

## ***Calling in Today's World: Multifaith Perspectives***

Panel Discussion

Thursday, February 2, 2017, 6:30 p.m.  
Augsburg College, Oren Gateway Center 100

What does a Buddhist think about calling? Does a Jew have a similar sense of vocation as a Christian? Do people besides Christians have a sense of calling? While most religious traditions do not share the same notion of calling as Christians, they do, in fact, have surprisingly similar concepts and practices.

In a new book, *Calling in Today's World: Voices from Eight Faith Perspectives*, experts representing Jewish, Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, Confucian, Daoist, secular humanist, and Catholic and Protestant Christian traditions explore how callings are experienced and lived within their communities of faith. This ground-breaking volume offers key texts, stories, persons, concepts, and discernment practices that exemplify each tradition's view of vocation as well as how modern life poses both difficulties and opportunities for living out a sense of calling.

As the United States becomes more religiously diverse, members of faith communities meet every day in college classes, work places, neighborhoods, volunteer organizations, and efforts for social change. If people of faith want to live and work together for the common good, understanding each other's values and beliefs is imperative. Learning how others experience a sense of calling and live with meaning and purpose can enliven and deepen connections across communities.

The three panelists for this program — representing the Daoist and Confucian, Jewish, and Hindu Buddhist traditions — are contributors to *Calling in Today's World*, and the moderator — a Christian — is one of the book's editors.

Panelists:

Mark Berkson is professor and chair in the Department of Religion at Hamline University. His work on Confucian and Daoist thought has appeared in numerous books and journals. His lecture series for the Great Courses, *Cultivating Literacy for Religion*, was released in 2012. His current project is *Death, Immortality and the Afterlife: A Comparative Perspective*.

Amy Eilberg, the first woman ordained a rabbi in Judaism's Conservative Movement, teaches and practices inter-religious and intra-Jewish dialogue. Deeply involved in the work of peace and reconciliation, she is the author of *From Enemy to Friend: Jewish Wisdom and the Pursuit of Peace* (Orbis Books, 2014).

Anantanand Rambachan, is professor of religion, philosophy, and Asian Studies at St. Olaf College, specializing in the Hindu tradition and interreligious dialogue. A prolific author, his most recent book is *A Hindu Theology of Liberation: Not-two Is Not One* (SUNY Series in Religious Studies, 2015).

Moderator:

Kathleen A. Cahalan is professor of theology at Saint John's University School of Theology and Seminary and director of the Collegeville Institute Seminars. She is editor, with Gordon Mikoski, of *Opening the Field of Practical Theology* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2014) and co-author of *Christian Practical Wisdom* (Eerdmans, 2016).

Sponsored by the [Collegeville Institute](#), [the Jay Phillips Center for Interfaith Learning](#) the [Saint John's School of Theology](#), Augsburg College, and Hamline University Department of Religion