SCENARIOS
LUTHERAN COLLEGE HOUSE PARTICIPANTS

Documents distributed earlier include information related to possible course work, a vocation-oriented group seminar, internship agreements, and cost projections. The following scenario descriptions are intended to help students and faculty envision the day-to-day experience. They are simply meant to be examples, and other scenarios are entirely possible.

Discussions with several interested colleges confirm the advisability of keeping course credit and most costs associated with each student’s college.

Potential Participants
- Economics/Business Students
- Communications Students
- Social Work/Psychology/Sociology Student
- Education Students
- Pre-Med Students
- Information System Students
- Religion/PreSeminary Students

Students select the program because they:
- May seek employment in a city following graduation.
- Are seeking an urban experience to broaden and deepen their understanding of diversity.
- Believe a guided experience in the city will be helpful in exploring and discerning their sense of call and vocation.

A Lutheran college student, in consultation with their advisor and faculty, decides to spend a semester living at Loren on Park in the 2600 block of Park Avenue in the Phillips Neighborhood of South Minneapolis. This apartment building is across the street from Ebenezer, the long-term care provider for Fairview Health Services, down the street from both Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota and the Swedish Institute, and near Abbott Northwestern and Children’s Hospitals.

Student will stay connected with their college advisor throughout the experience. They will be part of a small living-learning group of seven students from Lutheran colleges from across the Upper Midwest, living in two-person apartments. During the first year, there will be a maximum of three groups of seven.

The student’s experience will be a guided process of action, reflection and learning related to their semester’s work and/or service, exploration of call and vocation, and life in a society of increasing diversity, both in its small towns and its large cities.
Arrival and Orientation
The student arrives in Minneapolis in June and settles into an apartment owned and managed by Ebenezer. The two-person apartment is one of 80 at Loren on Park. Its management office is located on-site and the complex has a security system. The student will have had an opportunity to communicate and/or meet with their semester roommate before arriving.

Students will live and prepare meals in their apartments, and there will be many opportunities for all 21 students to spend time together, including having meals together.

The first thing that will happen is an orientation to the city, including transportation, shopping and safety. Most students will use public transportation. Loren on Park is on a major bus line two miles south of downtown Minneapolis.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota is one block away and has meeting rooms that will be available to the participating students, their facilitators and their internship sponsors.

Students will meet the College House coordinator, their small group facilitators, seminar instructor, and internship sponsors within their first few days of arrival. During the first week, students will participate in a team building and formative experience, facilitated by graduate students and faculty from Luther Seminary, as well as the leader of their large group vocation seminar. It is highly likely that this first experience will be “Dependable Strengths”, a process that uses story telling in groups to share personal insights and experiences. It is an asset development model, relying on the individual and his or her peers to draw out and celebrate the inherent strengths enjoyed by each individual. Each group of seven will continue to meet on a regular basis with Luther graduate students who will assist them in reflecting on their day-to-day experiences.

Prior to arriving, the student will determine, with their advisor, whether they will engage in an internship placement, service learning experience, or an independent study project. Assuming the student selects an internship, prior work will have been completed between the student, their advisor and the coordinator for the Lutheran College Experience. During the first year of Lutheran College Houses, internships will be with organizations that are members of Faith in the City, as well as at a small number of other well-known organizations. This limitation during the first year is simply to ensure a successful internship experience. After the first year, internship opportunities will be expanded more broadly into other organizations in the city.

Semester Coursework
Students will participate as a whole (up to 21) in a weekly seminar focused on call and vocation, led by a faculty member from a participating college who is recognized for expertise in the subject. The seminar may be cross-listed by participating colleges. Students will also take a course in urban studies. The course will be listed as a course at the student’s own college, it will be taught by a faculty member of one of the participating colleges, and credit for the seminar and urban studies will be from the home college. If the home college requires an independent integrative paper, that connection will be maintained by means of regular communications with a faculty advisor from the student's college.

**Evaluation**

Each student will participate in a thorough evaluation of his or her experience with their college advisor, their internship sponsor, the seminar leader, and the small group facilitators. Their evaluation will assist Faith in the City and participating colleges in determine the value of the experience, and needed modifications.

**Student Majors and Examples of Experience**

- **Economics/Business Student**
  
  An economics/business student agrees to a placement of three days each week (or 20 hours) at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The student is interested in how a financial services company can be a non-profit organization and at the same time one of the U.S.' Fortune 300 Companies. The student will serve an internship in a regional office of Thrivent, where professional financial managers help people determine their financial values and needs, investment strategies, and how they might engage in philanthropy. The student will also learn how a nonprofit financial services company uses its “profits” to support community organizations.

  As part of the internship, the student will spend time at Lutheran Community Foundation, a separate organization that is located at the Thrivent headquarters in downtown Minneapolis. It is a foundation that helps families manage and direct their charitable giving. The student will also be given an opportunity to experience first-hand a philanthropic endeavor by Thrivent - the Faith in the City Personal Finance Center. It is an innovative enterprise sponsored by Thrivent and Lutheran Social Service that is making available mainstream financial services (checking, savings, loans, consumer education) to people who have often been denied or avoided such services, and too often experience predatory lending and tax services.

