



Intersections

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

COMPETITIVE AND GENERAL GRANTS FOR PASTORAL LEADERS



Welcome from the Director

Welcome to the 8th issue of *Intersections!* As the Louisville Institute prepares for another busy grant season, we receive questions such as: “What do you fund?” “What program should I apply for?” This issue seeks to answer some of those questions, introduce you to the 2005-06 Competitive Grant program Grantees and share news of past and upcoming events. Enjoy the Summer 2005 issue of *Intersections*.

Jim Lewis

In 2004 the Louisville Institute opened three competitive grant programs previously limited to academics – Christian Faith and Life, Summer Stipend, and Religious Institutions – to pastoral leaders. This opportunity, along with the Sabbatical Grants for Pastoral Leaders and General Grants program, remains in 2005. Because Institute policy permits application to only one competitive grant program per grant year, pastoral leaders are not always sure which program is right for them. Here are a few hints to help with that decision.

With sixty grants of \$10,000 or \$15,000 available each year, the Sabbatical Grants for Pastoral Leaders program will be the best choice for most pastoral leaders. The selection committee has shown a marked preference for proposals that balance a self-designed course of study and reflection with activities (and inactivity!) for personal and vocational renewal. Proposals that look more like glorified vacations are rarely funded. Nor are we eager to

fund those that propose nonstop research, writing, conferences, and travel, the selection committee asking, “Where’s the sabbath in this sabbatical?”

Pastoral leaders whose primary interest is in a research and writing project should consider applying to one of the three other competitive grant programs mentioned above. The **Summer Stipend program** awards ten grants of \$9000 for ten weeks of research and writing on a topic reflecting the priorities of the Louisville Institute and of interest to the wider church. For pastoral leaders such topics might be in the area of homiletics or practical theology, congregational studies, biblical studies or one of the other theological disciplines. The **Christian Faith and Life program** awards grants of up to \$50,000 for nine weeks to nine months of research and writing on topics that explore how to bring the wisdom of Christian faith and tradition into a closer relationship with the daily lives of

[Continued, page 5](#)



THE LOUISVILLE INSTITUTE

The Louisville Institute is a Lilly Endowment program based at Louisville Seminary supporting those who lead and study American religious institutions.

[BACK TO TOC](#)

Table of Contents

Competitive and General Grants for Pastoral Leaders	1
Writers "Asylum"	2
"What do you fund?"	3
SGPL Deadline & Changes.....	3
Associate Director.....	3
Dissertation Fellowships.....	4
Congregation-based Biblical Scholarship Panels	4
Alum Updates.....	4
Grant-Related Publications.....	5
2005-06 Competitive Grant Program Grantees	6
Feedback	9

WRITERS "ASYLUM" IN MINNESOTA

The Ecumenical Institute at St. John's University and Seminary in Collegeville, MN partnered with the Louisville Institute to host a week-long writing conference in June. Eight writers were recruited to gather for what proved to be an exceptional week of writing, discussion, critique, and inspiration, guided by the monastic rhythms of the Benedictine monastery at St. John's. Two writers were unable to attend, but Ecumenical Institute director Don Ottenhoff and Louisville Institute associate director Bill Brosend joined the others, along with a writing "coach" from nearby St. Benedict's college, Cindy Malone, and Univ. of Minnesota poet and professor Michael Dennis Browne. Killian McDonnell, O.S.B., founder of the Ecumenical Institute and also a published poet, joined the group on two evenings.

The writers (and their projects) were Brent Bill, Indianapolis Center for Congregations (a book on Quaker spirituality); Lillian Daniel, First Congregational Church, Glen Ellyn, Illinois (a book on her first solo pastorate); Stephen Doughty, Otsego, Michigan (a book on spiritual practices for congregations); Verity Jones, *Disciples World* magazine (an article on Disciples in the Congo); Heidi Neumark, Trinity Lutheran Church in New York City (a book of biblical and theological reflection "framed" by the windows in her new parish); and Lauren Winner, author of *Girl Meets God* and most recently *Real Sex: the naked truth about chastity* (a novel).

