

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Traditional Timespan for Applications December 1 - March 1
Timespan for The Genesis Fund: December 1 - March 15

More Information: www.ucc.org/giving/ways-we-give/scholarships-grants
Contact Us: scholarships@ucc.org and casagrants@ucc.org



UCC SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

ADMINISTERED BY JUSTICE AND LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES TEAM

Ministry Education Scholarships

Adrienne M. and Charles Shelby Rooks Fellowship for Doctoral Students

Supports underrepresented racial/ethnic groups pursuing doctoral degrees in religious studies at an accredited theological school. Funds can cover tuition, educational fees, books, and living expenses. Requires United Church of Christ (UCC) membership, a 3.3+ GPA, and strong written expression. Preference for academic excellence, teaching effectiveness, and commitment to the UCC.

Adrienne M. and Charles Shelby Rooks Fellowship for Master of Divinity Students

Supports underrepresented racial/ethnic groups enrolled in a Master of Divinity program at an accredited theological school. Funds can cover tuition, educational fees, books, and living expenses. Requires UCC membership, a “B” GPA in post-high school studies, and strong written expression. Both full-time and part-time students are eligible. Preference for leadership and scholarship skills and intent to serve in UCC local churches.

Cannon Endowment Scholarship

Established in 1992 by Dr. Clinton Cannon, this scholarship supports seminarians planning to become military chaplains. Open to members of United Church of Christ, Christian Church Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian U.S.A., and United Methodist. Requires membership in these denominations, attendance at an accredited seminary, enrollment in the denomination’s Chaplain Candidate Program, and a “B” or better GPA.

Make a Difference! Educational Support Award

Awards available to UCC seminarians attending an ATS-accredited seminary or theological school in the United States. Funds cover tuition and related expenses. Requires UCC membership for at least one year, course of study leading to ordination, and a “B” average or better. Demonstrated leadership ability is a must.

Make a Difference! UCC Seminarian Scholarship

Available for Members in Discernment (MID) nominated by one of the six UCC seminaries. Funds cover tuition, books, or other educational expenses. Recipients must have been UCC members for at least one year, have MID status, prepare to serve as an Authorized Minister, have a 3.0+ GPA, and show leadership ability. Applications are not accepted; nominations only. The six UCC seminaries are: Andover Newton Theological School, Chicago Theological Seminary, Eden Theological Seminary, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Pacific School of Religion, and United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities.

Rev. Virginia Kreyer Scholarship

Established by UCC Disabilities Ministries in 2010, this scholarship aids disabled individuals pursuing authorized ministry. The scholarship covers tuition and various accommodations to support their education. Applicants must be UCC members with a disability, enrolled in a UCC-related program, demonstrate competency and commitment to ministry, and strive for the full inclusion of persons with disabilities.

The Harold H. Wilke Scholarship

Honoring the legacy of Rev. Dr. Wilke, a minister and disability advocate, this scholarship assists people with disabilities or those serving them. Applicants need to be UCC members, show leadership potential, and be enrolled in a course leading to a degree or certification. This scholarship recognizes those with the same tenacity and determination as Dr. Wilke.

The Reverend Dr. Héctor E. López Scholarship

This scholarship nurtures, supports, and educates Latinas and Latinos within the UCC in the spirit of its first Latino ordained minister, Dr. López. It aims to prepare ministers to lead vital congregations and promote full-inclusion, justice, and peace. Applicants must have knowledge and experience in Latinx ministries.

Ministry Education Scholarships (continued)

The Reverend Dr. Joseph Henry Evans Scholarship

This fund supports African American seminarians with a passion for justice advocacy and proven leadership. Established by United Black Christians, it recognizes students with a strong history of service. Applicants must be enrolled at an accredited seminary and be UCC members.

The William R. Johnson Scholarship

Created in honor of William R. Johnson, the first openly gay man ordained in the UCC, this scholarship supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender seminarians. It affirms the UCC's stance that sexual orientation or gender identity should not bar ordination. Applicants must be openly LGBT, enrolled in an accredited seminary, and UCC members.

Leadership Development Scholarships

Avery Arthington Fund

This fund offers \$400-\$4,000 scholarships to African students from partner churches pursuing undergraduate degrees in UCC-affiliated U.S. institutions. The goal is to empower these students to return and contribute to their home countries. Eligibility requires U.S.-based study, endorsement from academic advisors and ministers, and a commitment to return home post-graduation. Preference is given to upperclassmen affiliated with UCC.

