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**A Foundation for Theological Education**  
**JOHN WESLEY FELLOWSHIP**  
**Application Form**

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The applicant is requested to complete this form. Essay questions should be answered on separate paper. All information shared will be handled confidentially. **NOTE: All applications and supporting documentation must be postmarked by January 20<sup>th</sup> of each year.**

Essays and materials should indicate an understanding of the mission of the Fellowship, an emerging understanding of how the applicant will contribute to the needs of the church and her institutions, and the formation of students. In every class, the Foundation is looking particularly for people who will embody leadership skills as scholar-teachers. The application asks specific questions that focus on the importance of being a changemaker in one's vocation.

The idea of serving as a changemaker harkens back to the Wesleyan movement's emphasis on holding together the riches of Scripture and the classical Christian tradition while engaging in innovation to meet the challenges and opportunities of contemporary contexts. Given the changes in U.S. higher education and theological education in these first decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are looking for scholar-teachers who embody this commitment to traditioned innovation and are equipped to provide leadership for the renewal of the Church.

Applicants should ensure that the individuals they select as references can speak to the strength of the candidate for fulfilling the mission of the John Wesley Fellowship, including one's potential to be a "changemaker," as well as the strength of the applicant's academic ability. **Please see the form below to be used for reference letters.**

Prior to applying, candidates are encouraged to talk with current Fellows to gain a full understanding of the mission and fellowship of AFTE. While the Fellowship does provide scholarship support, it is much more than a scholarship program. It seeks to be an ongoing fellowship of scholars, pastors, bishops, administrators, and others who are providing complementary leadership in the renewal of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Ordinarily, we expect successful applicants to devote full-time to their studies. We consider exceptions on a case-by-case basis. We also expect that students will apply to the strongest doctoral programs in their field, and take into account the importance of theological formation in their studies regardless of their school or specific field. **Applicants are encouraged to contact the AFTE office via e-mail ([info.afte@gmail.com](mailto:info.afte@gmail.com)) well before deadlines to discuss the schools to which they are considering applying and the reasons for those choices.**

Following the review of applications, semi-finalists will be chosen by the end of February. Semi-finalists are asked to attend an in-person interview, after which time the new class of Fellows will be selected and announced, usually by the end of April.

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A Foundation for Theological Education  
1121 W Chapel Hill Street Suite 200  
Durham, North Carolina 27701  
Telephone: (919) 613-5346  
Fax: (919) 613-5333  
Web site: [www.afte.org](http://www.afte.org)  
E-mail: [info.afte@gmail.com](mailto:info.afte@gmail.com)

Application  
John Wesley Fellowship

AFTE

A foundation *for* theological education

PERSONAL

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Address \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status:  Single  Married  Divorced  Widowed

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary\_ \_/ \_/ \_ (mm/dd/year)

Your Birthdate \_/ \_/ \_ (mm/dd/year) Spouse's Birthdate \_/ \_/ \_ (mm/dd/year)

Child(ren)'s Name(s) and Age(s) \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been a member of the United Methodist Church? (Number of years) \_\_\_\_\_

Your Annual Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Relationship:  Local Pastor  Elder  Deacon  Layperson

Pursuing Ordination: Elder Track  Pursuing Ordination: Deacon Track

EDUCATION

College \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Seminary \_\_\_\_\_ Special study \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Other Formal Study \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Languages</u>	<i>Some Exposure</i>	<u>Proficiency</u> <i>Reading Knowledge</i>	<i>Passed Grad. Exam</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**PROPOSED DOCTORAL STUDIES** (list all schools; use additional sheet if necessary)\*

<u>Where Applied</u>	<u>Degree Sought</u>	<u>Accepted</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

\*If you are already enrolled in a doctoral program, what is the degree and where are you pursuing it?

