



FTE

THE FUND FOR
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

2005
Undergraduate
Fellowship
Guidebook



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A Word about the Fellowship

The Fund for Theological Education's Undergraduate Fellowship is unlike any other fellowship available in North America. The Fellowship exists solely to invite young adult Christians to explore whether and how ministry might be their life's work. All Christians are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ and, by virtue of their baptisms, called to minister to God's world. Yet some Christians have been given a particular charism for the leading of the community of the faithful. You may be one of those people.

With the Undergraduate Fellowship award – the summer conference, the stipend, and the mentoring funds – FTE dedicates its resources to supporting your consideration of God's call. We urge you to think carefully about how to use this gift of resources to best serve your own exploration of or preparation for ministry. We welcome you into this community of support with hopes for your vocational discernment.

*Melissa Wiginton
Director of Ministry Programs
and the Partnership for Excellence*



General Considerations

The Undergraduate Fellowship provides three primary benefits:

1. Attendance at Summer Conference on Excellence in Ministry;
2. \$1,500 stipend provided to all Fellows; and
3. \$500 mentoring funds for Fellows who apply.

Timeline

June 15-19, 2005	Summer Conference
August 1, 2005	Stipend Use Designation deadline *The form must be received by FTE in order to issue your stipend.
September 1, 2005	First \$750 disbursement of stipend
October 1, 2005	Mentoring Project Proposal deadline
November 1, 2005	Mentoring Project funds disbursed
January 15, 2006	Second \$750 disbursement of stipend
April 1, 2006	2006 Ministry Fellows application deadline. If you are graduating in 2006 and plan to attend seminary in Fall 2006 in a Master of Divinity degree program, you are eligible to apply for a Ministry Fellowship.
May 1, 2006	Mentoring Project Reflection deadline
May 1, 2006	End of Year Report deadline



Stipend Use Options

OPTION 1: EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES

Payment directly to institution

Fellows may apply all or a portion of the \$1,500 stipend to payments for tuition, fees, books and living expenses.

Disbursement will be made in two installments of \$750 each; one on September 1 and one on January 15. Checks will be issued payable to the Fellow and sent directly to the Financial Aid Officer whose name has been provided at the educational institution in which the Fellow is enrolled.

Potential impact on financial aid package

Fellows should investigate whether this payment will affect their financial aid packages from their institutions. Fellows may prefer that the stipend be paid directly to the Fellow. In this situation, Fellows must attend to potential income tax consequences.

Possible income tax consequences

Although FTE is not required to file Form 1099 for fellowships and scholarships, the stipends are usually considered taxable income to the recipients. Each person's tax situation is different, so FTE advises Fellows to review the Internal Revenue Service instructions and definitions relating to taxable income. A publication relating to scholarships and fellowships is available on the IRS website as well.

OPTION 2: EXPENSES FOR EXPLORATION OF MINISTRY OUTSIDE THE CURRICULUM

Fellows may use all or a portion of the \$1,500 award for an alternative educational activity to explore ministry.

Payment may be made directly to an outside institution or to the Fellow. If less than \$1,500 is needed for the activity, the balance of the stipend may then be applied as described in Option 1.

Previous Fellows have used funds for site visits and application fees to seminaries, study travel to the Middle East or other vocation-related study travel and other experiences to further their ideas of ministry.

OPTION 3: IMMERSION INTERNSHIPS

As an alternative to using the stipend award as described above, Fellows may apply instead for an award of \$2,000 to use in a summer internship to learn about ministry. Fellows who choose this option are not eligible for a separate mentoring fund award because the internship functions as a mentoring experience. The Immersion Internship will pair the Fellow with a pastor in a congregation for a period of four to six weeks. Each Fellow will shadow the pastor, accompanying him or her in the daily activities of ministry to observe first-hand the work of congregational leadership, pastoral care and the role of minister in a church setting.

FTE will work to facilitate placement for these internships. *Fellows will be responsible for transportation, meals and other personal expenses.* The congregation will provide housing.



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Stipend Use Designation

Return this form to Beth Eichelberger at FTE for receipt by August 1, 2005.

Name: _____

Please check one option below:

_____ **Option 1: Educational Expenses**

_____ **Payment Through the Institution**

Please update the following information **if different** from that provided on the Acceptance Form.

