



**2021-2022**

### **What is The Beloved Community Fellowship?**

The Beloved Community is a [non-employment based experience \(NEBO\)](#) of faith formation and ministerial leadership development. It is a program rooted in African American faith traditions, practices and communities. It is designed to grow the next generation of faith leaders through powerful encounters of mutuality with African-descended peoples. The Beloved Community fosters Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of concrete and lasting peace and agapic love. The program places students in churches and faith-based not-for-profit organizations in Chicago's Westside communities and Proviso Township in the western suburbs, communities with historic ties to Black and African-American life in Chicago. Students have immersive experiences for nine hours per week with fellowship partners and participate in one hour of facilitated theological reflection per week. Those reflective experiences emerge from liberative theologies articulated by Black theologians like Shawn Copeland, James Cone, Ella Baker, Rev. Bryan Massingale, Fanny Lou Hamer, Howard Thurman and others.<sup>1</sup> These voices are the lens through which students understand their service.

### **Is The Beloved Community Fellowship For Me? Who Should Apply?**

If you will be Dominican University student during the 2021-2022 academic year who is interested in and deeply invested in Black cultures and theologies and making an investment in African American communities, Beloved Community is for you! If you are a student willing to explore your own identities and experiences in light of the Black theological and spiritual traditions in the United States, this program is for you! Additionally, students interested in or possessing experience in any of the following are strongly encouraged to apply:

- Dominican University programs
- Service trip experiences or community service, Community-Based Learning, or justice advocacy
- Applied curricular experience including, but not limited to areas such as:
  - Black World Studies
  - Business, Communications and Entrepreneurship
  - Interfaith courses and experience
  - Political Science
  - Psychology
  - Sociology
  - Social Work
  - Social justice experience (SJCE minors)
- Retreat leadership or prayer leadership
- High school campus ministry or youth group programs or faith-based experience

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<sup>1</sup> See for example: James H. Cone, *God of the Oppressed*, Rev Sub edition (Maryknoll, N.Y: Orbis Books, 1997); Bryan N. Massingale, *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church* (Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2010); M. Shawn Copeland, *Enfleshing Freedom: Body, Race, and Being*, 60351st edition (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009); Kelly Brown Douglas, *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God* (Maryknoll, New York: Orbis, 2015); Howard Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, Reprint edition (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1996).

- Other campus leadership roles
- Undergraduate students who maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0
- Commitment to deepening one's faith, engaging in service and social justice, and developing an authentic university faith community with a welcoming, open, and inclusive spirit
- Ability to manage time and work in a collaborative setting with other participants in the Beloved Community, University Ministry staff, and manage fellowship responsibilities
- Enthusiasm, commitment, and desire to reach out and make an impact within our Dominican University and local Black communities

### **What does the program look like?**

University Ministry is looking for 5-7 students to place at fellowship sites in Black/African American communities. Fellowship placements will vary in nature but will be located in faith-based not-for-profit settings. A list of past and current placements can be found on [our website](#). All these placements seek to develop leadership and ministry capacity at Dominican University by providing an opportunity to experience service in African American faith communities and reflect upon it. In doing so, participants will inevitably encounter their own shifting cultural identity and reinterpret that in the light of faith. A competent staff member at the parish or organization will supervise Dominican students on-site.

### **Program Benefits**

Dominican University students' time is valuable. University Ministry recognizes that you have competing commitments and need your time and space to work to support yourself in your studies and, in some cases, your families. This [non-employment based experience \(NEBO\)](#) and fellowship engages students in immersive learning in community for ten hours per week spanning ten weeks of the fall and spring semesters. Students also receive at least 12 hours of professional development training and may be eligible for academic credit that appears on one's transcript through the Theology Department or any other academic department pending approval by the chair and a professor of record.

Every fellow receives a generous stipend of \$1,500 per semester or \$3,000 for the year. Eligibility for the full award is determined individually. Here is a brief step-by-step outline of the process:

1. Stipend amounts will be determined based on the student's cost of attendance.
2. The result will be added as financial aid to your tuition account.
3. Applicants consent to allow the Office of Financial Aid to share information with University Ministry regarding financial aid eligibility and total award amounts. This information is used to determine if the applicant is eligible to receive the full stipend.
4. Applicants will be notified of their eligibility and the amount of the award prior to interviewing.
5. Students whose cost of attendance prohibit them from receiving a partial or full award may choose to continue in the application process and, if selected, participate in the fellowship with an amended or partial fellowship award.
6. If the stipend amount exceeds the student's tuition balance, a refund of the tuition account can be requested.
7. If the refund amount exceeds the student's qualified costs (required tuition and fees), the refund amount may be subject to federal tax withholding and reporting.