\_\_\_\_\_

Major field of study \_\_\_\_\_

Possible dissertation topic \_\_\_\_\_

Vocational plans \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to devote full time to academic studies? \_\_\_\_\_

**FINANCES**

1. Household Income Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amounts:      a. Other Scholarships \_\_\_\_\_ b. Gifts \_\_\_\_\_

c. Salaries \_\_\_\_\_ d. Savings \_\_\_\_\_

2. Indebtedness Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amounts:      a. Student Loans \_\_\_\_\_ b. Credit Cards \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is your financial plan for funding graduate school? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PERSPECTIVES** (Limit 20 pages, single-spaced)

1. What are the key issues you think most need to be engaged for the renewal of the Church? How do the doctrines and practices of classical Christianity, as articulated in the Wesleyan tradition, provide resources for renewal? How can those resources most effectively be cultivated and embodied? (2-4 pp.)
2. What are the principal issues, leading scholars, and primary schools of thought in your proposed field of study? What draws you to this field of study, and what contribution do you hope to make to this field? Why have you chosen to apply to the specific schools you selected? (2-4 pp.)
3. How do you understand the scholar-teacher's role in influencing the renewal of the Church? Assess your potential to serve as a "changemaker" scholar-teacher serving the Wesleyan tradition and the United Methodist Church. What are the roles of local congregations, seminaries, and colleges in church renewal? (3-5 pp.)
4. Describe your level of commitment to, and your present involvement in, the United Methodist Church (local and otherwise). How do you intend to use your gifts and academic expertise to witness for Christ and enrich the Church? (2-3 pp.)
5. Write a brief spiritual autobiography, including your present areas of growth and struggle. (2-4 pp.)

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## **ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**

1. Recent photograph
2. College and seminary transcripts
3. A copy of your GRE scores (**Code #1136 The GRE is required of all applicants**)
4. Reference Letters: We request that you submit five letters of reference: three from professors (one or more deans/administrators can be included in the list of three faculty), one from a pastor, and one from a layperson. In each case, please select people who know you well enough to be able to offer informed judgments about your strengths and weaknesses. Please distribute the form on the next page to each person whom you have asked to serve as a reference.
5. Names and contact information of three other people who know you and your potential well.



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**LETTER OF REFERENCE**

**John Wesley Fellowship**



A foundation *for* theological education

**To be completed by applicant:**

Applicant Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last* *First* *Middle*

Anticipated Matriculation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last* *First* *Middle*

**A) Please rank the applicant in the categories below by placing an “X” on the scale in the appropriate area.**  
 Please identify the group to which the applicant is being compared (circle one):

Current students you have taught / Current and recent students / People in ministry / General

USE AN ATTACHED SHEET FOR WRITTEN STATEMENT	Highest 1-2%	Highest 10%	Next Highest 10%	Next Highest 30%	Lowest 50%	N/A or Unknown
Knowledge in subject of proposed study						
Ability to learn						
Originality, intellectual creativity						
Analytical ability						
Written expression						
Oral expression						
Perseverance toward goals						
Potential as a teacher						
Potential as a leader						
Theological insight						
Commitment to renewal of the UMC						
Spiritual maturity						
Challenge status quo in appropriate ways						
Understanding of mission/ministry of education						

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## B) Written Statement

We would appreciate a candid statement from you concerning the above named person who has applied for John Wesley Fellowship. Your candor will assist us in making a fair appraisal and decision regarding the applicant. **Your letter is very important. Please take time to write fully your perspective/insights on the following points.**

- (1) Length of time and context in which you have known the applicant.
- (2) General academic ability and capacity for doctoral study.
- (3) Commitment to classical Christianity and the renewal of the Church.
- (4) Potential to serve as a “changemaker” through a vocation as a scholar-teacher serving the Wesleyan tradition and The United Methodist Church.
- (5) Overall character and personality.

## C) General Recommendation

Please check one of the following statements

- I recommend this applicant enthusiastically.  
 I recommend this applicant with confidence.  
 I recommend this applicant.  
 I recommend this applicant with reservation.  
 I do not recommend this applicant.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Position and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please use an attached sheet for your written statement.**

Please return via e-mail (preferred) or post to the address on the front of this form. All recommendations must be sent or postmarked by January 20 of the year the candidate is applying.

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