Name of financial aid officer: _____

*we must have the name of someone who will receive your check

Address of financial aid office: _____

_____ **Request for direct payment to Fellow.**

Address on September 1, 2005:

Address on January 15, 2005:

Option 2. Educational Expenses Outside the Curriculum

Briefly describe outside educational experience:

What is the cost? _____

To whom should payment be made? _____

Address: _____

Deadline for payment: _____

Option 3: Immersion Internship

(a) Desired duration of internship: ___ 4 weeks ___ 6 weeks

(b) Denominational preference: _____

Would you serve in another denomination? ___ yes ___ no

If yes, which ones? _____

(c) Geographic preferences? _____

(d) Other preferences?



A Word about Mentoring

We hope that the activities of the Undergraduate Fellowship will fire and give shape to the imaginations of young adults thinking about ministry as a way of life and of themselves as ministers. We believe that it is in the context of faithful relationships that many of us are most powerfully initiated into new images of ourselves – new ways of seeing, naming and creating our lives. Therefore, we invite you to consider pursuing a mentoring relationship in the spirit described by Sharon Daloz Parks in Big Questions, Worthy Dreams: “Mentoring, in its classic sense, is an intentional, mutually demanding, and meaningful relationship between two individuals, a young adult and an older, wiser figure who assists the younger person in learning the ways of life.”¹

¹ Sharon Daloz Parks, Big Questions, Worthy Dreams: Mentoring Young Adults in Their Search for Meaning, Purpose, and Faith. (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass), 2000, p. 127.



Mentoring Project Guidelines

In addition to receiving the \$1,500 stipend, Undergraduate Fellows may apply for an award of \$500 for a mentoring project of their own design. FTE hopes to encourage partnerships among faculty, pastors, campus ministers or administrators and students for the purpose of exploring ministry and discerning vocation.

Preparation

Fellows will be well served to reflect on how this opportunity might best assist their own journeys. Perhaps the following questions might help:

- ♦ Whom do I know that is practicing ministry and seems most alive, most compelling or most engaged?
- ♦ When I think about my possible place in ministry, where do I feel excited? Hopeful? Afraid? Overwhelmed? Passionate?
- ♦ How do I learn best about what is really true for me – reading and reflection, service and reflection, observing and asking questions, trying activities and reflecting upon them, quietness, making art, engaging others?
- ♦ What questions or concerns persist as I consider whether or how I will become a minister?

Mentoring Proposal

On or before October 1, 2005, electronically submit (to Beth Eichelberger at beth@thefund.org) a brief mentoring proposal answering these questions:

1. In what activities will you engage? What books, if any, will you read?
2. With whom? Please include your mentor's name and a brief description of your relationship.
3. How will this help you explore your vocation, especially ministry? What questions do you hope to move closer to answering?
4. How will you spend the money? Please list specific categories and amounts.

Funds will be disbursed in one payment, payable to the Fellow, if the project is approved **on November 1**. If the funds are needed earlier, the Fellow must inform FTE staff when the funds are needed.

Previous Projects

FTE calls each Fellow to draw upon her or his own imagination, self-understanding, and relationships to craft an experience that will be full and deep. However, from observing Fellows in previous years, we notice the following patterns:

Mentors Undergraduate Fellows have asked people in many different roles to serve as mentors – pastors of congregations near their schools, pastors of other local or their home congregations, university chaplains, campus ministers, retired or visiting seminary professors, college teachers who serve or have served as congregational pastors, directors of religious education, hospital chaplains, PhD students who are also pastors, and other teachers with whom they have special relationships or who offer particular expertise in art, music, dance or religion.

Activities Fellows and their mentors typically find their way into a rhythm or a set of activities that suits their interests and temperaments. Below you will find a menu of activities previous partners have reported. Remember though, the point is not to *do* a lot of things but to act and reflect in authentic service to the work of vocational discernment.

