

Interim Executive Director Louisville Institute

JOB SUMMARY:

The Interim Executive Director of the Louisville Institute leads, advocates for, and oversees the mission of the Institute and its contribution to church and society, which is:

"...to bridge church and academy through awarding grants and fellowships to those who lead and study North American religious institutions, practices, and movements, and thereby promotes scholarship that strengthens church, academy, and society, and ultimately contributes to the flourishing of the church." (May 2020/January 2021)

The Interim Executive Director stewards the organization's mission during a time of transition until a new Executive Director is called to the position. To ensure a successful transition, the Interim Executive Director will: supporting an ongoing staffing analysis; implement recommendations from said staffing analysis, strengthen relations between the Institute and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, prepare the organization to live into a recently approved renewal grant (2025-2027), and develop and execute a plan for updating the systems of work that help LI run smoothly.

The Interim Executive Director will act as a convener of researchers, pastoral leaders, and scholars-- from an expansive array of backgrounds-- for consultation and connection; identifies and supports promising religious scholarship. Strong facilitation skills will go a long way in delivering the standard of programming for which LI is known. Our interim will need to build and fortify relationships between the Louisville Institute and seminaries, colleges, universities, churches, and other faith-based agencies with whom LI works. Additionally, we seek an Interim Executive Director who can expand the reach of religious research in efforts to encourage the vitality of faith communities, theological studies, religious studies, and theological education in North America.

The Louisville Institute's Interim Executive Director is appointed by the President of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, as approved by the Board of Trustees of Louisville Seminary. The Interim Executive Director of the Institute reports directly to the President of Louisville Seminary.

QUALITIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Energetic, thoughtful, and visionary leadership. Works creatively and collaboratively with a variety of constituents and stakeholders including the Advisory Board of the Louisville Institute, Louisville Presbyterian

Theological Seminary and its Board of Trustees, the Religion Division of Lilly Endowment Inc, pastors and other ministry practitioners, scholar educators, religious researchers, and persons preparing for the vocation of theological education;

- Forms and Stewards Partnerships for projects and research, and for sustaining relationships that model collegiality and enhance interdisciplinary connection across multiple academic and religious contexts;
- Knowledge of and a passion for theological education.
- Able to articulate its scholarly and pastoral importance; versed in its professional culture, well-informed on the ways scholars and pastoral leaders serve and strengthen the wider church;
- Established networks of just, inclusive, and diverse relationships that will aid the Institute in its continued efforts to connect with underrepresented persons and communities across the church and academy;
- Curiosity and insight about the future of theological education and the church, and the potential that convening diverse groups for study and collaboration can offer;
- Excellent communication and organizational skills, a team-oriented management style, critical and strategic thinking, and the ability to manage multiple tasks, from details to the big picture.
- Proven experience as a pastoral leader and/or theological educator.

THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LEADS BY:

- Directing the Louisville Institute staff, consulting its board of advisors, and partnering Louisville Seminary to carry out the mission of the institution and to envision its future possibilities;
- Partnering with leaders of major institutions that serve theological education and communities, such as: the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, Leadership Education at Duke Divinity, The Forum for Theological Exploration, the Hispanic Theological Initiative, and the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion;
- Convening conversations among scholars in multiple academic disciplines researching dimensions of religious life, religious scholars, and practitioners in Christian ministry
- Directing the ongoing implementation and development of the Vocation of the Theological Educator initiative (VTE);
- Overseeing a communication strategy that places the Louisville Institute grant and fellowship programs, research, and collaborative efforts in a wider academic and church public;
- Evaluating, interpreting, and communicating the mission of the Louisville Institute and its sense of the “pulse” of innovative and emerging research and ministry

- Working collaboratively with the Religion Division of Lilly Endowment Inc.

THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OVERSEES THE OPERATIONS OF THE LOUISVILLE INSTITUTE BY:

- Coordinating the Louisville Institute staff and attending to all aspects of the LI mission;
- Overseeing all grants and fellowships of the Louisville Institute;
- Serving as a member of the senior administrators' team of Louisville Seminary, reporting to the Seminary President;
- Serving as ex-officio, non-voting member of the LI Advisory Board;
- Preparing and coordinating regular meetings of the LI Advisory Board;
- Reporting regularly on the activities of the Louisville Institute to the LI Advisory Board.
- Preparing reports for Lilly Endowment Inc. on both the programmatic and financial aspects of the Institute's activities, programs, and impact;
- Working collaboratively with Institute staff, the Institute's Advisory Board, the Religion Division of Lilly Endowment Inc., and Louisville Seminary leadership in the planning and execution of consultations and meetings associated with carrying out the work of the Institute.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Executive leadership experience, including administration, human resources, budgeting and staff oversight.
- Preferred – a terminal degree in an appropriate discipline, theological education, and an attendant background in higher education, its administration, and with grant programs.
- Leadership experience in congregational or other types of pastoral ministry is an advantage for this role.
- Commitment to the Christian faith and enthusiasm about the life and future of the Christian church.

COMPENSATION:

Full-time, exempt position offering a full range of benefits, including 403B pension benefit, and health insurance.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Interested applicants, please email a cover letter and CV to Andrew Pomerville, President, at apomerville@lpts.edu.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS:

A background screening is required.

ABOUT LOUISVILLE SEMINARY:

Founded in 1853, Louisville Seminary offers an inclusive and diverse learning community, welcoming students from wide ecumenical backgrounds while maintaining its long, historic commitment to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). Louisville Seminary is led by the Holy Spirit to educate people to proclaim the Gospel, to care for all, and to work for justice in communities everywhere. It is distinguished by its nationally recognized marriage and family therapy and field education programs, the scholarship and church service among its faculty and a commitment to training people to participate in the continuing ministry of Jesus Christ. For more information, call (800) 264-1839 or visit lpts.edu.

Louisville Seminary is committed to providing our employees an environment that is inspiring, creative and respectful. Louisville Seminary is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, age, creed, sexual orientation or any other protected class.