



Intersections

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W E L C O M E T O I N T E R S E C T I O N S

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *Intersections*, the newsletter of the Louisville Institute. You have received this issue because, at some point, you have inquired about our grant programs, applied for and/or received a grant, have attended a conference or consultation, or have simply asked to be on our mailing list.

Bringing news and resource information to those seeking to enrich the religious life of American Christians.

A number of you, in fact, have urged us to publish a Louisville Institute newsletter for a long time. We hope you like what you see and that you will want to continue receiving this complimentary publication three times per year.

The Louisville Institute is located at an intersection—the intersection of church and academy. Given that location, we wish to support people—both church leaders and academics—who share our conviction that strong religious communities, grounded in enduring traditions of thought and practice, are indispensable to a good society.

Such pastors and academics often labor in isolation from one another, an isolation that must end in order for them to do their best work on behalf of American religious life. Pastors and academics must come to know each other, to learn to see the world through each other's eyes, and to take advantage of each other's work. The Louisville Institute exists to serve and facilitate that interaction

between church and academy, and that is the task of *Intersections*.

Intersections, then, hopes to serve the church in the following ways:

- 1) Inform readers (pastors and academics alike) of research and researchers that have been supported by Louisville Institute grants.
- 2) Inform readers of publications that have been produced by those grantees.
- 3) Inform readers of Louisville Institute grant programs and grant deadlines.
- 4) Report on Louisville Institute events, such as our Pastors Working Group, Winter Seminar, and Christian Faith and Life consultations.
- 5) Share news about Louisville Institute "alumni/ae"—new positions, family developments, publications, etc.

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T H E L O U I S V I L L E I N S T I T U T E

The Louisville Institute is a Lilly Endowment Program for the Study of American Religion based at Louisville Seminary.

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P A S T O R S W O R K I N G G R O U P

Last fall thirteen pastors and priests from around the country joined Louisville Institute and Lilly Endowment, Inc. staff for the inaugural meeting of the second Pastors Working Group. Under the leadership of Candler School of Theology professor Dr. Thomas Long, and convened by Institute Associate Director Bill Brosend, the group gathers regularly for worship, discussion and sharing around a common set of readings and writing. Members represent a cross-section from the broad range of American Christianity – Roman Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Episcopalian, Disciples of Christ, United Church of Christ and Lutheran. Although



they represent
diverse
theological
backgrounds,
they share an

uncommon level of pastoral excellence.

The focus of the second Pastors Working Group is “Nourishing the Fragile Community.” Participants are exploring the nature of Christian community, the practices of Christian faith, and pastoral leadership, mixing readings from Kathryn Tanner,

Roberto Goizueta, Jürgen Moltman, Eugene Peterson, Anne Lamott, Henri Nouwen, and others with written reflections on their own pastoral experience. “Test cases” from the representative ministries allow deeper integration and sharing, creating lively and rich discussions.

In addition to Long and Brosend, Craig Dykstra, Vice President for Religion of Lilly Endowment, Inc., who led the first Pastors Working Group (May 2000 – August 2001), and Christopher Coble, a program officer at the Endowment, have contributed greatly to the planning and leadership of this second group. Louisville Institute Executive Director Jim Lewis and Lilly Endowment program officer John Wimmer also participate. At the heart of the group, however, are the pastors themselves:

Monsignor Arturo Bañuelas
Saint Pius X Parish
El Paso, TX

Rev. Jeremiah Boland
Archdiocese of Chicago
Chicago, IL

The Rev. Canon Marianne Wells Borg
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
Portland, OR

Dr. William Buchanan
Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church
Nashville, TN

Rev. Dr. Dwight Cook
Mount Olivet Baptist Church
Rochester, NY

The Rev. Verity Jones
Central Christian Church
Terre Haute, IN

Rev. Peter Marty
Saint Paul Lutheran Church
Davenport, IA

Rev. Dr. William McConville
Saint Francis of Assisi Church
Raleigh, NC

Rev. John McFayden
First Presbyterian Church
Arlington Heights, IL

Rev. Shawnthea Monroe-Mueller
First Congregational Church UCC
Moorhead, MN

Rev. Heidi Neumark
Transfiguration Lutheran Church
Bronx, NY

The Rev. Cherie Parker
Watkins Memorial United Methodist
Church
Louisville, KY

The Rev. Roger Underwood
First Baptist Church
Taylorsville, NC

W I N T E R S E M I N A R

One of the Louisville Institute's oldest traditions continued when the Winter Seminar convened in Louisville on January 17-18, 2003. The tradition actually dates to 1992 when the first of three annual Dissertation Seminars convened, bringing each year's Louisville Institute Dissertation Fellows together for a discussion of their dissertation projects. Beginning in 1995, however, Summer Stipend grantees were invited to participate as well, and the

