THE BROWN ENDOWMENT

Supporting Pastoral Education
When Richard and Helen Brown created an endowment to support the development of pastoral leadership in the United Church of Christ, they gave simple instructions: support pastoral education. Recognizing the increasingly diverse and global world that future leaders would encounter, the Browns left the specifics of their legacy to the trustees of their endowment. They understood the needs of the church would change over time, and they wanted UCC clergy to be educated, nurtured and ready for the challenges ahead.

To date, The Richard and Helen Brown Endowment for Pastoral Scholarships has provided over $4,000,000 in funding for scholarships and continuing education, supporting the ministries of more than 5,000 women and men. Since the inception of The Brown Endowment, the trustees have extended the reach of the endowment’s support to include a range of ministries and settings, seeking to make available as much money as possible to strengthen pastoral ministry across the denomination.

If you’re a dedicated member of the UCC, active in your local church, and responding to a call to ministry, you may be eligible to become a Brown Scholar. If you’re a leader in a regional ministry, your organization may be eligible to receive Brown funds to offer continuing education and ministerial support. If you’re preparing for international ministry through Wider Church Ministries of the UCC, you may also be eligible for support from The Brown Endowment.

United Church Funds is honored to serve as trustee for The Brown Endowment, managing both investment of the original $5 million gift and allocation of over $250,000 each year. We share Richard and Helen Brown’s commitment to the future of the United Church of Christ, and are proud to help ensure funding for pastoral education.

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**BROWN ENDOWMENT ALLOCATIONS**

- Support for ongoing nurture of those engaged in authorized ministry in the UCC: 30%
- Support for Members in Discernment: 50%
- Support for persons preparing for ministry in UCC’s Global/Overseas Partner Churches: 20%
While fulfilling, a pastor’s work can be challenging. Pastors need the ongoing support of their colleagues, and opportunities to refresh and strengthen their skills. Nearly a third of the funds available from The Brown Endowment for Pastoral Scholarships are dedicated to support settled pastors — providing funding for special continuing education events. Any UCC-related organization may apply for Brown funds to offer a continuing education event intended to enhance ministry in the UCC and strengthen the bonds of mutual support among working clergy. Events involving five or more UCC authorized ministers — designed to help them strengthen their ministries — can be given consideration for grants ranging from $2,000 to $10,000. Contact brown@ucfunds.org for additional information.

MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT

Fully half of the funds available from The Brown Endowment are targeted for Members in Discernment — women and men who have been accepted by a Committee on Ministry and seek scholarship funds to support a course of study leading to authorized ministry. To apply or be nominated, potential Brown Scholars must demonstrate at least a year of active membership in a local UCC church and maintain a GPA of at least 3.0. Applicants with strong leadership skills and involvement beyond their local church will be given strong preference.

Multiple Paths To Authorized Ministry

The Brown Endowment also helps prepare non-seminarians and bi-vocational pastors for licensed ministry in local churches by supporting educational programs created by Conferences and Associations. Regional bodies may also apply for seed money to create model or pilot training programs for alternative paths to ministry, or to pilot new and creative ministries.

ONGOING NURTURE OF PASTORS

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INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

Through its partnership with churches overseas, the UCC’s Wider Church Ministries identifies educational, pastoral and ministerial needs where funds from The Brown Endowment may be used to strengthen global ministry. Wider Church Ministries uses its allocation from The Brown Endowment to support individual seminarians preparing for ministry in global and overseas partner churches, and to support continuing education opportunities for individuals in international partner churches. In addition, each UCC seminary receives a small annual allocation to support an enrolled international seminarian.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A BROWN SCHOLAR? To learn more about The Brown Endowment, eligibility requirements and application procedures, visit brown.ucfunds.org.