

MINISTRY PROGRAM FELLOWSHIPS

2009–2010 Application Guidelines

NOTE: FTE is now using **one** application for its Ministry Program Fellowships. Each fellowship application contains some components unique to that particular program. The application guidelines for the individual fellowship programs are described below. **Please read all instructions carefully to ensure that you provide the necessary materials for the fellowship program to which you are applying.**

When making photo copies of your application, copy *only* the pages that pertain to the fellowship for which you are applying. **Do not photocopy the application guidelines**.

About the Fellowships

- ❖ FTE Undergraduate Fellowship applicants must be nominated by a college faculty member, administrator, campus minister or current pastor. Nominations forms are due by February 1, 2009; Undergraduate Fellowship applications are due by March 15, 2009.
- * FTE Congregational Fellowship applicants must be nominated by their home congregations. Through the fellowship, FTE offers a one-to-one match for a congregation's contribution toward the student's tuition and living expenses. A congregation's contribution must be between \$2,000 and \$5,000 to qualify for the match. Applications are due by April 1, 2009.
- * FTE VEV Fellowship applicants must be serving or have recently served in church-related volunteer organizations partnering with FTE in the Volunteers Exploring Vocation program. Applications are due by April 1, 2009.
- ❖ FTE Ministry Fellowship applicants must be nominated by the dean or president of their seminary. The letter of nomination should be placed in a sealed and signed envelope accompanying the application form. Applications are due by March 1, 2009.

Application checklist

The application should be submitted in one package containing the original typed application form and all supports documents in the order listed below:	ing
☐ Five collated photocopies plus originals (six copies total) of the application form, resume, and essay should be included. FTE will make photocopies of letters of reference and transcripts.	
\square Do not staple any of the pages or supporting documents.	
☐ Faxed materials are strongly discouraged.	
☐ Each applicant is responsible for ensuring completion of the application, inclusion of copies, and receipt prior to the deadline.	
☐ If printing an application from an electronic version, please take care not to change the format. Electronic version of the application may be typed, or they may be completed using Adobe Acrobat Reader software. When using Acrobat Reader to complete the forms, please print and sign the forms and mail the completed application packa to the address on the following page.	
☐ Materials should not be sent via e-mail.	
☐ Documents received after the following dates will not be considered: March 1, 2009 for the Ministry Fellowship March 15, 2009 for the Undergraduate Fellowship April 1, 2009 for the VEV Fellowship and Congregational Fellowship	

Continued on following page

A completed application includes:

- Application form
- Official transcripts from all schools attended

* Resume

- * Five collated copies of the application form, resume and essay plus originals
- **♦** Three-page essay
- ❖ Academic Letter of Reference (*Undergraduate*, Congregational and Ministry Fellowship applicants)
- Ministry Letter of Reference (Undergraduate, Congregational and Ministry Fellowship applicants)
- ❖ Letter of Recommendation from VEV Supervisor (VEV applicants only)
- Statement of Intent to Enter Ministry (VEV and Congregational Fellowship applicants)
- Endorsement by seminary or divinity school (VEV and Congregational Fellowship applicants)
- Nomination and Financial Commitment by Congregation (Congregational Fellowship applicants only)
- ❖ Letter of nomination from seminary dean or president (*Ministry Fellowship applicants only*)

Application deadlines

Undergraduate Fellowship Nomination	February 1, 2009
Undergraduate Fellowship	March 15, 2009
Congregational Fellowship	April 1, 2009
VEV Fellowship	April 1, 2009
Ministry Fellowship	March 1, 2009

Age

Undergraduate Fellowship nominees and applicants must be no older than 30 years of age on September 1, 2009.

Congregational, VEV and Ministry Fellowship nominees and applicants must be no older than 35 years of age on September 1, 2009.

Citizenship

Nominees and applicants must be citizens of either the United States or Canada.

Academic status

Undergraduate Fellowship

Each nominee must be a junior or senior during the 2009–2010 fellowship year in a program leading toward a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Copies of official transcripts from all institutions attended must be submitted in envelopes signed and sealed by the college or university registrar. Student copies of transcripts or grade reports are not acceptable. Nominees must be enrolled **full-time** during the fellowship year. Juniors who will be graduating in December of 2009 may be eligible to apply; please see page 6.

