Eligibility for the Lilly Faculty Fellows Program: FAQ

1. What are the most important characteristics in selecting Faculty Fellow Applicants? Are you favoring any fields over others?
The most important characteristics for the team of two are creativity and leadership; these characteristics are more important than specific fields, though we are especially trying to involve faculty from STEM, social scientific, and professional fields. Especially since this is the first cohort of Lilly Faculty Fellows, we want participants who (1) generate fresh new ways of considering connections between Christian thought and Practice and the academic vocation and (2) have the leadership skills to pilot a program on their home campuses. We want teams of two because we recognize both skill sets might not abide in a single person. One additional characteristic is that the applicants be committed, at least at present, to remaining for the foreseeable future at their sponsoring schools.

2. What do you mean by “mid-career?” Can full professors apply?
By mid-career, we mean tenured (probably within one to three years, though perhaps longer). Full professors can apply (we recognize that designations of associate or full can vary from institution to institution). In determining the feasibility of a particular candidate, the most important thing to consider is whether a candidate’s academic pathway is fixed or emerging. So by “mid-career,” we mean those who are still discerning the ultimate shape their careers will take—whether a focus on writing, teaching, administration, becoming a public intellectual, etc. The components of the program dealing with vocational discernment will assume the Fellows are in this particular stage of their careers. In general, keep in mind the answer to question number 1 in this FAQ.

3. Can administrators apply?
Administrators can apply, but the preference is for scholars who are primarily teaching. That said, it might be the case that designations of associate or full can vary from institution to institution). In determining the feasibility of a particular candidate, the most important thing to consider is whether a candidate's academic pathway is fixed or emerging. So by “mid-career,” we mean those who are still discerning the ultimate shape their careers will take—whether a focus on writing, teaching, administration, becoming a public intellectual, etc. The components of the program dealing with vocational discernment will assume the Fellows are in this particular stage of their careers. In general, keep in mind the answer to question number 1 in this FAQ.

4. It looks like you want people from STEM, professional fields, or social sciences to apply. Can people in humanities or arts apply?
Yes, faculty in humanities and arts can apply. While we want a solid representation from other fields, if one of the very best faculty members for the Fellowship at your campus is in the humanities and arts, then put that person forward.

5. What will the campus programs look like? Do we need to coordinate those ahead of time with the administration prior to submitting an application?
We want the campus programs to emerge from the first year of the Faculty Fellows Program itself, so we do not want teams to plan too much what shape their projects might take. Nevertheless, pertinent people on your campus should be aware of the Fellowship and on-campus component. Seeking administrative approval of the applications should include preliminary conversation about who on campus should be involved in such a project. These conversations will also be beneficial for the applicant teams to determine campus needs and make appropriate faculty and administrative contacts on campus.

6. How many Faculty Fellow cohorts will you fund?
A generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. will support three additional cohorts, or four total.

7. Can more than one team from a single campus apply?
Yes, though, of course, only one team from a single school may be selected.
7. Can a non-tenure-track member of the faculty be an application team member?
Yes, if the faculty member has a regular full-time appointment and meets the other criteria of creativity, leadership, and long-term commitment to the school.