Discover Your Sacred Calling

Seminarians increasingly desire to put theology to practice. For many who enter the faith-based nonprofit sector, they also want to understand how public policies affect the church and faith in civil society. They want to be equipped for a variety of vocations, from leading in the church to directing a faith-motivated nonprofit. In all of their endeavors, they want to guide faith-motivated organizations to pursue internal excellence so they can better engage the community.

Let Us Equip You to Serve

Sacred Sector Fellowship equips current or recently graduated seminarians with a framework for understanding how public policy and cultural trends affect faith-based organizations. The Fellowship also provides resources and guidance for those considering a vocation in the faith-based sector. Through a unique learning cohort, seminarians will facilitate organizational growth while learning to value the work faith communities are already doing. Sacred Sector helps seminarians discern their vocational calling and equips them for service inside the church and in the public square.

What You’ll Learn

Seminarians accepted into the Fellowship will identify how faith-based organizations can live into their strengths and address areas that could benefit from better mission alignment. They will gain leadership skills for the faith-based nonprofit sector, and will benefit from discussion with a diverse group of peers, together considering how theology informs their work. At the end of the program, Fellows will be able to:

- Understand how to proactively respond to **public policy** contexts that impact the faith-based sector
- Learn organizational **best practices** that embody faithful excellence and advance faith-based missions
- Discover **public positioning** regarding how faith-based organizations distinctly contribute to society

Fellows will learn from the Sacred Sector Toolboxes, which take a deep-dive on topics that include religious staffing, government partnerships, positive engagement in the public square, nondiscrimination laws, advocacy and lobbying, and family-supportive workplaces. Fellows will also benefit from access to Standards for Excellence® resources, which describe how nonprofits should act to be ethical and accountable in their program operations, governance, human resources, financial management and fundraising.

“Any organization I work with in the future, my thinking will be shaped by Sacred Sector and the Standards for Excellence. What I love most about the Sacred Sector program and team is mission integrity. They help faith-based organizations live out their vision with consistency between practices and what they claim to be believe. This is so vital because many organizations have not translated what they believe into practice. Sacred Sector provided resources that were really important for people like me, who are interested in organizational integrity for faith-based organizations.” – Mary Li, 2019 Fellow
Sacred Sector Fellowship empowers seminarians to explore their sacred calling in the faith-based nonprofit sector. Each Sacred Sector Fellow will receive a **$5,000 stipend** for their participation in the ten-week program. The Fellowship begins with a five-day immersive learning experience that explores important topics that uniquely impact faith-based nonprofits.

From there, Sacred Sector will partner each fellow with a faith-based nonprofit in the Western United States where they will serve as an implementation coach over a period of nine weeks. This will allow Fellows to gain hands-on experience in developing and applying the skills and knowledge they have acquired.

**Week 1—Sacred Sector Intensive**
Fellows will develop core competencies in public policy, organizational practice, and public positioning.

- Day 1 – Foundations: Public Justice and Religious Freedom, Intro to *Three P’s*
- Day 2 – Concepts and Application: Religious Staffing, Nondiscrimination Laws
- Day 3 – Introduction to Standards for Excellence© Code and Resources
- Day 4 – Concepts and Application: Government Partnerships, Advocacy and Lobbying
- Day 5 – Concepts and Application: Family Supportive Workplaces, Positive Engagement

**Week 2 through 4—Field Experience:**
Each Fellow will help their partner organization assess how it is advancing its sacred mission in the areas covered in the intensive.

**Week 5 through 10—Field Experience:**
Each Fellow will work with their partner organization to develop a plan to more fully integrate their mission into their public policy engagement, organizational practices, and public communications. Fellows will pick a project to implement during the summer.

**Week 10—Capstone & Commissioning:**
Each Fellow will participate in a two-day debriefing session. In a roundtable-style format, experts will facilitate a group discussion that encourages the group to learn from one another’s experiences while critically reflecting on their own. This session is designed to help Fellows process their experiences and provide practical ways to apply what they have learned as they move forward in their professional callings.

Apply to be a Sacred Sector Fellow today at SacredSector.org/Fellowship

Find out how you can pursue a calling in the faith-based sector. Contact Program Manager Virginia Creasy (virginia.creasy@cpjustice.org, 615.521.0968).

Learn more at www.SacredSector.org/Fellowship and subscribe to the monthly newsletter, Sacred Spotlight: www.SacredSector.org/subscribe.

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