Congregational and VEV Fellowships

A candidate must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and have earned a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA for undergraduate work. Copies of official transcripts from all institutions attended must be submitted in envelopes signed and sealed by the college or university registrar. Student copies of transcripts or grade reports are not acceptable.

Ministry Fellowship

Each nominee must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, have a minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.0, and have a seminary grade point average of 3.3 or higher at the end of the first academic term. Copies of official transcripts from all institutions attended must be submitted in envelopes signed and sealed by the registrar. Student copies of transcripts or grade reports are not acceptable.

Resume

Undergraduate Fellowship

A professional resume is required. Nominees should highlight church leadership and involvement during high school and college, leadership and involvement in activities outside the church during college, cross-cultural study or experiences (national and/or international), academic or other honors and distinctive experiences, skills or interests.

Congregational, VEV and Ministry Fellowships

A professional resume is required. Nominees and applicants should highlight church leadership and involvement during college and beyond, leadership and involvement in activities outside the church, cross-cultural study or experiences (national and/or international), academic or other honors and distinctive experiences, skills or interests.

Personal essay

Undergraduate Fellowship

Each nominee/applicant must write an essay, double-spaced and no longer than three pages, in which the nominee discusses the ways in which her or his core Christian commitments shape her or his engagement with the world, the community of faith, and the exploration of vocation. This essay should be neither simply an autobiography nor a set of doctrinal statements; it should be a reflection involving both your heart and your mind.

Congregational Fellowship

Each nominee must write an essay, double-spaced and no longer than three pages, in which the nominee discusses her or his understanding of what God is calling the church to be and do in this time and place, and how her or his own gifts, struggles and commitments offer a response to that call as a future leader of a congregation. This essay should be neither simply an autobiography nor a set of doctrinal statements; it should be a reflection involving both heart and mind.

VEV Fellowship

Each applicant must write an essay, double-spaced and no longer than three pages, in which he or she discusses their understanding of what God is calling the church to be and do in this time and place and how his or her own gifts, struggles and commitments offer a response to that call. This essay should be neither simply an autobiography nor a set of doctrinal statements; it should be a reflection involving both heart and mind.

Ministry Fellowship

Each nominee/applicant must write an essay, double-spaced and no longer than three pages, in which the nominee discusses her or his understanding of what God is calling the church to be and do in this time and place, the role of pastoral leaders in that call, and how her or his own gifts, struggles and commitments offer a response to that call. This essay should be neither simply an autobiography nor a set of doctrinal statements; it should be a reflection involving both heart and mind.

Statement of Intent to Enter Ministry (Congregational and VEV Fellowships only)

Each nominee and applicant must sign and submit the Statement of Intent to Enter Ministry.

Endorsement by seminary or divinity school (Congregational and VEV Fellowships only)

Nominees and applicants must submit an endorsement from the school in which they intend to enroll. Nominees and applicants should contact the admissions office for assistance in securing the endorsement from the academic dean, admissions officer or other appropriate seminary administrator. If the nominee has not been accepted to the seminary before the April 1 deadline, an endorsement should still be completed and submitted contingent upon acceptance. Endorsements should be sent as part of the application packet; however, the institution may send the endorsement directly to FTE if they prefer. The endorsement must be received by April 1 regardless of whether the student has been admitted by this date or not. **Applicants bear the responsibility to ensure receipt by April 1.**

Letters of reference

Undergraduate Fellowship

Two letters of reference are required. The Academic Letter of Reference should assess the nominee's academic capabilities and should be written by a professor within the nominee's major or minor discipline, if possible. The Ministry Letter of Reference should be written by a person who has observed the applicant in a ministry setting and should assess the applicant's gifts and aptitudes for ministry. In both cases, letters should avoid simply restating information provided in the resume, transcript or essay and should provide unique insight into the applicant's particular capacities. Either letter of reference may be submitted by the person nominating the student. References should know the applicant well; however, letters from relatives or family members are not acceptable. Each letter should be enclosed in a sealed and signed envelope.

