



# Higher Education & Leadership Ministries

of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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[www.helmdisciples.org](http://www.helmdisciples.org)

December 2, 2021

Dear HELM Leadership Fellows Program Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in HELM's Leadership Fellows Program (LFP). Our mission is to work with wider church and higher education partners to develop and nurture Christian leaders who are transforming church, society, and world. Our goal is to nurture those who will lead the next generation of Christian community and witness, and who will engage in both the creation of new communities and the renewal of existing ones.

While the Leadership Fellows Program includes a grant, it is not primarily a scholarship program. Each year of the four-year program will include an intentional focus:

- Year 1: Investigate the nature of Christian community
- Year 2: Explore how faith communities help transform society
- Year 3: Cultivate cultural competency and global awareness
- Year 4: Leadership formation with a year of mentoring

We hope this program will cultivate and strengthen your potential for leadership, and help the Church find new and creative ways of being faithful to God. Graduating high school seniors planning on attending an accredited college or university, or students entering their first year of college at an accredited school, are encouraged to apply.

We expect to name the new HELM Leadership Fellows in May 2022. Although many qualified students will apply, we can only award fellowships to a selected few. Along with other benefits, fellows will receive a scholarship of \$2,000 in 2022-2023.

Please read the information in this packet as it contains all necessary instructions to successfully complete your application.

Once again, thank you for your interest in HELM Leadership Fellows. If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at the phone number or email listed below.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Jonathan (Jon) Barnes  
Director of Higher Education and Communications  
(317) 447-4268  
[jbarnes@helmdisciples.org](mailto:jbarnes@helmdisciples.org)

## 2022-2023 Leadership Fellows Program Description

The Leadership Fellows Program helps nurture leaders for the next generation of Christian community and witness. Models of Church are rapidly changing; new communities are rising, both within and outside denominational structures, and many congregations are seeking to renew and transform their life and ministry. HELM's LFP is committed to preparing leaders to navigate these dynamic contextual realities. The program includes:

**Engagement:** Through experience, mentors, readings, and discussion, Fellows explore the nature of Christian community and investigate its transformative role and impact for society. Guided by coaches and mentors from across the Church, Fellows supplement their leadership formation through active community engagement.

**Collaboration:** Fellows gather for an annual retreat hosted in a major United States city for the opportunity to build fellowship bonds and support for one another, to share their learning journey with other Fellows and eminent Church leaders and thinkers, and to witness exemplary Christian communities.

**Educational Grant:** Incoming Fellows will receive a \$2,000 education grant for each of their four years in undergraduate education.

**International Travel:** Global awareness and cultural and contextual understanding are essential for leadership development. For this reason, in their third year Fellows will participate in a global immersion trip organized by HELM. The cost of the trip will be covered by HELM.

**Additional Benefits:** With the help of HELM staff, Fellows maintain contact with each other as well as with denominational and other leaders during their tenure in the program and beyond. In addition, HELM will work with Fellows to establish summer internships and other opportunities.

Over 100 young leaders have participated in HELM's Leadership Fellows Program during its history. Participants reflect the diversity of the Disciples and their work extends to cover vast fields and disciplines — church ministry and leadership, accounting, engineering, social work, fashion design, art, and beyond. Although diverse, participants commonly share their commitment to God and to nurture faithful Christian communities.

## 2022-2023 Leadership Fellows Program Eligibility and Requirements

To be considered for the HELM Leadership Fellows Program, applicants must meet all the following criteria:

1. Be a member of a congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada.
2. Entering your first year of full-time undergraduate study in the Fall of 2022 at a regionally accredited college or university in the US or Canada.
  - Entering your first year of community college is acceptable, providing you plan to transfer to an accredited 4-year college or university at the end of your first or second year.
  - Students who have taken a year off after high school graduation and are planning on starting their first year of undergraduate studies at an accredited college or university are also eligible.
3. Agree to participate in the program's activities, including the annual retreat, and adhere to other program requisites. **Please note that participation in the annual retreat, which typically takes place each year during the first weekend of November, is mandatory.**
4. Submit all completed application materials before the deadline.

HELM encourages applicants who plan to attend colleges and universities related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to apply but welcomes applications from students who plan on attending any accredited college or university.

# 2022-2023 Leadership Fellows Program Application Procedures

The application is divided into three (3) sections. Please visit [www.helmdisciples.org/apply](http://www.helmdisciples.org/apply) to complete each section. Although all three (3) sections do not have to be completed at the same time, each individual section must be completed once that section has been started.

