

McGEACHY SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

Purpose

The McGeachy Senior Scholarship is designed to:

- Foster the development of those who will provide The United Church of Canada with discernment and direction that inspire and challenge the church towards creative and faithful mission
- Enhance the work of a church leader at a creative moment in her or his life
- Provide not only for the person's growth, but also for an impact on the broader church
- Provide income to allow a major portion of time to be used on a project of enduring value to the United Church

The award is open to anyone from any church or country, but the proposal must indicate how the project will address the concerns of The United Church of Canada. The deadline for applications is March 15th. Announcement of the recipient will be made in late May or early June.

Background

The McGeachy Memorial Fund represents a substantial bequest from the estate of William A. and Margaret H. McGeachy, an agricultural family in southwestern Ontario. The McGeachys' commitment to the Christian church and the role of the church in society is memorialized in the McGeachy Senior Scholarship, derived from the Fund. Scholarships are offered periodically as interest income permits.

The intent of the scholarship project is to develop leaders who will provide The United Church of Canada with discernment and direction that inspire and challenge the church towards creative and faithful mission.

The McGeachy senior scholar is expected to express the prophetic vision of the church and to interpret Christ's call to justice and peace in our pluralistic world. She or he will combine reflection and research with practical action, and communicate the results of this work in a form accessible to the wider church.

The scholarship is intended to free a person to use a major block of time for concentrated effort on a project of enduring value to the Church. It is hoped that the award will enhance the life work of the McGeachy scholar at a creative moment in her or his development, and thus yield continuing benefit to the individual and to the community.

Eligibility

Although designed for Canadians, particularly members of The United Church of Canada, the scholarship is open to applications from women or men anywhere. The McGeachy Scholarship Committee will give serious and fair review to all proposals. Any applicant, however, should indicate how her or his project will address the concerns of The United Church of Canada and make a contribution to its life and mission.

This "senior" scholarship is for persons established in their life work. It is not available to candidates in degree programs or other forms of professional preparation. A parallel in the academic world is the "post-doctoral fellowship," although the McGeachy scholarship does not have a doctoral prerequisite.

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Since the scholarship primarily seeks to provide time for major research and reflection, it is not generally intended for those who have sabbatical or retirement income. However, a scholarship of less than the maximum amount, with reduced funding for time, may be awarded to an applicant with retirement or sabbatical income when the committee evaluates their proposal as having exceptional merit. In all proposals, costs of travel and research materials may be included, but these costs are seen as secondary to the provision of time.

It is important that applicants indicate a clear time line, and show how a significant block of time will be arranged and set aside. Full time participation in the project for one or two years is the norm, though other plans will be considered.

Scholarship Guidelines

1. The goal of the Scholarship is to serve the broader church as well as the individual doing the project. It is essential that any proposal indicate how the project will do this. The tangible product of the study does not need in every instance to be a written document but may be in some other format. Publication or development of this product of study is the financial responsibility of the McGeachy scholar.
2. The McGeachy scholar is invited to prepare a 5,000- to 10,000-word paper for possible inclusion in the McGeachy Papers Series. Printing and distribution of the paper is done at the expense of the fund and at the discretion of the committee.
3. McGeachy scholars are expected to provide the committee with one copy of any book or other product or publication resulting from the project.
4. The scholarship will normally be granted in three segments, 40% at the start, 40% midway, and 20% upon completion of all agreed conditions (normally no more than one year after the agreed completion date of the project). The final 20% may be forfeited in cases where the project is not completed as agreed.
5. A report is expected every six months for the duration of the project period, on a form provided by the committee. No further installments of the scholarship will be given without timely receipt of these reports.
6. The format of the proposal is given in the McGeachy Scholarship Guidelines for Proposals. Please follow these in preparing a proposal.
7. Applications and documentation must be received no later than 4:30 PM, March 15. See the Guidelines for a list of necessary documentation. Announcement of the recipient is expected by May. The commencement of the scholarship period may be any time in the current year.
8. In making an appointment the final decision will rest with the McGeachy Scholarship Committee.

These guidelines are intended to help a potential applicant judge the appropriateness of a proposal, and to guide those who wish to proceed with a proposal. The committee will not dismiss in advance creative

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proposals from any quarter. It will be looking for proposals that identify and study questions seen to be important to the life and faith of the church in our time.

An applicant may propose to relate to one of the educational institutions of The United Church of Canada for the period of the scholarship. Such a relationship may be particularly helpful for a Canadian who is not a member of the United Church or for an applicant from outside Canada.

Institutions are eligible to apply on behalf of individuals but should state clearly the individual's relationship to the institution.

Applicants are encouraged to create an advisory or support group to help make use of the human resources of the community and to provide ongoing accountability.

Format for a Proposal

1. **Biographical Information**

A full curriculum vitae should be provided.

2. **Background and Context of the Project**

Describe the experience from which your interest or concern arises. Indicate aspects of the social, cultural, and religious context that inform your perspective, and the way this perspective is related to your life and faith.

3. **Area of Concern**

State the basic area of concern that you will address in this project. Provide the central working hypothesis you plan to use and then outline related questions and hypotheses in the area you wish to explore.

4. **Theological and Theoretical Framework**

Indicate the theological assumptions and the theological stance that are central to your project. State relevant biblical and ecclesiastical assumptions that inform your viewpoint. Also provide any special theoretical approach you may use derived from sociology, psychology, political science, cultural studies or other areas. If particular authors in theology or other fields are especially relevant to your project, please indicate who they are and what works of theirs you find most influential for your own thought.

5. **Theory and Practice**

Provide a description of how you plan to carry out this project and how your operative theology will be expressed in that work. If you will be testing certain ideas in action state how you will do this. If not, indicate how the theoretical and practical dimensions of the project will be developed. If later parts of the project will build upon earlier work in the project, provide a description of the movement from one phase to another.

6. **Data and Analysis**

Indicate what kind of data will be gathered for the project and how it will be gathered. Spell out the methods you will use to evaluate and interpret the data.

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7. **Contributions of the Project to the United Church and Beyond**

Indicate the ways you expect this project to make a contribution to the life and faith of The United Church of Canada and to the wider church and community. Also state how the project will contribute to your own life and work.

8. **Setting and Time Line**

State the setting in which this project will be carried out. If you will be attached to a United Church of Canada educational institution, please describe the relationship. A letter from that institution should be appended. If you plan to arrange an advisory or support group, please indicate proposed structure and membership.

Give a clear picture of the starting and ending time for the entire project, and for each phase of the work. Recognizing that the project itself may lead to unexpected turns, and that outside factors may intervene, please give a realistic picture of how you will arrange time for the project and see it to completion.

9. **Budget**

Previous awards have ranged from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Please outline a budget of necessary expenses for doing your project. This budget should include, as applicable, stipend, research materials, data gathering, data analysis, research assistance, writing and duplicating costs. Applicants should keep in mind that the scholarship primarily seeks to provide time for research and reflection. Thus, other expenses are seen to be secondary to the provision of time.

Further Documentation

- If a bibliography would be helpful in understanding your proposal, please provide it.
- Three letters of reference and support, especially from persons in United Church of Canada institutions, should be provided.
- You may append other materials that would assist in explicating your proposal.

Conditions of the Scholarship

Please indicate that you understand the conditions of the scholarship as listed above and sign your proposal.

Deadline & Submission

Proposals and all supporting documentation must be submitted prior to 8 p.m. eastern on **March 15th** of a year when the scholarship is offered to:

scholarships@united-church.ca

If it is not possible to email your application, you can mail or courier it to:

The United Church of Canada Foundation
300-3250 Bloor St. West
Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4