



**SUSTAINING VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT**

**This Application is for (check one):**

IMMERSION

COMPETITIVE MINI-GRANT

**Waiver Form for the Academic Letter of Reference**

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

The Educational Rights and Privacy Act as amended allows a candidate to waive his or her rights to access confidential letters or statements written on his or her behalf if the recommendation is used solely for purposes of admission or financial aid and if the candidate upon request is notified of the names of all persons making such recommendations on his or her behalf. Project Connect does not require that you make a waiver as a condition for being considered for one of its programs. Under legislation, you are free to choose to maintain your right to access this recommendation or waive that right. Please check and sign one of the following statements:

- I waive my right to examine this recommendation.  
 I do not waive my right to examine this recommendation.

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of applicant date

The person whose name appears above is applying for an Immersion or Competitive Mini-Grant from Project Connect.

We are interested in knowing about this person's intellectual and relational capabilities as reflected in academic work.

Please place the applicant's name and your name at the top of each page of your letter.  
Please return these materials to the applicant in a sealed and signed envelope.

Name of Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Last

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number and Street City State Zip

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of reference Date

**The deadline for receipt of this letter of reference by Project Connect is February 10 (alternate deadline: April 15).**

*Note: To learn more about Project Connect and its programs of sustaining the vocational discernment of young adults, please see the opposite side of this page.*

## **Information for the Provider of the Academic Letter of Reference**

*The person named on the opposite side of this page is applying for a stipend from Project Connect to support an Immersion project or a Competitive Mini-Grant project.*

**Project Connect: Calling Leaders for a Changing World**, is an initiative of the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries (Philadelphia, Gettysburg, and Southern). These seminaries are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Project Connect is funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment.

The purpose of Project Connect is to organize an enthusiastic network of church leaders to mentor and provide theologically sound vocational discernment programs for young adults.

This endeavor will be accomplished by **identifying** young adults who have faith, passion, integrity, vision, self-awareness, and motivation for a lifetime of service as pastors and in other vocations of public ministry; **nurturing** relationships with those who are open to a process that extends, deepens, and provides focus for vocational discernment; and **sustaining** these relationships by providing profound experiences in congregational ministry.

The purpose of **Immersion and Competitive Mini-Grants** is to sustain the process of vocational discernment for young adults who are seriously considering ordained ministry or other forms of public ministry in the church as a career.

**Immersion** provide for theological exploration in the midst of deep engagement in the life of a congregation. These experiences provide insight for the experience of responding to a call to pastoral ministry.

**Competitive Mini-Grants** provide a ministry experience through a project that has been designed by the young adult applying for the grant. Successful projects will serve the needs of the congregation / community as well as help the applicant further discern a sense of call by actively engaging in ministry.

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Project Connect

Donald G. Johnson, Director

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