



## **Youth and Young Adults Cohort Frequently Asked Questions**

- **What is Life is Calling?**

Life is Calling is an initiative of the Center for Congregational Resources at Samford University. The goal of the initiative is to help congregations and their participants explore and express their Christian callings using a peer learning model. Life is Calling currently consists of a group of 13 churches who have spent 2 years in discernment about how they can promote a “culture of calling” in their congregations with an emphasis on both individual and corporate calling.

- **What is the Youth and Young Adults cohort?**

Beginning in 2021, Life is Calling will add 8 churches who will be part of a second phase of the initiative and will spend 2 years focusing on calling with youth and young adults (age 16-26), primarily through the lenses of worship and spiritual disciplines. Learning modules will focus on how churches can frame conversations about calling, vocation, and purpose with this age group to emphasize the seasonal, multi-faceted nature of calling and the spiritual practices that sustain us when we are discerning God’s call on our lives. A monetary stipend will be awarded to participating congregations/organizations to support their efforts of implementing what they’re learning in their individual contexts.

- **What kind of churches/organizations are a good fit for this?**

Churches who already have an active group of participants that fit in this age range. The group doesn’t have to encompass the entire range, but fit somewhere within it. For instance, a thriving group of senior high schoolers, a group of college students who meet regularly, or an early career group would all qualify a church as a “good fit.” Campus ministries would also be ideal, especially those with denominational ties.

- **What is expected of the church?**

A staff minister will be the coordinator of a team of 3-5 persons who will implement learnings within the congregation/ministry. If that staff minister is not the lead pastor, the lead pastor will need to offer a statement in full support of the church’s participation. Learning modules may be held virtually until Samford’s campus re-opens to outside guests, but we expect gatherings once per quarter that could be half-day or full-day in length. Staff ministers from churches/ministries will also participate together in peer learning groups during months when no full-cohort meetings are held. All learning is facilitated by Center staff, strategists, and content experts from Samford as well as regional and national leaders in the selected topic areas.

- **Does it cost anything?**

No. All expenses for this are completely covered by the Life is Calling initiative.