Winter Seminar was born. (In the interest of historical accuracy, it was called the January Seminar until we adopted the current term in 1999.)

But under whatever name, the purposes of the Winter Seminar have remained constant:

- 1) to provide a hospitable, intergenerational, and interdisciplinary intellectual forum in which grantees can discuss their research;
- 2) to encourage scholars to think about their scholarship in light of the needs of believers and their churches;
- 3) to enable grantees and Louisville Institute Board members to get to know each other.

As Board member Nancy Ammerman has often noted, the Winter Seminar is one of the Board's major modes of continuing education. Despite the unpredictability of January weather in Louisville (23" of snow one year; only 1" this year), the Seminar has consistently fulfilled its purpose. Junior and more senior scholars have been introduced to each other's work and have often remained in contact long after the seminar has ended. Moreover, several scholars whose work was conceived largely in isolation from the concerns of believing communities have begun to consider the possible implications of their work for churches and church folk. Given the mission of the Louisville Institute, this is a particularly welcome development.

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We are sending this inaugural issue of *Intersections* to all those on our current mailing list and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. However, if you do not wish to receive this publication, please notify us at: Louisville Institute, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Louisville, KY 40205, or by sending us an e-mail message to: info@louisville-institute.org.

We would also love to hear from those who want to continue receiving the newsletter as to what kinds of things you would like to see in the newsletter in the months ahead. Please e-mail those suggestions to us at the above address.

Thanks for reading thus far.

Welcome to *Intersections*.

Jim Lewis

Academy of Religion Reception November 2002

The charming city of Toronto was the site of the Louisville Institute's twelfth annual reception at the meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature on November 23, 2002. One particularly enjoyable aspect of the reception over the years is that it enables us to get to know grantees in person whom we have known only through the grant proposal process. Equally valuable is the opportunity the reception provides for different generations of scholars—dissertation writers as well as more senior scholars—to meet and learn about each other's work.

This year, approximately one hundred grantees, Board members, and friends of the Louisville Institute attended the reception and enjoyed the hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and good conversation. Thanks to all of you who were there. We look forward to seeing you (and others) at the thirteenth Louisville Institute reception in Atlanta next November.

2002 SABBATICAL GRANT FOR PASTORAL LEADERS

In early November, a selection committee of pastoral leaders, Institute staff and board members awarded 43 grants totaling over \$450,000 to enable pastoral leaders to take sabbaticals of six- to twelve-weeks between January 1, 2003 and June 30, 2004. Applications jumped an unprecedented 32% compared to 2001, requiring the committee to choose from among 312 proposals, a responsibility complicated by the excellent quality of most applications. "The dramatic increase in the number of applications and the outstanding nature of both applicant and application made the work of selection challenging," Louisville Institute associate director Bill Brosend reported to the Louisville Institute Board during their December meeting, "but it was a wonderful challenge to have."

Recipients of the Sabbatical Grant for Pastoral Leaders (SGPL) gathered on the campus of Louisville Seminary in late February for the fourth annual SGPL Consultation, a time to ask and answer questions about their sabbaticals, become better acquainted with the work of the Louisville Institute, and share in worship, discussion, and fellowship. Dr. Scott Thumma of the Hartford Institute for

Religious Research joined the group to discuss trends in the use of technology and the Internet.