For tips on securing helpful letters of reference, visit the "Undergraduates Exploring Ministry" section at www.thefund.org.

Congregational Fellowship

Two letters of reference are required. The Academic Letter of Reference should be written by a professor who can assess the nominee's academic capabilities. The Ministry Letter of Reference should be written by a person who has observed the nominee in a church setting and should assess the nominee's gifts and aptitudes for ministry. In both cases, letters should avoid simply restating information provided in the resume, transcript or essay and should provide unique insight into the nominee's particular capabilities. References should know the nominee well; however, letters from relatives or family members are not acceptable. Each letter should be enclosed in a sealed and signed envelope.

VEV Fellowship—Letter of Recommendation from VEV Supervisor

Each applicant must secure a letter of recommendation from the supervisor of the Volunteers Exploring Vocation program in which she or he is currently participating or has participated. By "Supervisor" we mean a program leader within the volunteer organization who has worked closely with the applicant during the year of service, and who best can speak to the applicant's gifts and capacities for ministry. This letter of recommendation should be enclosed in a sealed and signed envelope and included in the application packet.

Ministry Fellowship

Two letters of reference are required in addition to the letter of nomination from the seminary dean or president. The Academic Letter of Reference should be written by a seminary professor who can assess the nominee's academic capabilities. The Ministry Letter of Reference should be written by a person who has observed the nominee in a ministry setting and should assess the nominee's gifts and aptitudes for ministry. In both cases, letters should avoid simply restating information provided in the resume, transcript or essay and should provide unique insight into the nominee's particular capabilities. References should know the nominee well; however, letters from relatives or family members are not acceptable. Each letter should be enclosed in a sealed and signed envelope.

Nomination and Financial Commitment by Congregation (Congregational Fellowships only)

Each applicant must write an essay, double-spaced and no longer than three pages, in which he or she discusses their understanding of what God is calling the church to be and do in this time and place and how his or her own gifts, struggles and commitments offer a response to that call. This essay should be neither simply an autobiography nor a set of doctrinal statements; it should be a reflection involving both heart and mind.

Terms of the FTE Ministry Programs Fellowships

Undergraduate Fellowship

2009–2010 Stipend: Undergraduate Fellows will receive a one-year stipend of \$2,000 to use for educational expenses or exploration of ministry as a vocation. Further information will be provided.

2009 Ministry Conference Benefit: Fellows are required to attend the FTE Conference on Excellence in Ministry to be held **June 17–21, 2009**. Prominent theologians, scholars, ministers and church leaders will participate in the leadership of the conference. Transportation, lodging, food and fees will be provided for Undergraduate Fellows. Students unable to attend the conference should not apply for the fellowship.

Congregational Fellowships

2009–2010 Stipend: Congregational Fellows will receive a one-year stipend for tuition and living expenses of \$2,000–\$5,000 to match their congregation's financial commitment.

2009 Ministry Conference Benefit: Fellows are required to attend the FTE Conference on Excellence in Ministry to be held **June 17–21**, 2009. Prominent theologians, scholars, ministers and church leaders will participate in the leadership of the conference. Transportation, lodging, food and fees will be provided for Congregational Fellows. **Students unable to attend the conference should not apply for the fellowship.**

VEV Fellowship

2009–2010 Stipend: VEV Fellows will receive a one-year stipend of \$ 2,500 for tuition and living expenses. Fellows are required to attend the FTE Conference on Excellence in Ministry to be held **June 17–21, 2009**. Prominent theologians, scholars, ministers and church leaders will participate in the leadership of the conference. Transportation, lodging, food and fees will be provided for VEV Fellows. **Students unable to attend the conference should not apply for the fellowship.**

2009 Ministry Conference Benefit: Fellows are required to attend the FTE Conference on Excellence in Ministry to be held **June 17–21, 2009**. Prominent theologians, scholars, ministers and church leaders will participate in the leadership of the conference. Transportation, lodging, food and fees will be provided for Congregational Fellows. **Students unable to attend the conference should not apply for the fellowship.**

Ministry Fellowship

2009–2010 Stipend: Ministry Fellows will receive a one-time \$10,000 stipend partly for educational expenses and partly to fund the implementation of a ministry project of the Fellow's own design. This project should enrich the Fellow's preparation for ministry. Fellows will submit proposals for projects during the spring of 2010 and will work with FTE staff, seminary faculty, financial consultants and others to fully develop the project. Fellows are **required to attend a second gathering** at the end of Summer 2010 to reflect on their completed projects. Further information will be provided at the conference.

