



fpe

THE FELLOWSHIP FOR
PROTESTANT ETHICS

Annual Report **2023**

In 2022-2023, we accomplished so much together: we emerged from the throes of COVID, coordinated a Symposium, gathered at AAR and SCE. We opened a bank account! We established a Professional Conduct Policy. Our members published books, earned degrees, entered new positions, and developed deeper relationships with one another.

This year's Symposium includes a number of firsts. For the first time ever, we have invited members' partners and families to our annual Symposium—and provided childcare. Our exciting lineup includes a junior keynote to be delivered by Joi Orr, one of our distinguished members. And we are offering professional headshots to each of our members, to facilitate their important, public-facing work.



None of this would be possible without the work of our tireless leadership. I offer my most heartfelt thank you, on behalf of the Fellowship, to each of those members who have contributed time and energy to the good work of the Fellowship for Protestant Ethics.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mary Nickel', written in a cursive style.

Mary Nickel

President

Fellowship for Protestant Ethics

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HISTORY *of* THE FPE

This year, the Board undertook the major task of gathering information from previous Board Presidents to better document the FPE's history. The history presented here is a concise summary of that significant project.

The FPE began in 2015 with a group of graduate students from Princeton Seminary and Princeton University, who organized the first Summer Symposium at Baylor University in 2016. Their aim was to develop a network of early career social ethicists and moral theologians working broadly within the Protestant traditions. At the heart of their vision was also cultivating a network of friends—a collaborative community that cares about the role of the academy and the role of churches in building a more just society.

A central feature of the FPE is the summer Symposium. The Symposium provides an opportunity for members of the FPE to gather, share their work,

hear from scholars in the field and activists on the ground, and to engage the community through public lectures and/or roundtables. The FPE is especially committed to offering its members professionalization opportunities and facilitating discourse on the work of Christian ethicists in academy, church, and society given shifting landscapes in higher education.

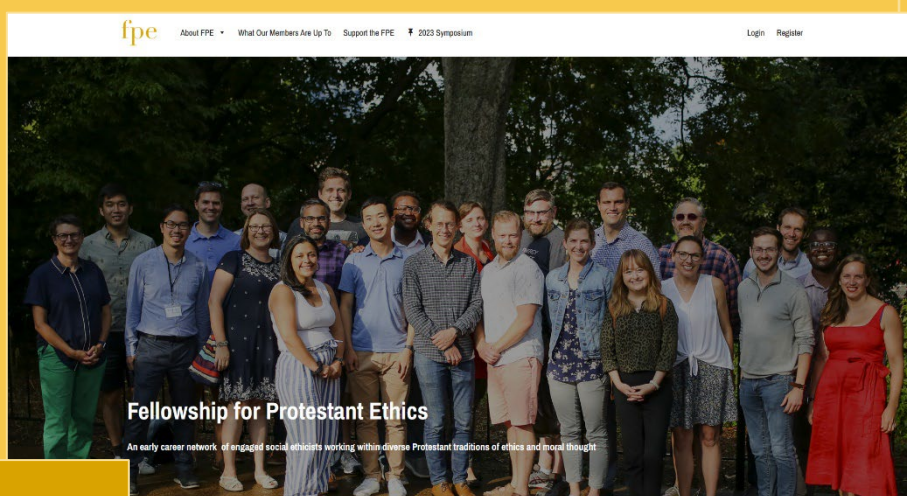
To date, the FPE has held summer Symposia at Princeton Seminary, Baylor, Notre Dame, and Vanderbilt, with keynotes from Jonathan Tran, Gerald McKenny, Keri Day, Willie Jennings, and Melissa Snarr. We are a sliding-scale dues-based organization.



FPE members gather at Notre Dame in 2019

INSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY

In 2022, the Board launched a new, elegant website in order to better communicate the vision and mission of the FPE to future members and potential funders. The website features the work of its members and the Fellowship's role in facilitating professional collaboration.



THE FELLOWSHIP FOR
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The FPE's new logo

The Fellowship's new website

The website also serves an additional purpose: it provides valuable resources exclusively for members who have registered on the website. Members' registration on the website also allows the Fellowship's leadership to have access to updated contact and demographic information.

The Board also launched a Twitter account to share member's professional news and other information that might be relevant to our membership.

THE FELLOWSHIP *in* NUMBERS

99

current members—with a growing alumni network

100%

of surveyed members cited relationship-building at our summer Symposium and beyond as the most valuable part of the Fellowship

59

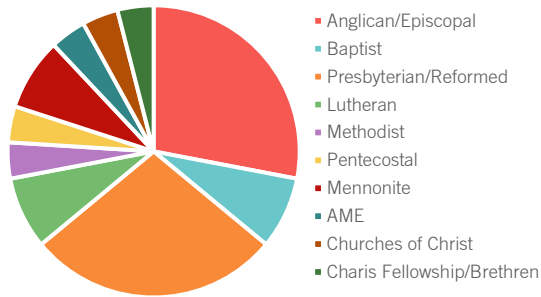
different institutions represented by the 99 members of the FPE

41%

of members who responded to our membership survey are ordained or seeking ordination

10+

Protestant traditions represented among our members



\$33

the average dues amount paid by members; we receive dues on a sliding-scale

\$750

The cost of housing and feeding each Symposium attendee

2023 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

This year's Annual Symposium is being hosted by the Religious Studies Department of the University of Virginia. The theme is **Climate Justice, Religion, and Democracy**. Our senior keynote speaker is Willis Jenkins, and our junior keynote will be delivered by Joi Orr.



