

FORUM FOR THEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION 2015 GRANTEES

RECRUITMENT FOR MINISTRY GRANT RECIPIENTS

Grant to provide leaders (FTE/ TiM Alumni) opportunities to identify young adults with gifts for ministry, accompany them in the exploration of their purpose and cultivate them for Christian leadership.

Linwood T. Blizzard – FTE Fellow '01
Macedonia Baptist Church
Heathsville, VA
Recruitment for Ministry at Macedonia Baptist Church

To expose young adults to the possibility of ministry through conferences, workshops, exploration trips, and round-table discussions that help them to discern their gifts and calls to ministry,

Matthew Brown - FTE Fellow '10
Diocese of New York and New Jersey
(Orthodox Church in America)
Exploring Ministry: A Day in NYC for Youth and Young Adults to Learn How They Can Serve the Church and Change their World

To identify, educate and inspire youth and young adults to pursue service in the world and help them to discern their call by hosting an event to connect them with mentors serving the Church in diverse ways.

Anne Clarke – FTE Fellow '11, '12
Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northern CA - Sacramento, CA
Northern California Ministry of Reconciliation Pilgrimage: Leadership Recruitment

To host a weeklong youth event on the ministry of reconciliation, which will be used to recruit and encourage young leaders and to equip them with tools for ministry.

Julian DeShazier – FTE Fellow '08
University Church of Chicago
Chicago, IL
Mobilized for Ministry Program

To provide opportunities for one-on-one mentorship, practice ministry in a more intentional setting, and offer group processing time, while exploring pastoral life.

Renee Harrison – FTE Fellow '04
Howard University, School of Divinity - Washington, D.C.
Artist Camp for Innovative Ministries

To host a workshop to help young adults explore their vocational calling, awaken to the fullness of their gifts and mind-power, and be inspired to draw sustenance from their historical legacies while igniting and honing in on their artistic gifts.

Leslie Lang – FTE Fellow '11
Mere Christianity Forum
Travelers Rest, SC
Ministry Discernment Program

To provide students—who are identified as potential future leaders in the church—with sacred experiential space to explore a call to ministry and opportunities to practice leadership in ministry while living in an intentional community.

Gerald Liu – FTE Fellow '12
Drew Theological School
Madison, NJ & Church of the Village - Manhattan, NY
Multidimensional Discernment

To identify and mentor young adults with gifts for contemporary urban ministry that can connect with kaleidoscopic multiculturalism as exemplified by the metropolis of New York City.

Christina Repoley – FTE Fellow '09
Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS)
Atlanta, GA
QVS Alumni Recruitment for Ministry

To maintain a special relationship with QVS alumni by being with, supporting and listening to these leaders as they pursue the next step in their callings.



K. Monet Rice-Jalloh

TiM Participant '10

Wake Forest University

Winston Salem, NC

Recruitment for Ministry

To create opportunities for one-on-one conversations and chances to build relationships with leaders who are exploring and discerning a call to ministry on Wake Forest University's campus.

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITIES ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES GRANT RECIPIENTS

Grant to provide intentional Christian communities opportunities to develop programs for students to explore their purpose and call within a community of support. This grant also allows communities to develop their staff's capacity to accompany young adults in vocational discernment.

Missional Wisdom Foundation

Southlake, TX

Vocation and Community

To develop a comprehensive program to identify freshmen and sophomores—associated with the Wesley Foundation at the University of Texas at Arlington—who are considering a call to Christian leadership as candidates for an intensive discernment program.

Gordon College

Wenham, MA

Intentional Christian Community on Campus of Gordon College

To launch a new intentional Christian community called Respond and yoke it to the existing intentional Christian community, Reveal, to help students explore their identity and their calling both within the structured environment of the classroom and the interpersonal context of a shared living arrangement.

UK Wesley Foundation

Lexington, KY

LEAD Program

To invest in the Christian formation, vocational discernment, and leadership training of students who are interested in being part of an intentional Christian community while helping the Wesley Foundation to share the love of Christ with the campus, the city, and the world.

Hope College

Holland, MI

Belonging, Being, and Action-Calling and Purpose

To provide Emmaus Scholars with a new level of support for vocational discernment and exploration, which will help them discover and align their gifts with God's priorities for the witness and life of the Church in the midst of a world of brokenness and injustice.