Each day began with morning prayer at the St. John's chapel, followed by free time until 2 PM for writing. In the afternoon each writer took a turn in the "hot seat" as Cindy Malone led the group in a review of the writer's previously submitted selection from the current project. All the writers experienced both the time to



write, the opportunity for individual coaching, and the group critique to be a blessing. Most participants commented on how rarely they are encouraged to write, and how infrequently they receive thoughtful and committed criticism. Simply having a large block of time each day with nothing written on the schedule except **Write!** was a gift in itself. The combination of prayer, fellowship, writing, coaching, and criticism was truly special. "It was one of the great experiences of my life," wrote one participant.

“What do you fund?”

One of the most common questions that we hear at the Louisville Institute is “What do you fund?” Sometimes the question seems to suggest that the inquirer simply wants a grant to study something—anything—and doesn’t really care what it is. But more often it’s a perfectly appropriate and even urgent question from academics and pastors who are working on an important research project and need some financial support in order to do so more effectively.

Although sometimes the proposed project is ill conceived, unnecessary, or badly described, far more often it is simply inappropriate for us. In such cases, it is our judgment that, while the project may be of crucial academic importance and the proposal brilliantly conceived and written, it does not advance in significant ways the mission of the Louisville Institute. As veteran grant seekers know, the award of a research grant represents the happy congruence of a research project with the funder’s grantmaking priorities. Where there is incongruence instead, a grant is unlikely.

So, “what *does* the Louisville Institute like/hope to fund?”

The Louisville Institute hopes to support research projects that 1) contribute in rather specific ways to the renewal of Christian churches in North America, and 2) bring

pastors into closer conversation with academics. Such research is not necessarily “churchy” or “applied” research. But it will be research undertaken with the welfare of the church clearly in mind and will be attentive to ways in which it contributes to that welfare. Sometimes the research project may resemble other research projects in that particular discipline. At other times, however, the research project may differ somewhat from other projects in the field. It may, for example, be written explicitly for a general church audience and/or intended for a non-academic publisher. Barbara Rossing’s (Lutheran School of Theology) study of Revelation and critique of the Left Behind series would be an example. At still other times, the research

Continued, page 9

SGPL DEADLINE & CHANGES

The application deadline for the Sabbatical Grant for Pastoral Leaders program is fast-approaching. All applications must be postmarked by September 15, 2005 for sabbaticals to be taken between March 1, 2006 and August 31, 2007. One important change to the 2005 SGPL grant is the award amount. This year, up to 60 grants of \$10,000 or \$15,000 for eight- or twelve-week sabbaticals, respectively will be awarded.

News of the Associate Director

On June 4, after 25 years as an American Baptist minister, Bill Brosend was ordained along with four other colleagues to the transitional diaconate by the Rt.



Rev. Edwin F. Gulick, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky. He will serve as Deacon at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Louisville in addition to his duties at the Louisville Institute

and will be ordained priest in December. Bill also recently co-authored the *New Lectionary Commentary, Year B* (Fortress Press, 2005), writing the sections on Advent and Christmas.

DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS

Since 1991, the Louisville Institute has awarded a total of 140 Dissertation Fellowships. We are pleased to report below on the three completed dissertations we have received since last publication. If you are a Dissertation Fellowship grantee who has completed your dissertation, please let us know and we will be happy to note that fact in a future issue of *Intersections*. In the meantime, congratulations to the following!

