

Lee University  
Center for Calling & Career  
Debby White, Director

## Reflections on Calling

**Ephesians 2:10** – For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for use to do.

**Luke 10:27** – ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind,’ and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

**Parker Palmer** – Today I understand vocation quite differently – not as a goal to be achieved but as a gift to be received. Vocation does not come from a voice “out there” calling me to become something I am not. It comes from a voice “in here” calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original selfhood given me at birth by God.

**James Fowler** – Vocation is the response a person makes with his or her total self to the address of God and to the calling to partnership. The shaping of vocation as a total response of the self to the address of God involves the orchestration of our leisure, our relationships, our work, our private life, our public life, and the resources we steward, so as to put it all at the disposal of God’s purposes in the services of God and the neighbor.

**Frederick Buechner** – The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.

**Gerald Sittser** – I define *calling* as a God-given purpose to use one’s time, energy, and abilities to serve God in the world. Rarely will we be able to see the whole pathway stretched out before us at any one time. Sometimes we will only be able to see far enough ahead to keep going.

**Terry Cross** – God loves diversity and variety. God puts different gifts in each of us so that we may work together to glorify God and also benefit humankind. Part of what it means to say God calls us is an attempt to find out what gifts or strengths God has already placed in us.