

Theological Development

Fellows are constantly learning and growing through an ongoing parley of reading and reflection, thinking and sharing. The book and article reading list is both broad and robust, including Bible, theology, apologetics, missions and evangelism, church history, leadership, worship, discipleship, personal character, and more. Books and articles provide a strong foundation for the Fellows' personal growth and add vitality to the nine-month experience.

An Often-Missed Strength

As the Fellows Program wraps up, one repeated comment is how much Fellows have appreciated the strength and support of both staff and congregation. This is truly the greatest asset within The River, and the Fellows experience ... the encouragement, love and care that our people pour into Program attendees.

"As Jonathan Welcomes you as a friend and fellow leader, you get to see Christ work in the church, in the community and in your heart"

Arthur Keefer, 2009 Fellow

Funding

The River provides housing, all costs related to trips, conferences, one-seminary level class, a stipend for ministry costs (\$200/mo) and a commitment from its Pastor and staff to ongoing counsel, care and mentoring.

Fellows are required to fund-raise their budgetary needs during the nine-month program. Assistance with their budget and raising funds is part of the Program, once a person is accepted.

Application

Please begin the application process (no later than June 1) by indicating an interest in the Fellows Program. Please email Pastor Jonathan (JT@TheRiverNRV.org).

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The Fellows Program

A nine-month post-college experience designed to provide an environment of discovery, spiritual growth, mentored ministry and theological development.



The Fellows Program was an awesome experience that introduced me to various ministries within the church, opened my eyes to the richness of God's Word through ongoing theological discussions, and gave me an incredible opportunity to interact and learn from a handful of Biblical Scholars."

Kelsey Jones, 2013 Fellow

The Fellows Program runs from September to May and includes several “intensives” (a five-day seminary class, leadership conferences, etc.) to aid in discovery, spiritual growth, mentored ministry and biblical & theological development.

Discovery

Previous fellows have often felt a call to ministry but needed a year for greater discernment *where* they were called (oversees mission, seminary, local church ministry, etc.) as well as *how* their gifts were leading in that direction. The Fellows Program provides a year to clarify - with the counsel of others in ministry - the Lord’s leading. Previous fellows have gone on to full-time seminary, ministry, missions and others to non-religious vocation. Yet, all have done so with a greater amount of confidence and clarity about their next steps.

“The Fellows Program was a great opportunity to study, fellowship and grow in my relationship with Christ. I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to get to know the Lord and impact those around them.”

Todd Murden 2009 Fellow

Fellows’ energies are divided weekly between gatherings with staff, congregation, readings (and reflections) and ministry aligned with your passions. This provides an amazing catalyst for maturation in a variety of areas.

Spiritual Growth

Spiritual growth not only includes growth in knowing Christ, but personal strengths and weaknesses, relationships, one’s gifts, temperament and so forth. Opportunity for spiritual growth abound through personal inventories (MBTI, Strength-Finders, spiritual gifts, etc.), readings, retreats, staff interaction, ministry involvement and more. Fellows have consistently emerged with greater understanding in these and other important lifelong areas.



“The River is an ancient-future, blue-jean friendly, Christ-centered missional-community living out the Gospel in the New River Valley and beyond”

Rev. Dr. Jonathan R. Tagg

Mentored Ministry

Fellows will have the opportunity to be involved in ministry that aligns with their passions while also being challenged and stretched by new opportunities. In the past, Fellows have done the following: ministry to children, youth and university students; preaching, teaching and worship leading (music, prayer, etc.); used gifts in leadership, media, art, design and administration; planned and executed events such as mission trips, retreats, financial seminars, etc. Emphasis is placed on making the program an environment of grace where Fellows can try new things and learn from experiences with support and care along the way.