Make a Difference! Doctoral Studies Award

Members of the UCC engaged in Ph.D., Th.D., or Ed.D. programs in religious studies may qualify for this award. It is designed to encourage academic excellence and teaching effectiveness among doctoral students, with an end goal of preparing them for teaching positions within UCC seminaries.

United Church of Christ Undergraduate Scholarship

Established in 1994, this scholarship aids UCC members enrolled in accredited four-year U.S. universities. The scholarship serves all disciplines. Applicants must be under 25 and demonstrate academic proficiency. First-year applicants must have a "C" average or equivalent, while all others must have a "B" average or better.

Valerie Russell Scholarship

Created in 1997 to honor Valerie Russell, former Executive Director of the UCC's Office for Church in Society, this scholarship assists African American laywomen with a deep love for UCC and a commitment to justice. Applicants must be engaged in justice work or pursuing higher education with an interest in justice consistent with UCC's values. The award encourages skill-building and personal development in areas of justice work.

The Harold H. Wilke Scholarship

This scholarship supports individuals with disabilities or those dedicated to servicing them. It encourages the pursuit of higher education or training, emphasizing leadership potential and commitment to the UCC.

Program Grants

Operational Financial Support Grant

A lifeline for local churches in immediate financial distress, this grant aids with operational expenses like staffing, equipment, and utilities. Typically around \$2,500, the aid amount is dependent on available funds.

Program Grants (continued)

Neighbors in Need (NIN) Fund

Acting as seed funding, the NIN Fund assists congregations and organizations in combating systemic injustice. It offers two categories:

- A. Advocacy and Outreach for Justice Work: Provides \$2,500- \$5,000 for programs focusing on justice advocacy.
- B. Innovative Programs for Justice Work: Awards \$7,500- \$10,000 for groundbreaking justice-centered programs.

New Church Planters Health, Dental, and Pension Benefit Support

Designed to aid new churches, this grant supports health, dental, and pension benefits for sustainable churches younger than ten years. Distributed over three years, it provides decreasing amounts annually (\$10,000, \$8,000, and \$6,000).

CASA New and Rebirthing Church Grants

These grants offer coaching and financial support to emerging and renewing faith communities aligned with UCC's mission. They are structured to encourage sustainability, with initial awards of \$15,000 for the first two years and potential for \$25,000 (with matching funds) for years three and four.

Daniel Hand Fund

This fund provides annual scholarships to UCC-related AMA institutions educating individuals of African descent.

Make a Difference! The Genesis Fund - Domestic and International Project Grants

Created in 1996, the Genesis Fund offers seed money for faith-based initiatives that are experimental, innovative, or controversial. Grants cover expenses like staff salaries, program costs, technology equipment, promotional costs, and office expenses, but exclude scholarships or capital expenses. Domestic project awards generally provide up to \$5,000 for the first year and up to \$3,000 for renewals. International projects can receive up to \$20,000 initially, followed by up to \$15,000 for renewals. A key stipulation is that a significant percentage of project funds must come from other sources (25% in the first year and 35% for renewals).

Eligible applicants include UCC local churches, associations, conferences, national bodies, UCC-related institutions, and global partner churches. Projects must relate to actions of the General Synod of the UCC within the realms of environmental stewardship, rights and freedoms of all persons, or fair use of economic resources.

Emergency Assistance

(Listed on the Scholarships Website under Ministry Education)

The Garrett Trust Fund Scholarship

A beacon of hope in emergency situations, the Garrett Trust Fund Scholarship offers financial aid to full-time seminarians pursuing a Master of Divinity in an ATS accredited seminary. To be eligible, applicants must sign a faith statement, demonstrate their financial emergency, and have their application approved by a representative of their UCC Conference or Association Committee on Ministry. Awards, based on the severity of the financial emergency, range from \$600 to \$1,500. This fund is designed to respond to emergencies such as health crises, job loss, housing emergencies, etc., and is not a replacement for traditional scholarships.

Make a Difference! Caring for Authorized Clergy

This grant provides support for ordained, licensed, and commissioned UCC ministers facing personal or vocational crises. However, ministers cannot apply for the grant themselves; UCC Conference or Association staff must apply on their behalf to maintain anonymity. This fund, which is not intended to replace the UCC Board for Ministerial Assistance (UCBMA) funds, can be used for purposes such as crisis counseling, immediate intervention during ministry separation, early intervention and referral assessment, additional psychological testing, or growth plan counseling as part of a fitness review.

MAD Post-seminary Health Administration Training

This grant appears to be directed towards post-seminary health administration training within CHHSM. More information would be needed for a comprehensive summary.