**All required materials must be submitted to HELM by Thursday, March 31, 2022, 11:59 PM EST.**

## SECTION I – ONLINE APPLICATION AND TRANSCRIPT REQUEST

Section I should take no more than 20-30 minutes to complete; however, you will need several pieces of information. For this section, you will need:

- Your personal information (name, address, email, phone, date of birth, etc.)
- Your parent or guardian's information (name, phone, address, if different than yours, etc.)
- Name, address and Pastor of your DoC membership congregation
- Name and address of your high school
- Your high school class rank and class size
- Your high school GPA and scale
- College Information
- Agree to terms and conditions

**You will also be asked to request an official transcript from your school. Unofficial transcripts, grade reports, or transcripts submitted directly by the applicant will not be accepted. Your school can submit your transcript on your behalf through one of the following two methods:**

### Via email

**By Thursday, March 31, 2022, 11:59 PM EST**

**Rev. Dr. Jonathan (Jon) Barnes**  
**Director of Higher Education and**  
**Communications**  
**Higher Education & Leadership Ministries**  
**applications@helmdisciples.org**

### Via mail

**Postmarked by Thursday, March 31, 2022, EST**

**OR**  
**Rev. Dr. Jonathan (Jon) Barnes**  
**Higher Education & Leadership Ministries**  
**PO Box 1986**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46206**

## SECTION II – PERSONAL AND LEADERSHIP STATEMENTS

In this section, you'll be required to submit two (2) statements:

### **List of Leadership Roles**

List positions of leadership you have held in your home congregation, at school, work, or regional or general expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Where applicable, indicate date range or participation and a very brief description of the leadership role. Post your answer in the appropriate space on the online application.

### **Essay**

Please answer question 1 about the importance of Christian community with a well-developed, coherent response of no more than 500 words

1. In thinking about your church or communities you belong to, discuss what you see as crucial goals of Christian community. How should Christian communities engage with society and the world? Why does Christian community matter to you? To others?

Please answer **one of the two** following questions about leadership in global age with a well-developed, coherent response of no more than 300 words

2. From your experience, what techniques work well in inspiring like-minded people to work together for a goal? What approaches work well in inspiring those of differing opinions and backgrounds to listen to each other and how can a leader motivate cooperation there? What skills does it take?
3. In thinking about the world today, reflect on how you see local communities connected to people and places around the world. What is to be gained from connecting with people from other countries and other cultures? Give examples of your own experiences connecting with people from other countries or talk about what interest you have in making such connections.

You will have the option of either uploading a PDF or MS Word (.pdf, .doc or .docx) file with your responses or typing your responses directly. Remember that your responses must be received by the deadline.

### SECTION III – REFERENCES

You must secure three (3) reference letters:

1. Pastoral A reference from your Disciples Pastor, someone who can speak on behalf of your spiritual and leadership talents. In the case that your pastor is a relative, you must request a reference letter for another church minister or church leader who is not related to you
2. Academic A reference from a teacher at your current high school who can speak on behalf of your academic talents
3. Community A reference from a work or volunteer supervisor or member of your congregation who can speak on behalf of your leadership abilities

You are required to complete Section III online by providing the name, phone number, email address, and place of employment for each reference. At the end of this packet, you will find a form that you can provide to each reference (you can also find this information on the online section).

**Remember: Reference letters must be provided directly by each of the three persons named above. Reference letters directly submitted by the applicant will not be considered even if written by the appropriate person. All reference letters must be provided by the deadline for the application to be considered complete.**

### CHECKLIST

#### Eligibility Requirements

- Entering first year of college in the Fall of 2022 at an accredited 4-year institution, or a 2-year institution with plans to continue at a 4-year institution
- Member of a congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada

#### Application Requirements

- Read instructions carefully and visit [www.helmdisciples.org/apply](http://www.helmdisciples.org/apply) to begin application
- Section I: Provide personal, high school, college, church info and official high school transcript request
- Section II: List of leadership service & answer to one (1) essay question
- Section III: Request 3 reference letters: Pastoral, Academic, Community

**Please Note: It is the applicant's responsibility that all items are completed and submitted by the final deadline. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.**

## 2022-2023 LFP Selection and Notification

Applicants will be notified via email when each of the application components are received (online application, essays, references, etc.) If any of the components are submitted but no confirmation is received within 2 to 3 business days, please contact Jon Barnes at HELM to verify application status (see contact info below).