Aaron Ketchell

Holy Hills: Religion and Recreation in Branson, Missouri

University of Kansas
(2004)

Anne M. Martinez

Religion, Nation, and U.S.-Mexican Relations, 1910-1929

University of Minnesota
(2003)

Timothy B. Neary

Crossing Parochial Boundaries: African Americans and Interracial Catholic Social Action in Chicago, 1914-1954

Loyola University, Chicago
(2004)

CONGREGATION-BASED BIBLICAL SCHOLARSHIP PANELS SLATED IN PHILADELPHIA

On Monday afternoon, November 21 the Louisville Institute will co-sponsor two sessions on “Congregation-based Biblical Scholarship” at the Society of Biblical Literature meeting in Philadelphia.

The first session, “What Congregations Need from Biblical Scholars,” will feature well-known observers of the American religious scene - Phyllis Tickle, Diana Butler-Bass, Jonathan Sarna, and William Cahoy - to guide members of the Society in thinking about how to write more effectively and helpfully for communities and persons of faith. Dr. Fred Craddock will moderate the discussion

The second session, “I Know It When I See It: Examining Examples of Congregation-based Biblical Scholarship,” will look at four works, The People’s New Testament Commentary, Paul for Everyone, Esther and Ruth, and Nahum-Malachi. Authors Fred Craddock, Eugene Boring, N. T. Wright, Patricia Tull, and Julia O’Brien will discuss their work in response to the reviews of pastoral and academic scholars, and join the audience in consideration of how scholarship from and for communities of faith “works.”

A reception will follow.

Alum Updates

John Burgess

(Sabbatical Grant for Pastoral Leaders 1994) has published *After Baptism: Shaping the Christian Life* (Westminster John Knox 2005).

Dr. Sheba Mariam George

(Dissertation Fellowship 1997) has written *When Women Come First: Gender Class in Transnational Migration* (University of California Press 2005).

Raymond Meester

(Sabbatical Grant for Pastoral Leaders 1999) has published an article in the *Journal for Preachers*, Volume 28, Number 4 (Pentecost 2005), entitled “Alternate Reality: Envisioning Preaching and Ministry with the Deaf,” which is based on his time spent considering deaf ministry from a cultural perspective.

Jerry Streets

(Sabbatical Grant for Pastoral Leaders 2003), while on sabbatical, completed a book project as editor: *Preaching In The New Millennium: Celebrating the Tercentennial of Yale University* (Yale University Press 2005). The book includes sermons by William Sloane Coffin, Jr., Peter Gomes, Barbara Brown Taylor, Gardner C. Taylor, and William Willimon.

COMPETITIVE AND GENERAL GRANTS FOR PASTORAL LEADERS

Continued from page 1

practicing Christians. For pastoral leaders such topics might include biblical and theological studies, Christian practice, spirituality, and practical theology. The **Religious Institutions program** awards grants of up to \$50,000 for nine weeks to nine months of research and writing on topics relating to the life, leadership, and vitality of religious institutions and the relation of those institutions to society.

Pastoral leaders might, for example, explore or partner with social researchers in exploring various dynamics in congregational life and lifecycle, patterns of change and innovation, and the impact of emerging realities and practices on congregational health.

There is no separate “track” for pastoral leaders in these three programs. Instead all applicants, regardless of vocational home, are considered together. This means, for example, that a Christian Faith and Life proposal from a parish pastor whose writing has previously been limited to sermons and newsletters will be read alongside one from a tenured seminary professor working on her fifth book. Should this discourage the pastor? No, but I hope it will encourage the pastor to take great care in designing the project and writing the proposal, and encourage the pastor to be in touch with us about the project, perhaps sending us an

early draft of the proposal for comment (we are happy to do that, by the way).

Pastoral leaders are also eligible to apply for a General Grant, but a word of caution is in order. General Grants are not awarded for individual research and writing projects usually supported by the competitive grant programs. It is common for someone who missed a competitive grant application deadline to ask permission to apply for a General Grant. The answer is almost always no. By contrast, we usually award General Grants for the support of collaborative research projects, pastor peer groups, and occasionally for consultations.

We are especially interested in proposals that bring together academic and pastoral leaders for sustained conversation on topics of importance to pastoral practice.

