

Collegeville Institute seeks to identify gifted Minnesota pastors and ministers to participate in the Collegeville Institute Rural Minnesota Fellows Program.

Our program aims to bring together an ecumenical group of pastors from rural Minnesota with professionals from other sectors of rural Minnesota society in order to strengthen these religious leaders' sense of themselves as civic leaders and public theologians. Clergy who serve rural areas in Minnesota are often underserved by leadership development opportunities designed to meet their specific needs: we hope to help address this deficit through the Rural Fellows Program.

What is a public theologian? In 1948 Reinhold Niebuhr, a Protestant pastor, appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine's 25th anniversary issue. An icon of faith in tumultuous times, Niebuhr's voice addressed, and influenced, the pressing social and political issues of his day. In addition to Niebuhr, religious leaders of the past, whether Roman Catholic, Protestant, or Jewish, were commonly viewed as leaders within a community, town, city, state, or even on a national level. Religious leaders frequently addressed an audience broader than their congregation, and spoke or wrote from a theological perspective

about issues including work, poverty, opportunity, addiction, health care, and criminal justice.

Collegeville Institute Rural Minnesota Fellows Program

seeks to recapture the traditional idea of the religious leader as public, or civic leader, but to do so in an informed partnership and conversation with leaders from areas such as business, medicine, law, public services, and education. We recognize that many faith communities working at the intersection of religion and public life struggle to make sense of what is happening in their communities, and to discern how best to respond. We also understand that their leaders are often isolated from the best thinking on public issues.



Qualifications

- ◇ Master of Divinity or equivalent degrees
- ◇ Five to ten years' experience in pastoral roles in rural areas and in towns and cities throughout greater Minnesota. The term "rural" most commonly refers to open countryside and communities of very small populations. The Program seeks pastoral leaders from these small communities, and from towns and cities outside the Twin Cities area, which are often surrounded and influenced by the smaller rural communities.

Collegeville Institute Rural Minnesota Fellows will:

- ◆ **Participate in an ecumenical colleague group** of 12 individuals for 22 months
- ◆ **Attend eight cohort meetings**, staying twice at the lakeside apartments of the Collegeville Institute and six times at Saint John's Abbey equally lovely Guesthouse in Collegeville MN
- ◆ **Hear from civic and professional leaders** and experts on key cultural issues
- ◆ **Sharpen their skills** at social analysis and theological reflection
- ◆ **Expand their horizons concerning their rural Minnesota communities** and their visions of themselves as pastoral leaders
- ◆ **Gain confidence** to become active participants in conversations about matters of public import both within and outside the congregations/parishes they serve
- ◆ **Plan a pastoral project** for their congregation or community
- ◆ **Receive \$4,000 in stipends** over the period of the program, and have all travel costs relating to meetings covered by the Collegeville Institute
- ◆ **Build a support system** lasting past the Rural Fellows Program



To nominate pastors or ministers for the Rural Fellows Program, please send names, addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers to:

Bernie Evans, Program Director * bevans@collegevilleinstitute.org * 320-420-4813

Nomination deadline: June 20, 2017

Schedule and Topics:

October 16 (noon) – 17 (noon) 2017

Inaugural meeting

(Saint John's Abbey Guesthouse)

January 8 (8:30am) – 9 (4:00pm) 2018

The Changing Face of Minnesota and Its Implications for the Future

(Abbey Guesthouse)

April 23 (8:30am) – 24 (4:00pm) 2018

Agriculture and Food Production

(Abbey Guesthouse)

July 9 (8:30am) – 10 (4:00pm) 2018

The Rural Economy Beyond Farming

(Collegeville Institute)

October 15 (8:30am) – 16 (4:00pm) 2018

Immigration as an Opportunity and a Challenge

(Abbey Guesthouse)

January 7 (8:30am) – 8 (4:00pm) 2019

Health Care in Rural Minnesota

(Abbey Guesthouse)

April 8 (8:30am) – 9 (4:00pm) 2019

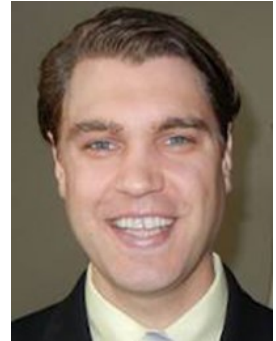
Rural Poverty – Both Real and Hidden

(Abbey Guesthouse)

July 8 – 10 (noon to noon) 2019

Capstone Meeting

(Collegeville Institute)



The Fellows Program enriched not only my understanding of my job as a minister and the context in which I minister, but it also enriched my heart as a Christian. The Fellowship's leadership, guest presenters, and talented colleagues pushed me—mind and soul—to grow further into this fearful and wonderful calling. I'm a better pastor now than I was two years ago and than I would have been without this program. I hope I'm a better disciple too.

Shane Isner

Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research

is a meeting place and residential center where a diverse mix of people from various faith communities, including scholars, writers, professionals, ministers, artists and corporate leaders gather to connect faith to the world and its pressing social issues. The Collegeville Institute supports research, publication, and education on the important intersections between faith and culture.

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