The Louisville Institute is pleased to announce the winners of the 2002 Sabbatical Grant for Pastoral Leaders:

Rev. Kelly Allen

First Presbyterian Church
St. Louis, MO

Rev. Mariann Budde

Saint John the Baptist Episcopal Church
Minneapolis, MN

Rev. Sidney Burgess

Edgewood Presbyterian Church
Birmingham, AL

Rev. Debra Burks

Jubilee United Methodist Church
Waterloo, IA

Rev. Sharon Buttry

Detroit Friendship House, Inc.
Hamtramck, MI

Rev. Lynda Clements

Cutchoque Presbyterian Church
Cutchoque, NY

Rev. Christopher Emerson

First Congregational Church
Manchester, NH

Mr. Davis Froeber

Forest Hills Baptist Church
Raleigh, NC

Dr. Kathleen Gatson

Pilgrim Baptist Church
Woodbury, MN

Rev. Kathy Goodwin

Coke Memorial United Methodist Church
Louisville, KY

Rev. James Harnish

Hyde Park United Methodist Church
Tampa, FL

Rev. Ann Helmke

La Casa de Maria y Marta/ PeaceCENTER
of San Antonio
San Antonio, TX

Rev. Eugene Hemrick

Saint Joseph on Capitol Hill
Washington, DC

Rev. Dr. Anita Hendrix

Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Church
Baltimore, MD

Rev. Gloria Hernandez

Carlock Christian Church
Carlock, IL

Rev. Avis Hoyt-O'Connor

Preston Highway United Methodist Church
Louisville, KY

Rev. Anthony Hudson

Olivet Baptist Church of Christ
Atlanta, GA

Rev. Bill James-Abra

Stratford General Hospital
Stratford, ON, Canada

Sr. Marie Kalb

Shalom Retreat Center - Sisters of St. Francis
Dubuque, IA

Reverends Nelia & R. Calvin Kimbrough

Patchwork Central, Inc.
Evansville, IN

Rev. Lawrence Kreps

John Wesley United Methodist Church
Cincinnati, OH

Dr. Terry Lester

First Baptist Church
London, KY

Rev. Violet Cucciniello Little

Saint Michael's Lutheran Church
Philadelphia, PA

Rev. David Malone

Elcot Church
Lowell, MA

Mrs. Judy Mattson

Holy Cross Lutheran
Baraga, MI

Mrs. Janice McNair

First-Centenary United Methodist Church
Chattanooga, TN

Rev. Richard Ochsner

First Baptist Church, Yarmouth
Yarmouth, ME

Rev. Dr. Normal Phillips

A New Thing Ministry
Atlanta, GA

Rev. Kevin Phillips

Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church
Mountain View, CA

Rev. Dr. William Randall

Risen King Community Church
Redding, CA

Rev. Juan Reed

Saint Martin's Church
Chicago, IL

Rev. Ramiro Ros

Beth-El Farm Workers Ministry, Inc.
Wimauma, FL

Rev. Marsha Roth

Centerville Presbyterian Church
Fremont, CA

Rev. W. Louis Snead

Faith Presbyterian Church
Austin, TX

The Rev. Lydia Speller

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
St. Louis, MO

Dr. John Syster

First Congregational United
Church of Christ, Sarasota
Sarasota, FL

Rev. W. Douglas Tanner

The Faith & Politics Institute
Washington, DC

Rev. Paul Theiss

Mariposa Lutheran Church
Mariposa, CA

Rev. Dr. Gregory Thomas

Calvary Baptist Church
Pelham, NH

Rev. Paul Tshihamba

First Presbyterian Church
Albany, CA

Dr. Robert Welsh

Council on Christian Unity
Indianapolis, IN

Rev. John Wesley

First Christian Church
Bowling Green, KY

Dr. Frederick Zak

Reaching for Christ Ministries,
Inc.
Atlanta, GA

Louisville Institute Board

The Louisville Institute is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors, which is elected by the Board of Trustees of Louisville Seminary. The Board sets policy for the Louisville Institute, and Board members participate in all Louisville Institute grant decisions. Current members of the Board are:

