**Congregational Letter of Support**

**Description of the Program**
Because Luther Seminary’s Doctor of Ministry program in Biblical Preaching offers a course of advanced theological study that is practical and contextual, the support of a sponsoring ecclesial community (usually a local congregation) is critical to the success of each candidate.

In addition to preparing for and participating in three three-week summer residency courses of instruction, participants will:

- Preach two sermons in their ministry context as part of their post-residency work each year;
- Make use of a Parish Response Group both to shape and evaluate these sermons and to reflect more generally with the participant on his/her course of study; and
- Design and execute two projects related to their ministry context as well as a final thesis connecting this work to their primary area of interest.

**Pledge of Support**
Understanding these components of the course of study, _________________(name of sponsoring community) pledges to support _________________(name of candidate) in his/her work in the following ways:

- Lift up the candidate in prayer;
- Encourage the candidate in his/her study;
- Allow adequate time for preparation for, and participation in, the summer residencies; and
- Support the candidate’s post-residency work by forming a Parish Response Group and participating in the candidate’s projects as appropriate.

SIGNED______________________________________________________

OFFICE____________________________________ DATE________________________