



## **Faith & Justice Fellowship Applicant Review Criteria for 2016 – 2017**

FPWA, in conjunction with New York Theological Seminary, is offering 10 non-residential fellowships for advanced study in the area of Prophetic Witness and Public Advocacy for the period of September 2016 through December 2017. It is important that those persons who are selected to participate in this program bring a set of experiences, discernable skills, vision and passion to this initiative. As you read the applications and their respective letters of reference, please keep in mind that:

### Applicants must:

- Be ordained clergy or lay person professionally engaged in ministry in the New York City area.
- Have at least five years of public ministry and a strong interest in increasing their advocacy skills and becoming more impactful and transformative agents of community change are encouraged to apply.
- Have a demonstrated record of community engagement.
- Have a demonstrated capacity to do graduate level studies.
- Have an idea for the development and implementation of a community change project that is based on a real community need and which will be the basis for the practicum portion of their fellowship. The goal of this practicum component is to apply the enhanced skills developed in the fellowship to an existing community need for prophetic witness and trained public advocacy in a way that is designed to make a positive difference in the lives of the citizens of that community.

In addition to these personal criteria, we are looking for a group that represents the broad spectrum of the public we hope to serve and the spiritual communities that support them.



# FPWA Faith & Justice Fellowship

## Application Process

### 1. General Information

#### **Purpose and Nature of the Faith and Justice Fellowships**

The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA) promotes the social and economic well-being of greater New York's most vulnerable by advocating for just public policies and strengthening human service organizations. It has been a prominent force in New York City's social service system for more than 94 years, meeting the needs of New Yorkers and supporting agencies that deliver human services. We have branched beyond our original faith-based membership, and provide management assistance, capacity building, and advocacy services to nearly 200 member agencies, churches and faith-based institutions throughout the City's five boroughs and beyond. Together, our network serves more than 1.5 million New Yorkers of all ages and ethnicities. FPWA brings informed and focused voices of members of the multi-faith community to major social service issues at the city, state, and federal levels. The FPWA Faith and Justice Fellowship is one way in which FPWA works to bring this prophetic witness to life.

Therefore, FPWA is offering 10 non-residential fellowships to representatives of NYC's multi-faith leadership for advanced study in the area of Prophetic Witness and Public Advocacy for the period September 2016 through August 2017, with an expectation of alumni engagement through December 2017. Applicants must be ordained clergy or lay persons professionally engaged in ministry in the New York City area.

Applicants should:

- Have at least five years of public ministry
- Possess strong interest in increasing their advocacy skills and becoming more impactful and transformative agents of community change
- Have a demonstrated record of community engagement

New York Theological Seminary is the academic community partner for this initiative. In the first semester, Fellows will participate in: courses of theological study, seminars relating civic engagement to a theological perspective, and group retreats focusing on personal formation and reflection. During the second semester, in addition to the opportunity for continued course study at NYTS, participants will regularly attend seminars which will engage them in FPWA campaigns and state and city advocacy opportunities. Those who successfully complete the fellowship will receive a special certification from New York Theological Seminary and graduate as an FPWA Faith & Justice Fellow.



### **Areas of Special Interest**

In addition to course work and training opportunities, Fellows are expected to enter the program with, or be able to create during the first phase, an idea for the development and implementation of a community change project that is based on a real community need and which will be the basis for the practicum portion of their fellowship. The goal of the practicum component is to apply the enhanced skills developed in the fellowship to an existing community need.

Each Fellow will select a mentor from individuals skilled in the areas of public ministry and prophetic witness. They will meet regularly throughout the year addressing both assigned topics and issues of concern related to the goals of the program.

### **Stipends**

Fellowships stipends are \$5,000 per individual as an acknowledgement of the fellowship commitment. FPWA hopes that the provision of this modest financial offering combined with the opportunity to take two free courses at NYTS and receive highly skilled training experiences will represent a valuable addition to a year of personal and spiritual growth. A \$2,500 stipend is paid to the faith based/community organization central to the fellow's community project.

### **Facilities and Services**

The FPWA Faith and Justice Fellowship will use the facilities of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies as well as those of New York Theological Seminary for seminars, forums and NYTS courses. Fellows will also have the use of the Columbia University Library System. Since the initiative is an urban study program, there will be occasions where instruction and opportunities for community engagement will take place in various locations throughout New York City. As a non-residential fellowship, all participants are expected to have their own living arrangements.

### **Support**

Fellowships are supported by FPWA's funding initiatives, private foundation grants, and in-kind contributions from New York Theological Seminary.

### **Deadline and Application Procedures**

Applicants must submit the Fellowship's application (detailed below). A [downloadable application and instructions](#) may be found at [FPWA's website](#). All material must be postmarked by **July 31, 2016**.

## **2. Instructions for Application**

Applicants are expected to take seriously their call to be instruments of justice, proclaimers of truth, providers of hope, and keepers of the promise. They will have demonstrated in their work and with their voices that they are capable of standing with and standing for the most vulnerable and needy. A college degree or equivalent experience and skills that support the capacity to do both the academic and practical work is required.



## Application Guidelines

***Applications for the fall 2016 cohort are currently being accepted until midnight, July 31, 2016.***

### **Eligibility:**

You must:

- Be a clergy person ordained at least 5 years or a faith leader currently engaged in ministry in New York City
- Be recommended by a faith leader engaged in ministry in the New York City area
- Have a college degree or equivalent and some formal theological training
- In the application please include:
  - A narrative describing your educational and/or professional background
  - A 500-word description of the project idea you propose to pursue including anticipated end goal/outcomes. Your description should include a brief but clear statement on how your project will benefit the larger community and address creating a city of equal opportunity that promotes upward mobility. If you are unclear as to a specific project, you may detail what areas of service you intend to explore during Phase I?
  - Resume, or Curriculum Vitae
  - 3 letters of reference (may be from a current or former employer, a faith leader, community leader, teacher, professor, or colleague);
  - Other supporting materials you would like to have considered as part of your application: work sample, writing samples of up to 2 pages, audio or videotape. **Please note that these materials will not be returned.**

Your application, letters of reference, and any supporting materials must be submitted no later than **July 31, 2016**. Send letters of reference and supporting materials to:

**Nakia Johnson 40 Broad Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, New York 10004 or [njohnson@fpwa.org](mailto:njohnson@fpwa.org).**

This program does not lead to course credit or a degree. It will lead to a certification of completion from New York Theological Seminary for each Fellow who finishes the program successfully.

Please direct inquiries about the FPWA Faith and Justice Fellowship to Rev. Joel A. Gibson at (212) 801-1331 or [jgibson@fpwa.org](mailto:jgibson@fpwa.org).