



THE LILLY NETWORK

OF CHURCH-RELATED
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Lilly Network Update 19.2

May 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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The 2024 Lilly Network National Conference: Hearts & Minds: Undergraduate Spiritual and Intellectual Development at Lilly Network Institutions

The 34th annual Lilly Network [National Conference](#), *Hearts & Minds: Undergraduate Spiritual and Intellectual Development at Lilly Network Institutions*, will take place on September 27-29, 2024, at [Westmont College](#) in Santa Barbara, California. [Registration](#) is now open, and will close on August 13, 2024.

In many different ways, Lilly Network colleges and universities intend that the Christian identities of their institutions should shape their undergraduates' experience – that students should be somehow formed by the faith commitments of their schools. We hear anecdotally about how this happens, in the classroom and beyond. But what would we learn from more systematic analysis? How do undergraduates experience their own intellectual and social enlargement in relation to faith commitment? Are young people indeed exploring how their professional and personal paths intersect with faith-informed narratives? Are their patterns of church affiliation affected by what they learn or do as students?

The centerpiece of the [conference](#) will be a new study, commissioned by the Lilly Network and implemented by [Springtide Research Institute](#), that investigates the intellectual-religious experience of undergraduates at Lilly member schools. Springtide's director, Tricia Bruce, will present findings from that study, Fuller Seminary's Steve Argue will provide additional framing about young-adult development, and a panel of religious-life professionals drawn from Lilly campuses will give a snapshot of what they've seen with their students.

The 2024 Lilly Network Workshop for Senior Administrators: The Spiritual and Intellectual Lives of Our Students: What the New Data Show

Immediately preceding the [National Conference](#) will be the Twenty-Fourth Annual [Workshop for Senior Administrators](#) on the related topic: *The Spiritual and Intellectual Lives of Our Students: What the New Data Show*. [Registration](#) is now open, and will close on August 13, 2024.

The 2024 [Workshop](#) will offer the opportunity for senior administrators at church-related colleges and universities to consider how their undergraduates understand and experience spiritual and intellectual formation. The centerpiece of the workshop will be a report and analysis of a first-of-its kind ecumenical survey of schools in the Lilly Network of Church-Related Colleges and Universities conducted by [Springtide Research Institute](#) in fall 2023. Participants will engage these findings at a strategic level and think through and discuss how to design curricular, faculty development, religious, and student life programs in response. Even though individual schools have received their respective data from the survey, all the results presented at the Workshop will guard anonymity.

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 Network of Church-Related Colleges and Universities. Space is limited; additional participants from member schools will be waitlisted until the registration deadline (August 13, 2024) and will be enrolled as slots become available after that date.

Introducing the 2024-2025 Lilly Postdoctoral Fellows

We are happy to announce that after interviewing four finalists, a selection committee of [Valparaiso University](#) faculty has selected Ann Marie Jakubowski and Ludwig Noya as the 2024-2026 [Lilly Postdoctoral Fellows](#). The Lilly Fellows Program offers a residential two-year postdoctoral teaching fellowship at Valparaiso University for teacher-scholars who seek to renew and enrich their intellectual and spiritual lives while preparing for leadership roles in teaching and administration in church-related institutions of higher education.

Ann Marie Jakubowski is an English literature scholar whose interdisciplinary research explores religious conversion as it emerges across the archive of global modernist literature, and ultimately aims to decouple the experience of conversion from the literary conventions of narrative. Her current project *Towards a Poetics of Conversion* foregrounds conversion's literary status as an experience unfolding in and through language. The work argues that developing a poetics of conversion offers new ways to imagine the conversion experience in

all its complexity, preserving space for ambiguity, ambivalence, and contingency along the way. Jakubowski also has research interests in literary and scientific connections related to the history of anesthesia and questions of suffering, transcendence, and relief. She will defend her Ph.D. dissertation at Washington University in St. Louis in the summer of 2024.

Ludwig Noya is a Hebrew Bible scholar whose dissertation *Rest as a Site of Struggle: Reconsidering Sabbath Narratives in the Hebrew Bible* reconsiders the general claim among scholars that the Sabbath is universally liberative and shows how the Sabbath concept has benefitted some at the expense of others. The work rereads the Sabbath narratives in the Hebrew Bible in their ancient Near Eastern labor relation contexts and in conversation with the Sabbath experiences of the Antebellum enslaved in North American and the British colonized in the Global South. Ultimately, Noya calls for a reimagined Sabbath concept that will benefit all people. In further research, Noya intends to consider the concept of the Sabbath in Legal and Prophetic traditions, aiming to intervene in land seizure issues experienced by marginalized communities. He will defend his dissertation in May 2024 at Vanderbilt University.

New Lilly Network Website Now Available

The Lilly Network of Church-Related Colleges and Universities has a new website, thelillynetwork.org. It presents improved mobile optimization, easier navigation, and a new look and feel. 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.

