



Called with others
to promote human and ecological flourishing
LATE SUMMER 2025



The Fall Semester is right ahead of us when we'll welcome first year and transfer students, new staff, and new faculty to the campus. Excitement is in the air! Opening Convocation, September 2, marks the beginning of the new academic year 2025–2026 as the faculty, in full medieval regalia, administrators, and clergy welcome students to Convocation. And then, well, the good work of learning begins.

And with the beginning of the academic year, the Center for Vocation continues to promote “human and ecological flourishing.” And let us note: If ever there were a time in which the Center’s mission is needed, it is now in this season of incredible changes and chaos throughout the nation. Our mission guides us into the future as we support the university’s mission to “educate for lives of thoughtful inquiry, service, leadership, and care for others, their communities, and the Earth.” Who could have imagined in 1993, when this mission was approved unanimously by the faculty, how relevant it would be some thirty years later.

The Center’s Work. We completed our NetVUE project on “Reframing the Institutional Saga” by producing a book (*Purposeful Learning in a New Era: Exploring the Educational Mission of Pacific Lutheran University*), a video that highlights PLU students discussing core elements of Lutheran education, and a comprehensive timeline that highlights the social forces that shaped the university’s story, for good and for ill.

We welcomed PLU staff into the Seminar on Vocation, the only form of paid professional development for PLU staff members.

We hosted a regional conference that attracted participants from across the nation on welcoming diversity, equity, and inclusion in the curriculum.

The Center sponsored Vocational Vistas throughout the year, gatherings that included presentations on Dag Hammarskjöld, Servant of Peace; Martin Luther’s View of Political Engagement; Navigating PLU through a Changing Tide in Higher Education; and The Changing Spiritual Lives of University Students.

And we enjoyed working with our Wild Hope Student Fellows, including our first international Fellow from East Africa.

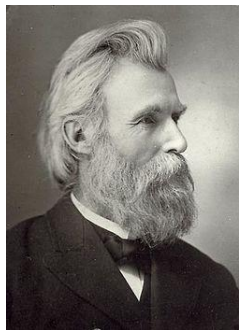
In the coming year, the Center will host New Faculty Orientation, welcome ELCA and partner clergy to Opening Convocation and a lunch, sponsor a staff seminar on vocation, invite faculty to participate in a new seminar on the vocation of teaching, work with congregations on discerning their vocations, and offer four **Fall Vocational Vistas** Zoom presentations for alumni and friends. **Register** here: <https://www.plu.edu/alumni-student-connections/vocationalvistas/>

Resisting Christian Nationalism with Dr. Seth Dowland, PLU expert in American Religions (September 25)

The Spiritual Practice of Hiking with Dr. Don Johnson, expert on the Swedish diplomat, Dag Hammarskjöld, who is featured in this presentation (October 23)

The Calling to Travel with Dr. Kate Luther, PLU sociologist and a leader in PLU's Namibia study program (November 4)

Promoting Diversity with Dr. Angie Hambrick, PLU Assistant Vice President for Diversity, Justice, and Sustainability (December 2)



Tuesday, October 14, to Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Bjug Day of Giving

For the past four years, the Center for Vocation has received *more donations and pledges* on Bjug Day than any other academic unit or student club – all due to the *generosity* of donors on campus, in the region, and throughout the nation.

Keep in mind that the Center for Vocation receives *no funds* from the PLU operating budget to support our programming. We truly rely on the kindness and good will of alumni, staff, faculty, and friends of the Center.

Friends of the Center can support our service to the university and its supporting congregations with an *individual gift*, with a *monthly pledge*, and by placing the Wild Hope Center in *one's will*. Gifts to the Center are across the spectrum from \$50 to \$10,000. We are grateful for any and every penny that is donated: large or small.

Looking ahead to October 14

1. Click on this link: <https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/64150/donations/new>
2. Select this Designation: **Student Experiences and Resources**
3. In the drop down, scroll down and select **Wild Hope Center for Vocation**

The Wild Hope Center for Vocation
<https://www.plu.edu/vocation/>
T: 253-535-7192 | Email: wildhope@plu.edu