United Wesley Foundation

Miami, FL

Wesley House Ministry

To facilitate the growth of residents as spirit-led, capable, and committed Christian citizens by providing books and mentoring, as well as other programmatic opportunities.

UKirk Ministries of Greensboro

Greensboro, NC

A Holistic Approach to Vocational Discernment: Focus and Direction for the Mind, Body and Soul

To help students better understand their personality tendencies, effective and ineffective behaviors, leadership competencies, and spiritual gifts, address differing aspects of discernment and vocational questioning, and cultivate a practice of holistic health.

InterVarsity's Fresno Institute for Urban Leadership (FIFUL)

Fresno, CA

Engaging Missional Careers Module (EMCM)

To position students in resourceful networks that can launch them into concrete professional experiences—students will not only be equipped in urban leadership, they will become urban leaders.

Calvin College

Grand Rapids, MI

Making Room: Exploring Vocation to Support Diversity, Partnerships, and Practice

To expand external partnerships and programming around vocation in order to better understand and serve diverse populations, broaden the exchange of resources and wisdom gained about living in community, strengthen neighborhood partnerships, and encourage students to explore vocation and ministry more deeply.

University of Dayton

Dayton, OH

Exploring Vocation in Faith-Based Houses

To support the growth of faith-based houses for students by providing opportunities for the exploration of vocation for upper-class students and advisors.

CONGREGATIONS WORKING WITH YOUNG ADULTS GRANT RECIPIENTS

Grant to support congregations accompanying young adults in their exploration of vocation and Christian ministry.

Dublin St. United Church

Ontario, Canada

Online Resource Development

To create a web-based resource with guides, discussion videos, journal exercises, biblical analysis, mentorship and testimonies that congregations can use to explore vocational discernment with young adults.

Church of the Pilgrims

Washington, DC

Distinguishing the Fleeting Moments

To leverage the liturgical season of Epiphany in 2016 with Church of the Pilgrims' community of young adults to focus on discernment through Biblical stories, congregational storytelling, liturgical art, and observing formal art in contemplative ways at the Phillips Collection, a prominent, private museum.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square

Chicago, IL

"Here I Am, Lord" - Eli & Samuel in the Temple, Listening for the Voice of God

To develop a curriculum for training and supporting lay leaders as they guide small groups of young adults through a series of retreats, which are safe and quiet spaces for participants to listen for the voice of God and to discern the character of their own baptismal vocations.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Richmond, VA

Integrating Belief and Action: Seeking God's Call in our Lives

To invite young adults to live together in an intentional community for 10 months engaging in service, vocational discernment, and leadership formation in the Oregon Hill neighborhood.

North Avenue Presbyterian Church

Atlanta, GA

Discovering Vocation in Your Occupation

To host generative conversations around vocational questions that will cultivate community among young adults at North Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Minneapolis, MN
Young Adults Vocational Exploration

To provide a space for young adults to immerse themselves in the participatory witnessing work of God's people and the vast creative possibilities for contextual ministry in the pursuit of authentic community accessible to all people.

Ballard First Lutheran Church

Seattle, WA
Renewal: A Spiritual Community for the Next Generation of Faith Leaders

To revitalize modern spirituality by creating a community where young adults can worship, connect, question, and serve to empower young people of faith to explore vocation and creative forms of justice-focused ministry.

PASTORAL INTERNSHIP GRANT RECIPIENTS

Grants to provide internships in traditional and new forms of church, introducing young adults to pastoral ministry and congregational ministries engaged in the broader community.

SPRING RECIPIENTS

New Elizabeth AME Church

Newark, DE
Pastoral Internship Program

To provide interns with the necessary skills, tools and spiritual guidance in pastoral ministry and prepare them for the high call of ministry.

John Knox Presbyterian Church

Greenville, SC
Speak, for Your Servant is Listening: Discerning God's Call within a Circles of Trust Model

To provide racially diverse college students intentional opportunities for vocational discernment toward Christian leadership including pastoral ministry.