The University of Virginia Rotunda and keynote speakers Willis Jenkins and Joi Orr

The Symposium would not have been possible without the unflagging work of this year's Program Committee, composed of members Michelle Bostic, Creighton Coleman, and Eric Hilker.

Especial thanks to our Executive Director, Matt Elia, who coordinated the Program Committee and oversaw all the logistics.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT POLICY

After several years of determined efforts from each of the members of the Professional Conduct Committee—including William Boyce, Hilary Scarsella, and Brandy Daniels—the Board is proud to present a Professional Conduct Policy for approval from the Fellowship’s membership. Central to this policy is a commitment to survivor-centered care.

The Fellowship for Protestant Ethics affirms that God sides with the oppressed, lifts up the vulnerable, challenges injustice, and asks us to stand in solidarity with those who experience abuse. A survivor-centered response to testimonies of myriad forms of violence is one that answers this call.

—The first lines of the FPE Professional Conduct Policy’s Statement of Purpose

FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2022, the Board, with the help of our esteemed alum Elisabeth Kincaid, registered the FPE as an official 501(c)(3) non-profit. The Board also elected member Jimmy Haring to be our treasurer and collected membership dues for the first time.

This year, our Treasurer opened a non-profit bank account, filed our taxes, and streamlined dues collection.

	2022	2023 (YTD)
Dues collected	\$1,560	\$1,155
<i>(Dues participation)</i>	<i>38%</i>	<i>35%</i>
Income from grants	\$14,000	\$29,000
Costs of Symposium	(\$13,757)	(\$30,150)
Income minus expenses	\$1,803	\$5

We could not be grateful for the hard work that Jimmy has performed on behalf of the Fellowship!

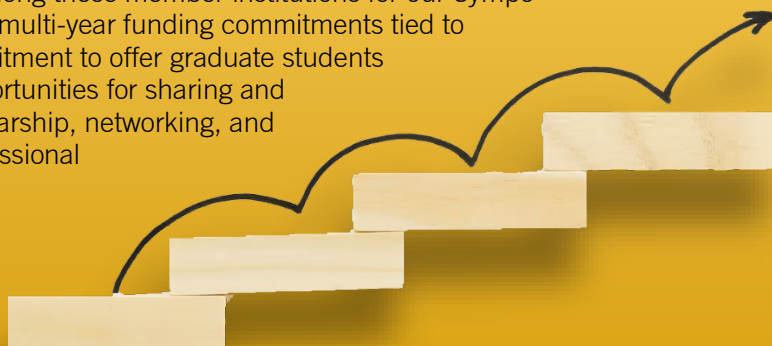
FUTURE GOALS

Since its inception, the FPE has faced the challenge of annually raising funds to support the Symposium. We generally have to start fresh each year to raise funds from the institution hosting the Symposium, as well as any other external sources we can find. Since instituting membership dues in 2021-2022, we have had a small, steady source of income, though not nearly enough to support our annual activities. We've therefore essentially been operating "paycheck-to-paycheck" each year.

To eliminate this annual scramble and cultivate financial sustainability, the FPE is looking into new strategies for raising funds. We are pursuing a few different avenues. We have gotten some traction with centers and offices devoted to professional development at universities with which a good number of our members are affiliated, either as graduate students or as alumni. This seems to be a largely untapped source of funding, especially if the FPE continues to lean into professional development programming during the annual Symposium.

Our large number of ordained members and members pursuing ordination also opens up possibilities for accessing denominational funds. This would likely not represent a large amount of money, but enough to make an impact in our annual budget.

We are also continuing to explore the potential of mid-size to large grants from grant-makers like Lilly, Louisville, and Wabash. Finally, we are considering the development of institutional partners with universities that have consistently expressed commitment to our existence and mission. This could look like developing a rotation among these member institutions for our Symposium, as well as multi-year funding commitments tied to the FPE's commitment to offer graduate students and alumni opportunities for sharing and publishing scholarship, networking, and developing professional competencies.



OUR LEADERSHIP



Mary Nickel
President



Sara Williams
Vice President



Matt Elia
Executive Director



Stephanie Thurston
Board Member



Carl Friesen
Board Member



Luke Zerra
Board Member

Treasurer
Jimmy Haring

Application Committee
Robin Landrith
Andrew Peterson
Andrew Sutherland

Professional Conduct Committee
William Boyce
Brandy Daniels
Hilary Scarsella

Program Committee
Michelle Bostic
Creighton Coleman
Eric Hilker



We are the Fellowship for Protestant Ethics:
*an early career network of engaged social
ethicists working within diverse Protestant
traditions of ethics and moral thought*