

## **“Church and Science Working Together to Cultivate Resilience in the Face of Suffering”**

### **Multnomah Biblical Seminary/Jessup University**

#### **SECF Grant Initiative FAQs**

##### **What are the nature, scope, and partners for this grant initiative?**

[Multnomah Biblical Seminary \(MBS\) of Jessup University \(JU\)](#) will partner with the [American Association for the Advancement of Science \(AAAS\)](#) and its program [Dialogue on Science, Ethics and Religion \(DoSER\)](#) to work on its successful grant application for “Science Engagement for Congregational Flourishing” (SECF), a project funded by Lilly Endowment Inc.\*

The title of our project is “Church and Science Working Together to Cultivate Resilience in the Face of Suffering.” In partnership with AAAS DoSER and the scientific community, the aim is to equip pastoral leaders to cultivate resilience in the face of suffering and trauma in their personal and ecclesial settings. We will also be working with [The Institute for Cultural Engagement: New Wine, New Wineskins](#) and [Science for the Church](#).

Pastors and congregations have experienced increasing mental anguish over the past several years due to such factors as isolation resulting from COVID, the decline of organized Christian religion in various sectors, and the “culture wars.” We will seek to assist pastoral leaders in navigating the mental and emotional challenges in their ecclesial settings to cultivate resilience with the help of cutting-edge science.

There will be two cohorts of pastoral leaders with mental health practitioners receiving scientific instruction and advice, applying what they learn to their lives and congregations. For more information on the grant initiative, please refer to the [“Press Release”](#) and [“More Detailed Information of Grant Initiative.”](#) which are also found on the seminary page.

##### **What is the focus of AAAS and DoSER?**

[The American Association for the Advancement of Science \(AAAS\)](#) is the world’s largest general scientific society and publisher of the [Science](#) family of journals. The nonprofit’s mission is to “advance science, engineering, and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all.” Building upon its mission, AAAS established the [Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion \(DoSER\)](#) program in 1995 to facilitate communication between scientific and religious communities. AAAS DoSER hosts a variety of projects, including the Science Engagement for Congregational Flourishing (SECF) initiative. SECF supports the development of continuing education and lifelong learning programs for pastors and Christian congregational leaders with

an emphasis on bringing science and technology literacy and communication about science and society topics into the skillset of congregational leaders.

**Who is overseeing the grant initiative for JU/MBS, and how can one find out more information about the grant, including how to apply to be in one of the two pastoral cohorts?**

Dr. Paul Louis Metzger, Professor of Christian Theology & Theology of Culture, and Dr. David Timms, Dean of the Seminary and Professor of New Testament, will be overseeing the grant initiative. For more information, please email the grant team at this address: [secf@jessup.edu](mailto:secf@jessup.edu). Here is the [link](#) to the application form.

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\*The Science Engagement for Congregational Flourishing project is being funded with support from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its [Thriving Congregations Initiative](#), which aims to encourage the flourishing of Christian congregations by helping them deepen their relationship with their faith, enhance their connections with each other, and contribute positively to their communities and the world.