

SYNOD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND HAWAII (PCUSA)
RACIAL ETHNIC PASTORAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (REPL)

Celebrating thirty-eight years of educational ministry (1982-2020)

Theological Education Scholarship Program

A partner in "training Christ's followers in skilled servant work."

Ephesians 4 : 12 (The Messenger)

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

- To encourage racial ethnic Presbyterians within the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii.
- To assist the Synod and its presbyteries to provide needed spiritual and financial support for racial ethnic persons enrolled with the presbytery as an inquirer / candidate for Teaching Elder (Minister of the Word and Sacrament), or with the presbytery and / or session for other professional ministry vocations.
- Priority for scholarships shall be given to persons pursuing the M.Div. degree or its equivalent, or other presbytery-approved programs, in preparation for meeting the requirements for various ministry vocations, including parish ministry:
 - **Pastor,**
 - **Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) or**
 - **Certified Christian Educator (CCE).**

QUALIFICATIONS

1. The applicant **must** be a member of a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation or in relationship with a presbytery within the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii.
2. The applicant **must** be under care of the applicant's church's session or enrolled with his/her presbytery as an inquirer or candidate for Teaching Elder (Minister of the Word and Sacrament), Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE), Certified Christian Educator, a bi-vocational minister involved in emerging new worship communities, or a minister transferring from another denomination.

***Note:** Applicants who are not enrolled with their presbytery will be assisted by the REPL Committee in beginning the process as a requirement for continued eligibility.*
3. The applicant shall be a member of a racial ethnic group, and willing to serve in a racial ethnic or multi-cultural ministry within the PC(U.S.A.).
4. The applicant should be enrolled full-time or part-time in a PC(U.S.A.) related seminary or in a seminary or program approved by his/her presbytery.
5. The applicant shall be pursuing a M.Div. degree, its equivalent, or other approved programs required by the presbytery for a particular area of ministry.
6. The applicant shall demonstrate his/her financial need for scholarship assistance. Ordinarily, expenses must exceed income.

7. The applicant/recipient shall maintain “satisfactory” grades in accordance with the criteria set by the appropriate committee of the presbytery.

Note: *Racial ethnic persons with a M.Div. degree or its equivalent who are from other denominations in correspondence with the PC(U.S.A.), and are seeking to meet their presbytery’s requirements for ordination or transfer may also be considered for scholarship funds if they meet the other requirements of the program.*

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The Synod Racial Ethnic Pastoral Leadership Committee (REPL) has the administrative and programmatic responsibility for the scholarship program. The REPL Coordinator is the Rev. Narcissis Tucker Bishop; her email contact is ntucker@synod.org.

The application shall include the following:

1. The **application**, Parts I, II, III, and IV, obtained from the Synod website synod.org) and completed online. The applicant will complete **Parts I, II, and III** of the form, and return the document via an email addressed to the REPL Coordinator, the Rev. Narcissis Tucker Bishop at ntucker@synod.org.
2. An **official, current transcript**, if applicable, emailed to the REPL Coordinator the Rev. Narcissis Tucker Bishop (at ntucker@synod.org). If the current transcript is unavailable, a copy of an unofficial transcript may be emailed directly from the registrar’ office to the REPL Coordinator the Rev. Narcissis Tucker Bishop at ntucker@synod.org.
3. **Recommendation** by the appropriate presbytery committee or session. This form is **Part IV** of the Application. The applicant should forward a blank copy to the appropriate presbytery committee/ commission or session. Instructions for completing Part IV of the application are detailed on the form itself.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Open Enrollment: submit an application at any time.

Checklist for a complete application:

1. **Parts I, II, and III** of the application completed and submitted via email to the REPL Coordinator, the Rev. Narcissis Tucker Bishop at ntucker@synod.org.
2. **Official, current transcript** (if applicable) submitted via email to the Rev. Narcissis Tucker Bishop at ntucker@synod.org (or alternate; see Step 2 above.)
3. **Part IV** of the application emailed to the applicant presbytery committee or session with a request follow the directions on the form to submit it to REPL.

Communication in regard to the Scholarship Program

Questions? Need help? Please email the REPL Coordinator, the Rev. Narcissis Tucker Bishop at ntucker@synod.org

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