
A Foundation for Theological Education
JOHN WESLEY FELLOWSHIP
Application Form

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 20th 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 thoughtful scholar-teachers. The application asks specific questions that focus on the importance of being a catalyst for creative change in one's vocation.

The idea of serving as a catalyst for creative change hearkens 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, theological education, and the church in these first decades of the 21st century, we are looking for Spirit-led 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 and past experiences as a scholar-teacher-leader as well as the strength of the applicant's academic and educational ability. **Please see the form below to be used for reference letters.**

Prior to applying, candidates are encouraged to talk with current Senior 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 other leaders 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 consider the importance of theological and spiritual formation in their studies regardless of their school or specific field. **Applicants are encouraged to contact the Fellowship Committee (fellowship committee c/o Sheri Brown –aftecoordinator@gmail.com) well before deadlines if you would like input or thought on 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.

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) _____

Current Church Membership _____ How Long? _____

Are You Ordained? Yes No In Process

Your Denominational Membership/Ordination/Affiliations _____

Official Status: Local Pastor Elder Deacon Layperson

Pursuing Ordination: Elder Track

Pursuing Ordination: Deacon Track

Other: _____

EDUCATION

College _____ Major _____ Degree _____ Year _____

Seminary _____ Special study _____ Degree _____ Year _____

Other Graduate Study _____ Degree _____ Year _____

Other Formal Study _____

<u>Languages</u>	<u>Proficiency</u>		
	<i>Some Exposure</i>	<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 leadership role in influencing the renewal of the Church? Assess your potential to serve as a scholar-teacher-leader serving the Wesleyan tradition. What are examples of your leadership in organizations?
4. Describe your level of commitment to, and your present involvement in the Church (local and otherwise). How do you intend to use your gifts and educational expertise to witness for Christ and enrich the Church and the work of The Kingdom? (2-3 pp.)
5. Write a brief spiritual autobiography, including your present areas of growth and struggle. (2-4 pp.) Identify places/persons/points of particular importance in your spiritual formation. Reflect on how you see a Wesleyan understanding of grace and the Christian life working providentially to lead you to the life of a scholar-teacher-leader.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

1. Recent photograph
2. College, seminary and graduate school 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/educators 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 and their understanding of the mission of the John Wesley Fellowship. **NOTE: Please distribute the form on the next page to EACH person whom you have asked to serve as a reference. You may add 1-2 additional references to insure you have the reference file completed on a timely basis. (We suggest providing a stamped envelope addressed to AFTE for your reference assistance.)**
5. Names and contact information of three other people who know you and your potential well.



A Foundation for Theological Education
 2200 Lake Woodlands Drive
 The Woodlands, TX 77380
 Telephone: (281) 297-5900 x2301
 Web site: www.aftesite.org
 E-mail: aftecoordinator@gmail.com

LETTER OF REFERENCE

AFTE

John Wesley Fellowship

A foundation *for* theological education

AFTE's mission is to create, support and nurture a fellowship of transformational scholars committed to the renewal of the Church and the advancement of the Kingdom of God

The following person is asking to be considered for an AFTE fellowship (To Be Completed by Applicant):

Applicant Name (print) _____
Last First Middle

Anticipated Matriculation Year _____

Reference Name: _____
Last First Middle

To Be Completed by the Reference:

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 Church						
Spiritual maturity						
Challenge status quo in appropriate ways						
Understanding of mission/ministry of education						

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 through a vocation as a scholar-teacher-leader serving the Wesleyan tradition
- 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.
