

Flourishing Congregations Institute Fellows

Drawing on a formal affiliation with the Flourishing Congregations Institute, Flourishing Congregation Institute fellows are scholars (minimum graduate-level degree related to a discipline where congregations are studied) or practitioners (e.g., church, denominational, or parachurch leaders) who pursue empirical research, theological reflection, and/or practical application as experts regarding some aspect of Christian congregational life in Canada. The term for Institute fellows is three-years, with the opportunity for renewal. There is no remuneration associated with this role.

The fourfold purpose of Institute fellows is to:

- increase interactions between the Institute and the many gifted scholars and practitioners across Canada with expertise on Christian congregational life;
- broaden the coordinated participation in research activities related to Canadian congregations in mutually beneficial ways to the Flourishing Congregations Institute and Institute fellows and their host organization (if applicable);
- extend the networks involved with and impacted by a thriving community of scholars and practitioners exploring Canadian congregations; and
- expand the profile and outreach of the Institute and the work of the Institute fellows.

The benefits to Institute fellows includes:

- an email address from the host university associated with the Institute director and/or associate directors;
- access to one or more of the host university library collections, including electronic resources, associated with the director and associated directors of the Institute;
- the ability to apply for research funding/grants under the Flourishing Congregations Institute banner, receiving support along the way to manage grant funds through the host university associated with the Institute director and/or associate directors;
- eligibility under the Flourishing Congregations Institute banner to conduct research and apply to the Research Ethics Board at the host institution associated with the director of the Institute;
- mentoring, learning, and collaborative opportunities and relationships with other scholars, practitioners, and networks associated with the Institute that contribute to one's guild;
- access to other Institute networks and resources for conducting and sharing one's work; and
- being listed on the Institute website as an Institute fellow.

When conducting research/activities under the banner of the Flourishing Congregations Institute, the conditions for Institute fellows include:

- discuss planned research/activities with the Institute director, to explore synergies if or where possible;
- share their work at Institute events and online publications (e.g., website, newsletter, articles, books);
- attend and contribute to Institute events, where possible (e.g., attend in-person if local, or online if further away);
- promote the work of the Institute with other scholars and practitioners in their network who share an interest in Canadian congregational life;
- acknowledge their affiliation with the Flourishing Congregations Institute in all publications and related works resulting from the Institute fellow appointment;

- commit to collaborate in leading initiatives to research Canadian Christian congregations in ways that extend and do not conflict with the mission of Ambrose University, while also maintaining responsible and ethical conduct of research as outlined in the [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans](#) and other Ambrose University research related policies (e.g., Ethical Research Involving Humans Policy; Research Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy; Responsible Conduct of Research Policy; Research Data Management Strategy); and
- at the end of the three-year term, provide a written report to the Institute director of research/activities completed during the Institute fellow period.
- Note: The Flourishing Congregations Institute reserves the right to discontinue or cancel any Institute fellow appointment with two weeks' notice. Should the fellow's conduct violate the conditions noted above, the Institute reserves the right to terminate the fellow's appointment immediately with no further obligation of any nature to the appointee.

The application process includes submitting the following to the Director of the Flourishing Congregations Institute at flourishingcongregations@ambrose.edu:

- current CV;
- letter that details general interests and expertise regarding Christian congregations (maximum 100 words), anticipated research/activities in the duration of the Institute fellow period (maximum 500 words), and anticipated work to arise from the planned research/activities (e.g., article, presentation, book) (maximum 200 words); and
- one letter of support from a qualified scholar or practitioner with expertise in Christian congregations.

The appointment process includes:

- the Institute Leadership Team (i.e., director and associate directors) reviewing and making decisions on applications;
- the Institute director seeking approval from the Provost at Ambrose University for the recommended Institute fellows;
- the Institute director extending a formal letter of invitation to new Institute fellows.