



faith engaging
SCIENCE | RELIGION FAITH SHARING GUIDE
A New Voice Arising ... Faith Engaging Science and Technology

This session can be offered as a one-time reflection of 60-90 minutes. It is evocative, not exhaustive! You may wish to open this adult education session with Psalm 139; and close with the reading of Section V as a closing prayer. It may be helpful to include images of creation and communities (photos, art, NASA image of the day from the internet) in the meetings space. Provide copies of the pastoral letter attached.

If there is interest in pursuing the questions and themes raised in this faith sharing time, check resources and links at <ucc.org/not-mutually-exclusive>, including "Starting a Science and Religion Discussion Group at Your Church."

Reflection Questions

- 1. A New Voice Arising is a pastoral letter that invites us to reflect on the gifts of a faith that engages science. In a nutshell:** "Through these gifts of science, we look across ever-expanding vistas of cosmic beauty, almost to the beginning of time itself. What we see evokes wonder and humility, and we hear within ourselves a new voice arising and singing an anthem of praise that reverberates through the whole creation." **What gifts of science and technology, from pacemakers to wireless, are a gift to you and your family?**
- 2. Tell us about a scientist, researcher, engineer** – someone in the medical community – or perhaps a teacher or student of science and technology **who has helped shape your understanding of God and God's world?**
- 3. In Psalm 139, the metaphor of knitting is used to describe our creation ...** We are learning so much about the way life is knit together these days: how the human body is fashioned on the genetic and biochemical level in ways that are similar to other living beings, with growing knowledge of evolution and the intricate web of life in God's creation in which we live and move and have our being. **What metaphors (from knitting to hard wiring!) speak to you of God weaving us in relationship** – calling us to a passionate, prayerful, creative, justice-making care for one another and the earth?
- 4. Questions about justice and theology are very much a part of the exploration of faith, science, and technology.** Many are named in the pastoral letter from reproductive and health issues, to studies of the how the brain functions when people pray, the role of humanity in God's world with other creatures, and economic access to new technologies. **Share an issue of faith, science, and technology that is important to you.**
- 5. This letter celebrates a pilgrim church and evangelical courage, with an intellectual and embodied spirituality.** "As pilgrim people, we share our fears and dreams for the future of our world. Side by side we listen for the God who is speaking to our time, to this culture, and to our heart's deepest questions... God is still speaking, and the words of the living God become enfleshed here, now, in our own time and place." **Where (in what times, places and communities in your life) do you experience a sense of deep connection to God, with freedom to dream and question?**



God is still speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