National Avenue Christian Church

Springfield, MO
2015 Internship Program

To create opportunities for students to innovatively develop their skills by participating in the church community and the pursuit of faith-based social justice in the Springfield area.

Allen Temple AME Church

Marion, IN
Allen Temple Christian Youth Community Leadership Exploration (AT-CYCLE) Program

To provide an opportunity for college students to discern, discover, and deepen their faith relationship while developing leadership skills to impact their community.

St. Paul's Baptist Church

West Chester, PA
Summit 2016: Generation Next Now

To provide an opportunity for Christian leadership development among young adults of faith from Cheyney University, Immaculata University, Lincoln University, West Chester University, Widener University and St. Paul's Baptist Church through a community-wide forum addressing global missions, outreach, discipleship, and social justice in the 21st century.

First United Methodist Church Dallas

Dallas, TX
First Church Fellows

To assess and affirm young adults' individual gifts for ministry, empower them to use their gifts, give them ministerial support, guidance, and space to reflect theologically, develop their leadership skills and give them congregational support and feedback.

Mosaic Church of Clayton

Clayton, NC

Pastoral Internship

To cultivate a community that takes an active role in young adults' spiritual growth and the growth of God's Kingdom.

The Institute for the Study of Asian American Christianity (ISAAC)

South Pasadena, CA

A Bilateral Summer Pastoral Internship

To assist Asian American congregations in Southern California to address their urgent need for the now/next generation spiritual leaders that are culturally rooted to effectively and confidently impact communities.

FALL RECIPIENTS

Messiah Lutheran Church

Vancouver, WA

College Student Summer Internship Program

To provide an immersion experience designed for current full-time college students to learn and perform various leadership roles in weekend worship, prepare and preach a sermon, complete a summer-long project for the congregation, shadow and meet with Messiah's pastors and experience various aspects of congregational ministry.

The Vine Church

Braselton, GA

Pastoral Internship Program

To take young adults deeper into a particular ministry area with greater responsibilities and experiences through hands-on ministry, leadership opportunities, and learning in community, which will provide a foundation as they pursue their calling.

St. Luke Missionary Baptist (The Luke Church)

Humble, TX

Internship Program

To place pastoral interns within an environment where they can experience the everyday life and the impact of ministry.

New Mount Zion Church

Roxboro, NC

Joshua Ministry

To allow young adults to work within the congregation and community on a weekly basis for an academic school year.

Richfield Community Church

Yorba Linda, CA

Young Adult Ministries Intern

To provide a guided leadership experience for a junior or senior college student to shape the candidate's philosophy of ministry.

MENTORING FOR YOUNG ADULTS GRANT RECIPIENTS

Grants to diverse leaders of congregations and church-related organizations working to develop mentoring programs to encourage and inspire young adults exploring a call to Christian ministry.

SPRING RECIPIENTS

Scarritt Bennett Center

Nashville, TN

Mentoring for Social Justice

To engage mentors for young women who are exploring vocations within the context of faith-based social justice ministries.

The Bridge Church

Cleveland, GA

Mentoring Ministries

To share leadership influence in conjunction with mentoring insight to perpetuate learning that both educates the mind and processes what is in the heart of students.

The School for Conversion

Durham, NC

Pilgrimage as a Practice for Vocational Discernment: 21st Century Freedom Ride

To lead a multi-cultural cohort comprised of young adults on a 21st Century Freedom Ride to bring to light the role of pastoral leaders and congregations in freedom movements.

FALL RECIPIENTS

Rivers of Living Faith

Bronx, NY

WAVE (Worthy, Anointed, Victorious & Empowered)

To provide a framework for structure, direction, and purpose for young adults to discern the vocation of ministry through workshops, intensives, panel discussions and mentorship.

School for Conversion

Durham, NC

Septima Clark Fellows Program

To provide vocational discernment for young people of color considering ministry and engage issues of national and local significance around the intersections of theology, community engagement, and social change.

TCU Wesleyan Foundation

Fort Worth, TX

Project Timothy

To provide a multi-layered mentoring model that will aid in both the vocational discernment of undergraduate students exploring a call to ministry, as well as the preparation of current seminarians for more faithful and fruitful ministry in the local church.

