1/11/2008

We are glad that you have visited the website that documents the history and work of Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation (PTEV), an initiative of Lilly Endowment Inc. that spanned the years 2000-2007.

If you are interested in perusing syllabi of vocation-themed coursework developed on participating campuses, finding information about books that informed the initiative or movies that served to inspire vocational reflection, these and other resources can be found in the section "PTEV Resources" on this website. In this same section you'll find articles about how the colleges and universities awarded grants in this initiative spoke

Start | PTEV | Program... | Yahoo! Messenger... | evaluation Keen V... | VEY evaluation re... | case material for ... | Lilly, VEY project | Microsoft PowerPo... | 10:51 AM

Lilly/FTE PTEV college resources

- . Between 2000 and 2002, the Endowment awarded grants to 88 church-related colleges and universities to:
 - Assist students in examining the relationship between faith and vocational choices;
 - Provide opportunities for gifted young people to explore Christian ministry; and
 - Enhance the capacity of a school's faculty and staff to teach and mentor students effectively in this arena.

www.ptev.org offers: **[Text Bibliography](#)** **[Movie Bibliography](#)**
[Course Syllabi](#)

Positive Psychology suggests:

- Religiousness/spirituality matters
- Religious, spiritual and interfaith leaders matter
- Religious institutions matter and making a place for spirituality in “secular” institutions matter

Post-College: Volunteers Exploring Vocation – a Project of the Fund for Theological Education

- help recent college graduates embark on a theological exploration of vocation.
- helps participants explore the relationship between faith and work, and consider career paths geared toward serving others, lifting up Christian ministry in particular.
- provides structured discussions and materials that guide program participants through personal reflection about their lives and professional goals.
- Offers national conference. Eleven volunteers will receive a \$2,500 VEV Fellowship to pursue an M.Div

Faith-based, year-long young adult volunteer programs

- [Mission Year](#)
- [Brethren Volunteer Service](#)
- [Catholic Volunteers in Florida](#)
- [DOOR](#)
- [Jesuit Volunteer Corps](#)
- [Krista Foundation for Global Citizenship](#)
- [Lutheran Volunteer Corps](#)
- [Mennonite Voluntary Service](#)
- [Notre Dame Mission Volunteers](#)
- [Episcopal Service Corps](#)
- [Presbyterian Church \(USA\) Young Adult Volunteers](#)
- [US2 Program of the United Methodist Church](#)

Survey responses

- **Volunteers Exploring Vocation Program Evaluation**
- Based on Surveys of 2007-2008 Exiting Volunteers (n=73) and 2008-2009 Entering Volunteers (n=580)

AmeriCorps follow-up study:

- “Over the last eight years, since 1999, we have been following more than 2,000 individuals in AmeriCorps State and National and NCCC to look at the effect of service on their future civic engagement and volunteering, employment and careers, and educational attainment.
- Findings reveal that AmeriCorps is a pipeline to careers in public service and creates civic leaders who continue to serve in their communities long after their service has been completed.”
http://www.americorps.gov/about/role_impact/index.asp

Bonner Scholar program follow-up

- Using survey questions drawn from UCLA's Life After College Survey , all graduates were found still doing community service six years after graduation compared to approximately two-thirds of each national comparison group.
- Alumni were more also likely than comparison groups to be civically engaged, particularly in activities requiring dialogue.

Common Fire findings:

- Common experience of 100 adults who have sustained commitment to working on behalf of the whole human family was a deeply engaging experience crossing a perceived boundaries with the other – travel, service, military, work, etc.
- Daloz, L., Keen, C., Keen, J., & Parks, S. (1996) Common fire: Leading lives of commitment in a complex world. Boston: Beacon Press.

Other studies evidencing power of dialogue across difference:

- Social change model study of multiple campuses by Susan Komives, Univ. of Md.
- Sylvia Hurtado, UCLA-HERI
- Ernest Pascarella et al.

VEV Cases

- Join a small group to discuss an excerpt from a volunteer's exiting reflections

What stood out - ranked

- Self awareness, self acceptance, growth
- Simplicity
- Found or affirmed calling or direction for future
- Spiritual growth and exploration
- Relationships, dialogue and/or community
- Developed work experience and skills
- Cognitive perspective on bringing about change
- Developed or furthered commitment to making positive change or working for social justice

Most important program elements ranked

- Retreats with my fellow volunteers
- Peer dialogue/mentoring/networking
- Site supervisor support and dialogue
- Retreats with VEV groups
- Informal interaction with staff
- Formal interactions/settings with staff and fellow volunteers
- Collaboration/involvement with church(es)
- Theological reflection/studies/worship
- Spiritual direction/mentoring

Most important opportunities ranked

- work for social justice
- discover things about myself *
- do community service
- work with people who are different from me*
- develop new skills
- reflection and dialogue*

Opportunities that increased in importance

- Opportunity to discover things about myself
- Opportunity to work with people who are different from me
- Opportunity for reflection and dialogue
- Opportunity for social life and friendships

Opportunities that decreased in importance

- Opportunity for community service
- Opportunity to be an effective social change agent
- Opportunity to find expressions of my compassion
- Opportunity to find God in daily life
- Opportunity to discover what God desires for my life
- Opportunity to help a community address its challenges and needs
- Opportunity to find work matching my personality, skills, training
- Opportunity for following through on faith commitments

Relationship to Positive Psychology

- Pillars: Experiences, Traits, Relationships, Institutions
- 6 categories: Wisdom, Courage, Humanity, Justice, Temperance, Transcendence
- Character best created or revealed through Challenge

Questions:

- Understanding complexity of systemic change a major outcome?
- How important are quality of relationships at work?
- How do we best support college seniors?
- If peer relationships are most important, how do we help build deeply dialogical relationships in college?
- How can we support elements of the college experience that enhance development?
- Are the gains of college not fully realized until young adults have had a year of sustained work and challenge?

What prepared them for the experience?

- personal reflection 73%
- family 63%
- international travel experiences 52%
- (other) travel experiences 26%
- work or internship experiences 60%
- academic studies 54%
- religious and spiritual training and experiences 52%
- service-learning 40%
- retreat experiences 36%

Discerning a calling to serve as clergy

- How can denominational churches be vehicles to address social justice, build community and provide dialogue partners? Who or what will be their support when their parishioners aren't interested in social justice concerns? While they have gained tremendous appreciation for the "other" in their frequent service work with those of different backgrounds and races, will they feel called to serve this group as a religious leader?

Who are their models?

- Are there at least two paths – serving the poor, who may not “look” like them or serving people with similar backgrounds as a clergy person, but inviting that community into caring for the social justice issues that have been so present for the VEV volunteers in their work? Who are their models for these paths?

Frederick Buechner

- Finding the place where the hearts deep gladness meets the world's deep hunger