

# TAWFG

*“God Calls and Congregations Nurture”*

*1 Timothy 4:12*

*Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.*

*Thinking*

*About*

*Working*

*For*

*God*



# TAWFG

*“God Calls and Congregations Nurture”*

*I Timothy 4:12*

*Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

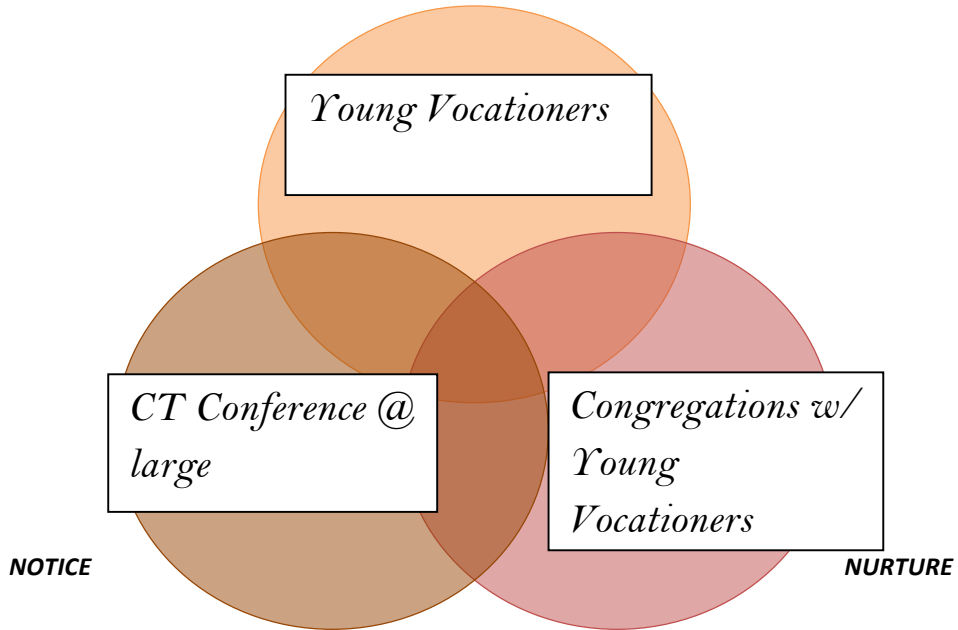
## ***Program Aim and Philosophy***

TAWFG is the young vocationers (13-21) program of the CT Conference UCC. The primary aim of the TAWFG program is to create, nurture and sustain an environment within the Connecticut Conference where youth and young adults can freely explore a call to authorized ministry. The program provides resources to three distinct groups; young vocationers, congregations with young vocationers and the CT Conference at large. The program has three components to serve each of these groups, based on the model created by the Fund for Theological Education, ([www.thefund.org/programs/calling.phtml](http://www.thefund.org/programs/calling.phtml)): **Notice, Name and Nurture**. The CT Conference at large is challenged to **Notice** youth and young adults who have the gifts for authorized ministry; while young vocationers are encouraged to **Name** their call, and congregations with young vocationers, in partnership with the conference, are called to **Nurture** vocational exploration.

## Who Do We Serve

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NAME



***“God gives each of us a gift and we are called to use it to transform the world.  
When our gifts and the worlds needs meet, we have found a vocation for life.”***

## *TAWFG Program Outline*

- I. **NOTICE** – Connecticut Conference @ large
  - A. TAWFG Sunday- during the Fall (September 26, 2010)
  - B. TAWFG Annual Meeting Recognition – during Fall Annual Meeting (May 8, 2010 for year one only)
- II. **NAME** – Young Vocationers
  - A. **Ask the Question @** all CT UCC Youth and Young Adult Events
  - B. TAWFG Mentor Program (Start date February 25, 2010 )
- III. **NURTURE** – Congregations with Youth Vocationers
  - A. **Shepherd's Luncheon** – Pastors of Congregations with young vocationers (April 21, 2010)
  - B. TAWFG Congregational Retreat (Tentative Oct 30, 2010 )

## TAWFG *Program Description*

### **NOTICE**

#### **PROGRAMS FOR CT CONFERENCE @ LARGE**

Each congregation, association, committee on ministry and ministry within the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ has a unique role in identifying youth and young adults who may be called into authorized ministry. The TAWFG Program is designed to aid each of these communities in developing intentional strategies to **NOTICE** youth and young adults with gifts for authorized ministry.

