



## LFP Update 17.3

### September 2022

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

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### The 2022 LFP Annual National Conference: *Implicit Racial Bias and the Academy*

The 32nd annual LFP [National Conference](#), *Implicit Racial Bias and the Academy*, will take place on the campus of [Lipscomb University](#) October 28-30, 2022. [Registration is now open.](#)

In his 2020 book, *Begin Again: James Baldwin’s America and its Urgent Lessons for our Own*, Princeton professor Eddie Glaude writes extensively about what he calls “the lie” regarding race in the United States. “The lie,” he argues, “is a broad and powerful architecture of false assumptions . . . that support the everyday order of American life, which means we breathe them like air. We count them as truths. We absorb them into our character.”

In light of Glaude’s argument, this conference will ask about implicit racial bias in the academy—how we organize the academy, how we think about knowledge, how we structure a curriculum, how we frame our disciplines, how we recruit and admit our students, how we do our scholarship, and how we teach.

Further, the academy is devoted to critical thinking, but to what extent is our ability to think critically about race also hampered by implicit racial bias?

Finally, the Christian gospel rejects racial bias, both explicit and implicit. How might church-related colleges and universities employ the gospel narrative to expose and undermine implicit racial bias on our campuses?

These are the questions that will frame the 2022 Lilly Fellows Program National Conference.

In addition to Eddie Glaude, we are delighted to have Tabitha Jones Jolivet and Forrest E. Harris, Sr. as keynote speakers. Tabitha Jones Jolivet is an associate professor in the School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences at [Azusa Pacific University](#) and co-author of *White Jesus: the Architecture of Racism in Religion and Education*. Forrest E. Harris, Sr. is president of American Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee, and professor/director of the Kelly Miller Smith Institute on Black Church Studies at Vanderbilt University.

Registration is open until September 6, 2022. For more information, [click here](#).

## The 2022 Workshop for Senior Administrators: *Fostering Belonging: Renewing the Conversation about Race and Mission*

Immediately preceding the [National Conference](#) will be the [Twenty-Second Annual Workshop for Senior Administrators](#) on the topic: *Fostering Belonging: Renewing the Conversation about Race and Mission*.

The 2022 Workshop for Senior Administrators will offer the opportunity for senior administrators at church-related colleges and universities to engage Dr. Willie James Jennings concerning his critique of the aims and purposes of higher education elucidated in *After Whiteness: An Education in Belonging* (Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2020). We will sit with the critique, think about how it might impact the way we understand our campuses, and then begin to think about how we might respond in a way that invigorates and renews the conversation about race, justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion on our campuses by understanding how they connect to our deepest aims in student formation and Christian mission.

The Workshop is offered at no cost to senior administrators at [Lilly Network member institutions](#). Each institution is eligible to register one senior administrator (president, vice president, academic dean, provost, or equivalent). One participant from each school will be reimbursed for travel costs up to \$600. Meals and hotel accommodations will also be paid by the Lilly National Network of Church-Related Colleges and Universities. Additional participants from member schools will be waitlisted until the registration deadline in early September and will be enrolled as slots become available.

Registration is now closed. For more information on the [Administrators Workshop](#), [click here](#).

## Call for Applications for the Third Cohort of Lilly Faculty Fellows

The Lilly Faculty Fellows Program is currently accepting applications for the 2023-2025 cohort of [The Lilly Faculty Fellows Program](#) for mid-career faculty leaders across the disciplines to engage the intersections of Christian thought and practice with the academic vocation. This initiative will:

- refresh and enliven a sense of calling for participants as people of faith, as teachers, and scholars;
- provide a space for creative exploration of how Christian thought and practice intersect the academic vocation; and
- provide funds for Fellows to develop and pilot Faculty Fellow programs on their own campuses.

Although the Lilly Network has in the past emphasized faculty programs in humanities and the arts, this project especially seeks applicants from STEM, social scientific, and professional fields.

[Click here for Dates and Schedule, Eligibility, and Application Information.](#) **The application Deadline is November 15, 2022.**

Applicants will be notified of their status by February 15, 2023.

## Update on the Lilly Graduate Fellows Program

We are happy to report that [Eleventh Cohort](#) of Lilly Graduate Fellows, mentored by Mark Ruff at [Saint Louis University](#) and Jane Kelley Rodeheffer of [Pepperdine University](#), completed its three-year program held its final conference at [Saint John's University](#), in Collegeville, Minnesota August 6-10, 2022. The Fellows engaged with the [Saint John's Bible](#) and the [Saint John's Pottery studio](#) at Saint John's University. They also discussed Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship* and Dostoyevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* and enjoyed time on Lake Sagatagan. Saint John's and everyone the group met extended their usual characteristic hospitality, and everyone left the conference with gratitude for the time spent there.

