



## Intro

Dear Faith Community,

The PNW Faith Innovation Team is inviting you to apply to participate in a 5-year research project funded by The Lilly Endowment Inc. The team is a collaboration primarily between the School of Theology and the Industrial Psychology PhD Program, with additional support leveraged from multiple SPU centers and other ministry and leadership professionals in the greater SPU network.

Our research goals are twofold: To more clearly identify the context in which ministry will happen among 23-29yos (where they gather, where they organize and work in meaningful ways, where they recreate and socialize) and to identify innovations in ministry that respond to our contemporary context in the PNW among that age demographic.

We are seeking to identify 12 faith communities representative of the PNW that have the capacity and willingness to participate in innovative projects and ministries over the entire length of the study. The gatherings and gleanings of the partnerships with these 12 faith communities will be available to the wider community of the PNW as in the nature of an open-source project.

Participation of a faith community will necessitate high-commitment from key leadership and overall consensus of the congregation. Our assumption is that by simply engaging in this process there will be a heightened and inescapable awareness of what effective ministry will look like to this demographic in this region.

It is our hope that faith communities that participate in (or observe from a distance) this journey understand themselves as deeply called to this demographic. We assume this will clarify and provide confidence in your sense of mission to your community (and all demographics therein). We hope that your reflection on the questions in this application prompts a renewed sense of calling and confidence for your congregation.

After completing this online application, please find on our website the Program Essentials and Sample Covenant to help inform your leadership and community as you discern your desire to participate.

Thank you for your interest in this project. We covet your prayerful support, your encouragement, and your on-going curiosity and engagement from near or far.

The PNW Faith Innovation Team.

**Application results will be saved as they are entered. At any point you can close the application window, reopen it (using the same browser and computer), and it will open where you left off. Feel free to write the answers in a separate document and copy and paste them into the application.**

Note: The terms “church,” “congregation,” “faith community,” etc. are assumed to be mostly interchangeable in the context of this application. Please do not get hung up on our verbiage if it doesn’t match your denominational vocabulary.

## Congregational Vitals

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Congregation name

Website

## Church address

Address

Address 2

City

State

Postal code

Country

Denomination (If non-denominational or of mixed DNA please elaborate your "flavor")

Social media addresses and IDs:

## Applicant Contact Information

Name

Cell Phone number

Email Address

## Staff Vitals

Number of current pastors

Weekly hourly commitment of pastors

Number of current staff (excluding pastors)

Weekly hourly commitment of staff

Congregation Context (rural, urban, etc.)

Please include any additional relevant information pertaining to your congregational vitals.

## What Is Your Story?

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Please have 3-5 individuals write 5 short (3 pages max) narratives of your congregational history and culture. Please write the accounts independent of one another. Ideally, the narratives should be from a pastor, an elder or councilperson, a non-leader younger than 30, a non-leader older than 50 and an additional person of your choosing. Include the good and the bad, the hopes and dreams, the failures, the miraculous and the perceived effect on the congregation.