For example, Charlotte, NC pastor Ken Carter (Providence United Methodist Church) received a General Grant to convene a dozen colleagues and seminary faculty for a year-long conversation on preaching, imagination, and social justice. The group uses grant funds for expenses such as books, meals, and lodging. If organizing and participating in a similar group sounds like a promising way of enriching your own ministry, we would love to hear from you.

As always, we are happy to answer questions about specific projects and ideas. Send us an email or give us a call.

GRANT-RELATED PUBLICATIONS

The following publications related to Louisville Institute grants have been received since our last newsletter:

Turn the Pulpit Loose: Two Centuries of American Women Evangelists

Priscilla Pope-Levison

Palgrave Macmillan (2005)

Music in Christian Worship: At the Service of the Liturgy

Charlotte Kroeker (ed)

Liturgical Press (2005)

The Heart Set Free: Sin and Redemption in the Gospels, Augustine, Dante, and Flannery O'Connor

Kim Paffenroth

Continuum (2005)

Hope Deferred: Heart-Healing Reflections on Reproductive Loss

Nadine Pence Frantz (ed)

Mary Stimming (ed)

Pilgrim Press (2005)

Faith in Reading: Religious Publishing and the Birth of Mass Media in America

David Paul Nord

Oxford University Press (2004)

DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP



Shelby Melissa Balik

University of Wisconsin

*The Religious Frontier:
Church, State, and Settlement in Northern
New England 1780-1830*

Sarah Bunker Costello

University of Wisconsin

*Christian Citizenship: Ecclesiastical Conflicts
and Political Rhetoric in the Early Republic*

Andrew S. Finstuen

Boston College

*Hearts of Darkness: American Protestants
and the Doctrine of Original Sin, 1945-1965*

Benjamin Houston

University of Florida

*"The Nashville Way": A Southern City
Confronts Racial Change, 1945-1975*

Natalia Maria Imperatori-Lee

University of Notre Dame

*The Use of Marian Imagery in Catholic
Ecclesiology Since Vatican II*

Michael Jo

Yale University

*The Birth of Free Enterprise: Business, Religion,
and Conservatism in Philadelphia, 1900-1950*

Rebecca Sager

University of Arizona

*The Politics of Religion's Promise: State
Implementation of Faith-Based Initiatives*

Alan Terlep

University of Chicago Divinity School

Headwaters of Fundamentalism, 1825-1885

Tamara J. Van Dyken

University of Notre Dame

*Singing the Gospel: Evangelical Hymnody, Popular
Religion, and American Culture: 1870-1940*

Karen L. Yonemoto

University of Southern California

*Sacred Changes: Multiracial Alliances and
Community Trans/formation among Evangelical
Churches in the U.S.*

FIRST BOOK GRANT FOR MINORITY SCHOLARS

Gastón E.

Espinosa

Claremont

McKenna College

Brown Moses:

Francisco Olazábal

*and Latino Pentecostal Charisma, Power,
and Faith Healing in the Borderlands*



Rubén Rosario-Rodríguez

Saint Louis University

*Racism and God-Talk: Toward a
Transcultural Theology*

Jonathan Y. Tan

Xavier University

Introducing Asian American Theologies

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS



Marla Frederick

Harvard University

*Televised Redemption: Church, Media
and Social Change in the U.S. South*

David J. Frenchak

Seminary Consortium for Urban

Pastoral Education (SCUPE)

*The Seminary as Neighbor: Stories and
Outcomes of Community Engagement*

Gerardo Marti

Davidson College

*Congregational Music and
Racial Diversity*

Joseph T. Reiff

Emory & Henry College
*Prophets and Priests in Their
Own Country: Mississippi
Conference Methodists and the 1963
“Born of Conviction” Statement*

Hung-En Sung

The National Center on
Addiction and Substance Abuse
at Columbia University
*Charismatic Evangelicals’ War
on Drugs: The Case of the
Assemblies of God*

