

Justice and Creation Summer Fellowship Grants

Green Chalice 2024

A Pilot Project For Ministry Sites and Young Adult Summer Fellows

Deadline to apply is April 15, 2024

Ministry sites and Fellows are asked to apply with one another in mind or together in collaboration.

Description

The Green Chalice Ministry and Disciples Home Missions are launching a summer pilot project, offering grants of \$3000 to DOC churches, regions, and camps (with preference given to churches). These grants aim to support the development of youth and young adult leaders (ages 16-26) engaged in the spiritual movement for creation care, climate justice, and/or social justice.

A central goal of this grant program is to foster a culture of curiosity, connection, compassion and justice in faith leadership that goes beyond a focus on individual behaviors to collectively address the institutions and systems responsible for the present crises. Grants will promote a creation justice movement that recognizes and engages the root causes of injustice, climate crisis and systemic change. Priority will be given to those seeking to advance justice, creation care, and climate solutions that effectively center the needs of those most impacted by environmental degradation and the climate crisis. Ministries led by and or served by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities are highly encouraged to apply. **We are seeking 12 ministry sites for this pilot project.**

Utilization of \$3000 grant funds

1. \$2500 Stipends for a learning fellowship (distributed during the summer of 2024)
2. \$500 for supporting summer ministry efforts (help with program costs like meals, books, garden hoses, art supplies or VBS curriculum)

Young Leaders and local hubs of hope

We seek to connect like minded and hearted Green Chalice Justice and Creation Fellows with one another, faith leaders, and creation justice training and experiences. This initiative seeks to build local hubs of hope as congregations collaborate on addressing food insecurity, climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and oppression. We strive to support both the young adult fellow and the ministry site with local and general church backing, empowering them in ways that align with their immediate context. Examples of intentions might include learning from nearby grassroots environmental justice organizations, leading congregational book studies, organizing adult education forums, initiating the process of becoming a Green Chalice Church, working in conjunction with city climate or food initiatives, organizing Children's VBS or Creation care events or offering a climate change talk similar to those designed by the Climate Ambassador Program.



Program Expectations

As part of this grant program, Green Chalice will offer discernment resources and [sample Fellow application](#) and [recommendation templates](#) to support the selection process for potential fellows.

Program expectations include:

Justice and Creation Summer Fellows

- Collaboratively create a summer intention or plan that engages the gifts of the fellow and aligns with the resources, people, context, and hopes of the ministry site.
- Complete Free online [Climate Ambassador Training](#)
- Attend zoom orientation and training and summer closing reflection zoom gatherings
- Fellows will regularly meet via Zoom to talk through summer intentions, goals and explore environmental justice and creation care as expressions of faith.
- Will be curious about their role in creation care and climate justice in your community and congregation
- Contribute to the capacity, resilience and ministry of the local ministry being served
- Support a healthy work-life balance with the ministry site. This is a learning/serving experience, fellowships are not to be viewed as a form of cheap labor that falls below living wage standards.
- At the conclusion, collaborate on writing a brief account of outcomes and accomplishments with photos and/or videos for possible publication by Green Chalice and/or Disciples Home Missions.

Justice and Creation Summer Ministry Site

- Collaboratively create a summer intention or plan that engages the gifts of the fellow and aligns with the resources, people, context and hopes of the ministry site.
- Two Zoom meetings with fellowship mentors and supervisors for initial orientation and end-of-summer reflection.
- Provide ongoing support of summer intentions and plans in collaboration with fellow
- Supervisors/Mentors are encouraged to complete a free online [Climate Ambassador Training](#) designed by Blessed Tomorrow and Green Chalice.
- Support a healthy work-life balance with the fellow at your ministry site. This is a learning/serving experience, fellowships are not to be viewed as a form of cheap labor that falls below living wage standards.
- Collaborate on writing a brief account of outcomes and accomplishments with photos and/or videos for possible publication by Green Chalice and/or Disciples Home Missions.

Housing and transportation

Justice and Creation Summer Fellows will plan for their own transportation and housing during the fellowship. If a ministry site can provide housing and/or transportation at no additional cost to the fellow please make that known to applicants.

Legal and Ethical Considerations

We seek to fostering the best possible experience with safety, care and wisdom for fellows and ministry sites. Please consider the following as you discern.

