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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 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 use the separate reference letter form 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](mailto: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.

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A Foundation for Theological Education  
 2200 Lake Woodlands Drive  
 The Woodlands, TX 77380  
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 Web site: www.aftesite.org  
 E-mail: [aftecoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:aftecoordinator@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) \_\_\_\_\_

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"/>

\*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.

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**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.

