



STEVEN GARBER

## VISIONS OF VOCATION. COMMON GRACE FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

*"The word vocation is a rich one, having to address the wholeness of life, the range of relationships and responsibilities. Work, yes, but also families, and neighbors, and citizenship, locally and globally - all of this and more is seen as vocation, that to which I am called as a human being, living my life before the face of God. It is never the same word as occupation, just as calling is never the same word as career. Sometimes, by grace, the words and the realities they represent do overlap, even significantly; sometimes, in the incompleteness of life in a fallen world, there is not much overlap at all."*

*("On Vocation." A preface paragraph to the book.)*



Consider the questions below:

"Vocation has to be a big word, able to handle the whole of life. Spoken and unspoken longings, formal and informal responsibilities, first loves, and second and third loves, relationships that matter most and ones that matter, but not quite like that." (Ch.8, p.198).

- 1.If vocation is broader than an occupation or career, how do your callings play out in your life as it is now? Can you name them?
- 2.Does the idea that your vocation may not be lived out in the context of paid-employment bring you a sense of freedom or disappointment or both?



Spend time wondering about your responses. Seek out someone with whom you can process your thoughts.