2009 Congregational Leadership Intensive and Ministry Conference Benefit: Fellows are required to attend the FTE Congregational Leadership Intensive and the FTE Conference on Excellence in Ministry to be held June 14–21, 2009. Prominent theologians, scholars, ministers and church leaders will participate in the leadership of the conferences. Transportation, lodging, food and fees will be provided for Ministry Fellows. Students unable to attend the conferences should not apply for the fellowship.

Conditions for Fellowships

Undergraduate Fellowship

Award of the FTE Undergraduate Fellowship is contingent upon receipt of the applicant's nomination form from a college faculty member, administrator, campus minister or current pastor by February 1. Current college juniors who will be graduated in December 2009 may be eligible to apply for the fellowship. Please contact the Reverend Ellen Echols Purdum, Director of Ministry Fellowships, at epurdum@thefund.org if you will be graduating early.

Congregational Fellowships

Award of the FTE Congregational Fellowship is contingent on the nominee's acceptance into an institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and the nominee's full-time enrollment in one year of study (two semesters or the equivalent) toward the Master of Divinity degree. Students already enrolled in an M.Div. degree program at the time of the nomination or seeking the M.T.S., M.A. or Th.M. degree are not eligible.

VEV Fellowship

Award of the FTE VEV Fellowship is contingent on the applicant's acceptance into an institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and the applicant's full-time enrollment in one year of study (two semesters or the equivalent) toward the Master of Divinity degree. Students enrolled in an M.Div. degree program at the time of the nomination or seeking the M.T.S., M.A. or Th.M. degree are not eligible.

Ministry Fellowship

Award of the FTE Ministry Fellowship is contingent on the applicant's nomination by the dean or president of a seminary or divinity school accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and the nominee's successful completion of one full academic term in the Master of Divinity program. First year FTE Congregational Fellows are eligible for the Ministry Fellowship; however, students currently enrolled in an M.T.S., M.A. or Th.M. program are not eligible for this fellowship.

FTE will mail notification of fellowship awards by: Undergraduate Fellowship: April 30, 2009 Congregational Fellowship: May 15, 2009

VEV Fellowship: May 15, 2009 Ministry Fellowship: April 30, 2009 Please send all materials to: Ministry Program Fellowships The Fund for Theological Education 825 Houston Mill Road, Suite 250 Atlanta, GA 30329 404-727-1450 tel



MINISTRY PROGRAM FELLOWSHIPS

2009–2010 Application

☐ Undergraduate Fellowships	☐ Congregational Fellowship	□ VEV Fellowship □ Ministry Fellowship
Nominee/applicant informati	on	
Name	FIRST	MIDDLE
NT 1	CIASI	
Current mailing address (effecti		☐ School residence
	MONTH DAY YEAR	□ Other:
City	State	Zip
E-mail address		•
Telephone 🗆 Home	□ Cell	
Permanent mailing address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone □ Home	□ Cell	
Specify address for notification of	of award status: 🗆 Current mai	ling address □ Permanent address
Note award dates on page 6 Date of birth /		y of citizenship □ United States □ Canada
Place you designate as home tow	YEAR	
-		er of children
Marital status	Nullibo	er of children
Race/ethnicity		
□ African American, Black	\square Mex	ican American, Chicano
☐ Asian American, Asian	□ Nati	ve American, Alaska Native (list tribal affiliation)
☐ Asian, including Indian Subc	ontinent	
□ Hispanic, Latino/a	□ Nati	ve Hawaiian, Pacific Islander
☐ Japanese American, Filipino	□ Puer	to Rican American
☐ Korean American	□ Whi	te, Caucasian, European American
☐ Multiracial (<i>Please specify</i>):		
□ Other:		

