



Justice and Creation Summer Fellowship Grants- 2026

A Project for Ministry Sites and Young Adult Summer Fellows Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Deadline to Apply: March 16, 2026

Ministry sites and Fellows are encouraged to apply together or collaborate in their application.

Program Description

The Green Chalice Ministry and Disciples Home Missions are offering grants to DOC churches, regions, and camps (with preference given to churches) to support the development of youth and young adult leaders (ages 16-26) engaged in creation care, climate justice, and/or social justice. This initiative aims to foster a culture of curiosity, connection, compassion, and justice in faith leadership, addressing systemic issues such as the climate crisis, social injustice, and environmental degradation. Priority will be given to ministries led by or are serving Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color communities. We are seeking 12 ministry sites to join the 2026 cohort. First-Time applicants are highly encouraged to apply.

Grant Funding Breakdown (\$3000)

- **\$2,500 Stipend:** For the fellow (distributed during the summer of 2026).
- **\$500:** For supporting summer ministry efforts (e.g., program costs such as meals, books, art supplies, VBS curriculum).

Young Leaders & Local Hubs of Hope

This initiative seeks to build local hubs of hope by connecting like-minded Green Chalice Justice and Creation Fellows with each other, faith leaders, and creation justice training experiences. Projects could include:

- Growing Green Chalice initiatives at the local level
- Collaborating with grassroots environmental justice organizations.
- Organizing book studies, adult education forums, or creation care events.
- Working with city climate or food initiatives.
- Organizing Children's VBS or climate change talks (similar to the Climate Ambassador Program).
- See examples from 2025 [HERE](#).

<https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/resources/justice-and-creation-summer-fellowships-with-green-chalice-2025/>

Program Expectations

For Justice and Creation Summer Fellows:

- **Collaborate** on creating a summer plan that utilizes the fellow's gifts while aligning with the ministry site's resources and goals.
- **Complete the online Climate Ambassador Training.** <https://community.ecoamerica.org/external/courses/87628cf0-1acd-4727-aa29-7288e5aba13e>
- **Attend Zoom meetings** for orientation and reflection sessions.
- **Cultivate curiosity** about your role in creation care and climate justice.
- **Support the local ministry's capacity** and resilience.
- **Maintain a healthy work-life balance.** Fellows should not be used as cheap labor and must receive fair compensation.
- **Create a final report or presentation from GC template,** including photos/videos and responses to questions on your ministry site's impact, measurable outcomes (events, lbs of food shared, policy maker visits) How many people participated in the Climate Ambassador Training. How will you share the story of your summer?

For Justice and Creation Summer Ministry Sites:

- **Collaborate** with fellows to create a summer plan that aligns with both the fellow's and site's goals.
- **Complete the online Climate Ambassador Training.**
- **Attend two Zoom meetings** for orientation and reflection.
- **Support the fellow's work** and progress throughout the summer.
- **Supervisors/Mentors** are encouraged to complete the online Climate Ambassador Training.
- **Provide a final report or presentation** on the fellowship's outcomes.

Housing and Transportation

Fellows are responsible for their own housing and transportation. If a ministry site can provide these at no additional cost, please notify applicants.

Legal and Ethical Considerations

- **Learning Fellowship:** The focus is on gaining knowledge and skills related to creation care, climate justice, and social justice, with a mentor providing structured guidance.
- **Time Guidelines:** Fellows should not exceed 32 hours/week at their host site.
- **Working with Minors:** Additional documentation is required for fellows under 18, ensuring proper mentoring and safety protocols.
- **Ministry Sites:** Ensure compliance with legal criteria regarding the fellowship position, including IRS regulations and reporting requirements.

With Gratitude

*The funding for this program comes from a generous gift from the legacy of **Heights Christian Church in Houston, TX**, whose prayers for radical hospitality, climate action, community resilience, and anti-racism continue to inspire this initiative*

Required Documents for Application

For Ministry Sites/Mentors (submitted to Green Chalice):

- Letter of endorsement from a regional minister.
- A prospective or current-year budget for your organization.
- 501(c)(3) or Fiscal Agent Information.
- **CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORMS???**

For Fellowship Programs Designed for Youth Ages 16-18 (mandatory with fellows below 18 years old):

- Copy of Abuse Prevention Policies (e.g., "Safe Church Policies").
- Statement describing the mentor's qualifications and experience with youth.

For Justice and Creation Fellows (submitted to the local ministry site only):

- Two letters of recommendation (pastor, regional minister, and an additional adult mentor).
- A W-9 form from the fellow submitted to the ministry site.

Next Steps

1. Discern if this summer is the right time to engage in spirit-led creation care, climate justice, and/or social justice work.
1. Ministry site and Creation Care Fellows should connect.
2. Collaborate on the Justice and Creation Fellowship application and required forms.
3. Submit the completed application and forms to **shardinnieri@dhm.disciples.org** by **March 16, 2026**.

Justice and Creation Summer Fellowship Collaborative Application Form

Deadline: March 16, 2026

This application should be completed jointly by the Ministry Site Mentor and the prospective Fellow. Please fill out all applicable sections below.

SECTION 1: Fellow Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Preferred Pronouns: _____

Current Grade/Year: _____

Church/Ministry Site Connection: _____

SECTION 2: Ministry Site Information

Organization Name: _____

Primary Contact Name: _____

Primary Contact Title: _____

Primary Contact Email: _____

Primary Contact Phone: _____

Region: _____

Mailing Address for Check:

SECTION 3: Fellowship Details

Anticipated Hours per Week: _____

Start Date: _____

End Date: _____

SECTION 4: Required Attachments

Please attach a **one-page document** (if possible) that includes:

- Biography of the mentor or supervisor
 - Description of fellowship intentions, scope of work, and desired outcomes
 - Physical requirements of work
 - Stipend disbursement plan (two disbursements recommended)
 - Prospective or current year budget for your organization
 - 501(c)(3) documentation or Fiscal Agent information
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Submission Instructions by March 16, 2026

Return completed applications and all required attachments to:

Rev. Scott Hardin-Nieri
shardinnieri@dhm.disciples.org

Questions? Contact Rev. Scott Hardin-Nieri at the email above.