Wilshire Baptist Church

Dallas, TX

YourCall

To create curriculum and experiences for students that will enhance and go beyond what is currently offered by the church including programs on vocation, shared reading experiences on vocational conversations and mentorship.

VOCATIONAL RESOURCES GRANT RECIPIENTS

Grants to diverse congregations and church-related organizations to develop vocational resources that support young people exploring Christian ministry.

Faith Matters Network

Nashville, TN

Storytelling as a Tool for Vocational Discernment

To build upon the Faith Matters Network's expertise in storytelling for social change and create a curriculum designed to spark the moral imagination of young faith leaders as they faithfully discern next steps in their call and vocation.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

Phoenix, AZ

CVC - Connections, Vocations, Community

To further connect the Trinity Cathedral congregation with seekers in the local community who are beginning to explore deep theological questions surrounding vocation, discernment, and Christian ministry.

The General Board of Church & Society of the United Methodist Church

Washington, DC

Discerning God's Call in Public Life

To develop a curriculum to resource Christian ministries to help young people discern their call to pastoral leadership in public life.

American Baptist Churches of Greater Indianapolis

Vocation Discernment Program

To prepare young adults for leadership and service by providing them with a deeper understanding of God's call and a challenge to full-time Christian ministry in a retreat setting.

Center for FaithJustice

Lawrence Township, NJ

Essentials of Dialogue for LeaderworX Curriculum

To develop a tailored curriculum that aids young adult leaders into a deeper understanding and practice around vocational discernment.

CULTIVATING FUTURE LEADERS – BUNDLED GRANT RECIPIENTS

Boston University's Marsh Chapel

Boston, MA

Cultivating Future Leader Program

To convene leaders around themes of vocational discernment, engage current interns in leadership in the worship life of Marsh Chapel and provide them with mentoring and coaching, and identify and recruit partner congregations to support a shared mentoring strategy.

Urban Village Church

Chicago, IL

Young Leaders

Residency Program

To design a curriculum focused on fostering pastoral leadership opportunities for undergraduate participants with twin engines of vocational exploration (mentoring) and ministerial formation (internships), particularly for church development and redevelopment.

VOCATIONAL FRIENDSHIP GRANT RECIPIENTS

Grants to deepen friendships that have nurtured and sustained pastoral leaders on their vocational journey.

SPRING RECIPIENTS

Semaj Vanzant

The Christ Experience UMC, Oklahoma, OK

Mary Prentice-Hyers

Pulpit Supply and Member of Presbytery of Troon, Scotland

Damon Williams

Providence Missionary Baptist Church - Atlanta, GA

Andrew Jaspers

St. John the Baptist Church New Brighton, MN

Jacquelin Lawson

Chaplain, Eventide at Sheyenne Crossings, West Fargo, ND

Matthew Johnson

Ridgewood Baptist Church Louisville, KY

Anthony Livolsi

Old South Church - Boston, MA

Jennie Ott

Lake Oswego United Church of Christ - Lake Oswego, OR

Rehiel Tesfamariam

Urban Cusp and First Corinth Baptist Church - New York, NY

Zayna Thompson

First Congregational United Church of Christ - Platteville, WI

FALL RECIPIENTS

Gretchen Deeg

United Church of Christ Bismarck, ND

John Allen

First Congregational Church of Milton - Milton, MA

Lindsay Conrad

First Presbyterian Church Burlington, NC

Edwin Estevez

Riverfront Church Wilmington, DE

Kathryn Russell

Broadway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Council Bluffs, IA

Diane Faires

St. Paul's Christian Church Raleigh, NC

John Alvaro

Spring Creek Baptist Church Oklahoma City, OK

Katrina Schaafsma

Duke Divinity School Durham, NC

Owen Chandler

Saguaro Christian Church Tucson, AZ

Meredith Harber

Eben Ezer Lutheran Church Oaks, OK

Craig Robinson

Betel AME Church Bay Shore, NY

Joe Ella Darby

The Sunday School Publishing Board - Nashville, TN

Anna Fulmer

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church Mobile, AL

MINISTRY EXPLORATION AND MENTORING GRANT RECIPIENTS

Grant to young adults to develop mentoring relationships with innovative Christian pastors and leaders, explore ministry as a vocation and connect them with congregations within communities they want to serve.

