



## RESOURCES FOR CONNECTING YOUNG ADULTS IN MINISTRIES

In addition to the resources and action steps recommended in the Young Adult Ministry Assessment Tool, we suggest these resources for your consideration.

To spark thinking and conversation about young adults and others who are unfamiliar or long absent from church culture, we suggest a quick read of *Jim and Casper Go to Church* by Jim Henderson and Matt Casper 2007, BarnaBooks. It's available on Amazon.com. Another excellent resource which looks deeply into the religious lives of young adults, offering implications for ministry, is Robert Wuthnow's *After The Baby Boomers: How Twenty- and Thirty-Somethings Are Shaping the Future of American Religion*, 2007, Princeton University Press. It too is available on Amazon.com.

The Project Connect website, [www.projectconnect.org](http://www.projectconnect.org), is an abundant source of information and resources for engaging young adults in conversation and activities related to faith formation, vocational discernment, and call.

One of the resources provided on the Project Connect website is a fairly comprehensive reading list on call and vocation, as well as on discernment to public ministry. Go to [www.projectconnect.org](http://www.projectconnect.org), Resources Tab, Reading List. The direct link to this reading list is:  
[http://www.projectconnect.org/cms/menu\\_item\\_uploaded\\_files/1935049214\\_Reading\\_List.pdf](http://www.projectconnect.org/cms/menu_item_uploaded_files/1935049214_Reading_List.pdf)

A recently published book is one of the most compelling and theologically sound resources we have encountered for young adults. It is *The Treasure Hunt of Your Life: Seeking Your Calling, Encountering God, Finding Yourself*, by Rebecca Schlatter, an ordained Lutheran pastor. It was published in 2009 by Redwood Visions Press

Another great resource is a book by Sharon Daloz Parks: *Big Questions, Worthy Dreams: Mentoring Young Adults in Their Search for Meaning, Purpose, and Faith*.

The Project Connect website highlights opportunities for young adults to join with other young adults in theologically sound vocational discernment retreats. These events vary in length from one day to one week. They are usually featured in the calendar section of the homepage of the website, [www.projectconnect.org](http://www.projectconnect.org).

There is a great guide on the Project Connect website for you to plan your own event, series of events, or retreat for young adults around the theme of vocational discernment. It can be found at [www.projectconnect.org](http://www.projectconnect.org), Resources tab, Vocational Discernment Retreat Planning Guide; or, the direct link is:  
[http://www.projectconnect.org/cms/menu\\_item\\_uploaded\\_files/1942044890\\_Discernment%20TOOL%20-%20complete%20Calling%20Leaders%20for%20a%20Changing%20World.pdf](http://www.projectconnect.org/cms/menu_item_uploaded_files/1942044890_Discernment%20TOOL%20-%20complete%20Calling%20Leaders%20for%20a%20Changing%20World.pdf)

One of the most comprehensive and realistic ways for a young adult to experience what it's like to serve in the public ministry of the church is to have a Project Connect Immersion experience. An Immersion is a ten-week internship prior to enrollment in seminary. It's good for the young adult who serves the Immersion, it's good for other young adults who interact with a young adult who is in such a clear leadership position, and it's good for the whole congregation to experience the leadership of a young adult. Information is available on the Grants tab of the Project Connect website, [www.projectconnect.org](http://www.projectconnect.org).

Another rich resource for congregations looking to foster a culture that welcomes young adults into the life and leadership of the congregation and indeed the whole church is the website of the Fund for Theological Education, [www.fteleaders.org](http://www.fteleaders.org).

The ELCA's website also contains some excellent resources for young adult ministry. These include:

<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Campus-Ministry/Study-and-Worship.aspx>  
<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Young-Adult-Ministry.aspx>  
<http://imagineyourself.ning.com/>

We also suggest you take a look at Nooma, [www.nooma.com](http://www.nooma.com) and Alpha, [www.alphausa.org](http://www.alphausa.org).

The ELCA's Book of Faith resources, published by Augsburg Fortress, offer an excellent way to engage people of all ages, including young adults, in Bible study. These resources can be found at: [www.bookoffaith.org](http://www.bookoffaith.org)

Finally, questions regarding resources for specific circumstances can be addressed to Don Johnson, director of Project Connect, [don@projectconnect.org](mailto:don@projectconnect.org), or 603-539-7257.