



The biennial NetVUE Conference allows us to gather in person; in the off-years, NetVUE hosts a series of regional and topical gatherings, as well as the NetVUE UnConference. Campus leaders gathered online from Thursday, March 18, 2021 through the morning of Saturday, March 20, 2021, in order to speak with experienced colleagues, to share best practices, and to enjoy the company of friends. As with previous NetVUE UnConferences, all sessions are free for any member of the staff, faculty, or administration at NetVUE member institutions.

Thank you for your interest in the NetVUE UnConference. If you have questions, please contact the NetVUE office at (616) 632-1060, or drop a note to Alex Stephenson, NetVUE Administrative Assistant, at [astephenson@cic.edu](mailto:astephenson@cic.edu).

## THURSDAY, MARCH 18

11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Eastern: Pre-Meeting Sessions on Special Topics

### **Proposing, Receiving, and Managing a NetVUE Grant**

Harold V. Hartley III, Senior Vice President, Council of Independent Colleges

Lynn Hunnicutt, Assistant Director of NetVUE

NetVUE offers a wide range of grant opportunities for member institutions. Whether your institution currently holds a grant or is thinking of applying for one (or both!), this session will provide a wide range of hints and tips (as well as mentioning a few traps to avoid). Participants will be able to ask questions about developing conversations on campus in preparation for applying for a grant, as well as application procedures and best practices for successful grant administration. This session also will include a brief overview of the various categories of NetVUE grants and will offer guidance in choosing a grant program appropriate to your institution. NetVUE grants are made possible through the generous support of Lilly Endowment Inc.

### **Making the Most of NetVUE Online Resources**

Hannah Schell, NetVUE Online Community Coordinator

Erin VanLaningham, Director, NetVUE Scholarly Resources Project

Over the past year, NetVUE has dramatically increased the range of its online offerings. The NetVUE blog at [www.vocationmatters.org](http://www.vocationmatters.org) is much more active, and traffic on the blog has increased as well. A number of new approaches have been added as well—including webinars, podcasts, informal Zoom gatherings, and online workshops. The goal of this Zoom gathering is to help NetVUE leaders find their way through this trove of material, so that they can make the best use of it in their classrooms, offices, and conversations on campus. The session will be led by the two NetVUE staff members who have made these resources available: Hannah Schell, NetVUE's online community coordinator, and Erin VanLaningham, director of the NetVUE Scholarly Resources Project.

### **Facilitating Scriptural Reasoning at Next Year's NetVUE Conference**

Nicholas Adams, Professor of Philosophical Theology, University of Birmingham

David S. Cunningham, Director of NetVUE, Council of Independent Colleges

At the next live NetVUE Conference (March 24–26, 2022), a plenary session will be devoted to leading conference participants through a session of Scriptural Reasoning, which focuses on the reading of sacred texts across traditions. For this session to work well, NetVUE is in need of volunteers who are willing to facilitate small groups of eight to ten people each. In this session, Nicholas Adams will introduce the practice of Scriptural Reasoning and provide initial training advice to future volunteer facilitators. Please join us if you plan to participate in the 2022 NetVUE Conference and would be willing to serve in this capacity.

2:00–3:30 p.m. Eastern: Gathering for the UnConference

### **Small Group Conversations by Campus Role**

Hosted by NetVUE Staff

Please join us for a Thursday afternoon opportunity to meet and to network with colleagues on other NetVUE campuses who are in similar roles to your own. After a few opening remarks, participants will move into separate breakout rooms for chaplains, faculty members and academic affairs staff, mission officers and student life staff, staff of career services and vocation centers, directors of honors programs and writing centers, and senior administrators (cabinet-level officers).

