

*On the cusp of a new decade, we need you to help our congregational call take flight. Join us for the second and final "Called to Life!" retreat on Saturday, January 18 at 9 a.m. in the Community Room.*

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Earlier this summer, I slowly walked over the 120 feet of windswept sand that changed the course of history.

On the cusp of a new century, Wilbur and Orville Wright began to design a kite that allowed for controlled flight. Through patient and persistent research the kite evolved into a glider and eventually into a flyer.

One hundred and sixteen years ago on December 17, these two brothers from Dayton made final adjustments to the flyer. Determined by a coin toss, Orville climbed aboard. When Orville released the restraining wire, the engines pushed the flyer forward into the prevailing wind. For 12 seconds, Orville flew over 120 feet at Kitty Hawk, NC.

Twelve seconds would change history. It's likely taken you, dear reader, 4x that long to read this far.

Twelve seconds would connect our world.

Twelve seconds would send spacecraft (Voyager 1) far beyond our Solar System and presently over 13.6 billion miles from earth.

Isn't it remarkable that such work began inside a Dayton, OH bicycle shop?

It's also remarkable work that has and will be taking place in the Seminary. On Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> over 55 people gathered for the first "Called to Life!" retreat. A great deal of inquiry and energy buzzed around each table. Together we assessed five possible congregational calls –

- Empowering community members in the "Third Thirty" of their lives,
- Facilitating a culture of inclusion in our community,
- Addressing economic inequality in our community,
- Care for creation in a time of climate change, and
- Improving food security in our community.

After the retreat concluded, I took a long pause to reflect. From the inside, the process was exhilarating, a little breath-taking, perhaps like the first flight at Kitty Hawk. To the outsider, it may have appeared that we took flight for only a short time over a short distance. This is the patient, persistent and faithful work of discerning a congregational call.

All are invited and encouraged to participate in the second and final retreat in our "Called to Life!" discernment. Join us on Saturday, January 18 at 9:00 a.m. in the Seminary.

As we celebrate the birth of Immanuel and cross from one decade into another, we need your vision to give this **call FLIGHT!**

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