Church information Denominational affiliation:		
 □ African Methodist Episcopal Church □ African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church □ American Baptist Church □ Christian Church (Disciples of Chriden Church of the Bretheren □ Church of Christ □ Church of God in Christ □ Cooperative Baptist Fellowship 	☐ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America☐ Lutheran Church (Missouri S	□ Roman Catholic Church ynod) □ Society of Friends □ Southern Baptist Church □ United Church of Christ □ United Methodist Church □ Other (Please specify):
Church membership Congregational Fellowship applicants	blease list your nominating congregat	tion.
Undergraduate, VEV and Ministry Fe	, , ,	
Church		
Church address		
City	State Zi	p
Pastor's name (required)		
Office telephone	Email	LAST
Educational information Please list of applicants, please list only the schools you Name of institution	9	nological order. Undergraduate Fellowship attend. Degree GPA Graduation date
Undergraduate		
Undergraduate		
Graduate		
If accepted, which seminary do you pla	n to attend?	
What is your second choice?		
Other information Did you know about the Ministry Fello	wship prior to being nominated? 🗆 Y	Yes □ No
If yes, how did you hear about the Min	istry Fellowship? (Check all that apply	y.)
☐ Chaplain or Campus Minister ☐ I	nternet scholarship search	Seminary financial aid office
O		Seminary professor
		Γheological Program for High School Youth
	1 /	Other:
	eminary admissions officer	
□ FTE alumni □ S	eminary dean or president	

How would you characterize your interest	st in ministry?	
\square I plan to become an ordained minister	r.	
☐ I am seriously considering ministry.		
$\hfill\Box$ I am considering the possibility of mi	nistry.	
☐ Other:		
What steps, if any, have you taken towar	d official (denomination, church, etc.) recognition of your ministry?	
What are the next steps?		
Signature	Date	



2009–2010 Application

- Congregational FellowshipVEV Fellowship

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Congregation Fellowship and VEV Fell	lowship applicants only	
Denominational affiliation:		
What steps, if any, have you taken too	ward official recognition of your ministry?	
What are the next steps?		
I intend to pursue congregational or J		the church, and I am entering
Signature	Date	



2009–2010 Application

- Congregational FellowshipVEV Fellowship

ENDORSEMENT BY SEMINARY OR DIVINITY SCHOOL

Congregation Fellowship and VEV Fellowship applicants only

Name of applicant	PRINT FULL NAME		
Type of Fellowship:		☐ Volunteers Exploring Voc	eation (VEV)
first year of a Master o	of Divinity degree pro eadership ability. Ple	gram. Selection is based on a	al aid opportunities for students entering the cademic excellence, gifts for pastoral ministry, e's strengths that make him or her a viable
		eant? If not, what financial aid	
Name			
Position			
Telephone		E-mail address	
Address			
City		State	Zip
Seminary endorser: □ Academic dean □	Admissions officer	☐ Other (please specify):	
	7 KITTISSIOTIS OTTICCI	Other (picase specify).	
Name PLEASE PRINT			
Signature			
Name of school			Date



