



TRINITY CHURCH
WALL STREET

2024 Black Church Equality Fellowship

Request for Proposals

In partnership with Trinity Church Wall Street, Pride in the Pews is pleased to offer the 2024 Black Church Equality Fellowship (BCEF). The BCEF is a distinguished nationwide leadership development program for Black faith leaders committed to advancing congregation-based programmatic initiatives that promote LGBTQ+ inclusion. Selected Black faith leaders will receive a \$4,000 grant, 1-on-1 consulting support, ongoing learning opportunities, and two all-expenses-paid trips to Chicago for mandatory cohort convenings. Excitedly, two fellows from the 2023 BCEF class will be invited to join the 2024 cohort as Senior Fellows to deepen their LGBTQ+ advocacy in their local congregation and the public square, provide mentorship to new fellows, and advise the BCEF program team.

Proposed projects will leverage the local congregational setting (e.g., Sunday services, Bible studies and growth groups, church staff retreats, faith-based conferences, congregation-based podcasts or web series, church ministries) to launch programming that destigmatizes LGBTQ+ related conversations, programming, and ministry offerings. The projects will be shepherded by a three-person team consisting of congregation-based leaders, including pastors, ministers, lay leaders, congregants, and church staff. Through relationship-building, resource-sharing, and community-building, the cohort will develop and refine effective tools, strategies, and bridge-building skills to bridge the gap between the Black Church and the LGBTQ+ community.





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We invite Black congregations of all sizes, denominations, and governing structures in any U.S. state to apply. We also invite congregations across the theological spectrum to apply, recognizing that each congregational context is unique and dynamic. Pride in the Pews particularly welcomes applications from leaders who do not identify as LGBTQ+.

Program Overview

In partnership with Trinity Church Wall Street, Pride in the Pews is pleased to offer the 2024 Black Church Equality Fellowship (BCEF). The BCEF is a distinguished nationwide leadership development program for Black faith leaders committed to advancing congregation-based programmatic initiatives that promote LGBTQ+ inclusion. Selected Black faith leaders will receive a \$4,000 grant, 1-on-1 consulting support, ongoing learning opportunities, and two all-expenses-paid trips to Chicago for mandatory cohort convenings. The grants will present Black congregations with the opportunity to facilitate community-wide learning opportunities that bridge the gap between the Black Church and the LGBTQ+ community.

Timeline

All grants will be awarded in the winter on a rolling basis until February 16, 2024. The grant implementation period will commence in March 2024 and conclude in December 2024.

Required Meetings

Cohort Launch in Chicago | Wednesday, March 20, 2024 – Friday, March 22, 2024

Virtual Grantee Meetings | April, May, June, September, October (*one, 1.5-hour virtual meeting in each of the listed months, specific dates and times TBD*)



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- Grantee Meeting topics include Black Liberation Theology, Religion and Media, Bridge-building, Trauma Informed Spiritual Care, and Strategies for Advancing LGBTQ+ Inclusion within Various Congregational Contexts

Project Team Exit Interview | Fall 2024

Cohort Finale in Chicago | Wednesday, October 30, 2024 – Friday, November 1, 2024

Please note that the team lead is REQUIRED to attend the cohort launch and finale, at least one team member is required to attend each virtual grantee meeting, and all team members are required to attend the exit interview. If your project team is unable to fulfil the enumerated time commitments, we encourage you to apply in future cycles.

Application

All applicants must complete and submit the online application form. We invite you to review the questions in advance by [clicking here](#). The form includes:

- Demographic information of each team member and their corresponding role
- Congregational Profile (e.g. number of congregants, denomination, region, ministry offerings, etc.)
- Application Questions
- A Letter of Support from Senior/Lead Pastor (or equivalent)
- Budget Proposal

Use of Grant Funds

Grant awards are meant to support grantees for the time and energy it takes to create and lead programmatic initiatives. Grantees will be able to use these funds for convenings, marketing materials, staffing, technological support, and honorariums. All funding must be used to directly support the proposed project.

Grant Terms and Requirements



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If accepted, grantees will be asked to submit information about their congregation and a short summary about their projects. Pride in the Pews requires all grantees to submit a project status update approximately at the mid-point of the fellowship and a final report at the end of the fellowship. These reports will include information on all project-related activities and a budget showing how the funds were spent.

Project leads are required to attend both in-person Chicago convenings, and at least one team member is required to attend all virtual grantee meetings. Additionally, all project team members are required to attend the virtual exit interview with the BCEF program team.

Grantees are encouraged to schedule one-on-one consultations with Rev. Stephen J. Thurston, Congregational Strategy Advisor, in the ideation and implementation phase of their projects.

Disbursement of Grant Funds

Pride in the Pews will disperse grant funds in two installments: 1) After the first cohort convening in Chicago and 2) After the completion of the first mid-point project status update and a scheduling of the exit interview. Funds will be dispersed once we receive the following:

- A signed Memorandum of Understanding
- Submit church's W9 to Pride in the Pews
- Attend the first cohort convening

Questions

Questions about the grant and the application process are welcome and should be addressed to Morganne Talley, at fellows@prideinthepews.com. Please note that inquiries will be responded to within 24 hours.



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Project Partners

Pride in the Pews is a grassroots nationwide nonprofit building bridges and creating solutions that empower the Black LGBTQ+ community to thrive in the church and beyond. Inspired by the liberating tradition of the Black church, Pride in the Pews envisions a world where Black communities can live, work, play, and pray freely.

Trinity Church Wall Street is a growing and inclusive Episcopal parish that seeks to serve and heal the world by building neighborhoods that live Gospel truths, generations of faithful leaders, and sustainable communities.



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