



Letter of Invitation

[Date]

Dear *Pastor*,

In 2019, Wesley Theological Seminary and its Lewis Center for Church Leadership were awarded a grant to study the religious workforce of Christian congregations in the United States. On behalf of the research team, I am writing to invite you and your congregation to be a part of the project: “Religious Workforce in the DMV.”

The purpose of the Religious Workforce Project is to understand better how congregations employ and deploy persons to fulfill their missions. If you and your congregation agree to join the study, here is what your participation would entail.

First, the research team will send an online questionnaire that asks some basic information about you, as “head of staff,” and your congregation. This questionnaire should take no longer than 20 minutes and can be completed by anyone with thorough knowledge of the congregation and its operations.

Second, the research team will set up a one to one and a half-hour interview with you or another pastor/staff member of your choosing. This interview will include some autobiographical questions, but also some questions about the life of your congregation. We also would hope to visit a worship service and an organizational meeting. During these visits, a member of the research team would observe and take notes but would otherwise be a respectful presence.

I have enclosed additional information about our research team and my contact information is below if you have questions or if you would like further conversation about this opportunity. On behalf of the whole research team, we sincerely hope you will be a part of this exciting research.

Warmly,

Tim Snyder, PhD
Senior Researcher

The Religious Workforce Project
Wesley Theological Seminary
Phone: 202-644-5707
Email: tsnyder@wesleyseminary.edu