Dr. Nancy Ammerman
Hartford Seminary

Dr. Milton J Coalter
Louisville Presbyterian
Theological Seminary

Dr. David Daniels
McCormick Theological
Seminary

Dr. Roberto S. Goizueta
Boston College

Dr. Kathryn Johnson
Louisville Presbyterian
Theological Seminary

Rev. Michael Mooty
Central Christian
Church

Rev. Paul Philibert, OP
Aquinas Institute of Theology

Prof. Christine Pohl
Asbury Theological Seminary

Rev. David Schreiber
Resurrection Lutheran Church

VITAL LIBERAL CONGREGATIONS CONSULTATION

As previously noted, the Louisville Institute is located at the intersection of church and academy. Given that strategic location, we often seek to bring together academics and church leaders for conversation about important issues in American religious life. The most recent such gathering was the Louisville Institute's Consultation on Vital Liberal Congregations, held on the campus of Louisville Seminary on December 9-10, 2002. Tackling these issues was a wonderful group of academics and pastors who literally came from coast to coast. Each attendee provided a portrait of a congregation they considered to be both vital and liberal, and



those portraits served to launch the conversation, providing some real life grist for our conversational mill.

Our basic motivation for convening the gathering was the conviction that many such "vital liberal congregations" are out there, but we do not yet know much about them. We hoped to identify and describe this congregational reality that thrives just "beneath the radar" (as Institute board member Nancy Ammerman put it) of most academic and media descriptions of American

religious life. As Ammerman noted in her opening remarks, there has been for over thirty years an assumption that vital congregations tend to be theologically and socially conservative. Many megachurches, for example, are described as just that.

But our interest was in those many other congregations that, while illustrating clear signs of vitality, are also characterized by more progressive theological and social stances. Questions such as the following drove the conversation: What makes these congregations "liberal?" What makes them "vital?" How do they resemble (and differ from) each other in terms of factors such as age, size and location of the congregation? What is the nature of their pastoral leadership? Theology? Worship and spiritual practices? Mode of engagement with the world? Although none of these questions were answered to the satisfaction of all, we did make considerable progress in clarifying some of the central issues. The final plenary discussion was particularly stimulating, with each participant identifying one mark of vitality characteristic of these congregations and one thing we still need to find out about them.

As participant Tony Robinson, senior minister at Plymouth Congregational Church in Seattle, later put it in a column in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* (December 13, 2002), "it may be that a time off the radar screen has been a blessing in disguise for these churches. . . Part of this new life is clearly a

religious or spiritual vitality. Something new seems to be happening, a new way of being both Christian and liberal.”

W I N T E R S E M I N A R

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In a concluding session, participants expressed warm appreciation for the intergenerational and interdisciplinary character of this event. They also asked if the Louisville Institute could be helpful to them as scholars in identifying pastors with whom they could discuss their projects, even in their early stages. A related suggestion was that the Louisville Institute could identify congregations and pastoral scholars working on issues of particular interest to them. For the record, we are happy to do both.

This year’s participants were:

R. Bryan Bademan
University of Notre Dame

Darren Theodore Dochuk
University of Notre Dame

Mary J. Henold
University of Rochester

Hillegonda Koster
University of Chicago Divinity School

Marie Friedmann Marquardt
Emory University

David Michael Mellott
Emory University

Sonya Elizabeth Spear
Indiana University

Randall James Stephens
University of Florida

William David Stevens
Northwestern University

Tammy Renee Williams
Fuller Theological Seminary

Penny Edgell Becker
University of Minnesota

Kelton Cobb
Hartford Seminary

John H. Evans
University of California, San Diego

Eugene B. McCarraher
Villanova University

Jennifer Lynn McKinney
Seattle Pacific University

Erin Ann Smith
University of Texas at Dallas

Yolanda Y. Smith
Yale Divinity School

Jeanette Reedy Solano
California State University, Fullerton

A T T E N T I O N G R A N T R E C I P I E N T S

The Louisville Institute has awarded more than 800 grants since its inception in 1990. In that time, many of our grantees have had significant milestones or achievements in their career and personal lives. This is your opportunity to share those achievements with your fellow grantees. Please email us at info@louisville-institute.org, subject: “Alumni News” to include your achievement in upcoming editions of *Intersections*.

Give Us Your Feedback...

The Louisville Institute’s *Intersections* Newsletter is published three times per year. Your comments or suggestions are greatly appreciated as we continue to improve this publication. Also, if you would like to update your mailing information or be removed from our mailing list, please let us know.

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Or email us at:
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The mission of The Louisville Institute is to enrich the religious life of American Christians and to encourage the revitalization of their institutions, by bringing together those who lead religious institutions with those who study them, so that the work of each might inform and strengthen the work of the other.

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