



# THE LILLY NETWORK

OF CHURCH-RELATED  
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

## Lilly Network Update 19.1

**February 2024**

Welcome to the Lilly Network Update, an e-publication from the Lilly Network of Church-Related Colleges and Universities to keep Lilly Network representatives and others informed about the activities of 1) Lilly Network institutions, 2) present and former Lilly Fellows and, 3) the Lilly Network office at Valparaiso University.

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### Lilly Network Receives a Communications Capacity Building Grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

The Lilly Network of Church-Related Colleges and Universities received a five-year grant for \$499,084 from [Lilly Endowment Inc.](#) to evaluate, strengthen, and expand our communications, both in and outside our Network. Please stay tuned for more information as we continue to expand the ways we share the work being done to strengthen church-related higher education in the Lilly Network.

### Lilly Network Staff Announcements

The Lilly Network Staff have new roles. Joe Creech is now Executive Director, Jenna Van Sickle is Program Director, and Joe Goss is Associate Director. These changes are in conjunction with the Communications Capacity Building Grant we received as well as the five-year \$2.4 Million grant we received from [Lilly Endowment Inc.](#) in 2023. In our new roles, Lilly Network staff members look forward to having more capacity to strengthen church-related higher education over the next several years.

## Save the Date: The 2024 Lilly Network National Conference

The Lilly Network will hold its thirty-fourth annual National Conference, *Hearts and Minds: Undergraduate Spiritual and Intellectual Development at Lilly Network Institutions*, on September 27-29, 2024 at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California. Click here to [learn more](#).

## Fourth Cohort of the Lilly Faculty Fellows Program

We are happy to announce that the Lilly Network received 16 applications for the fourth cohort of the [Lilly Faculty Fellows Program](#). Six teams were chosen to form this cohort from [Hope College](#), [Johnson University](#), [Mount St. Mary's University](#), [Providence College](#), [Seattle Pacific University](#), and [Wittenberg University](#). The group will have its first meeting on June 24-27, 2024 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

## Virtual Conference at Villanova University: Building Sustainable Peace after Genocide: Lessons from Rwanda and Bosnia and Herzegovina, April 11-12, 2024

[Villanova University](#) will host a virtual Zoom conference that will bring together internationally renowned academics and activists to discuss their knowledge and experience of peacebuilding in the Bosnian and Rwandan contexts, religion and peacebuilding, and international law and transitional justice. The conference will provide an opportunity to learn how members of faith communities have courageously and creatively engaged in peacemaking activities in areas characterized by ethnic and religious tensions.

[Register to sign-up and receive the Zoom link.](#)

## Conference at John Brown University: Enacting Justice, Mercy, and Reconciliation on a Diverse Campus, May 15, 2024

[John Brown University](#) is hosting a conference is to gather faculty, staff, and administrators from our surrounding region, many of which are in rural, suburban, or small city settings, to discuss how to enact better the biblical values of justice, mercy, and reconciliation in our classrooms, in athletics, in residential and student life, in chapel, and in student success. This conference will be held on May 15, 2024.

## Conference at Whitworth University: Renewing Mind and Heart, October 17-19, 2024

October 17-19, 2024, the Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning at [Whitworth University](#) aims to rekindle an ongoing conversation about these questions by hosting a conference on the theme: "Renewing Mind and Heart: Questions for the Next Generation in Christian Higher Education." Over three days, the conference will feature plenary talks from leading Christian thinkers, worship led by Porter's Gate, facilitated conversation over shared meals, and break-out sessions designed to encourage more focused disciplinary conversations about the integration of faith, scholarship, and teaching.

[Learn more about the conference here.](#)

## Recent Lilly Network Mentoring Grants

Mentoring programs have been among the most popular and successful of all Lilly Network initiatives. [Mentoring Program Grants](#) provide funds to nurture new and junior faculty at Network institutions and strengthen the commitment of all faculty to institutional mission. Well-constructed mentoring programs encourage new faculty as well as veteran faculty to understand and share the ethos of the school, to grow to love the questions that the institution holds dear, and to consider the importance of fundamental matters concerning the relationship between higher learning and the Christian faith. Such programs also seek to renew and deepen the commitment of the whole institution and its leaders to those central intellectual and spiritual matters. To learn more about Mentoring Program Grants, see the [Lilly Network website](#). The current deadline for the submission of applications for the 2025-2026 academic year is September 15, 2024.

In 2022-23, the LFP National Network Board awarded Mentoring Program Grants for the 2023-24 academic year to [Assumption University](#), [Manhattan College](#), [Messiah University](#), [Seton Hall University](#), and [University of the Incarnate Word](#).