Conference at John Brown University: Enacting Justice, Mercy, and Reconciliation on a Diverse Campus, May 13, 2024

[John Brown University](#) is hosting a conference to gather faculty, staff, and administrators from the 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 classrooms, in athletics, in residential and student life, in chapel, and in student success. This conference will be held on May 13, 2024. More information is available [here](#), and registration is available [here](#).

Conference at Abilene Christian University: Expanding Minds and Hearts through Global Learning and Study Abroad, September 29 – October 1, 2024

[Abilene Christian University](#) will hold the next conference in its “[Best Practices in Christian Higher Ed](#)” series on September 29-October 1, 2024. The theme for the 2024 conference is “[Expanding Minds and Hearts Through Global Learning and Study Abroad](#).” Keynote speaker Melissa Torres, President of The Forum on Education Abroad will present the theme keynote on Study Abroad, and Dr. Alex Sosler, Assistant Professor of Bible and Ministry at Montreat College and Assisting Priest at Redeemer Anglican Church will provide theological perspectives in his keynote address. This conference offers a platform for attendees to network, exchange insights and research findings, contemplate the distinctive qualities of Christian education, and come together in worship. Register [here](#).

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

What makes a Christian university education worthwhile? How can our academic communities cultivate an education not just of the mind, but also of the heart and soul? And is it possible for Christian universities to draw upon the deep resources of our theological tradition while also critiquing systemic injustice in society and our own communities? On October 17-19, 2024, the [Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning](#) at [Whitworth University](#) will host a conference aiming to rekindle an ongoing conversation around these themes and the future of Christian higher education: “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 and register here.](#)

Call to Apply for Lilly Network Grants

In conjunction with the five-year, \$2.4 million [Lilly Endowment Inc.](#) grant, received by the Lilly Network (then the Lilly Fellows Program) in 2022, we invite Lilly Network [member schools](#) to submit grant proposals to take advantage of these funds by September 15, 2024. Proposals can be submitted for the following:

- [Small Grants](#) for faculty development programs ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000.
- Grants for [Mentoring Programs](#) for \$12,000.
- Grants for [Collaborations and Conferences](#) for \$12,500.
- Grants for [Network Exchanges](#) for sharing best practices at \$25,000.

Virtual Information Sessions for Grant Officers

Virtual information sessions for grant officers will be held May 17, 2024 at 12:00pm Central Time and May 22, 2024 at 2:00pm Central Time. These sessions are free and open to all, but [registration](#) is required. These sessions will go over the four grants we offer, and how [Network schools](#) may apply for them.

Lilly Network National Board Actions in Fall 2023 and Spring 2024

The Lilly Network Board met for its fall meeting on October 19-20, 2023 and its spring meeting on April 6-7, 2024. After considering proposals for [Small Grants](#), [Mentoring Programs](#), and [Collaboration and Conference Grants](#), the board awarded grants to the following institutions:

- Small Grants: [Asbury University](#) and [Concordia University Chicago](#)
- Mentoring Grants: [Belmont University](#), [Concordia College \(MN\)](#), [Union University](#), and [Whitworth University](#)
- Collaborations and Conferences: [Abilene Christian University](#), [Hope College](#), [Indiana Wesleyan University](#), [Lipscomb University](#), [Samford University](#), and [Whitworth University](#)

The Lilly Network board elected the following people as new Board members:

- Douglas Henry, Dean of the Honors College, [Baylor University](#), Waco, TX
- John Sebastian, Vice President for Mission and Ministry, [Loyola Marymount University](#), Los Angeles, CA
- John Ware, Rosa Keller Endowed Professor and Director of Choirs, [Xavier University of Louisiana](#), New Orleans, LA

Finally, the Board approved the application from [Indiana Wesleyan University](#) to host the 2026 National Conference.

Update on the Lilly Faculty Fellows Program

Cohort 3 of the [Faculty Fellows Program](#), consisting of six teams has met three times between June 2023 and April 2024. Teams will now spend academic year 2024-2025 piloting a campus project at their home institution, and they will meet together for a final time in June 2025. They are being led by Susan VanZanten of [Valparaiso University](#) and Patrick Byrne of [Boston College](#).

The Lilly Network received 16 applications for the fourth cohort of the 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. The group will be led by Alison Noble of [Messiah University](#) and Laura Yoder of [Eastern Mennonite University](#).

Update on the Lilly Graduate Fellows Program

[Cohort 12](#) of the [Lilly Graduate Fellows Program](#), mentored by Martha (Marti) Greene Eads at [Eastern Mennonite University](#) and Charles Strauss at [Mount St. Mary's University](#), has been meeting for the past three years, with both in-person conferences in the summer and online colloquia throughout the year. They will have their fourth conference at [Saint John's University](#) (Collegeville, MN) in August 2024.

Upcoming Deadlines for Grants and Other Opportunities

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**.

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

Conference and Workshop Registration:

The deadline to [register](#) for the 2024 [National Conference](#) and the 2024 [Workshop for Senior Administrators](#) is August 13, 2024.