- ♦ Meet regularly – often over coffee or meals funded by the stipend:
 - To process observations
 - To talk about what it is really like to be a pastor of a church
 - To talk about the future of the church
 - To work through the question of ordination
 - To deal with questions about one’s place in the denomination and the denomination’s struggles
 - To discuss books read by both mentor and Fellow for this purpose
- ♦ Observe congregational ministry through shadowing
- ♦ Try leadership of congregational ministry activities
- ♦ Perform administrative tasks of ministry
- ♦ Pray together
- ♦ Covenant to individual spiritual disciplines of daily devotion, prayer and scripture reading with mutual accountability
- ♦ Meet with a mentor and a group of peers to work through certain materials
- ♦ Together attend a conference on ministry (Talking during driving seems very important!)
- ♦ Go on retreat
- ♦ Visit seminaries
- ♦ Create art – music, prayers, poems, book making, watercolor, dance – that explores spirituality and ministry
- ♦ Research and write on a matter of import
- ♦ Buy lots of books!

Money Fellows submit an itemized budget at the conclusion of the project and report having paid for books, meals, travel, and conference fees for their mentor and themselves, art supplies, time not spent generating income, and honoraria for the mentor.

Quotable Quotes From a few former Undergraduate Fellows ...

The mentoring program allowed me to experience what ministry is like in the “real world” and to realize what the world is like outside of college life. It also gave me a chance to develop the connection between beliefs and practices, which helped to make my academic work more relevant and more interesting. It made my study of theology, of faith seeking understanding, to also become faith in action. I have a better understanding of what being a minister in the

Lutheran church means, as well as some ideas of the flexibility that ministering in different contexts requires.

The coffee was alright but the conversation was tremendous. ... I found myself learning more in my hours with Rev. Kalke than I did in my classes. I felt like Rev. Kalke was not just preaching textbook theory, but rather something that he is doing and working on. His teaching seeped into my mind and spilled out in my other classes. My Christian ethics class taught Christian ethics. My social work class taught social work and so on. But, my time with Rev. Kalke taught me how to live out Christian ethics, social work, and so on.

Through our conversations, I came to understand ministry as an integrative whole. I knew this before, but watching Jay minister at church and to me, and seeing how the different aspects of my life (job, school, work, volunteer work, and church) came all together to not only be opportunities for ministry, but also to complement one another, was quite interesting. This mentorship gave me a focus in understanding and reflecting upon my many life experiences this year. Having Jay as a part of this process was helpful not only because he listened and gave good advice, but also because in writing out my thoughts and talking through my experiences, I came to better understand exactly what type of ministry to which God is calling me. Being able to watch Jay utilize his teaching ability with the church has helped me to loosen my strict dichotomous understanding of teaching and preaching / pastoral care, enabling me to sense a greater freedom about ministry as an integration of these two roles. Jay continues to encourage my gifts in both of these areas, which is a self-confidence booster for my abilities and my goals.

Mentoring Project Reflection

At the conclusion of the Mentoring Project, Fellows should write an essay which addresses what they have learned. The following items should be included:

1. Brief description of the activities—how and with whom ministry was explored;
2. Synthesis of the learning with attention to body, mind, soul and heart and the mentoring relationship itself;
3. Expression of the Fellow's current understanding of his or her own vocation; and
4. Naming the questions that remain and the next movement of vocational discernment, such as further investigation, application for seminary or other graduate school, entering church processes, or other actions.

Please include three attachments:

1. Cover sheet with Fellow's name, college, and mentor's name, street mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number. (We ask for mentor names and contact information so that we may keep them informed about opportunities for students interested in ministry.)
2. Appendix outlining actual expenditures. If you do not spend all of the \$500, please return the unused portion to FTE.
3. Statement from the mentor that (1) sets forth his or her observation of your experience and (2) comments on his or her experience of the process. This may be brief – two to three paragraphs are fine.

Reports are due in the FTE office (to Beth Eichelberger at beth@thefund.org) by May 1, 2006.



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Undergraduate Fellows End of Year Report

Name: _____

School: _____

Classification during the year of the fellowship (2005-06):

_____ Junior _____ Senior

How did you use your \$1,500 FTE stipend? Check as many as apply.

_____ Tuition and fees.

_____ Supplement living expenses. If so, how did this free you to engage in exploring ministry?

_____ Seminary visits.

_____ Special project to explore ministry. Please explain:

_____ Other:

If you did not use the \$500 mentoring funds, why did you make the choice not to do so?

How did this fellowship help in your vocational discernment?

What are your post-college graduation plans?

_____ Seminary immediately after graduation

_____ Seminary but not immediately after graduation. Immediate plans?

_____ Not sure but am still considering seminary

_____ Graduate school but not seminary. What degree? What field?

_____ Other:

Please return no later than May 1, 2006.

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