- **This is a Learning Fellowship.** With a learning fellowship, the primary objective is for the youth or young adult to experientially gain knowledge and skills for ministry in areas of creation care, climate justice and social justice while serving in a local context. This entails a mentor who provides guidance and a structured learning process that incorporates the time and space required for reflection. For learning fellowships, stipends are to assist in the meeting of basic needs.
- **Time Guidelines:** With a learning fellowship, a fellow should not devote more than 32 hours a week to a host site. If you hire someone as an employee, then all standard workplace guidelines should be in effect, including overtime policies.
- **Working with Minors:** The age range for youth and young adults for grant proposals is 16-26. Fellowship opportunities for those under 18 require additional documentation to ensure that the necessary mentoring and safety protocols will be in place.
- **Ministry Host sites** are responsible for (1) ensuring that the classification of any position using grant dollars meets the applicable legal criteria and (2) any required reporting under the law, including IRS regulations.

In Gratitude for Heights Christian Church in Houston, TX

The funds for this grant program are part of a generous gift by Heights Christian Church in Houston, TX. The weekly prayers of this congregation prior to their closing their physical doors included prayers and intentions regarding radical hospitality, climate action, community resilience and anti-racism continue to flourish in many ways in 2024 and this initiative is just one expression of their compassion and wisdom.

Required Documents for Application

Ministry Site/Mentors - (to be submitted to Green Chalice)

- A letter of endorsement from a regional minister for Ministry Site/Supervisor
- A prospective or current-year budget for your organization
- 501c3 or Fiscal Agent Information

Additional Documents Required for Fellowship Programs Designed for Youth Ages 16-18

- -Copy of Abuse Prevention Policies (such as "Safe Church Policies")
- -Statement describing the qualifications and experience of the mentor in working with youth

For Justice and Creation Fellows (to be submitted to local ministry site)

- Two letters of recommendation for Fellow by pastor, regional minister and an additional adult teacher or mentor A sample [Reference Template can be found here.](#)
- A W-9 form
- If you have questions or ideas please contact Scott Hardin-Nieri at shardinnieri@dhm.disciples.org
Or fill out an Interest Form <https://forms.gle/R6Su63Lj9EGHykxJ9>

NEXT STEPS

1. Discern if this summer is a good time to engage in locally-grown spirit-led creation care, climate justice, and/or social justice work.
2. Ministry Site (mentors) and Creation Care Fellows make a connection with one another
3. Collaborate on the Justice and Creation Fellowship Application (below) and required forms
4. Return application and forms to shardinnieri@dhm.disciples.org

Justice and Creation Summer Fellowship
Collaborative Application Form (ministry site and Fellow)
Due April 15

Name _____ Gender Identity _____ Current Grade _____

Address _____

Street City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Member/connection to which local congregation (name and town)

For Creation and Justice Fellows:

Do you have a Ministry Site or Church in mind as you apply? Yes _____ No _____

If no, please fill out an interest form <https://forms.gle/R6Su63Lj9EGHykxJ9> or email Rev. Scott Hardin-Nieri at shardinnieri@dhm.disciples.org

If yes, please share the potential host organization and contact info

For Ministry Sites:

Head of Organization: _____

Name of Primary Contact Person: _____

Primary Contact Email: _____

Primary Contact Phone Number: _____

Secondary Phone Number: _____

Do you have a potential Creation and Justice Fellow in mind? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please share the potential Justice and Creation Fellow Name and Contact info:

Potential Fellow Name: _____

Potential Fellow Email: _____

Potential Fellow Phone: _____

As you discern a Justice and Creation Fellow for your Ministry site you are welcome to use the [Fellow application template](#) to help you promote the position and receive applications.

Anticipated approximate Number of Hours Per Week for Fellow:

Beginning Date for Fellowship:

Ending Date for Fellowship:

Provide a one page document that addresses the following:

- Contact information and a brief biography of the mentor or supervisor from Ministry site
- Description of fellowship intentions, scope of work, and desired outcomes
- Physical requirements of work
- Disbursement of stipend plan-when will the fellow expect to receive finances? We recommend 1-2 disbursements with first coming within 2 weeks of beginning of the fellowship

Attach a prospective budget or current year budget for your organization.

Copy of 501c3 or Fiscal Agent Information

Two letters of recommendation for Fellows by pastor, regional minister and an additional adult teacher or mentor (to be shared with ministry site) [Reference Template can be found here.](#)

Additional Documents Required for Fellowship Programs Designed for Youth Ages 16-18

Copy of Abuse Prevention Policies (such as "Safe Church Policies")

Statement describing the qualifications and experience of the mentor in working with youthParent/
Guardian:

Return application and forms to shardinnieri@dhm.disciples.org

