



COMMUNICATIONS

United Methodist Communications

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Stoody-West Fellowship for Graduate Study in Religion Journalism

THE REV. RALPH W. STOODY

The Rev. Ralph W. Stoody was the first general secretary of the Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information of The Methodist Church (predecessor to present United Methodist Communications). Dr. Stoody served in that position from 1940 to 1964. Educated at Ohio Wesleyan, Columbia and Harvard universities; Boston University School of Theology; and what is now Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, he was a pastor, journalist, war correspondent, author, speaker and magician. His charisma earned the remark by a colleague, "You put the sparkle into Christianity." Dr. Stoody was indeed the master of the magic of words. Dr. Stoody died in 1979.

THE REV. ARTHUR WEST

The Rev. Arthur West was a pastor, author, communicator and pioneer in religion journalism. He served 27 years in communications within The United Methodist Church. His last appointment before retirement in 1975 was as head of the Division of Public Media with United Methodist Communications. Dr. West was educated at Missouri Wesleyan College and Baker University. He held degrees from Boston University School of Theology and studied journalism at Northwestern University. He served terms as religion editor of the Providence (R.I.) Journal and Bulletin and the Bangor (Maine) Daily News. One of Dr. West's "truisms": "People have the right to know what is going on in their church. Our function is to report the news objectively whether we agree with it or not." Dr. West died in 2005.

The Stody-West Fellowship

for graduate study in religion journalism

Offered by United Methodist Communications

One annual award: \$6,000

Criteria: Must be a United Methodist student who intends to pursue a career in religion journalism or communications and is enrolled in graduate study at a school in the United States.

Purposes:

To enable the recipient to continue graduate studies in religion journalism and to promote a level of excellence in communication at the graduate level. The term “communication” is meant to cover such media as audiovisual, electronic, and print journalism.

The Stody-West Fellowship is offered annually in recognition of the late Reverends Stody and West, leaders in religion journalism at United Methodist Communications.

Applicants:

One fellowship will be awarded each year to the best United Methodist candidate. Employees of United Methodist Communications and members of the General Commission on Communication are not eligible for the fellowship.

Submission deadline:

Completed applications must be postmarked no later than March 15 of each calendar year. Incomplete applications will not be submitted to the committee for consideration.

Review process:

The Stody-West Fellowship Committee will meet around the first of April to review all completed applications and to make the selection for the award. Finalists may be called by the committee for a brief telephone interview. The winner will be notified by telephone soon after the selection has been made. All other applicants will receive written notice of the decision of the committee.

Applicants are judged on five criteria:

- Christian commitment and involvement in the life of The United Methodist Church
- Academic achievement as revealed by transcripts, grade point average, and the required letters of reference
- Journalistic experience and/or evidence of journalistic talent
- Clarity of purpose in plans and goals for the future
- Potential professional ability as a religion communicator

Award process:

One half of the \$6,000 award will be paid after the recipient provides proof of enrollment in an graduate program in an accredited school or department of journalism in the United States. The remainder of the award will be paid after the recipient provides proof of enrollment for the spring term. The award will not be paid for summer sessions.

Instructions for applying:

Where possible, please submit the following documents in electronic form [email or attached Microsoft Word (.doc), .Rich Text (.rtf) or PDF format] where possible. Photos should be in .JPG format, audio as MP3, wma or .wav and video for viewing in Quicktime (.mov, MPG,); Windows Media Player (.wmv, .avi) or Flash (.swf). If these files are too large to email, a link to a web viewing location is acceptable.

1. **Application form** completed and submitted electronically or printed and mailed.
2. **Request your official transcript** from your current institution of higher education and any others you have attended. Transcripts should be mailed by the school directly to the address listed in this application packet or emailed to scholarships@umcom.org. Submit your requests early as schools are frequently slow about responding to requests for transcripts. The college or university should include evidence of your enrollment as a graduate student in the journalism or communications department of a duly accredited college or university in the United States.
3. **Three letters of recommendation are required:**
One letter of recommendation from each of the following shall be sent directly to us via mail or email to the addresses listed in this packet. Include telephone numbers for confirmation.
 - (a) one from your local church pastor or a denominational official;
 - (b) one from the chairperson of the department in which you are majoring as a graduate student;
and
 - (c) one from an employer or supervisor in a position to evaluate your journalistic skills.

4. **Submit an essay of not more than 500 words** about your commitment to the Christian faith, your interest in religion communication and how you see the two intersecting in your life presently and in your future.
5. **Submit three examples of your journalistic work** (audiovisual, electronic, print).
Note: If sending physical materials, these will not be returned to you after the committee has completed its selection.
6. **Send a recent photograph of yourself** (hi-resolution digital photo in JPG format), preferably head and shoulders, suitable for publicity use if you are awarded the fellowship.

Checklist:

Before you submit your application, remember to:

- ☐ Request official transcript(s).
- ☐ Secure three letters of recommendation.
- ☐ Include a good personal photo.
- ☐ Submit three samples of your work.
- ☐ Include your essay.

Submitting application and materials:

Wherever possible, all materials should be sent via email as attachment in the requested formats. Please be sure to clearly identify each item with your name and the fellowship to which you are applying.

Send all electronic submissions to:
scholarships@umcom.org

To contact us by telephone, please call:
866-521-1179

**If materials must be mailed,
use the following address:**

**If sending by FedEx or UPS,
please use the street address:**

Stoody-West Fellowship Committee
United Methodist Communications
PO Box 320
Nashville TN 37202-0320

Stoody-West Fellowship Committee
United Methodist Communications
810 12th Avenue South
Nashville TN 37203-4744

Application for the Stooddy-West Fellowship
for Graduate Study in Religion Journalism
each academic year beginning in the fall

NAME _____
first middle last

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____ **DATE of BIRTH** _____

PRESENT ADDRESS:

PO Box or Street _____

City _____ *State* _____ *Zip* _____

Telephone _____ *Email* _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS (if different from above):

PO Box or Street _____

City _____ *State* _____ *Zip* _____

Telephone _____ *Email* _____

COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP _____

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:

Name of local church you attend _____

PO Box or Street _____

City _____ *State* _____ *Zip* _____

CHURCH ACTIVITIES *(include responsibilities, offices held and dates):*

WORK and LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES and ACTIVITIES:

List position held, activities and leadership roles, with the most recent at the top.

Nature of Position	Location	Inclusive Dates
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At the beginning of the next academic year:

Where will you be enrolled?

What will be your academic standing?

How many total hours will you have?

ACADEMIC RECORD:

List all colleges, professional or business schools attended, with the most recent at the top.

Name of School	Location	Dates of Study	Degree Received	Graduation Date
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HONORS:

List scholarships, honors or prizes you have received.

ETHNIC IDENTIFICATION:

Please tell us how you identify your ethnic heritage:

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS SCHOLARSHIP:

Scholarship Flyer UMC.org ResourceUMC.org UMCom.org UMNews.org Online Search
College/University Local Church Print/Web Ad (list where if you can):

Other, please specify