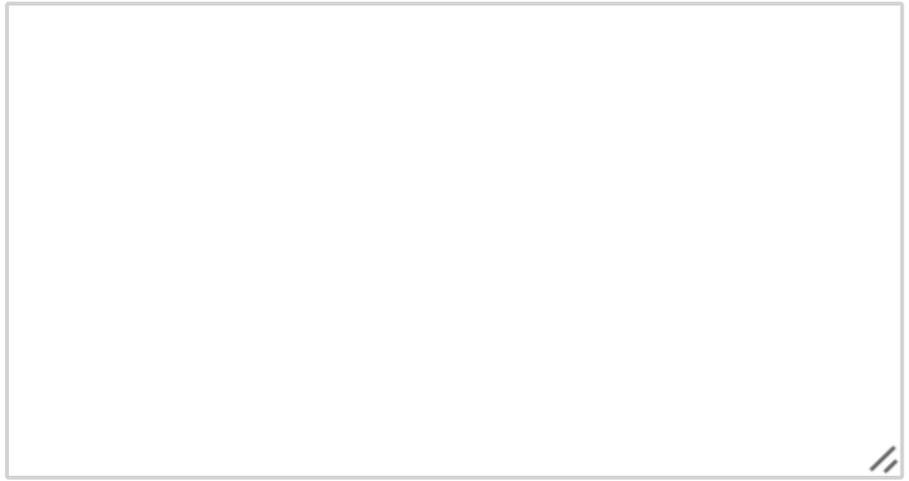
Narrative 1

Narrative 2

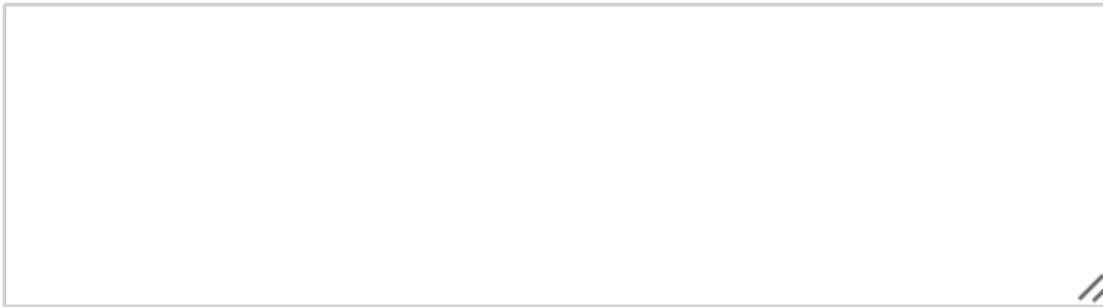
Narrative 3

Narrative 4

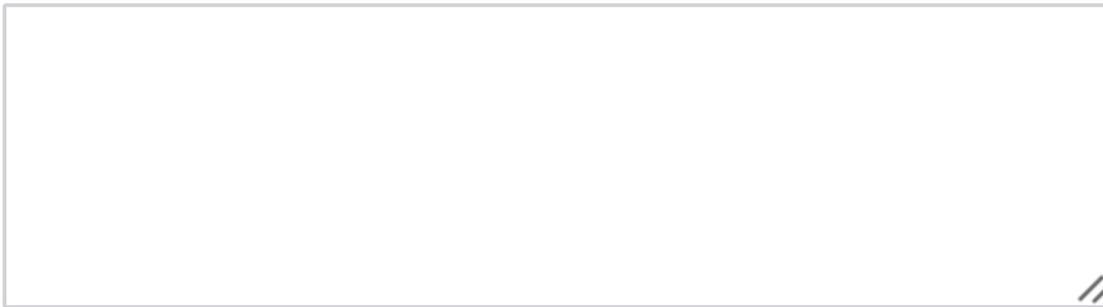
Narrative 5

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What story do you want to tell in five years when this work is done?

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How will the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ be served by this grant to your congregation in service to and with young adults in the Pacific Northwest?

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Please be explicit about the type of larger community your faith community is nested in, using both general (urban, suburban, rural) and specific/unique language (we are a ferry stop/at the door to a national park, etc).

Is there a specific or general way that 23-29-year-olds (yos) have found meaning in your community outside of the church? Please be as specific as you can be even if it is “I don’t know but I have a hunch that…”

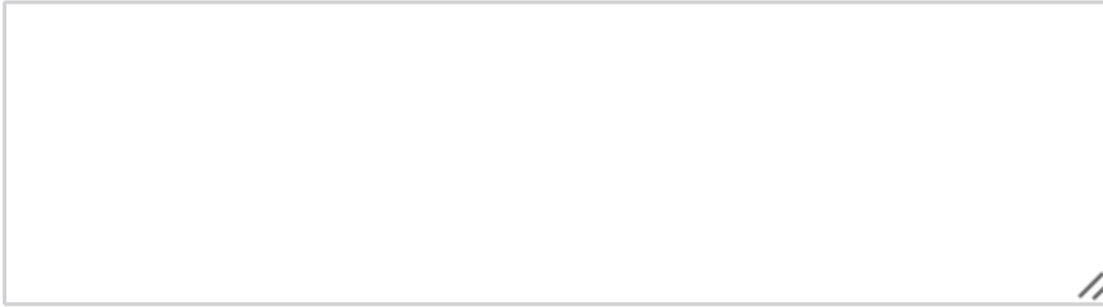
Please include any additional relevant information pertaining to your story.

