



LFP Update 17.1

February 2022

Welcome to the LFP Update, an e-publication from the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts 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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Save the Date: the 2022 LFP National Conference

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.

Speakers include Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor and Department of African American Studies at Princeton University and a former president of the American Academy of Religion; Tabitha Jones Jolivet, 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*; and Forrest E. Harris, president of American Baptist College, Nashville, Tennessee, and Professor/director of the Kelly Miller Smith Institute on Black Church Studies at Vanderbilt University.

Registration will open in May 2022.

The 2022 Workshop for Senior Administrators will be held at Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN on October 27-28, 2022.

Call for Nominations, 2022 Arlin G. Meyer Prize in Imaginative Writing

The LFP office is now accepting nominations for the [Eleventh Biennial Arlin G. Meyer Prize](#), which for 2022 will honor works in Imaginative Writing.

The Arlin G. Meyer Prize is awarded biennially to a full-time faculty member from a college or university in the [Lilly Fellows Program National Network](#) whose work was published in 2019, 2020, or 2021. Work that exemplifies the practice of the Christian artistic or scholarly vocation in relation to any pertinent subject matter or literary and artistic style will be considered. The prize will be awarded in different years for works of creative imagination and for works of scholarship. The 2022 Arlin G. Meyer Prize will reward the author of a creative work that emerges from his or her practice of the vocation of the Christian creative writer, in accord with the principles and ideals of the Lilly Fellows Program. In subsequent years, the Meyer Prize will honor those who practice in the fields of non-fiction, musical performance, performance art, and visual arts.

The Prize honors the late Arlin G. Meyer, Professor Emeritus of English at Valparaiso University, who served as program director of the Lilly Fellows Program from its inception in 1991 until his retirement in 2002. The Prize of \$3000 will be awarded at the Lilly Fellows Program National Conference at Lipscomb University, October 28-30, 2022. For more information on the prize, see the [Arlin G. Meyer Prize website](#).

The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2022.

Applications received for the LFP Postdoctoral Fellowship

We are happy to announce that the LFP received 35 completed applications for the [LFP Postdoctoral Fellowship](#) at [Valparaiso University](#). Look for the announcement of the incoming Fellow, including a profile, in the August issue of the LFP Update.

Notice: Third Cohort of Lilly Faculty Fellows

In spring 2022, the LFP will issue a call for applications for the Third Cohort of Lilly Faculty Fellows. You can read about the Lilly Faculty Fellows Program [Here](#).

Register now: Regional Conference at Valparaiso University, "Religion, State, and Nationalism: Problems and Possibilities"

On April 8, 2022, [Valparaiso University](#), in partnership with the Lilly Fellows Program, invites you to a special symposium, "Religion, State, and Nationalism: Problems and Possibilities." The symposium will take place in three sessions, with the first focusing on problems, the second on possibilities, and the third on integrating issues of faith, nationalism, and the problems of historical memory into undergraduate curricula.

Description: Today's world is witnessing to new configurations of alliances and conflicts between religious institutions and the state. Religion is a key player in rewriting nationalist narratives that underpin state policies. In the United States, evangelical Christians influence state policies and contribute to nationalist agendas. The Orthodox Church is a leader in the resurgence of nationalism in post-Soviet Russia and the rehabilitation of the mythological past of "Holy Russia" that contributes to the state's ideological agenda. Analysts express concern that religion will fuel the flames of nationalist isolationism and increase the possibilities for international incidents of polarization, violence, and war. Critics call for the complete separation of religious organizations from the state. In some places of the world, cooperation between religious institutions and the state can become a positive force at the local and international levels. Religious leaders can consult the state and contribute to the formation of national identity that is inclusive and does not pose a threat to international peace.

The symposium is a hybrid event. Participants may attend in-person or via livestream.

Confirmed panelists:

Antoine Arjakovsky, Collège de Bernardins, Paris
Scott Hibbard, DePaul University, Chicago
Atalia Omer, [University of Notre Dame](#), South Bend
Robert Saler, Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis
Dorian Llywelyn, S.J., Santa Clara University
Slavica Jakelic, [Valparaiso University](#)
Timothy Larsen, [Wheaton College](#)
Philipp Gollner, [Goshen College](#)
Samuel Graber, [Valparaiso University](#)

Registration is now open. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

Call for Papers: Regional Conference at Sacred Heart University, “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 on October 13-15, 2022. 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. We look for papers that explore, examine, and engage the importance of how we can best preserve, transmit, and cultivate the Catholic intellectual tradition and its ongoing development, moving it forward into a global, pluralistic 21st century. We invite papers that consider the importance of how our institutions of higher learning can foster a vital and robust Catholic identity and mission while at the same time embrace diversity and inclusion. We seek presentations that consider the value of the formation of our students—as intellectual, spiritual, and social—at our institutions of higher education. We seek papers that promote the project of Catholic higher education into the future.

Keynote Speakers:

Massimo Faggioli, [Villanova University](#)
Grant Kaplan, [St. Louis University](#)
Susan Reynolds, Emory University
Patricia McGuire, Trinity Washington University

ABSTRACTS:

Abstracts of no more than 500 words should be sent to: SHU-VaticanIIConference@sacredheart.edu no later than Monday April 4, 2022. For more information, a conference flyer, and a full call for papers, [click here](#).

The deadline for submissions is April 4, 2022.

Regional Conference at Grove City College, “Christianity and Core Texts at Global/Cultural Crossroads,” now Spring 2023

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 feature 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 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.