  If a student has interest in health care management, or non-profit management, there are opportunities at Fairview Health Services and Lutheran Social Service.

- **Communications Student**
  
  The Communications Student may be exploring an interest in a vocation of publishing. The student is offered an internship placement at Augsburg Fortress
Publishers. This is an interesting organization, not only for its long history in publishing, but because it is in a “turnaround” period, having experienced the rapidly changing nature of publishing and its relationship to the institutional church. The student will work side-by-side with an editor for church publications, and, if desired, may also spend time in the marketing division of the organization. The student will experience not only publishing through its writing and editing functions, but also through its marketing work and new business solutions.

In addition, the student will be invited to attend at least one, and perhaps several, Faith in the City leadership development sessions sponsored by Augsburg College, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, and Luther Seminary, thus gaining experience in how the members of Faith in the City, and the church itself, are seeking to encourage the development of emerging leaders.

If the communications student is interested in marketing at a nonprofit, there are opportunities at Thrivent, Lutheran Social Service, Fairview Health Services and Luther Seminary.

- **Social Work/Psychology/Sociology/Humanities Student**

  Social work, psychology, and sociology student may be trying to decide what kind of work or vocation will be the best fit for them. They are interested in helping people who have been disadvantaged, perhaps those who are homeless and seeking greater stability for themselves and their children. A student is placed with Housing Services at Lutheran Social Service. LSS has transitional housing and “moving on” services across the street and across the community.

  As part of their experience, they will spend time at Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis, a Faith in the City member that offers safety and hospitality to people who are homeless in the downtown area. Central has several community ministries that include a Nursing Center, Clothes Closet and services for those who are homeless.

  The student is also provided opportunity to work for a period of time with LSS’ Homeless Youth program. By means of both programs, the student will attend community meetings and learn how community coordination is a rapidly emerging orientation among service providers. The student will be given an opportunity to help LSS housing clients access Faith in the City’s Personal Finance Center to learn that even with limited incomes, it is possible for families to plan for a more stable financial future. Because LSS has a multidimensional service center in the Phillips Neighborhood, students will recognize the many aspects of helping people, including refugees, youth, families seeking to adopt, and individuals seeking help for better mental health, as well as positive family dynamics.

  If the student is interested in considering future work with health care, there is opportunity with Fairview Health Services, including Ebenezer Society.
- **Education Student**
  The education student will be someone who is seeking experience in a multicultural school in preparation for a call to teach urban students. Their schedule will be different from those placed in other settings if they are student teaching. Augsburg College has relationships with many city schools, especially near their campus in the Cedar Riverside area. The individual will student teach at either a public school in Minneapolis, or at Augsburg Academy for Health Careers, a public charter high school in St. Paul sponsored by Faith in the City through Augsburg College and Fairview Health Services. Augsburg Academy for Health Careers is serving youth from diverse communities across the Twin Cities who have an interest in a vocation of health and wellness. This would be a particularly good placement for a student preparing to teach math or science due to the experience level of the teachers at AAHC and the orientation of the school to health careers.

  A student teacher would not be required to take a course in urban studies due to their full-time placement. They would engage in all other aspects of the semester, including the orientation and team building, living at Loren on Park, and participating in the group seminar. They would certainly become familiar with the work of Faith in the City in that the school is one of its initiatives.

- **Pre Med Student/Science Student**
  Pre Professional Science students may want to explore what it would be like to work in a large health center. They agree to a placement at Fairview Health Services and work with a physician group associated with Fairview/University Health, or with the pharmacy department, in the department of laboratory medicine, in the community health division, or the emergency department. The student will develop insight into health services in a large diverse health organization in an increasingly diverse community.

  As part of their internship, they will be provided opportunity to participate at the Faith in the City Wellness Connection, an education and advocacy initiative sponsored by Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fairview and LSS. The Wellness Connection currently serves Somali immigrants and refugees new to the United States who are learning how to access appropriate primary and preventative care services.

  If the student prefers a more direct relationship with health services, he or she might be placed directly with the Wellness Connection, or with the Augsburg Central Nursing Center at Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis. The Center is staffed by nursing faculty from Augsburg College and supported by donations. It serves the health and immediate care needs of those who are homeless in the downtown area.
Information Systems Student
The information systems student will have opportunity at either Fairview or Thrivent. They will work and learn about the information needs and solutions in large complex organizations. If they were interested in a smaller department, they would have opportunity at LSS. The student would also have opportunity to participate in the continued development of information systems for the Faith in the City Personal Finance Center, described in the Business Student section. The Personal Finance Center is offering on-line consumer education and banking.

Religion Student
The religion student might be placed at Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis. The student will participate in the outreach ministries of the congregation, including its Nursing Center, Clothes Closet and ministries to those who are homeless.

If the student is interested, there is also opportunity for placement at Luther Seminary.