## Recent Lilly Network Small Grants

The Lilly Network invites Network institutions to apply for small grants of \$3000 to stimulate conversation about church-related higher education and church-related mission on their campuses or among church-related institutions in close proximity to each other. The Lilly Network hopes these grants will extend and strengthen the national conversation about church-related higher learning and mission within and among our network campuses. The [Small Grant program](#) is designed to fund new programs on network campuses rather than supplement ongoing ones. The current deadline for the submission of applications for the 2025-2025 academic year is September 15, 2024.

In 2022-23 the LFP National Network Board awarded Small Grants for the academic year 2023-24 to [Benedictine University](#), [Molloy University](#), and [Sterling College](#).

## Recent Lilly Network Conferences and Collaborations at Gordon College and Grove City College

In May 2023, [Gordon College](#) hosted a collaboration entitled, “Teaching Peace in a New Era of Global Conflict.” For this event, Gordon College coordinated a three-day workshop with the European Center for the Study of War and Peace, based in Zagreb, Croatia. Thirteen participants represented six historically faith-based colleges and universities. Collaborators worked toward an understanding and framework around the centrality of peacemaking to church-related higher education. Participants considered how each partner institution could increase peace education while integrating the teaching of peacemaking into the academic disciplines represented by our participants.

On March 30-31, 2023, [Grove City College](#) hosted an on-campus Lilly Fellows Regional Conference on “Christianity and Core Texts at Global/Cultural Crossroads.” Panelists were asked to deliver scholarly or pedagogical papers on a primary text or core text from a non-Western tradition that engages with Christian faith, practice, or tradition, including works of literature, philosophy, theology, history, and the fine arts. Panels engaged with works and authors from Uganda, Rwanda, Peru, India, Japan, Martinique, Cameroon, the United States, and various Christian communities in the Middle East. Gene Luen Yang, an award-winning graphic novelist and cartoonist, delivered the keynote address on Thursday evening. Alongside visuals of his cartooning work throughout the years, Yang offered a personal account of his life as he navigated the tensions and harmonies between his Chinese heritage, his search for vocational direction as an artist, and his Catholic faith. On Friday afternoon, Dr. Susan VanZanten (Valparaiso University) gave a plenary address centered on Christian ethics in contemporary ecocriticism and West African fiction, particularly the recent novel *How Beautiful We Were* (2021) by Cameroonian author

Imbolo Mbue. Dr. VanZanten's lecture offered a critical framework for connecting global literatures in light of current environmental crises.

### **Description and Guidelines for Hosting a Conference or Collaboration**

[Collaboration and Conference Grants](#) represent a flexible category of programs that encourage examination of topics of special significance to faculty, administrators, and students at a particular institution or group of institutions, or matters of special intellectual concern to faculty and others in Christian higher education. The focus, character, and constituency of the conference, collaboration, or workshop may vary to suit the needs of the applicant, within the general guidelines listed above. Previous successful conferences, collaborations, and workshops have focused on issues facing schools in a particular region, topics of current debate among faculty at a particular school, student life issues, graduate student matters, various theological or denominational traditions in higher education, an array of topics in liberal and professional education, and issues of civic and public concern to the Christian intellectual community. The deadline for applications to host a Collaboration or Conference in the 2025-2026 academic year is September 15, 2024.

### **Apply to Hold a Lilly Network Exchange**

[Network Exchange Programs](#) allow Network institutions to showcase distinctive, signature projects, institutes, or curricula that highlight the Christian or church-related characteristics of their schools. They provide for an extended visitation by faculty and leaders from other Network colleges, allowing close observation and study of the pertinent program, so that other institutions might learn from the host institution's experience and perspectives.

Any established and distinctive institution, program, or curricular emphasis that especially promotes the college or university's mission and Christian character may be an appropriate focus for a Network Exchange. These may be programmatic initiatives like core programs, honors programs, interdisciplinary programs, or capstone courses. Or they might take the form of research or study institutes, international experiences, co-curricular programs, off-campus study centers, or service learning programs.

A Network Exchange program may be funded for \$25,000. The next deadline for applying for a Network Exchange in the 2025-2026 academic year is September 15, 2024.

### **New Website is Coming Soon**

The Lilly Network of Church-Related Colleges and Universities (formerly The Lilly Fellows Program) will soon have a new website, [thelillynetwork.org](http://thelillynetwork.org). We have been working hard to update the look and organization of our website, and we will send a special announcement when it is live.

The website is part of a larger transition we have been undertaking, in consultation with our National Network Board, to adopt a new name and logo. The names of our fellowship programs will not change.

### **Deadlines for Grants and Fellowships**

Grants:

The next series of programs that will receive funding are: [Mentoring Programs](#), [Small Grants](#), [Network Exchanges](#), and [Collaborations and Conferences](#). Proposals for the programs are due **September 15, 2024**.