Theodore Louis Trost

University of Alabama
*End of Decline or End of the Line?
The United Church of Christ’s “God is
Still Speaking” Identity Campaign*

**SUMMER STIPEND
PROGRAM**

Sandra Lynn Barnes

Purdue University
*HIV/AIDS in the
African American
Community: Attitudes,
Behavior and
Interventions Among African American
Church Leaders*



Kevin D. Dougherty

Calvin College
*Congregational Responses to Neighborhood Change:
A Case Study of Congregations From One
Evangelical Denomination in a Midwestern City*

Nancy L. Eiesland

Emory University, Candler
School of Theology
*Reverence and the Human Condition:
Theological Reflections on Living Disability*

Carol V.R. George

Hobart & William Smith Colleges
*Methodist Church Struggle for Racial
Inclusiveness, 1939-1973*

Jennifer A. Glancy

Le Moyne College
*American Jerusalem: The (Un)Holy Land in
Contemporary Christian Discourse*

Kent R. Kerley

Mississippi State University
*Faith, Prison, and Correctional
Treatment: Examining the
Impact of Faith-Based
Prison Programs*

Kathryn T. Long

Wheaton College
*Missionaries and the Waodani:
The Ongoing Saga of American Evangelicals
and an Amazonian
Tribal People*

Peter J. Thuesen

Indiana University - Purdue University
Indianapolis
*The Providence Driven Life: Contemporary
Protestants and Foreordination*

Grant Wacker

Duke University Divinity School
*Billy Graham and Modern America:
A Biography*

Ronald A. Wells

Calvin College
*A Protestant Contribution to the Life
and Work of Cesar Chavez*

Richard L. Wood

University of New Mexico
Congregations and Public Life

“What do you fund?”

Continued from page 3

itself may address directly a specific church issue, such as Joyce Mercer’s (San Francisco Seminary) study of the way congregations relate to children. In all these cases, however, grantees employ the academic “toolkit” explicitly on behalf of the church in North America.

Although the “fit” of some projects with the priorities of the Louisville Institute may be obvious to the Institute selection committee, proposal writers may need to re-describe some other projects in ways that makes their relationship to the life of the church more apparent. To fail to articulate the connection between the church and the research, however, is almost to guarantee that the project will not be funded.

In addition to congruence between church and research project, the issue of collaboration between pastor and academic is an increasingly important consideration for the Louisville Institute in assessing research proposals. In our brochure, we make the case for the importance of such collaboration as follows:

The Louisville Institute seeks to encourage a broad, collaborative conversation among academics, pastors, and other religious leaders about

American religious life. Religious leaders need ready access to the findings of scholars that can help them address more adequately the complex challenges of contemporary ministry. For their part, scholars need to hear pastors and laypersons speak of these challenges, and they need to incorporate these distinctive perspectives in their own work. Conversation among them should result in both better-informed scholars and better-equipped pastors.

We are convinced that collaboration between pastor and academic should occur far more often than it currently does and that it will, in fact, almost always benefit both pastors and academics in the process. Moreover providing for such collaboration in a substantive and creative way will probably improve the funding prospects for Louisville Institute grant proposals.

Finally, we should emphasize that, as a rule, funding requests for individual research projects should be directed to one of the Louisville Institute’s competitive grant programs: Christian Faith and Life, Religious Institutions, Summer Stipend, First Book Grant for Minority Scholars or Dissertation Fellowship as appropriate. On occasion, under special circumstances, we make research grants as part of our General Grant program. But such grants are increasingly rare.

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.

Write us at:

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Louisville, KY 40205

Or email us at:

info@louisville-institute.org

Alum Updates...

If you are a current or former Louisville Institute grantee and have had a significant milestone or achievement in your career or personal life, we want to hear about it. Please email us at info@louisville-institute.org, subject: “Alum Updates” to include your achievement in upcoming editions of *Intersections*.



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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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