

The Stoody-West Fellowship For graduate study in religion journalism

Offered by United Methodist Communications

ANNUAL AWARD: \$6,000

The fellowship is offered in recognition of the professional excellence and inspired service of the Rev. Ralph Stoody and the Rev. Arthur West, leaders in public relations and information services in The United Methodist Church.

CRITERIA: Must be a United Methodist who intends to pursue a career in religion journalism and enrolled in post-graduate study at a school in the United States. (The term "religion journalism" includes news writing for secular and church media and for church institutions. The committee will consider appropriate news and journalism forms, including electronic and broadcast media, as well as print.)

APPLICANTS: One fellowship will be awarded to the best United Methodist candidate.

PURPOSE: To enhance the recipients' professional competence and thereby help to perpetuate the standards exemplified by Ralph Stoody and Arthur West.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE 2006-07 ACADEMIC YEAR ARE AVAILABLE FROM:

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Communications Resourcing Team - UCom

P.O. Box 320

Nashville, TN 37202-0320

Or online at:

<http://www.umcom.org>

E:mail: scholarships@umcom.org

Phone: 1-888-278-4862

Because we administer more than one scholarship/fellowship, please specify the Stoody-West Fellowship when requesting application material.

Completed applications must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2006. Sorry, incomplete applications will not be submitted to the committee for consideration.

Basic Information:

**STOODY - WEST FELLOWSHIP
FOR GRADUATE STUDY IN
RELIGION JOURNALISM**

2006-07 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Fellowship will be awarded each year to the best overall candidate.

The Stoodly-West Fellowship Committee will meet around the first of April to review all completed applications and to make the selections for the award.

Finalists may be called by the committee for a brief telephone interview. The winner will be notified by telephone soon after the selection has been made. All other applicants will receive written notice of the decision of the committee.

APPLICANTS ARE JUDGED ON FIVE CRITERIA:

- Christian commitment and involvement in the life of the United Methodist Church
- Academic achievement as revealed by transcripts, grade point averages and the required letters of reference
- Journalistic experience and/or evidence of journalistic talent
- Clarity of purpose in plans and goals for the future
- Potential professional ability as a religion journalist

WHEN IS PAYMENT SENT?

One half of the \$6,000 award will be paid after the recipient provides proof of enrollment in a graduate program in an accredited school or department of journalism in the United States. The remainder of the grant will be paid after the recipient provides proof of enrollment for the spring term. The grant will not be paid for summer sessions.

CHECKLIST

Before you mail your application, have you:

- Requested your official transcript(s)?
- Secured three letters of recommendation?
- Included a good personal photo?
- Submitted three samples of your work?
- Included a statement about your interest in religion communications?

*Employees of United Methodist
Communications and members of the
General Commission on Communication
are not eligible for this scholarship.*

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

**STOODY - WEST FELLOWSHIP
FOR GRADUATE STUDY IN
RELIGION JOURNALISM**

2006-07 ACADEMIC YEAR

" Complete all portions of the application form.

" Type or print all answers.

" Applications and all supporting documents must be submitted in English

" **POSTMARKED BY
MARCH 15, 2005**

" Only complete applications will be considered.

SEND ALL MATERIALS TO:

STOODY-WEST FELLOWSHIP

CRT-UMCom

P.O. Box 320

Nashville, TN 37202-320

Or, to 810 12th Ave. South

Nashville, TN 37203-4744

Please submit one original and **five copies** of all materials (only one original is necessary for transcripts and letters of recommendation).

PROVIDE ALL THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTING MATERIALS:

1) EVIDENCE OF YOUR APPLICATION TO OR ACCEPTANCE BY an accredited and approved graduate school or department in the United States. (The recipient must show evidence of full-time enrollment before the award can be given.)

2) THREE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION ARE REQUIRED:

- (a) from your local church pastor or a denominational official
- (b) from the chairperson of the department in which you are majored as an undergraduate
- (c) an employer or supervisor for whom you have worked as a journalist.

If any of these is not available, a letter from a person related to journalism and personally acquainted with you may be substituted. Letters of recommendation should be sent by the writer directly to the scholarship Committee.

3) REQUEST YOUR OFFICIAL GRADE TRANSCRIPTS from all institutions of higher learning you have attended. Transcripts should be mailed by the school directly to the address above. Submit your requests early, as schools are frequently slow about responding to requests for transcripts.

4) SEND A STATEMENT OF NOT MORE THAN 500 WORDS about your interest in religion journalism and your planned course of study.

5) SUBMIT NO MORE THAN 3 EXAMPLES OF YOUR JOURNALISTIC WORK (audio-visual, electronic, print). If you request it in writing, these materials will be returned to you after the committee has completed its work.

6) SEND A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH OF YOURSELF (either digital or print), preferably head and shoulders, suitable for publicity use if you are awarded the fellowship.

The Stody-West Fellowship for Graduate Study of Religion Journalism is given in recognition of the following persons:

REVEREND RALPH W. STODY

The Rev. Dr. Ralph W. Stody was the first general secretary of the Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information of The Methodist Church. Dr. Stody served in that position from 1940-64.

Educated at Ohio Wesleyan, Columbia and Harvard Universities, Boston University School of Theology and what is now Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, he was a pastor, journalist, war correspondent, author, speaker, and magician. His charisma earned the remark by a colleague, "You put the sparkle into Christianity." Dr. Stody was indeed the master of the magic of words. Dr. Stody died in 1979.

REVEREND ARTHUR WEST

The Rev. Dr. Arthur West was a pastor, author, communicator and pioneer in religion journalism. He served 27 years in communications within The United Methodist Church. His last appointment before retirement in 1975 was as head of the Division of Public Media with United Methodist Communications.

Dr. West was educated at Missouri Wesleyan College and Baker University. He holds degrees from Boston University School of Theology and studied journalism at Northwestern University. He served terms as religion editor of the Providence (R.I.) Journal and Bulletin and the Bangor (ME) Daily News. He currently resides in Lebanon, Ohio, with his spouse, Vera.

One of Dr. West's "truisms": "People have the right to know what is going on in their church. Our function is to report the news objectively whether we agree with it or not."

Application for the Stody-West Fellowship for Graduate Study in Religion Journalism

2006 - 2007 ACADEMIC YEAR

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

NAME _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

PRESENT ADDRESS Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
E-Mail _____
Personal Website _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____
Phone _____ Fax _____

GRADUATE SCHOOL(S) APPLIED TO: _____

GRADUATE SCHOOL ACCEPTANCE YES NO

DATE OF BIRTH _____

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP (Denomination) _____

Name of local church attending _____

Address _____

CHURCH ACTIVITIES _____

(Responsibilities and offices held including dates)

WORK AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES

(List in reverse chronological order internships, position held, activities and leadership roles, with latest position at top.)

Nature of Position	Location	Inclusive Dates 
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

ACADEMIC RECORD

(List, in reverse chronological order, all colleges, professional or business schools attended, latest at top.)

Name of School	Location	Dates of Study 	Degree Received	Date of Graduation 
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

HONORS

(List scholarships, honors or prizes you have received.)