Calla Marie Couch

*Mentor: Annie Selak - Ph.D. Student, Boston College/
Lay Ecclesial Minister, Roman Catholic Church*

To explore and embrace potential leadership and gain an understanding of how women are working in ministry by visiting and developing relationships with women who are leading in various ministerial settings.

Jessica Fortner

Mentor: Kaye Edwards – Retired Minister, Disciples of Christ/United Church of Christ

To reflect on a form children's ministry, called "Children, Worship and Wonder", apply the learned practices to the grant recipient's current ministry working with youth and children, and explore her calling more deeply.

Adriana Foster & Meg Brauckmann

Mentor: Joan Sattler - Team Member, Racial Justice Circle, Call to Action

To better understand the current status of anti-racist ministry, be trained in this ministry while identifying ways to support its growth and the dedicated involvement of more congregations, expand the grant recipients' understanding of the history of this ministry and learn from others who are already implementing and incorporating this work into their churches.

Hye Sung Gehring

Mentor: Micah Bales - Bi-vocational Minister

To explore and learn more about bi-vocational ministry, house church planting, and preaching and living a whole gospel (which includes social justice work) from Friends of Jesus.

Patrick Keyser

Mentoring: Barbara Ambrose – Deacon, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

To gain an understanding of the role that an ordained person plays in empowering laity to respond to their own call, create a program that will work with adults with low literacy levels who want to learn to read the Bible, and explore serving the marginalized as a part of the grant recipient's identity as a minister.

Michael Henry Kinsman

Mentor: Dominic Rivkin – Executive Director, LINC Los Angeles

To diversify leadership skills and get on-the-ground experience in an alternate ministry context while adapting to a different environment with its particular demographics, concerns, and struggles.

Thomas "Ethan" Lowery

Mentor: Caroline McCall – All Souls Episcopal Parish

To pursue deeper discernment toward professional congregational consulting, seek the tools and cultivate the skills necessary to best develop the grant recipient's role as a young adult church leader nurturing and developing worshipping communities.

Samantha Menapace & Susie Wold

Mentor: Leslie Lang – Assistant Director, Mere Christianity Forum

To discover the manifestation of Christianity in California by visiting three distinct types of ministries (faith-based nonprofits, churches and theological institutions) in order to assist in the discernment of the grant recipients' future vocational plans.

Victoria Moore & Brooke Taylor

Mentors: Joseph Muth - Pastor, St. Matthew Catholic Church & Denise Janssen – Executive Director, The Resource Center

To create a unit of curriculum regarding mass incarceration, which can be utilized within urban juvenile detention centers by faith-based leaders and to implement a mentoring program for adolescent males within a Baltimore based detention center, employing the new curriculum as a resource.

Charles Penny

Mentor: LaTonya McIver – Pastor, New Mount Zion Baptist Church

To explore how others are mentoring through sports while applying Christian beliefs and to use the game of golf as an avenue to teach at risk minority youth males, at its onset, to learn the game of golf and to also introduce them to faith principles.

Margaret “Margie” Quinn

Mentor: Dee Wells – Woodmont Christian Church

To engage in vocational discernment and embark on a pilgrimage to meet spiritual leaders and social justice advocates engaged in the outdoor ministry, social justice and youth empowerment.

Courtney Sanford

Mentor: Elizabeth Murray – Director of Hispanic Worship, Mt. Hebron United Methodist Church

To walk alongside a spiritual director to prayerfully discern the grant recipient's next most faithful steps in order to gain a clearer perspective of her call and the confidence to move forward to enact it.

Sarah Emily Seibert

Mentor: Casey FitzGerald – Storyteller, Network of Biblical Storytelling/ Associate Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church

To better understand the power of story and the ways it can inform Christian formation and evangelism.

Emily Wilkes

Mentor: Shannon Beck - Reconciliation Catalyst, Presbyterian Church (USA) World Mission

To explore a call to pastoral ministry specifically with people who have experienced trauma, understand the education and advocacy around trauma, and seek out how leaders within congregational settings can faithfully respond in a pastoral, compassionate way to individuals within their communities who have experienced sexual violence.