



Christ is at work in your congregation—and your young adults are part of that story.

But too many churches are watching young adults drift away after college—not because they’ve rejected Jesus, but because no one has created a genuine pathway for them to follow Him in this season. Meanwhile, your wisest, most faithful members have more to offer the next generation than Sunday morning attendance. The gap between these two groups is both the crisis and the opportunity.

Your young adults are the next generation of church leaders — but they’re navigating one of the most disorienting seasons of adult life largely on their own. *inVocation Fellows* is designed to change that. Jesus calls people to follow Him, and this program creates the community, mentorship, and formation they need to answer that call with clarity and courage — in their work, their relationships, and the life of your church.

WHAT IS THE INVOCATION PARTNERSHIP?

Housed at Hope College and supported by the Lilly Endowment, *inVocation* partners with congregations to create a **structured, intergenerational formation pathway** for young adults rooted in your local church. Fellows (ages 22–29) join a 10-month cohort, meet monthly with leading Christian thinkers, are mentored by a mature disciple from *your* congregation, and develop a ministry project grounded in real listening to your community. Program staff handle the curriculum, speakers, training, and coordination. **There is no financial cost to your church—the program is fully funded by the Lilly Endowment.** Your role is relational.

WHAT YOUR CONGREGATION GAINS

Community & Mentoring

- Structured intergenerational mentoring between young adults and mature congregants
- Fellows rooted more deeply in the life and belonging of your church — and young adults who feel genuinely rooted are far more likely to stay
- Your young adult is known — by peers, by a mentor, by a community — during one of the loneliest transitions of adult life
- Wisdom and faith flowing in both directions across generations

Vocation & Discipleship

- Fellows learn to follow Christ across every role and relationship—work, community, family
- Vocational discernment tools help Fellows understand the callings God has placed on their lives
- Spiritual formation practices that grow a sustainable life with Jesus

Leadership Development

- Fellows listen deeply to your congregation, then design and implement a real ministry project
- A small Leadership Acceleration Team (LAT) of your members shapes the work — and in the process, becomes a group of people seeing your congregation with fresh, informed eyes: its history, its potential, its next chapter
- Grant funding available to support Fellow-led ministry projects

WHO IS THIS FOR?

Congregations in the Holland/Grand Rapids region with young adults (ages 22–29) in your church. Partner churches span RCA, CRC, PCA, Wesleyan, Catholic, and non-denominational traditions.

INTERESTED IN PARTNERING?

Contact Hahna Kimbrough: kimbrough@hope.edu | invocationfellows.org | 616.395.7329

“It was so helpful to meet a young person who is actively seeking God’s purpose and will for her life. This knowledge quickly squelches any woes about the next generation — because the future certainly is bright.”

— *inVocation Mentor*

WHAT PARTNERSHIP ACTUALLY INVOLVES

An honest timeline of commitments for Churches, Fellows & *inVocation* Program Staff

We want you to enter this partnership with clarity and confidence. *inVocation* program staff carry the programming infrastructure throughout the year. Here's an honest picture of what each party does and when.

YOUR CHURCH	YOUR FELLOW(S)	inVOCATION
NOW — SPRING 2026 ▶ Discern & Nominate		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Nominate young adults (ages 22–29) for the program <input type="checkbox"/> Designate a church contact person <input type="checkbox"/> Begin identifying one mentor per Fellow candidate <input type="checkbox"/> Invite a few lay leaders to consider joining the LAT once a Fellow is accepted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Research the program; talk with your pastor <input type="checkbox"/> Apply online by June 15, 2026 <input type="checkbox"/> Sign the Fellows Community Covenant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Host info sessions for churches & prospective Fellows <input type="checkbox"/> Guide churches in mentor identification <input type="checkbox"/> Review applications & notify accepted Fellows
SUMMER 2026 ▶ Prepare		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Confirm mentor availability and readiness to serve; send contact information to <i>inVocation</i> team <input type="checkbox"/> Confirm LAT members and send contact information to <i>inVocation</i> team <input type="checkbox"/> Sign up to host one Saturday session in the coming year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Participant Profile & mentor-match form <input type="checkbox"/> Suggest a potential mentor from your church <input type="checkbox"/> Complete pre-retreat readings & assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Make mentor introductions and set shared expectations for the relationship <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate mentor training for all partner churches (summer/fall) <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate mentor matching across full cohort <input type="checkbox"/> Send retreat logistics & prep materials
AUG. 21–23 ▶ Launch Retreat (Camp Geneva)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Send your Fellow with your blessing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Attend full 2-night residential retreat <input type="checkbox"/> Be present & engaged — this is where the cohort forms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate 3-day retreat: formation, cohort-building, program orientation
FALL 2026 (Sept–Dec) ▶ Monthly Sessions + Learning to Listen		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Church leadership makes themselves available if Fellow requests listening conversations — sharing current priorities, constraints, and hopes for the congregation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Attend monthly Saturday sessions (9am–2pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with mentor monthly (~1 hour) <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct listening interviews with congregational stakeholders <input type="checkbox"/> Complete readings before each session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate monthly cohort sessions with Christian thought-leaders <input type="checkbox"/> Provide listening interview training, guides & frameworks <input type="checkbox"/> Support mentor relationships with resources & check-ins
WINTER 2027 (Jan–Mar) ▶ Monthly Sessions + Project Design		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in LAT meetings as project takes shape <input type="checkbox"/> Provide a letter of support for Fellow's project proposal <input type="checkbox"/> Church contact available for occasional check-ins with Fellow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Attend monthly Saturday sessions (9am–2pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Initiate and lead LAT gatherings with mentor and team <input type="checkbox"/> Design ministry project rooted in your listening <input type="checkbox"/> Submit project proposal by April <input type="checkbox"/> Continue monthly mentor meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate project design workshops <input type="checkbox"/> Review & award LAT project grants <input type="checkbox"/> Offer individual project coaching as needed
MAY 2027 ▶ Celebration Retreat + Project Launch		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Commit to supporting Fellow's project implementation over the next year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Celebration Retreat <input type="checkbox"/> Present your ministry project to the cohort <input type="checkbox"/> Begin implementing your project in your church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Host Celebration & project pitch event <input type="checkbox"/> Distribute project grants to churches <input type="checkbox"/> Transition to alumni relationship & ongoing support

YOUR INVESTMENT, THEIR IMPACT: You provide the relational infrastructure — a church contact person, one mentor per Fellow, and a small LAT of 2–3 lay leaders who meet with your Fellow 1–2 times across the year. You make yourself available for listening conversations in the fall, provide a letter of support for the project, and host one Saturday session. *We provide the peer community, curriculum, speakers, mentor training and support, and all program coordination. There is no financial cost to your church—the program is fully funded by the Lilly Endowment.*