The [Twelfth Cohort](#) of Lilly Graduate Fellows, mentored by Martha (Marti) Greene Eads of [Eastern Mennonite University](#) and Charles Strauss of [Mount St. Mary's University](#) met for its first summer conference June 4-7, 2022 at Eastern Mennonite University. The cohort spent time discussing Flannery O'Connor's "The Lame Shall Enter First," Carolyn Yoder's *Little Book of Trauma Healing*, and David Smith's *On Christian Teaching*. The group also learned about Trauma Awareness and Resilience from Elaine Zook Barge, Professor Emerita of Peacebuilding at EMU, and shared songs of importance to their own spiritual journeys. In addition, the cohort worshipped at [Lindale Mennonite Church](#), watched the sun set in Shenandoah National Park, ate dinner at a traditional Mennonite home, and enjoyed a concert by [The Walking Roots Band](#). Throughout their time, the group enjoyed the scenery of the Shenandoah Valley; appreciated the hospitality, music, and traditions of the Mennonite people they visited; and found the time to be one of restoration and renewal.

## Selection Information for the Next Cohort of Lilly Graduate Fellows

The LFP has determined to pause the Lilly Graduate Fellows Program selection process in order to allow the LFP to assess a number of questions regarding changes in graduate education, the academic job market, and higher education more generally that impact the nature of the program and the process of recruitment. Look for more details regarding these determinations in the coming months.

## Call to Apply for Lilly Network Grants

We are very happy to announce that the Lilly Network received a five-year grant of \$2.5 million from [Lilly Endowment Inc.](#) in 2018 to support activities on Network campuses that connect Christianity and church-related mission to the academic vocation. We invite Lilly Network member schools to submit grant proposals in order to take advantage of these Lilly Endowment funds by September 15, 2022. Proposals can be submitted for the following:

- [Grants for faculty development and mentoring](#) ranging from \$3,000 to \$12,000.
- [Grants for Mentoring Programs](#) for \$12,000
- [Grants for Regional Collaborations and Conferences](#) for \$12,500.
- [Grants for Network Exchanges for sharing best practices](#) at \$25,000.

## Registration is open: “Vatican II and Catholic Higher Education: Leading Forward”

Sacred Heart University celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, as well as the 60th anniversary of the University’s founding in the spirit of Vatican II. Both the first session of Vatican II and Bishop Walter W. Curtis’ founding of Sacred Heart University took place during October 1962.

To celebrate this landmark moment in the history of Catholic higher education and the Catholic intellectual tradition, Sacred Heart University, sponsored by a grant from the Lilly Fellows Program, and supported by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities is assembling a conference of thinkers, writers, and artists who will offer deep, creative, and interpretive reflection on the impact of Vatican II on Catholic higher education. We want to examine and imagine how Vatican II can lead and move Catholic higher education forward. We want to explore how our reading and understanding of Vatican II documents, as well as the formative thinkers of Vatican II and the Catholic intellectual tradition, can deepen and expand our vision of Catholic higher education, addressing new and old challenges.

### Keynote Speakers:

- Massimo Faggioli, Villanova University
- Grant Kaplan, St. Louis University
- Susan Reynolds, Emory University
- Patricia McGuire, Trinity Washington University

**Conference Dates: October 13-15, 2022.**

Registration and additional information can be found [here](#).

## Save the date: “Christianity and Core Texts at Global/Cultural Crossroads”

The Grove City English Department invites participants and presenters to an in-person Lilly Fellows Program Regional Conference: “Christianity and Core Texts at Global/Cultural Crossroads,” held on campus at Grove City College in Spring 2023. The conference will include plenary addresses by graphic novelist and artist Gene Luen Yang and scholar Dr. Susan VanZanten.

Describing the vexed position of the Christian in a postcolonial nation, Ghanaian theologian Mercy Amba Oduyoye writes, “What is specifically Christian is irresistible. But Christianity in Africa began by confusing Christianity with European culture” (*Inheriting Our Mothers’ Gardens* 39). Christianity has often been mistaken for and sometimes presented as a purely Western phenomenon, but this has never been the case—Christian communities like the Ethiopian Church and the Saint Thomas Christians of India trace their roots back to the time of the apostles. This fact is becoming ever more apparent today as the demographic center of even Western Christianity shifts eastward and southward. If, as St. Paul says, the Gospel is “a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles,” then Christianity presents a challenge to the conventional wisdom of any culture or nation. Christianity is not inherently more compatible with Western culture than it is with any of the cultures of the East or the Global South. How might American scholars and American students, especially those who also find Christianity “irresistible,” understand and learn from Christian thinkers and treatments of Christian communities in these global texts?

Look for a call for papers in fall 2022.

## Deadlines for Grants

### *Grants:*

The next series of programs that will receive funding are: [Mentoring Programs](#), [Small Grants](#), [Network Exchanges](#), and [Regional Collaboration and Conferences](#). Proposals for the programs are due **September 15, 2022**.

### *Fellowships:*

Applications for the Lilly Faculty Fellowship are due November 15, 2022.

For more information, visit the [LFP website](#).

## Facebook and Twitter

As always, the LFP can be followed on Facebook and Twitter at [@LFProgram](#) and [@Exilesfromeden](#).