

LEADERSHIP

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Executive Director

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Administrative Director

DESCRIPTION

The Project on Rural Ministry (PRM) is a grant-funded initiative, made possible through the generosity of Lilly Endowment, that focuses on the unique circumstances of pastors serving rural and small town communities in western Pennsylvania, northern West Virginia and eastern Ohio. The PRM is grounded in the fundamental insight that Christian colleges are uniquely positioned to amplify the voices, strengthen the networks and facilitate the ongoing learning of local pastors and ministry leaders. This initiative aims to bolster the partnership of college, church and community by convening three groups of 10 pastors residing within a 150-mile radius of Grove City, Pa. Pastors will participate in opening and closing conferences, three regional gatherings, online networking and a series of peer-to-peer site visits alongside other pastors over a five-year span. In addition, the PRM will facilitate innovative collaborations between faculty, students and churches by funding 30 student internships and 30 service learning projects. An interdisciplinary team of faculty will visit each church to address a wide array of economic, social and ministry challenges frequently encountered in rural areas.

TIMELINE

- **Mid-February to Mid-April 2019:** Open call for interested pastors to apply via the PRM's website (currently under construction)
- **June 2019:** Formation of cohort groups established
- **August 2019:** Opening conference for 30 participating pastors accompanied by a lay leader
- **Fall 2019-Spring 2023:** Coordination of annual site and peer-to-peer visits, regional meetings, online discussions, faculty-led service learning projects and summer internships for all 30 churches
- **Summer 2023:** Closing conference for participating pastors and spouses

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

The PRM is led by an interdisciplinary team consisting of Grove City College faculty Dr. Seulgi Byun, executive director; Dr. Rebecca Rine, assistant director; and Dr. Paul Kemeny, academic director. Duquesne University faculty Dr. Jesse Rine '01 serves as its research director. The team is joined by Administrative Director Dr. Charlie Cotherman '06, a Pittsburgh Theological Seminary graduate and local pastor. Dr. Jenn Mobley '99 oversees the service learning component while Dr. Lisa Hosack, social work coordinator, and Mr. Tim Sweet '85, entrepreneurship coordinator, will help facilitate the collaborative work of the PRM.

ABOUT LILLY ENDOWMENT INC.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by three members of the Lilly family – J.K. Lilly Sr. and sons Eli and J.K. Jr. – through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly & Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion. The Endowment maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and its home state, Indiana. Its grantmaking in religion focuses on supporting efforts to strengthen the leadership and vitality of Christian congregations throughout the country and to increase the public's understanding of the role of religion in public life.



“The Project on Rural Ministry links Grove City College with pastors who serve in rural contexts, using our interdisciplinary resources to encourage social, economic and spiritual renewal.”

– President Paul J. McNulty '80

**CONTACT**

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