To ensure equal opportunities for all applicants, identifying information is redacted from applications before a selection committee reviews them. The identities of Leadership Fellows applicants are revealed only after the selection process is complete.

Applicants for the 2022-2023 academic year will be notified of their status in May 2022. We usually contact those accepted into the Program by phone during the daytime.

### **Renewal:**

Fellowships will be renewed annually until the student's graduation or a maximum of four years. To be considered for renewal, selected applicants must:

- Notify HELM in writing of their intent to renew the fellowship by April 1 of each year.
- Maintain a minimum overall GPA of 2.75 for the academic year and remain in good academic standing.
- Complete written or oral reports and other assignments as agreed with HELM staff and the Fellow's mentor or coach.
- Participate in the annual Leadership Fellows Program Retreat at HELM's expense. **Please note that participation in the annual retreat, which typically takes place each year during the first weekend of November, is mandatory.**

Failure to maintain any of the above may result in dismissal from the program, including termination of any monetary grants.

We thank you for applying to be a HELM Leadership Fellow. We appreciate your willingness to commit the significant time and energy required to go through this selection process, but we also believe this is an extraordinary opportunity to participate in a time of unprecedented change in the life of the church. We look forward to hearing from you.

### **Contact Information:**

Jon Barnes  
Director of Higher Education and  
Communications  
[jbarnes@helmdisciples.org](mailto:jbarnes@helmdisciples.org)  
(317) 447-4268

Chris Dorsey  
President  
[president@helmdisciples.org](mailto:president@helmdisciples.org)

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## HELM Leadership Fellows Program — 2022-2023 References

**TO THE APPLICANT:** Please, provide a copy of this page to each of the three persons writing a reference letter on your behalf: a pastor, a teacher, and a supervisor or congregation member. Note that if your pastor is related to you, you must instead request a reference from a different congregational leader not related to you.

Thank you for taking the time to provide a reference for the HELM Leadership Fellows Program. Your assessment of the applicant is extremely valuable; your time and effort are greatly appreciated by HELM and the selection committee. Please answer the questions below based on your relationship to the applicant.

To submit your reference, please visit [www.helmdisciples.org/reference](http://www.helmdisciples.org/reference)  
For questions or assistance, please contact us via email at [applications@helmdisciples.org](mailto:applications@helmdisciples.org).

As part of the recommendation, you will be required to provide the following information:

- The applicant's name
- Your name
- Your daytime phone number and email address
- Your institution and mailing address
- A recommendation based on your relationship to the applicant as specified below.
- Please limit answers to one (1) page.

Pastor	Teacher	Congregation Member/Supervisor
<p>These questions should be completed by the applicant's pastor. If the applicant is related to the pastor, the reference should be completed by another minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or a lay leader who knows the applicant well. Please, answer the following questions in your response.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What is your relationship to the applicant and how long have you known him/her/they?</li><li>2. Describe the applicant's involvement in congregational, regional and/or general church activities and any leadership roles held by the applicant.</li><li>3. Reflect on the applicant's spiritual and ethical development.</li><li>4. What leadership skills have you witnessed the applicant exercise? If possible, cite a specific example.</li></ol>	<p>These questions should be completed by a teacher at the applicant's current institution who is familiar with the applicant's academic work. Please, answer the following questions in your response.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What is your relationship to the applicant and how long have you known him/her/they?</li><li>2. Describe the applicant's academic performance and potential.</li><li>3. Reflect on the applicant's character, judgement, integrity, and ethical development.</li><li>4. What leadership skills have you witnessed the applicant exercise? If possible, cite a specific example.</li></ol>	<p>These questions should be completed by a congregation member or work supervisor who knows the applicant and can speak to the applicant's work ethic and leadership skills. Please, answer the following questions in your response.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What is your relationship to the applicant and how long have you known him/her/they?</li><li>2. Describe the applicant's academic aptitude, and his or her ability to profit from higher education.</li><li>3. Reflect on the applicant's spiritual and/or ethical development.</li><li>4. What leadership skills have you witnessed the applicant exercise? If possible, cite a specific example.</li></ol>

**References are due by Thursday, March 31, 2022, 11:59 PM EST. Materials received after the deadline will not be considered.**