ANNOUNCEMENT OF
CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY WESTSIDE FELLOWS PROGRAM
SUMMER 2021

Application for $9000 Summer Grants
Deadline: April 2, 2021

Purpose:
The Candler School of Theology will sponsor a Summer 2021 fellowship opportunity for students to engage in internship sites in Atlanta’s Westside neighborhoods focused on issues of urban justice and flourishing. Westside Fellows will receive 3 academic credits and a $9,000 stipend for participation in the program, including full-time (40h/wk) internship work, weekly reflection group meetings, and a final project.

Why the Westside?
Atlanta’s Westside has a rich legacy of civic, political, religious, and intellectual leadership that has fundamentally shaped the way America wrestles with race, inequality, and social change. Today in the Westside, income inequality and persistent poverty coexist alongside feverish development and investment — a dynamic shared to some degree by neighborhoods in every large city in the country. In this shifting context, already existing conditions of racism, economic inequality, and health disparities are exacerbated by displacement, social dislocation, and rapid change. The Westside Fellows program is an opportunity to learn from religious and community leaders working in this dynamic context, and to be part of a place-based learning cohort focused on challenging questions of urban justice, social change, and moral leadership in Atlanta.

How neighborhoods are defined is necessarily political and constantly shifting; these processes will be among the things we explore this summer. For the purposes of this fellowship, the Westside is understood expansively to include, for instance, the neighborhoods of Bankhead, English Avenue, Vine City, Ashview Heights, Washington Park, and the West End. If the organization you want to work with is located or works outside of these neighborhoods, but you believe it is a good fit for this fellowship, please contact the Con Ed Office to discuss.

Site placements:
Students may apply to work with any organization that engages pressing concerns of urban justice and flourishing. This could include churches, community or civic groups, advocacy organizations or grassroots political groups, educational institutions, government agencies, and so on. Students are encouraged to draw on their own networks to develop internships that reflect their passions and vocational goals.

A wide range of congregations, organizations, and programs would be appropriate settings for this internship. Non-Profits and civic organizations might include organizations such as the Westside Future Fund or Project South; urban agriculture organizations such as Truly Living Well or the Historic Westside Gardens; or organizations working to address healthcare and educational disparities exacerbated by the pandemic. Internships connected to academic or cultural institutions might be suitable, as well. The key thing for any of these settings will be to identify a project or program that addresses issues of urban justice and flourishing, and which allows you to explore these issues.
The Office of Contextual Education has arranged several internships in organizations that are eager to host Candler students. You can find internship descriptions for Truly Living Well Center for Natural Urban Agriculture, Westside Table, and the Westside Future Fund below.

**Eligibility:**
Students who have successfully completed Contextual Education I and are returning to Candler are eligible to participate. Students on academic probation or who have a hold on their Candler financial account are not eligible. Students participating in other summer programs at Candler or other outside settings are not eligible. Participants’ full time and attention must be given to the forty hours per week for ten weeks.

**Participation Requirements:**
1. Serve 40 hours a week in a supervised internship site for ten weeks during the summer.
2. Participate in a two-day orientation seminar to be held May 18-19, 2021.
3. Participate in a final reflection seminar to be held August 9-13, 2021.
4. Participate in an in-person reflection group meetings throughout the summer. Complete readings and written assignments as directed by the Faculty Internship Supervisor.
5. Participate in weekly meetings with an Internship Supervisor at your site.
6. Collaborate on a final project that engages the broader Candler community in conversations about urban justice and social change through an event in Fall 2021.

**Participating Students will receive:**
1. An $9000 grant, to be applied to the student’s account ($3000 living stipend applied following the May orientation and $6000 split between the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters.)
   - Please Note: (If a student is within $2,999 of the maximum threshold for scholarships and loans for the 2020-2021 academic year ($51,762) their summer stipend will be processed as a taxable payroll check which will require the submission of a W-9 and direct deposit request form.
2. Three academic credit hours that will count towards the Fall 2021 semester. This will be registered as an August Term class. (Students may not enroll in another A-Term course.)
3. The opportunity for deeper formation in the practice of ministry and public leadership.
4. On-site supervision and mentoring.
5. An opportunity for intentional reflection and discussion with faculty and student colleagues and community leaders, focused on issues of social justice, urban policy, and moral leadership in urban settings.

