



Preparing Principled Christian  
Leaders for Public Service

# HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM

- Originally called the Witherspoon Fellowship, based in Washington, DC (founded in 1997)
- John Jay Institute chartered in 2005 as independent 501(c)3
- First class of Fellows hosted in Colorado Springs in 2007
- Program moved to Bala Cynwyd, PA in 2010
- Program relocates to Langhorne, PA on the campus of Cairn University in 2017
- Program expansion to second location on Gillam Avenue in 2024



## COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAM

- Christian Community
- Rigorous Academics
- Weekly Hospitality Events  
(Wednesday Tea and Thursday Formal Dinners)
- Weekly Field Studies
- Community Prayer

# CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A central aspect of the John Jay experience is living in Christian community. There is a uniqueness in the intentionality of the relationships and the recognition that we are all taking part in the fellowship experience together. Living together is truly formative for spiritual growth and character and enables a greater understanding of each other's viewpoints and beliefs. The unique opportunity to share a home with others is critical "practice" for going out into the world in public service.





## ACADEMICS

- Each semester, Fellows engage numerous authors with the goal of gleaning new insights into the philosophical principles and historical events which have impacted our world.
- They read C.S. Lewis, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Russell Kirk, in addition to historical writers such as Aristotle, Thomas Hobbes, and John Locke.
- As the classical philosophers understood, reading without supplementary conversation and inquiry does little to develop one's cognitive skills. With that in mind, our Fellows participate in three hours of seminar each Monday-Thursday, bringing the topics of our books into the realm of open debate.

## HOSPITALITY: WEDNESDAY TEA AND THURSDAY DINNERS

- Each Wednesday afternoon, John Jay Fellows host a formal tea where they open the doors of their homes to welcome visitors, friends, and clergy from the surrounding area for tea and cookies. During these events, the Fellows and their guests get to know each other personally and all enjoy a cultural presentation offered by one or more of the Fellows. These presentations range from poetry readings to musical performances.
- In addition, John Jay Fellows host a formal dinner each Thursday evening for one or more distinguished guests. Guests range from pastors to great thinkers in politics, economics, theology, and philosophy to neighbors in the community. These meals are prepared and served by the Fellows as a team, allowing them to gain experience in menu planning, cooking, serving, table etiquette, and the art of conversation.





## GROUP PRAYER

- Fellows dedicate time every morning and evening to group prayer. Despite any differences in their church heritage, the discipline of prayer unites through a shared language of faith. Christians of every tradition can join without reservation in asking God's forgiveness of our sins, worshiping Him through Psalms, and reading selections from the Old and New Testaments.
- Prayer at John Jay unites Christians from different faith traditions into a single mission: transforming culture through principled leadership. Just as the Book of Common Prayer sets the tone for each day during the program, this season of praying together informs attitudes towards faith and fellowship for the rest of our Fellows' lives.

# FIELD STUDIES

- The Friday field study rounds out the week and balances the academic work of our Monday-Thursday seminars. Over the course of the semester, Fellows visit such iconic places as Valley Forge, Gettysburg, and Washington, D.C. and explore the unique contributions that Philadelphia has borne out as the first great American city.
- The historical component of the John Jay curriculum would be far diminished without the active nature of these weekly excursions. There's something awe-inspiring about literally walking through history and forming tangible connections to the past.