4:00–5:30 p.m. Eastern: Keynote Plenary Session

### **Charting Vocation and Belonging in Racial America**

Willie James Jennings, Associate Professor of Theology and Africana Studies, Yale University  
Chair: Kathryn (Kate) Morris, Provost, Butler University

As is the case for a live NetVUE Conference, the event officially kicks off on Thursday afternoon. Join us as we hear from the author of two remarkable books on theology and race: *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race* (Winner of the 2015 Louisville Grawemeyer Award) and *After Whiteness: An Education in Belonging*. In his current work, Jennings focuses on the concept of “belonging”; he will bring that perspective into conversation with vocation, against the backdrop of current national conversations on race and racism.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 19

10:00–11:30 a.m. Eastern: Plenary Interview Session

### **The NetVUE Big Read: A Conversation with the Authors of *Living Vocationally***

Charles Pinches, Professor of Theology, The University of Scranton  
Paul Wadell, Emeritus Professor of Theology and Religious Studies, St. Norbert College  
Hosts: Hannah Schell and Erin VanLaningham, Co-Hosts of [\*Callings: Conversations on College, Career, and a Life Well Lived\*](#)

NetVUE is currently hosting its first-ever “Big Read” program! Staff and faculty members at member institutions are invited to read together *Living Vocationally: The Journey of the Called Life* (Cascade Books, 2021), with free copies of the book supplied by NetVUE. Join us for this interview-style session, in which the hosts of the NetVUE podcast will enter into conversation with the co-authors of the book. The session will address a range of topics: vocation as a life-long journey, mentoring and friendship, the virtues and contemporary life, and social justice and community. It will also explore how *Living Vocationally* might be used with undergraduates in the classroom and in co-curricular programs. Participants in this session will also be encouraged to ask their own questions, in order to tap the authors’ combined experience, wisdom, and good sense of humor.

12:00–1:30 p.m. Eastern: Meet and Greet over Lunch (or Brunch)

### **Small Group Conversations by Religious Affiliation and Lifestance**

Hosted by NetVUE Staff

Please join us for a Friday afternoon opportunity to meet and to network with colleagues on other NetVUE campuses that are related (whether tightly or loosely) to similar religious traditions and lifestances. After a few opening remarks, participants will move into separate breakout rooms for those who are primarily related (either personally or institutionally) to the Lutheran, Methodist,

Reformed/Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Brethren/Friends/Mennonite, Christian/Evangelical, or Independent/Nonsectarian traditions. Participants may choose to join a group that matches their institutional affiliation, their personal commitments, or one of which they'd like to learn more.

3:00–4:30 p.m. Eastern: Plenary Panel

### **“Good Enough” Pedagogy in a Time of Crisis**

Jacqueline Bussie, Professor of Religion, Concordia College (MN)

Esteban Loustaunau, Professor of Spanish, Assumption University

Amy Santas, Professor of Biology, Muskingum University

Moderator: Hannah Schell, NetVUE Online Community Coordinator

The pandemic(s) of the past year have put educators under pressure to adapt their teaching to the new realities. But can we really expect to revise our long-cultivated pedagogical practices at a moment's notice? And when we have made all the necessary changes, do we hold ourselves to an impossible standard, expecting to duplicate the results of our very best classes of the past? Join us as we hear from three faculty members at NetVUE institutions who are discerning new aspects of their own vocations as teachers, even as they help their students to think about calling and purpose in turbulent times.

5:00–6:30 p.m. Eastern: Gathering with Friends

### **The 2021 NetVUE UnConference Reception**

It's the next best thing to a live NetVUE Conference reception—we'll even send you some snacks! This is an opportunity to gather with friends and colleagues, new and old, for conversation about every topic under the sun. Don't worry about the potentially overwhelming size of this gathering; you'll spend most of the event in smaller breakout rooms, with plenty of opportunity for conversation. Those who commit to attending at least three sessions over the three-day UnConference will receive a link to order a free NetVUE snack box, with food, beverages, and a bit of swag. You can even choose your own snacks! Instructions for securing your treat will arrive in your confirmation email when you register for this reception.

## **SATURDAY, MARCH 20**

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Eastern: Closing Plenary Session

### **Multiple Identities and Multiple Calls: Intersectionality and Vocation(s)**

Kara Baylor, Campus Pastor and Director, Center of Faith and Spirituality, Carthage College

Caryn Riswold, McCoy Family Chair and Professor of Religion, Wartburg College

The past year has highlighted the need for a collective understanding of the intersections of pandemics, politics, economics, education, and so much else. In response, this closing plenary will focus on the framework of *intersectionality* as a means to support and enhance the work of

vocational reflection and discernment. Through story, conversation, and presentation, the speakers will guide participants toward strategies for working alongside students who are naming and framing their own identities, goals, and passions—even in the midst of extraordinary structural and personal challenges.

Thank you for your interest in the 2021 NetVUE UnConference!