



a ministry of  
**United Methodist**  
c o m m u n i c a t i o n s

The Judith L. Weidman

Racial Ethnic Minority (REM) Fellowship

*“Where communications training meets religion.”*

**JUDITH L. WEIDMAN**

Judith L. Weidman, for whom the Racial Ethnic Minority (REM) Fellowship is named, was the General Secretary of United Methodist Communications from 1994-2000. She initiated the fellowship as a way to address the lack of ethnic diversity in conference communications leadership roles.

As a result of her dream and action, young adults have taken the challenge every year since 1998 to be mentored in an annual conference and move into leadership positions.

A gift from the late Dr. Weidman’s estate to support the fellowship re-affirmed her commitment to increasing that diversity.

# The Judith L. Weidman

racial ethnic minority fellowship

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## Offered by United Methodist Communications

One annual award: \$30,000 plus benefits, expenses for moving and professional travel

Criteria: Must be a United Methodist of racial ethnic minority heritage, a recent college or seminary graduate considering a career in communications for The United Methodist Church who has broad communications training, including an understanding of effective public relations, is able to understand and speak English proficiently, and willing to relocate for one year.

### Purposes:

The purpose of the fellowship is to offer a learning opportunity where a person skilled in communications is mentored by an experienced United Methodist communicator. The fellowship recipient can expect to share and gain experience in most of the following areas: church public relations; newspaper writing, editing and layout; media placement; video use; development of brochures and other written pieces; electronic publishing; news media relations; local church communications training; and leadership of a conference communications office.

### 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.

### Applicants are judged on six criteria:

- Christian commitment and involvement in the life of The United Methodist Church.
- Achievement as revealed by transcripts, grade-point average, letters of reference and work samples.
- Broad communications study and experience and evidence of communications talent. "Communications" in this context includes journalism, mass communications, marketing, public relations and electronic media. Experience is not required in all five areas of study; however, strong writing skills are necessary. Finalists may be required to complete an on-site writing assessment and career potential review.
- Clarity of purpose and goals for the future.
- Desire to learn how to be a successful United Methodist communicator.
- Potential leadership ability as a professional religion communicator for The United Methodist Church.

## 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 all institutions of higher education. Transcripts should be mailed by the school directly to the address listed in this application packet. Submit your requests early as schools are frequently slow about responding to requests for transcripts.
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 earned your degree; 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). If you request in writing, these materials will 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.

## Submission deadline:

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

## Review process:

The REM Fellowship Selection Committee will meet in the spring to review all completed applications and to select 3-5 finalists. Members of the selection committee and the mentor will interview finalists in the spring. The interview may take place in the hosting annual conference. United Methodist Communications will pay for the finalists' travel to the interview. Finalists will be notified by telephone. All other applicants will receive written notice of the decision of the committee.

The recipient must be prepared to begin the one-year fellowship in the mentoring Annual Conference on July 1. The recipient, the mentor, and United Methodist Communications will cooperatively develop a learning agreement that will guide the learning and tasks for the year. Throughout the year, the recipient will speak on behalf of the fellowship at various professional communications gatherings and will stay in frequent contact with United Methodist Communications in Nashville, Tennessee. Following the successful completion of the Fellowship, United Methodist Communications will help direct the recipient to any current available positions which may offer more permanent employment in The United Methodist Church, however, further employment is not guaranteed.

## 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:**  
888-278-4862

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

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

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

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

# Application for the Judith L. Weidman

racial ethnic minority fellowship  
awarded annually for July 1-June 30

**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** \_\_\_\_\_

If applicable, do you have a current U.S. work Visa?      Yes      No  
*If yes, please include a copy of your Visa in your application package.*

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:**

*Name of local church you attend* \_\_\_\_\_

*PO Box or Street* \_\_\_\_\_

*City* \_\_\_\_\_ *State* \_\_\_\_\_ *Zip* \_\_\_\_\_

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

**WORK and LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES and ACTIVITIES:**

List, in reverse chronological order, position held, activities and leadership roles, most recent at top.

Nature of Position	Location	Inclusive Dates
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**ACADEMIC RECORD:**

List, in reverse chronological order, all colleges, professional or business schools attended, most recent at top.

Name of School	Location	Dates of Study	Degree Received	Graduation Date
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**HONORS:**

List scholarships, honors or prizes you have received.

**ETHNIC IDENTIFICATION:**

Please tell us how you identify your ethnic heritage (for example, African-American): \_\_\_\_\_

**HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS SCHOLARSHIP:**

- |                             |                   |                      |               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Scholarship Flyer           | Ad in Interpreter | Ad in EI Interpreter | Google Search |
| CRT website                 | UMC.org website   | College/University   | Local Church  |
| Other, please specify _____ |                   |                      |               |

I have read all the information above relating to the requirements and expectations for a recipient of the Racial Ethnic Minority Fellowship, and I am able to meet those requirements and expectations if selected for this program. All information submitted in this application process (application form and supporting materials) is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_