**Preparing to Apply:**
If you are applying for an internship arranged by the Con Ed Office (see above) your application essay should demonstrate some familiarity with the organization and should discuss how the project described here is a fit for your own learning goals and vocational plans.

If you are proposing an internship that you have developed yourself, you should discuss your plans with the internship site to confirm their willingness to host you before completing the application. Your application essay should demonstrate that you are familiar with the organization, that you have a clear plan for how your work this summer will connect to both your interests and the organization’s mission, and that your plan is feasible!

**Application Instructions:**
1. Write a 2-3 page essay on why you have chosen to apply for this internship, your vocational goals, your particular skills for ministry, and the things you would like to practice, experience, and learn through the internship. You should indicate the specific issues of urban justice and flourishing you intend to explore, and how this experience will deepen your leadership ability. Essays should be written in 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1” margins on all four sides.

- If you are applying to work in one of the three internship settings that the Office of Contextual Education has developed, your essay should demonstrate familiarity with the organization and should discuss the way that the specific site will draw on your experiences and skills as well as provide opportunities for you to develop new skills and capacities.
- If you are proposing an internship you developed yourself, please include a paragraph describing your site, as well as name and contact information for the supervisor at your site. Your essay should demonstrate familiarity with the organization and should discuss the way that the specific site will draw on your experiences and skills as well as provide opportunities for you to develop new skills and capacities.
- Your essay should also include your written agreement to participate in the two-day orientation seminar in May and the final August reflection seminar.

2. Current resume/cv (Note: Your resume to include your Con Ed I and/or Con Ed II experience!)
3. Name of one Candler faculty member who can serve as a reference.
4. Submit these materials no later than 5 p.m. on April 2, 2021 to: carmen.toussaint@emory.edu and letitia.campbell@emory.edu. Late or incomplete applications may not be considered.
5. A faculty committee will read proposals and select fellows during the first full week of April.

Questions may be directed to Dr. Letitia M. Campbell, at letitia.campbell@emory.edu.

Application deadline is Friday, April 2, 2021
Please contact Dr. Campbell if you have any questions.

Internship Sites:

**Truly Living Well Center for Natural Urban Agriculture** (TLW) uses food production to create a culture of health and wellness in the community. The organization operates a 10-acre farm in Collegetown, and offers programs and activities that provide urban agriculture training, nutrition, education and job creation. The work of TLW builds a local sustainable food economy by demonstrating the viability of producing high quality, naturally grown fruits and vegetables in the urban environment.

The Candler summer intern will coordinate TLW’s new Horticultural Therapy program, which was launched by Con Ed I students this spring. This will involve maintenance and development of the sensory garden, outreach to the community, and work with TLW staff to plan horticultural therapy sessions. The internship will also offer students an opportunity to learn about urban agriculture initiatives in Atlanta, be involved in the day-to-day life of a working farm, and gain experience building a weekly garden-based wellness program.

**Westside Table** is a second campus of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church that exists to serve Northwest Atlanta and the people who live in Atlanta’s 30318 zip code. Students would have the opportunity to learn and participate in a ministry startup while also learning from community leaders and partners working to navigate the complicated challenges these neighborhoods, residents, and
communities face in the midst of rapid economic and population growth – resident displacement, affordable housing, public transportation and public education.

Students would have the opportunity for traditional ministry work including speaking, small groups, pastoral care, and external communications, and will also learn how to do neighborhood exegesis, experience one particular framework for building and sustaining community partnerships, and discover tools for connecting the church with the good work already happening within this diverse, multi-faceted community of neighborhoods in Northwest Atlanta.

The Westside Future Fund was launched by the Atlanta Committee for Progress (ACP) in December 2014, with the aim of fostering long-term transformational change in a part of the city that had been home to long-term inequities. The organization works collaboratively with other civic, non-profit, philanthropic, and private sector organizations in Atlanta’s westside.

More details about this internship opportunity will be posted soon.