Trainings are required elements of the program, but as benefits they are unpaid hours. Other benefits of this program include:

- Making connections between the classroom and your daily life explicit and concrete.
- Developing professional skills that you will use in postgraduate employment such as:
  - professional and clear communication;
  - taking initiative and problem solving;
  - planning and executing an event;
  - caring for work spaces;
  - collaboration;
  - practicing hospitality and creating a culture of inclusion;
  - and prioritizing time and developing self-direction in tasks.

- Developing a professional identity that can be clearly articulated in an interview and on a resume.
- Developing practices of self and communal reflection done in the light of faith and culture to do the following:
  - find meaning and purpose in work;
  - discover vocational calling;
  - practice discernment;
  - hold yourself accountable to God and others;
  - develop a sense of self and communal identity;
  - and better understand the context in which God call you to discipleship within communities – in one’s cultures, faith traditions and human development.
- Identifying your own social location so that you can better understand the struggles and joys in the daily lived experiences of others and accompany them more effectively, especially those in the communities in which you serve.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

- Commit to nine hours of service on site per week and an hour of small group discussion that will take place at Dominican University;
- Navigate transportation to and from your designated community partner site;
- Meet with your Site Supervisor and the BC Coordinator regularly for check-ins;
- Attend Orientation;
- Attend one Saturday training each semester as part of your formation;
- Attend the Closing Retreat in the Spring;
- Report activities on a regular basis.

**Timeline** (Attendance on the following dates is mandatory and failure to attend will result in a deduction of your stipend.)

Thursday, September 23, 2021:	Applications accepted on a rolling basis until this date
After application submission:	Interview with Program Coordinator
After internal interview:	Interview with fellowship placement site
Late September 2021:	Placements and schedules set
October 4 & 5, 2021 from 6:00-9:00 p.m.:	Beloved Community & MLC Orientation
Between Oct -Dec:	Students will complete 100 hours including TR
Saturday in November (TBD):	Fellowship Training (All Day)
Between Jan – April:	Students will complete 100 hours including TR
Saturday in February (TBD)	Fellowship Training (All Day)
April 14, 2022:	Closing Retreat

**Application Complete if all are checked:**

- Application: pgs. 3-4
- Short Answer Responses attached as a separate document or submitted in hard copy
- Sign up for a 30 minute interview

## Student Application 2021-2022

<b>Name:</b>		<b>ID#:</b>	
In 2021-2022 I plan to be a:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Commuter  <input type="checkbox"/> Resident			
<b>Home Phone: if applicable</b>		<b>Cell Phone:</b>	
(      )		(      )	
<b>Email Address:</b>		<b>Birthday:</b>	
<small>Street</small> @my.dom.edu		<small>City</small> / <small>State</small> <small>Zip</small> (month/day)	
<b>Dietary Needs (i.e., food allergies, vegetarian...)</b>			
<b>Communication:</b> It is expected that most communication will be via email. However, there may be times to contact you on short notice (e.g. Site visit, meeting changes, important reminders). Please indicate the best method to contact you <i>fast</i> . Check all that apply.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Text cell phone <input type="checkbox"/> Call cell phone <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Call home phone			

<b>Activities and Involvement:</b> List any other commitments or activities you plan to participate in during the 2021-2022 school year. This should include on- and off- campus jobs, sports, music groups, officer positions, newspaper, internships, study abroad, etc.	
<b>Transportation:</b> The placement sites will be off campus, so we want to know about your transportation situation.	
Are you able and willing to drive to your fellowship site? (Please check) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Would you feel comfortable taking the CTA to your assigned site? (Please check) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

## Short Answer Questions:

Please type your answers to the following questions on a separate sheet and attach with your application materials. Each answer should be 1-2 paragraphs.

- 1) How are the Dominican University pillars of Prayer, Study, Service, and Community expressed in your life? You may reflect on all the Pillars or focus on 2 or 3 that particularly stand out for you. Use specific examples.
- 2) Why are you interested being a part of program that works specifically with Black and African American communities and what strengths/qualities/experiences do you bring to this program that will help you serve those communities?
- 3) How can this experience help to further your educational goals and leadership skills in relationship to your vocational path?

## References

Please list two people who can attest to your leadership abilities and/or your commitment to your faith development. These cannot be family or friends, but rather, teachers, campus or youth ministers, coaches, mentors, or a job supervisor.

*\*At least one of these references should be someone at Dominican University, but all must be outside of University Ministry.*

1	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
	<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Email:</b>
2	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
	<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Email:</b>

I have read and understand the roles, responsibilities, and commitments of the Beloved Community fellowship program, and attest that the contents of this application are a true reflection of my character and experience.

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Signature

Date

Completed applications can be submitted via email to [akankam@dom.edu](mailto:akankam@dom.edu) or in person at the contact information below.

**Applications are accepted at any time and candidates will be interviewed on a rolling basis before the due date of Thursday, September 23, 2021.**

After you submit your application, **you must sign up for a 30 minute interview** during the month of September. Please contact Akua Kankam: [akankam@dom.edu](mailto:akankam@dom.edu) with any questions.

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