**Where Are You Now?**

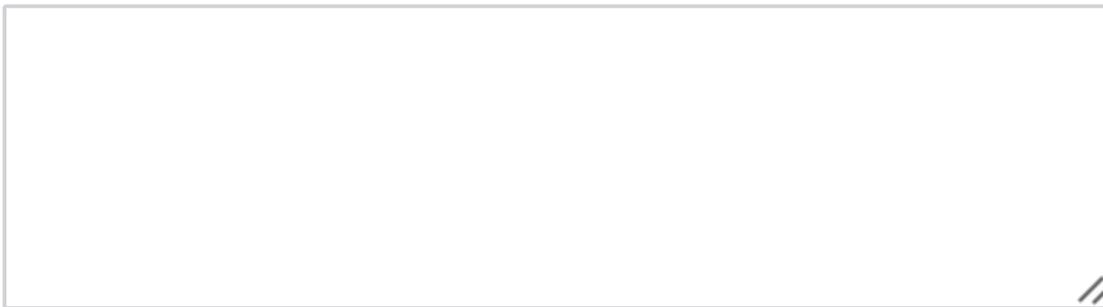
**Where Are You Now?**



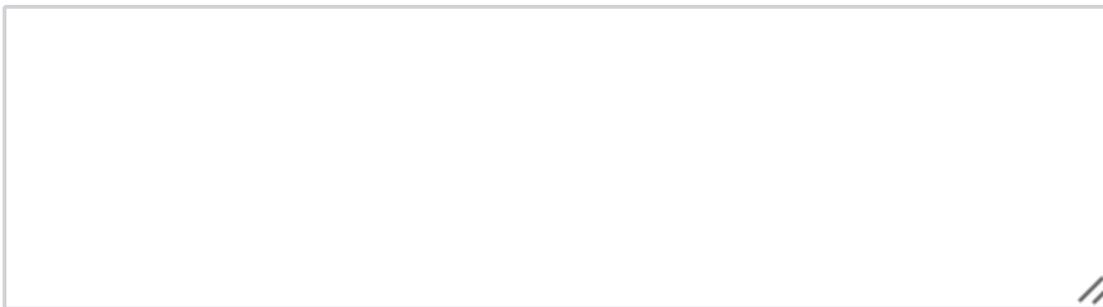
How would you define the capacity of the ministry your congregation undertakes?

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What would create more capacity in your context?

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What have been your overall budgets for the last 3 years? Please add context for budget shifts over that length of time.

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Describe your staffing structure. How has it changed or shifted in the last 5 years?

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Prior to hearing about this grant, what were your plans for ministry faithfulness and/or growth strategies over the next 5 years?

When was the last time your church considered itself as having a healthy "young adult" population?

Describe the decision-making process at your church. Please note if there is an "ideal" and/or "prescription" to the process and how it differs in actuality.

Please provide a simple list of the outreach efforts that your church regularly makes. Feel free to elaborate if a 1- or 2-sentence description would clarify an untraditional ministry.

Please include any additional relevant information pertaining to where you are now.

**Who Are You and How Are You Growing?**

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What is your average attendance at your worship/gathering time? Largest? Smallest?

Describe recent attendance trend(s) (Has attendance increased, decreased, etc.? Has the change been rapid, slow, moderate, etc?)

Give a succinct description of your baptism practice (infant, adult, rebaptism, etc.), how many baptisms you have had in the last 5 years, and where these baptized originated.

Describe your church's ethnic heritage. How representative is your congregation of the surrounding community? What does diversity mean to you?

For the 21-30yo demographic, what are the congregation's primary engagements with that group (eg, worship leading, outdoor or sports ministry, leadership, outreach, etc.) and what are the ways young adults engage with the congregation (space use like weddings; art, culture or political gatherings; etc.)?

Please include any additional relevant information pertaining to who you are and where you are going.

**What is Your Cultural History?**

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How would describe the atmosphere in your church? (e.g., high liturgical, puritan, seeker, folk, mainline-traditional, charismatic)

How has the atmosphere changed in the last five or more years?

Please include any additional relevant information pertaining to your cultural history.

**How Would You Like to Contribute?**

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How do you imagine that it would look to act as a mentor congregation to others during and after this study is completed?

Would you be willing to be a mentor congregation?

You must commit the following individuals to gathering at SPU at least twice a year: A senior pastor, a lay leader, the ongoing contact person, and at least two 23-29yos (these roles may overlap). Please provide the names of this team as it would be represented if your church was chosen tomorrow (these can be changed later, we just want you to go through the visioning exercise).

Senior Pastor

Lay Leader

Ongoing Contact Person

1st 23-29 year old

2nd 23-29 year old

What programmatic enhancements do you hope to achieve as a result of participation in the Pacific Northwest Faith Innovation Team?

How will you use the monies of the grant to best achieve these programmatic enhancements? (include your proposed budget)

Please include any additional relevant information pertaining to how you would like to contribute.

**Who Have You Worked With?**

## Who Have You Worked With?



What other churches, nonprofits and partner ministries do you work with and how do you characterize those relationships?

How have you benefited from partnering outside of your congregation and how do you hope to benefit by doing so in the future?

How do you approach innovation in your church community culture? (e.g., attending conferences, hiring consultants, depending on denominational services, etc.)

Please include any additional relevant information pertaining to who you have worked with.

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