

Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan College
Director of the Ministry Resource Center

Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan College seeks a highly qualified individual to serve as the Director of the newly-established Emmanuel Ministry Resource Center. The MRC is a new initiative reflecting Emmanuel Christian Seminary and Milligan College's deep commitment to the local church and to the formation of ministers who can creatively and sensitively serve local congregations effectively in an ever-changing cultural environment. The Director will be charged with taking this exciting new initiative from the "vision and planning" stage to full implementation.

For its initial five years, the MRC will be funded by a generous grant through the Lilly Endowment Inc.'s "Thriving in Ministry" initiative. Thus, the Director's position has a guarantee of funding for a five-year period. However, the Milligan College administration is committed to the sustainability of the program after the period covered by the grant is completed.

The MRC Director will report directly to the Dean of the Seminary, working collaboratively with the ECS faculty, the Milligan Bible faculty, and the Milligan College Ministry Leadership Program, all under the oversight of the Milligan College Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The successful candidate will have the Doctor of Ministry degree or ministry degree equivalent (preferred, MDiv required), an extensive background in congregational ministry, a commitment to the Stone-Campbell tradition, and a demonstrated passion and ability to bridge the worlds of the academy and the local church.

Further, the successful candidate will possess

- ✚ A strong faith and love for the local church, and for the vital work of forming persons who can serve local congregations effectively in the variety of expressions of church and Kingdom work that are developing in the 21st century;
- ✚ An entrepreneurial spirit, with a proven ability to develop and successfully execute new programs and initiatives.
- ✚ Strong organizational skills, with the capacity to organize and execute events and programs, to administer a budget effectively, and to recruit and manage volunteers;
- ✚ An ability to creatively implement and utilize media platforms, web networking, and website development for the center;
- ✚ An ability to work well with multigenerational approaches to leadership with special attention to the spirit of millennials;
- ✚ A demonstrated capacity for mentoring; and

- ✚ The capacity to develop a strong network within Stone-Campbell Churches, and especially, in the Independent Christian Churches,

The Emmanuel Ministry Resource Center

The purpose of the Ministry Resource Center will be to provide the seminary with state-of-the-art tools and resources for placing and supporting its graduates in ministry positions, especially within the Independent Christian Churches of the Stone-Campbell Movement, the church tradition with which the seminary is affiliated. Its vision grows out of the realization that pastors who thrive within the challenging environment of congregational ministry possess not only knowledge and skill related to biblical and theological study, public communication, administration, and pastoral care, but also a deep sense of pastoral identity and calling. They minister in settings appropriate to their gifts and skills, surround themselves with a vibrant support network of peers and, especially, seek the encouragement and guidance of strong mentors. Indeed, having strong peer and mentor relationships may be the crucial common denominator forming not only pastors' experience of social support, but also their personal sense of pastoral and professional identity, their development of gifts and skills, and their capacity to frame their joys and disappointments within a narrative of divine calling.

The Ministry Resource Center will seek to address these challenges through three core initiatives:

1. Developing a placement program that works with local congregations and ministry organizations in order to ensure alignment between the pastors' gifts and skills and the needs of the congregation or ministry in which they will serve and, especially, that offers placement support to women in ministry at every level. Although these services will be available to ministers at every stage of their careers, initial focus will be on pastors entering their first ministry appointment after seminary and seeking employment in SCM churches;
2. Offering a robust mentoring program for pastors transitioning from seminary into their first ministerial appointment, including addressing the particular issues faced by women in ministry; and
3. Offering opportunities for refreshment and continuing education through a regular schedule of retreats. These retreats will be especially targeted to ECS graduates who are part of our mentoring programs, but will also be open to other pastors who wish to take advantage of this opportunity.

The role of the MRC Director will be to lead in all phases of the development of these initiatives, in accordance with the timeline established in the original grant application. Additionally, the director will be charged with ensuring that the program's effectiveness is assessed on a regular basis, and that periodic reports are completed and submitted, as stipulated in the grant.

Milligan College is an EEO employer and encourages female and minority applications.