



FTE Dedicated to Excellence, Diversity

The Fund for Theological Education, an ecumenical Christian organization, exists to promote excellence in the profession of ministry by inspiring, recruiting, and supporting gifted women and men of diverse backgrounds in their theological formation.

Through its fellowship programs, FTE supports those who embody the highest intellectual and spiritual qualities essential for contemporary ministry. FTE's mission is to respond to the continuing need for outstanding persons for Christian leadership as pastors, educators, and citizens. It is dedicated to no single denomination or educational institution.

Established in 1954, the FTE has grown in both scope and commitment as one of the leading voices in theological education today, working to attract gifted students to ministry, theological teaching, and scholarship. In addition to the Ministry Fellows Program, FTE coordinates the Undergraduate Fellows Program for students considering the ministry, the North American Doctoral Fellows Program, and the Expanding Horizons Partnership for African-American students pursuing Ph.D. or Th.D. degrees in religion or theology.



The Fund for Theological Education, Inc.



ministry fellows
program



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answering an uncommon
calling

I definitely feel called to serve in a parish.

*Every time a pastor speaks of this to me in her own way my heart nearly skips a beat. I want to **share my faith** with the family of God and I want to nurture and build up the family of God, and I can think of no better place to put my gifts than in **service** to the church.*

Sarah Sanderson, Ministry Fellow
McCormick Theological Seminary,
traveled America interviewing
Presbyterian women clergy in a
variety of settings





Just as people entering the ministry answer a call to serve the church, the Fund for Theological Education responds to its own calling: **Finding a new generation of truly gifted ministers** to lead the communities and congregations of North America at the start of the new century.

The FTE seeks outstanding candidates for its Ministry Fellows Program, open to students under age 35 entering the first year of a Master of Divinity degree program at any institution accredited by The Association of Theological Schools. FTE invites applications from individuals as well as nominations from theological schools.

FTE looks for men and women who have the intellectual and spiritual gifts essential to becoming excellent ministers, including an ability to understand and act upon the needs of others; a mature sense of personal identity; character traits that reflect integrity, honesty and caring; dedication to a faith tradition; superior academic potential; and a demonstrated capacity for leadership.

Ministry Fellowships offer opportunities for enrichment unlike any other in theological education. Fellows come from all over North America and from diverse denominations. As many as 40 Ministry Fellows will be named each year.



Fellowship Includes Financial Award

Fellows receive \$5,000 following the first year of the M.Div. program. This stipend funds self-designed summer projects to enrich their formation for ministry. Recent Fellows have used awards to build on school experiences or investigate something new. Their activities have included studying in Israel, Germany, Mexico, Bosnia and Africa; creating church-based urban ministries; working in innovative national youth programs; and learning to practice spiritual disciplines.

Erik Christensen, a Ministry Fellow who created a ministry with homeless young people, said, “As a youth advocate, and as a future clergy person, I am concerned about the material conditions and the spiritual neglect of homeless youth. Because I had the freedom to design my own work and the support of FTE, I was able to explore with others the theological and practical dimensions of my ministry. As a result, I have been further strengthened in my resolve to work within the church for the inclusion of all people, especially those most invisible to the present church.”

Ministry Fellow Rebekah Shaffer, who created and implemented a curriculum on spiritual discipline and practice for high school staff at a church camp, stated that the project “gave me the opportunity to give something back to a faith community that has been central in my own formation, and gave me first-hand experience as a pastor, counselor, and worship leader.”

Conference Brings Together Students, Theologians, Pastors

All Ministry Fellows attend the annual Summer Conference on Excellence in Ministry as part of their fellowship. Fellows join prominent theologians, educators, pastors and church leaders to explore issues of theology and ministry.

“The people there were from all walks of life, all with a sense of call to the ministry,” said Kim Seidman, a Ministry Fellow who attended the recent Summer Conference in

Washington, D.C. “I’d never been a part of such an ecumenical group. It was so good to hear about people’s faiths and hopes and dreams.”

Ongoing Relationships Support Fellows

FTE works in partnership with Fellows and their educational institutions to offer special opportunities for enrichment and preparation for ministry. FTE campus liaisons assist Fellows in summer project design, offer special FTE Enhancement Forums, and promote the program to new students.

Application

For a Ministry Fellows Program application, call or email the FTE office, or visit our websites.

Application deadline is April 1.

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