

Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) is pleased to announce Lilly Endowment Inc. has awarded BUSTH a \$1.5 million five-year grant to create an innovation hub to foster creative vocational reflection in congregations today. This hub will focus on the important BUSTH constituency of mainline New England Protestant congregations. BUSTH officials intend to share resulting research with others across the United States.

The grant awarded to BUSTH is one of 13 grants Lilly Endowment is making through Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose, a \$20 million national initiative. The initiative is designed to help US-based organizations as they work with congregations to build new ministries and lift up practices of discernment of vocation in Christian traditions. At BUSTH, the Center for Practical Theology will be the locus of the grant project.

We are delighted to let you know that we are moving into the next stage of our grant, "Creative Callings". The project is a five-year grant to create and facilitate an innovation hub aimed to generate fresh reflection and creative ministries around vocation.

We now are opening applications for congregations to participate in the innovation hub. Up to 20 New England congregations will be accepted to participate in the hub, which we hope will become a collaborative, generative, and contemplative space for reflection and creative action. Participation in the hub will involve two full-day gatherings for congregational teams at Boston University and monthly smaller group cluster conversations around shared interests. Congregations participating in the hub also will be eligible to apply for grant funding at the end of the first year to support innovative ministries that they are designing and developing around vocation.

Applications are due **Sunday, July 15, 2018**. Congregations will be notified by **Monday, July 30, 2018**. We ask that you save the date of our first hub event. **Thursday, August 23, 2018**. Additional information about the project can be found at the grant website www.creativecallingsproject.org.

We are excited to venture into partnership with congregations and, again, so appreciate your contributions to our conversation. Do feel free to contact us (callings@bu.edu) with questions or if you would like to talk further about a potential application.

With best wishes,

Jonathan Mettasophia, Project Coordinator
Claire Wolfeich, Project Director