#### **TAWFG Sunday**

All congregations within the CT Conference are invited to Celebrate TAWFG Sunday. The Sunday celebration consists of 4 elements listed below:

**I. Ask the Question**

- A. Pastors preach a sermon which includes an explicit “Ask” regarding authorized ministry
- B. TAWFG will provide clergy with scriptures suggestions and bulletin inserts

**II. Invite Discerners to Participate in Service**

- A. Members of TAWFG
- B. Any individual regardless of age who are discerning their life’s vocation

**III. Offer a Blessing for the Time of Discernment**

- A. TAWFG will provide clergy and worship committees with a “Prayer for Young Vocationers”
- B. Invite all who are discerning to stand for this special prayer

**IV. Raise an Offering**

- A. Collect an offering for current Seminarians (either within the church, association or conference)
- B. Use a portion of the offering to support TAWFG members within your congregation or the conference

# **NOTICE**

## **PROGRAMS FOR CT CONFERENCE @ LARGE**

### **TAWFG Annual Meeting Recognition**

Member of TAWFG their pastors and mentors are acknowledged and prayed for during the Fall Annual Meeting. This recognition serves multiple purposes: first, it provides a visual witness to clergy and lay leaders that the conference is invested in its future clergy leaders; two, it exposes the TAWFG members to the conference structure as a supportive body; three, it encourages participation in Conference Annual Meetings and begins the process of establishing this participation as a spiritual habit and four, it provides a venue for mentors and TAWFG members to interact with each other.

# NAME

## PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG VOCATIONERS

### Ask the Question

The path to discerning often begins with a simple question: *“Have you ever thought about working for God for a living?”* The question is an intentional way to invite youth and young adults into a dialog about their life’s vocation. The question is the beginning of a process that may or may not lead to authorized ministry. But by asking the question we are inviting youth and young adults to **NAME** themselves as Young Vocationers.

#### ***Where is the Question being asked:***

- Silver Lake Conference Center (during our summer conferences)
- Conference Confirmation Retreats
- Conference Youth Rallies

#### ***What happens after the question is asked:***

- Youth and Young Adults complete a card with information about how to contact them and information on their home church and pastor
- Pastors are sent a “Good News” letter alerting them of the youth or young adult in their midst
- Congregations with young vocationers are invited to join TAWFG
- Youth and Young Adults (13-21) are invited to join TAWFG

# NAME

## PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG VOCATIONERS

### **TAWFG Mentoring Program**

TAWFG Mentoring Program consists of three program elements: A Facebook Group, Semi-Annual Events and Mentor Resource Development. Each event is designed to supplement the nurture and care that is being provided by a congregation.

- I. **Facebook Group** (Mentors serve as conversation partners in this online community to answer questions and spark dialog among young vocationers).
- II. **Semi-Annual Events** (Twice a year mentors and young vocationers gather for a discerning events)
- III. **Mentor Resource Development** (lunch and learn program for mentors to share resources and receive training on vocational nurture)

### **Mentor Responsibilities**

- A. Mentor Resource Development
  1. Attend two “Lunch and Learn” sessions during each year
  2. Comply with Safe Church Policy requirements for engagement with minors
    - a. Background check
    - b. Review of CT UCC Internet Safety Policy
    - c. Online Boundary training
- B. Facebook
  1. Lead a group conversation once a month with a partner
  2. View the group page and communicate @ least once a week
- C. Semi-Annual Events
  1. Fall Annual Meeting
    - a. Participate in Recognition
    - b. Attend TAWFG Meal
    - c. Serve as a Guide during the meeting for TAWFG members
  2. Spring Retreat
    - a. Participate in Annual Retreat with TAWFG members and other mentors
    - b. Offer leadership during retreat

# **NURTURE**

## **Programs for Congregations with Young Vocationers**

### ***Shepherds Luncheon***

This semi-annual luncheon is for Pastors of Congregations who have young vocationers. Pastors are invited to this lunch to learn about the TAWFG program and to receive hands on tools and resources for nurturing vocational exploration in their congregations. Luncheons are held just prior to the fall and spring annual meetings.

### ***TAWFG Congregational Day Retreat***

Congregations that have TAWFG members or students In-Care are invited to participate in this annual day retreat. In addition to congregational representatives, members of Committees on Ministry are also invited to participate. The retreat is held at Silver Lake in the fall of each year and provides congregational leaders with resources and training on vocational nurture. Participants from local congregations include clergy, Christian educators, youth or young adult ministers and other designated lay leaders who shape congregational culture. The retreat consists of worship, workshops, resource sharing and storytelling. A special emphasis is given to the unique role of Silver Lake and Outdoor Ministries in vocational discernment and nurture.

# **NURTURE**

## **Programs for Congregations with Young Vocationers**

### **TAWFG *Congregational Day Retreat***

#### **Congregational Day Retreat Outline**

- I. Schedule 10:00-6:00pm (Offer overnight as an option)
  - A. **Welcome** 10:00-10:15am
  - B. **Worship** 10:15-11:00am
  - C. **Opening Talk** 11:00-11:30am – Why we are here (VOCATION, VOCATION, VOCATION)
  - D. **SLCC Unique Role** in Call 11:30-12:15
  - E. **Lunch** 12:30-1:00pm
  - F. **Workshop A/B** (Divide the group) 1:00-2:00pm
    - a. two workshops for participants with practical applications for their work in congregations
  - G. **Break** 2:00-2:30pm
  - H. **Workshop B/A** (Opposite One you took before) 2:30-3:30pm
  - I. **Break** 3:30-4:00pm
  - J. **Congregation Gatherings** 4:00-4:30pm
  - K. **Closing Talk** (What are you going to do NOW) 4:30-5:00pm
  - L. **Worship and Charge** 5:15-5:50pm