



## QUOTES ON VOCATION

“Vocation has to do with the whole shape of our living – in our families and our neighborhoods, in our civic and philanthropic engagements, in our moral and religious practices and convictions. Above all, it has to do with the spirit and manner, the purpose and intentionality with which we live our lives. Almost any kind of work or career can be undertaken in a mode marked by individualistic self-realization, self-aggrandizement, and self-interest. But the mode and spirit of vocation is different. It is a response to the question of what kinds of lives we seek to live and what kinds of people we hope to be in relation to the needs and conditions and events of our surrounding world – and, in its religious meaning, in response to God and in relation to the kind of life together to which God calls us.”

CRAIG DYKSTRA

“The word vocation is a rich one, having to address the wholeness of life, the range of relationships and responsibilities. Work, yes, but also families, and neighbors, and citizenship, locally and globally – all this and more is seen as vocation, that to which I am called as a human being, living my life before the face of God. It is never the same word as occupation, just as calling is never the same word as career. Sometimes, by grace, the words and the realities they represent do overlap, even significantly; sometimes, in the incompleteness of life in a fallen world, there is not much overlap at all.”

STEVEN GARBER

“We come to be a ‘self’ through our embeddedness and participation in human communities. We are interdependent and socially constituted, and this becomes the starting point for vocational discernment. Not only do we need to think about the commitments that we already have, by virtue of being tied to certain communities; I am convinced that we also must recognize that the work of vocational discernment is best done in conversation and within a community.”

JOSIAH ROYCE

“Even when we enter into vocational discernment in a communal context and attentive to our own limitations, the next step is of equal importance. Rather than focusing only on whether we have made the ‘right’ choices, we need to learn to narrate the choices we have made in the light of our beliefs. What is perhaps most crucial is not so much making the right choices, but telling the story of our choices rightly.”

MARY ELIZABETH MOORE



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