Recent LFP Mentoring Grants

[Mentoring Programs](#) have been among the most popular and successful of all LFP initiatives. Mentoring Programs 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 programs, see the LFP website [here](#). The current deadline for the submission of applications for the 2023-2024 academic year is September 15, 2022.

In 2020-21, the LFP National Network Board awarded Mentoring Program grants for the 2021-22 academic year to Loyola Marymount University and Mount St. Mary’s University.

Recent LFP Small Grant Programs

The Lilly Fellows Program National 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 another. The LFP hopes these grants will extend and strengthen the LFP’s 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 2023-2024 academic year is September 15, 2022.

In 2020-21 the LFP National Network Board awarded Small Grants for the academic year 2021-22 to East Texas Baptist University, Northwest Nazarene University, McMurray University, Saint Xavier University, and University of Pikeville. **In addition, 15 small grants were awarded** in Fall 2020 on racial justice, most of which

were immediately put into action in the 2020-2021 academic year. More information about those grants is available in the February 2021 LFP Update.

Recent LFP Regional Collaborations and Conferences at Azusa Pacific University, Belmont Abbey College, and Indiana Wesleyan University

On May 25, 2021, Azusa Pacific University hosted a full-day virtual conference entitled “Reckoning and Reimagining: Envisioning a Faithful Presence in the Liberal Arts” to gather a diverse, interdisciplinary group of Christian scholars, clergy, religious leaders, and students to discuss timely issues of reckoning and reimagining. The conference offered insights, theory, and research to inform an understanding of a robust response to the global enduring impacts of COVID-19, including reimagining the liberal arts through the general education curricular revision and other initiatives. The conference supported institutions from the regional Lilly Network and beyond to participate in panels of faculty and students working together to address the concepts of decolonization, mindfulness, equity, and action in Spring 2021. Panelists shared strategies, curricular innovations, and innovative research in response to COVID-19, the perceived resurgence in overt xenophobia and racism, and how this impacts liberal arts curricula. This conference was envisioned to address four session tracks, or content areas: economics, socio-politics, healthcare, and racial tensions in relation to the Christian faith. Presentations and outcomes from the conference, including recommendations synthesized from these collaborations directed toward the implementation of more just, inclusive, and equitable curricula, are being disseminated among the participants and others in the Lilly Network. Videos from this conference are still available here.

On September 10-11, 2021, Belmont Abbey College hosted a conference dedicated to examining intellectual and cultural “Crises in the Modern West: The Drama of Atheist Humanism.” Over 100 faculty and student participants from nine area campuses focus on contemporary authors who have penetrating insights into such crises as well as authors of “great books” of the Western tradition. The conference included seminars involving close reading and Socratic dialogue, which enabled students to experience a pedagogy centered on communal encounters with great authors serving as their teachers. Participating faculty had the opportunity to learn about or hone their practice of this pedagogy. This conference also provided an opportunity for faculty to connect with regional colleagues from church-related colleges and universities who are interested in discussing great texts and fundamental human questions.

On August 11-12, 2021, the Wesleyan Education Council convened at Houghton College in Houghton, NY, to address issues related to the mission, purpose, and value of Wesleyan Higher Education and allow for further collaboration among these institutions, and the opportunity to chart the future. Topics included: articulating the shared mission of the Wesleyan higher education institutions in light of denominational priorities; the value proposition of Wesleyan Higher Education, hindrances to enrollment, mutual support among Wesleyan institutions; equipping students to be Christians who influence their workplaces and integrate their faith; and increasing effectiveness and efficiency of the institutions to result in lower costs for attendance.

Description and Guidelines for Hosting a Regional Conference or Collaboration.

Regional Collaboration and Conferences 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 Regional Collaboration or Conference in the 2023-2024 academic year is September 15, 2022. For more information, [click here](#).

Please Visit our “Upcoming Events” menu for future Regional Conferences. Many will be scheduled for 2022-2023 as restrictions on travel ease.

Upcoming LFP Network Exchange Program

[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 2023-2024 academic year is September 15, 2022. [Click here for more information about submitting a proposal](#).

On March 6-9, 2022, Hope College is hosting a Network Exchange to present “Hope College Big Read: Literature Connecting Campus and Community.” The workshop will be attended by 13 faculty members and administrators from Lilly National Network institutions. It will use the “Big Read Lakeshore” as an entry point in exploring the intersections between literature, campus, and community engagement and faith commitment. The NEA Big Read Lakeshore is an annual month-long, community-wide reading program. In collaboration with area schools, libraries, non-profit organizations and businesses, the Big Read offers more than 50 events and book discussions, and regularly involves 12,000 participants of all ages. During the course of their visit to Hope, the workshop participants will interact with program teachers, librarians and students; and contribute to breakout conversations on related topics and share perspectives and ideas from their home institutions. Topics will include articulating faith-based approaches to studying and discussing literature; aligning institutional missions and program goals; sharing best practices around program implementation and community partnerships; and conducting research and scholarship related to the programs.

Faith and Reason in the Reformations Volume Published

In 2017, Central College Hosted a Regional Conference on Faith and Reason in conjunction with the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The work of this conference, *Faith and Reason in the Reformations* has now been edited by Terence Kleven and published by Lexington Books.

Deadlines for Grants and Other Opportunities

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**.

Other Opportunities:

The Deadline to submit nominations for the Eleventh Biennial Arlin G. Meyer Prize, which for 2022 will honor works in Imaginative Writing, is March 1, 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.