2009–2010 Application

* VEV Fellowship

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FROM VEV SUPERVISOR

VEV Fellowship applicants only

Name of applicant	FIRST	MIDDLE						
The Educational Rights and Privacy Act allows an app statements written on his or her behalf. FTE does not to choose to maintain your right to access this recommendate check one of the following statements:	require a waiver as	s a condition of the fellowship. You are free						
☐ I waive my right to examine this recommendation.								
\square I do not waive my right to examine this recommendation.								
Signature		Date						
The FTE VEV Fellowship is a competitive financial a recently participated in a Volunteers Exploring Vocata a Master of Divinity degree program. Selection is base character and leadership ability. Please comment on the VEV Fellowship. We especially are interested	The person whose name appears above is applying for a fellowship from The Fund for Theological Education. The FTE VEV Fellowship is a competitive financial aid opportunity for students who are participating or who have recently participated in a Volunteers Exploring Vocation program and who are planning to enter the first year of a Master of Divinity degree program. Selection is based on academic excellence, gifts for pastoral ministry, strong character and leadership ability. Please comment on the candidate's strengths that make him or her a viable choice for the VEV Fellowship. We especially are interested in knowing about this person's capabilities as demonstrated in a ministry setting, with particular focus on his or her spiritual wisdom, theological curiosity, perseverance, passion and love of God and neighbor.							
Please place the applicant's name and your name at the Please return these materials to the nominee in a sealed	, ,	· ·						
The deadline for receipt of this letter of reference is	April 1.							
Name of supervisor		Title						
Position	E-mail address	MR./MS./REV./DR.						
Name of VEV program		Date						
Address								
City	State	Zip						
Signature of supervisor								



2009-2010 Application

* Congregational Fellowship

NOMINATION AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENT BY CONGREGATION

Congregational Fellowship applicants only

Name of nominee				
Name of congregation				
How did you hear about the Congregation	tional Fellowship?			
☐ FTE Calling Congregations Event		☐ Anothe	r congregation	
☐ FTE staff	☐ Nominee	☐ Other:	0 0	
□ FTE alumni	☐ Seminary			
Financial commitment				
Should our nominee be awarded the F amount toward the Fellow's tuition and	9 9		-	ing the following dollar
\$				
We understand that we will submit this and that our commitment may be paid will send its matching payment directly the school that the sponsoring congregations.	in two equal install to the Fellow's sch	ments prior to equa	each semester. We ll installments only	also understand that FTE
Chief administrative/fiscal officer			Title	2
Position				
Church address				
City	Sta	ate	Zip	
Telephone	E-	mail address		MR./MS./REV./DR.
Signature				

Commitment to nurturing vocation

In reviewing the nomination of your candidate, the FTE Selection Committee will consider your congregation's commitment to cultivating the call to ministry. Please describe this commitment, using the following questions as a guide:

How does your congregation address both vocation as a component of Christian discipleship and the call to ordained ministry with youth and young adults in your congregation?

How has your congregation nurtured the nominee's sense of Christian vocation and interest in congregational ministry? Please provide your response on a separate, type-written document and attach this page as a cover sheet.



2009–2010 Application

- * Undergraduate Fellowship
- * Congregational Fellowship
- Ministry Fellowship

ACADEMIC LETTER OF REFERENCE

Undergraduate Fellowship, Congregational Fellowship and Ministry Fellowship applicants only

Name of applicant		
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE
•	does not require a waiv	re his or her rights to access confidential letters or wer as a condition of the fellowship. You are free to ive that right.
☐ I waive my right to examine this recomm	endation.	
☐ I do not waive my right to examine this re	ecommendation.	
Signature		Date
We are interested in knowing about this person	on's intellectual and rel nking skills, curiosity, p ame at the top of each	, , ,
Name of reference		Title
Position		MR./MS./REV./DR.
Institution		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone	E-mail add	Iress
Signature of reference		Date



2009–2010 Application

- * Undergraduate Fellowship
- * Congregational Fellowship
- Ministry Fellowship

MINISTRY LETTER OF REFERENCE

Undergraduate, Congregational and Ministry Fellowship applicants

Name of applicant	FIRST		MIDDLE
The Educational Rights and Priva	cy Act allows an applicant to chalf. FTE does not require ccess this recommendation	a waiver as	or her rights to access confidential letters or a condition of the fellowship. You are free to
☐ I waive my right to examine th	is recommendation.		
☐ I do not waive my right to exar	nine this recommendation.		
Signature			Date
on his or her spiritual wisdom, the Please place the applicant's name Please return these materials to the	ological curiosity, persevera and your name at the top of	nnce, passion f each page (of your letter. þe.
Name of reference			Title
Position			
Institution			
Address			
City	State	<u>, </u>	Zip
Telephone	E-ma	ail address	
Relationship to nominee: ☐ Home church pastor ☐ College church pastor	☐ Campus minister☐ Home church pastor	□ Other	r: (Please specify)
Signature of reference		Da	ate