



BLACK CLERGY NETWORK SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Research Scholarship

Through the generosity of United Church people, communities of faith, theological schools, General Council, and more, The United Church of Canada Foundation and The Black Clergy Network are pleased to announce the Black Clergy Network Scholarship program.

The program, consisting of three Scholarship streams, is intended to foster and support Black people, United Church Theological Students, and Clergy in The United Church of Canada.

This application is for the ***Research Scholarship***, which supports projects addressing systemic racism, cultural competency, or theological innovation within the church.

The intent of the Senior Research Scholarship 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 Research Scholarship proposal must indicate how the project will address the systems of oppression and racism in The United Church of Canada.

The BCN 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. They will combine reflection and research with practical action and communicate the results of this work in a form accessible to the wider church.

1. Scholarship is for persons established in their vocation. It is not available to candidates in degree programs or other forms of professional preparation. The Scholarship does not have a doctoral prerequisite.
2. Scholarship 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.
3. The Black Clergy Network scholar is invited to prepare a 5,000- to 10,000-word paper for possible inclusion in the BCN-Anti Racism Round Table Papers Series. Printing and distribution of the paper is done at the expense of the fund and at the discretion of the committee.
4. Scholar is expected to provide the committee with one copy of any book or other product or publication resulting from the project. Publication or development of this product of study is the financial responsibility of the BCN Scholar.
5. The scholarship will normally be granted in three segments, 40% at the start, 30% midway, and 30% upon completion of all agreed conditions (normally no more than one year after the agreed completion date of the project). The final 30% may be forfeited in cases where the project is not completed as agreed.
6. It is important that applicants indicate a clear timeline, and show how a significant block of time will be arranged and set aside.



7. Full-time participation in the project for one or two years is the norm, though other plans will be considered.
8. The format of the proposal is given in the Black Clergy Network Scholarship Application Guidelines that follow. Please follow these in preparing a proposal.
9. Applications and documentation must be received no later than 11:55 p.m. on March 15th in a year when the scholarship is offered. See the Guidelines for a list of necessary documentation. Announcement of the recipient(s) is expected by June. The commencement of the scholarship period may be any time in the current year.
10. 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 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.
11. An applicant may propose to relate to one of the educational institutions of The United Church of Canada for the period of the scholarship.
12. 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.

The individual maximum amount for applicants is **\$15000**.

Application, proposals, and all supporting documentation must be submitted prior to 11:55 p.m. 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 – BCN Scholarship
300-3250 Bloor St. West
Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4

Personal Information:

Name:

Address:

Telephone number:

E-mail address:

Have you previously been awarded a Black Clergy Network Scholarship?

Yes No

United Church Affiliation:

Region

Congregation



If not a United Church member, what denomination/Faith? _____

Guidelines for 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/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.

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

Indicate the ways you expect this project to contribute 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 Timeline

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

The awards range will be determined by the Scholarship Committee. 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

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

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

Name: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date: _____