

CAMPUS MINISTERS: Information about PROJECT CONNECT



The Sponsor of Project Connect is the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries (Southern, Gettysburg and Philadelphia). This project is funded by a major grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc.

The Purpose of Project Connect is to encourage young adults to let God use their passion, integrity, vision, self-awareness and motivation for a lifetime of service as pastors and in other vocations of public ministry.

The Strategy is to organize a network of enthusiastic church leaders who connect with one another in a cooperative and proactive effort to keep young adults connected with the church and engaged in theologically sound opportunities for vocational discernment.

The Process involves 3 steps:

IDENTIFYING students with whom we should be connected, wherever they happen to be (in college, at camp, home, etc.), and encouraging their participation in ministries of the church.

NURTURING relationships with those who are open to a process that extends, deepens, and provides focus for vocational discernment.

SUSTAINING relationships by providing profound experiences in congregational ministry.

We need you to:

" Check www.projectconnect.org often to see what events and activities are going on and would be helpful to young adults with whom you are in contact.

" Give us accurate information about your campus ministry. We'll be eager to post this information on the Project Connect website.

" Go to our database site www.elcconnect.net and sign up for a login name and password. This will allow you to enter directly into the online data management system and provide contact information for students with whom we should be connecting – especially students whose gifts and / or passions might be well-suited for a vocation of public ministry.

Project Connect Resources for you to access:

DISCERNMENT ADVOCATES – pastors, passionate about the work of calling leaders for a changing world. One can be assigned to have an ongoing relationship with your campus ministry.

DISCERNMENT RESOURCE – *Calling Leaders for a Changing World* is a publication of Project Connect, available to download from our website. It is rich in resources for retreats, small-group discussions, pre-seminary groups, and the like.

PRE-SEMINARY GROUPS – Project Connect will award small grants to establish new groups or enrich ongoing groups. These grants might provide funds for gatherings, retreats, speakers and activities that support the discernment, learning and peer interaction of students. Project Connect can also assign a Discernment Advocate to assist you in providing these and similar opportunities.

ANNUAL GATHERING OF PRE-SEMINARY GROUPS – Each year, you will be invited to bring 5 students to a seminary campus for peer interaction with other college students and young seminarians. There will be no charge for room, board and program and there will be a travel pool for those who travel over 250 miles. The next event is scheduled for February 2-4, 2007 at LTSG.

SUPPORT OF LUTHERAN STUDENT MOVEMENT – Project Connect will provide financial and program support for local chapters and regions when conducting programs, activities, and retreats that provide opportunities for vocational discernment. We can help you find and provide honorariums for speakers and program leaders.

COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSE – Development of a college-level course on the theology of vocation is being spearheaded and financially supported by Project Connect. Please contact Don Johnson if you wish to influence the shape of this curriculum.

IMMERSIONS AND MINI-GRANTS – Stipends and grants will be awarded to students who are seeking an in-depth, congregationally based ministry experience. Applications can be downloaded from the Project Connect website. The deadline is February 10; follow-up deadline is April 15 if grants are still available at that time.

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARTNERS: Once each year, Project Connect brings all our partners together for a retreat that will evaluate the progress of this program and provide an opportunity for learning, growth and inspiration flowing from the diversity of ideas from several disciplines. Some of the disciplines represented will be –

- Outdoor Ministry
- Parish Ministry
- Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry
- Campus Ministry
- Lutheran Student Movement
- Bishops and Associate Bishops
- Regional Coordinators
- Lutheran College Chaplains
- Seminaries
- Specialists in Ethnic Ministries and Evangelism Strategies

The next annual meeting is scheduled for April 18-20, 2007, at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

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